

Spring, 2002

Funeral Consumers Alliance of the Virginia Blue Ridge



Upcoming Program:

Living Bank -
Gift of Life
Annual meeting

Monday, October 7,
2002 7:00 P.M.

Warm Hearth Village
Activy Center
2603 Warm Hearth Dr
Blacksburg VA

Board of Trustees

2002 Term
Taylor Albright
Gerry Anderson
Isabel Berney

2003 Term
Darrel Clowes
Frank DuPont
Franklyn Moreno

2004 Term
Arthur Snoke
Goldie Terrell
Pat Traynor

Annual Funeral Home Survey Complete

One of the most important functions of a funeral consumers alliance is providing its members with an annual price comparison of area funeral homes. Your board has been working hard to collect information from the 22 corporations in our area. We sent requests to each one, and approximately one third responded by mail. The remaining two thirds required personal visits from board members to obtain their General Price List. We sent all 22 lists to the national office of the Funeral Consumers Alliance where they were analyzed for compliance with the Federal Trade Commission rules. The enclosed table details those findings and allows you to

compare prices at a glance.

The price comparison itself illustrates a need for careful consumerism in selecting a funeral home. The range of services, many optional, further shows the need for careful and thoughtful planning before a funeral is arranged. We are working with each funeral home to point out the areas where non-compliance exists. This illustrates the continuing need for a consumers group to be a watch dog for the industry. All these factors underscore the desirability of early planning so decisions

See Funeral Home Survey, p. 2.

Thanks to Generous Donors

Donations permit us to offer memberships to people who are unable to give the suggested amount. This allows us to provide all members with our membership packet that includes the \$14.95 book, *Dealing Creatively With Death* and our other materials.

Your generosity helps the Funeral Consumers Alliance of the Virginia Blue Ridge and our potential members.

Several of our members have made

contributions beyond the suggested membership donation. Special thanks go to

Isabel Berney & Morton Nadler
Darrel Clowes
Pricilla B. Ellison
Crosby Houston
Bobbie & Jim Littlefield
Betty & Arville Stanley

We are in the process of applying for tax deductible 501-C3 status. This means that your donations can be itemized as a charitable donation

Funeral Home Survey from page 1

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/

are not made in haste by relatives as they undergo grief. It is this planning process that the Funeral Consumers Alliance hopes to encourage and support.

From our survey, we know that there are additional services that are not easily quantifiable by a chart. The least expensive isn't always the best service nor is the most expensive. We are dedicated to ensuring consumer choice. We are requesting that

the funeral homes provide us with additional information so that we may share it with you.

We realize there is more to consider than price alone. However, price is a real concern for many people. At least 50% of the widows living today in the United States have an annual income of \$10,000 or less.

Our next step is to survey cemeteries and crematories

Speakers Bureau Ready for Requests

We have members who are prepared to present programs to civic groups, churches, and other organizations. In the past few months, we have spoken to the Blacksburg Ministerial Alliance, Montgomery County AARP, Warm Hearth, Roanoke Unitarian Universalist Church Genesis

group, and several area senior centers.

We have an upcoming program at Northside Presbyterian Church in Blacksburg on April 20.

If you would like to arrange a program, please contact our office by phone or email.

Would you like to serve on the FCAVBR Board of Directors? The nominating committee is beginning to work on the slate for our annual meeting to be held in October. It isn't too early to think about volunteering to serve on the board and in the ongoing activities of this affiliate. If you are interested or have someone to recommend, please send e-mail to fcavbr@bev.net or contact Franklyn Moreno, nominating committee chair, at 381-0119.