

MINUTES of the 2014 Annual Conference

of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties

The meeting started around 1:00pm. Deborah Meckler introduced herself, mentioned that she has been president for 5 years and this is the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties (FCASMSCC).

Margie Bridges introduced advisory council members present, including former president Lou Gado, former board member Janet Fire, Allan Huty, of Cemetery Property Resales, Jane Hillhouse, who sells eco-caskets, Mike Turbow, our speaker for the day, and guest Suzette Sherman from SevenPonds.com, who has a website highlighting local end-of-life and death-care resources .

Meckler called attention to last year's minutes, printed on the back of the agenda, inviting the attendees to read them at their leisure. She elaborated in more detail on the highlights of the previous year detailed in the Annual Report, which was also provided as a hand-out. These highlights included many speaking engagements and public outreach events, a new office manager, Deborah Cox, the volumes of work done on the "two organization" issue, the enormous effort of getting our finances back in order after many months without a treasurer, thanks to now-Treasurer Byron Chan, and Board Member Allan Behr, and Jennifer Harris's successful grant application to put on a short series of Conversations About Death. A flyer about these upcoming Conversations About Death was included among the handouts to the attendees.

Meckler introduced the currently-serving Board Members, vice president Margie Bridges, Secretary Ray Sowards, Treasurer Byron Chan, Allan Behr, Bobbie Bailey, and (not present) Jennifer Harris. She then introduced 3 new candidates for the Board of Directors: Ken Chen of Mountain View, a master of computer engineering, Susan Weisberg of Stanford, a retired hospice social worker, and Anh Weber of Menlo Park (not present), a psychologist. There were no nominations from the floor. The three candidates were elected by acclamation.

President Meckler provided a lucid explanation and history of the "two organization" issue, how the Funeral Education Foundation (FEF) was formed from scratch with a 501c3 tax designation after FCASMSCC had been unable to change its assigned 501c4 designation. The two organizations had the same mission, but running two organizations created its own complications. A solution was found in the bylaws of FCASMSCC, where it was specified that if FCASMSCC dissolved, its resources should go to an organization with a similar mission, such as FEF. Preparatory to dissolving FCASMSCC, FEF was renamed Bay Area Funeral Consumers Association (BA-FCA) and given a new set of bylaws. The changes have been recently approved by the California Secretary of State. The resolution was read aloud as follows:

WHEREAS the mission of both the Funeral Consumers Alliance of San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties ("FCASMSCC") and of Bay Area Funeral Consumers Association ("BA-FCA," the re-named Funeral Education Foundation) have been very similar, and

WHEREAS the membership of FCASMSCC and the public would be better served by avoiding duplication of administrative effort and resources of the two organizations

NOW THEREFORE BE IT:

RESOLVED THAT the membership of Funeral Consumers Alliance of San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties hereby elects to wind-up and dissolve the corporation in accordance with California regulatory procedure, beginning with the Certificate of Election to Wind Up and Dissolve, and further

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RESOLVED THAT the assets and members of this corporation will thereafter become assets and members of Bay Area Funeral Consumers Association, a nonprofit corporation in the state of California, located at 463 College Ave., Palo Alto. Bay Area Funeral Consumers Association members will have the same rights and powers they had as members of Funeral Consumers Alliance of San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, at no additional cost for membership, and further

RESOLVED THAT officers and directors of FCASMSCC are hereby authorized to take any and all actions necessary to complete the process as described above.

A vote was taken of the members present, and was passed with 27 for and zero against.

The business meeting was adjourned at around 1:45 and there was a 10-minute break before the keynote speaker, Dr. Mike Turbow, a medical oncologist and hospice director, gave his talk about Living with Dying. He spoke about the quality of life at the end of life, how palliative care often helps people with terminal diseases to live longer and more comfortably than they would with more aggressive treatment, how dementia is among the most difficult end-of-life problems, about how to make sure your wishes are respected by choosing a strong advocate to make your medical decisions when you can't, and about how critical it is to have multiple family discussions to make sure that everyone understands your end-of-life wishes.