

Board of Trustees

2003 Term

Isabel Berney
Darrel Clowest
Franklyn Moreno

2004 Term

Arthur Snoke
Goldie Terrell
Pat Traynor

2005 Term

Marcia Bailey
Gary Schroeder
Jim Shotts

Find out more

- Embalming 2
- Annual meeting 3
- Membership 4

New board members elected

New board members **Marcia Bailey**, **Jim Shotts**, and **Gary Shroeder** were elected to three year terms on the Executive Board. They replace outgoing board members, **Taylor Albright**, **Gerry Anderson** and **Isabel Berney**.

Frank DuPont whose term ran until 2003 resigned in July. The board appointed **Isabel Berney** to fill that unexpired term so she will serve until 2003.

Frank was a member of the San Diego affiliate before moving to this area six years ago. He brought to the

board valuable experience in getting the organization off the ground and we owe him a special vote of thanks. Taylor, a local attorney, provided advice and direction and Gerry Anderson offered his sage analysis. Board members Taylor, Gerry and Frank were instrumental in getting the Funeral Consumers Alliance of the Virginia Blue Ridge up and running.

The Executive Board carries on the day-to-day operations of the organization.

Price survey prompts action by funeral homes

After mailing results of our price survey to area funeral homes, we received a call from Regulatory Services outside of Richmond. Apparently, this organization is hired by funeral homes to help them comply with federal and state regulations. When the letter we sent with a copy of our completed survey pointed out to the funeral homes that they were not in complete compliance with the rules of the Federal Trade Commission, they contacted Regulatory Services.

We also know that at least two meetings were held by the area

funeral homes to discuss our survey results.

Although we found only three funeral homes in complete compliance — Stevens in Pulaski, Serenity in Roanoke, and John Oakey in Salem, we expect many homes will modify their practices to come into compliance with FTC rules.

Clearly, our work, especially our price survey, is getting the attention of the funeral homes in the Blue Ridge area.



Generous donors

Members continue to be generous with donations which allow us to carry on our work. We give special thanks to these people for their gifts.

Alfred & Virle Payne
Homer & Beverly Hurst
Maria Roth
Beth & Sidney Nelson
Isabel Berney/Morton Nadler

Sustaining members

Taylor Albright
Marcia & Will Bailey
Darrel Clowes
Marilyn & Frank Dupont
Crosby Houston/Pat Traynor
David Jenkins
Bobbie & Jim Littlefield
Dick & Cynthia Luke
Paula Markham
Franklyn & Bonnie Moreno
Arthur & Judy Snoke
Goldie & George Terrell

Embalming remains a choice

"No public health purpose is served by embalming."

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) says no public health purpose is served by embalming. Furthermore, No state routinely requires embalming. A few states still have laws that require embalming when death occurs from a disease such as anthrax, the worst possible circumstances under which to embalm — funeral personnel are put at risk, and body fluids are likely flushed into the municipal sewer system.

Some states require embalming **or** refrigeration after 24-48 hours or if the body is to be shipped out of state.

Embalming does not preserve the body forever; it merely delays the forces of nature. Embalming will add about \$300-\$500 to your funeral bill.

The United States is the **only** country in which embalming has been widely promoted by the funeral industry. It is rarely done in other countries, with no risk to public health. Even visitations are held in those countries without having the body embalmed first.

Living Bank featured at annual meeting

Steve Huppert, local representative of the Living Bank, presented a program, "The Gift of Life, the Greatest Gift" at the annual meeting.

Over 80,000 people are waiting for an organ transplant. Every 14 minutes a new name is added to the UNOS (United Network For Organ Sharing) National Transplant Waiting List.



Highlights from the annual meeting

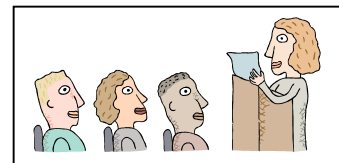
President, Isabel Berney, delivered a report on the state of organization. The Funeral Consumers Alliance of the Virginia Blue Ridge has been very active this year and our membership has continued a steady growth. Many people have contributed to the organization's success with donations of time and money. We are especially grateful to the members of the Board of Trustees. People have worked countless hours to ensure viability of the FCAVBR. Here are some of the year's highlights.

- We completed our funeral home survey so that members can see at a glance the various services and prices offered by the funeral homes in our five county area. We know that the funeral homes and their association took notice of our work.
- We submitted the 501-C3 application, now pending with the IRS. We expect to receive tax exempt status by the end of the year. Thanks to **Franklyn Moreno** who headed up this project.
- We have devoted a lot of energy to getting our message out. Thanks to **Goldie Terrell, Franklyn Moreno, Isabel Berney** and board members, we presented programs to

Warm Hearth Retirement
Community
Blacksburg AARP
Christiansburg Senior Center
Roanoke Unitarian Universalist
Church
Northside Presbyterian Church in
Blacksburg
Blacksburg Ministerial Alliance

- We placed our pamphlets in libraries, churches, senior centers, hospice and doctors' offices, and community street fairs. Goldie Terrell and Frank DuPont headed up this project. If you belong to an organization or community group we are happy to provide information.
- Our web site provides a connection to the world. Webmaster, Arthur Snoke keeps our web pages current. The national Funeral Consumers Alliance web directory lists only our FCAVBR as the one Virginia affiliate with an email link. As a result we field requests from all over. We have responded to requests from
New York, Arizona,
Texas, Ohio, Roanoke,
Blacksburg, Lynchburg,
Front Royal

Several requests came from unknown email locations. One was requesting help for a dying parent in Wytheville. Another was wanting to know the nearest affiliate to Sterling, VA. This came from outside Virginia and the writer had no idea from the 4 affiliates listed under Virginia where each one was. We had the email link; we got the request and were able to send it on to Arlington.



"Our web site provides a connection to the world."

"Always go to other peoples' funerals, otherwise they won't go to yours." - Yogi Berra

**Funeral Consumers
Alliance of the
Virginia Blue Ridge**

PO Box 10082
Blacksburg VA
24062-0082

PHONE:
540-953-5589

E-MAIL:
fcavbr@bev.net

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.funerals.org/fcavbr

Membership triples

We are part of a national organization with more than 307,000 members. In just one year, membership in the Funeral Consumers Alliance of the Virginia Blue Ridge has grown from 21 members to 65. Our members come from 9 localities. If you are wondering how we compare in size to other FCA affiliates, here is a sampling.

Local Affiliated Organization	Members
Memorial Society of Greenbrier Valley, Lewisburg, West Virginia	25
Memorial/Funeral Society of Southern New Mexico, Las Cruces	39
FCA of the Virginia Blue Ridge	65
FCA of Tidewater, Virginia Beach,	535
Memorial Society of Northern VA, Arlington	801
Los Angeles Funeral Society	16,000
People's Memorial Association, Seattle, Washington	99,000

Funeral Consumers Alliance of
the Virginia Blue Ridge
PO Box 10082
Blacksburg, VA 24060-0082