



**Board of
Trustees**

2004 Term

Arthur Snoke
Arville Stanley
Goldie Terrell

2005 Term

Marcia Bailey
Gary Schroeder
Jim Shotts

2006 Term

Alan Bayer
Isabel Berney
Darrell Clowes

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Funeral home survey underway

The Executive Board is hard at work compiling results from our latest funeral home survey. Our last survey which was done two years ago, showed that only three homes in our five county service area were in complete compliance with federal regulations.

Preliminary results of our new survey are mixed. Some funeral homes have changed their price lists to comply with the Federal Trade Commission Funeral Rule. Some funeral homes have modified their price lists to incorporate changes we suggested after our last survey.

Sadly, there are still homes that remain out of compliance.

We will continue to work with these businesses to point out areas of non-compliance and to provide that information to consumers. Look for our completed survey to be included in our next newsletter.

CBS news did an expose of shoddy funeral home practices in February. The FCA was cited as a place for consumers to get help. It is good to see another news item promoting our services.

New pamphlet on grief available

Take a few minutes to look at our latest pamphlet, *When Someone you Care about Is Grieving*. Written by Marcia Bailey, president of our Executive Board, this pamphlet gives helpful suggestions of what to do and say.

Marcia is a social worker with many years of experience. She has been a hospice social worker and worked as a grief counselor.

This is just one of 28 pamphlets on various topics concerning end of life issues that we can supply upon request.

Can you help? Of course you can!

*Volunteer yourself or
recommend someone to
the nominating
committee.*

Most people will spend more time and care buying a used car costing half as much as a funeral. No one goes into a car dealer and says, "Give me whatever you think I ought to have, just make it nice," yet this is exactly what many, perhaps most, families do at the funeral home.

- Would you like to serve on the FCAVBR Board of Directors? The nominating committee is beginning to work on the slate to present at our annual meeting in October. It isn't too early to think about volunteering to serve on the Board and participating directly in the ongoing activities of this affiliate. The Board meets monthly. No experience is necessary, just an interest in our work and willingness to serve. If you are interested or have someone to recommend, please send e-mail to fcavbr@bev.net or contact Alan Bayer, nominating committee chair, at 540-951-9703.
- Share our information with a friend or colleague. Our membership grows because of referrals by other members. Spread the word to those who don't know about us.
- If you belong to a civic or religious group or other organization that may want a program on our services, information we compile, funeral practices, or related topics, our speakers' bureau can help. We will tailor the presentation to your specifications.
- If you have two hours you can help FCAVBR gather General Price Lists (GPLs) from area funeral homes and cemeteries. We are conducting our survey of funeral costs from about 30 funeral homes in Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski, and Roanoke counties. Volunteers go to each of the funeral homes and request the GPLs which are analyzed to determine the cost of a hypothetical full-service funeral at each home. Other information about funeral goods and services is reported also, to give consumers a better idea about the range of prices for death care services.
- If you can spare two hours, please send an e-mail to fcavbr@bev.net or contact Isabel Berney at 540-961-804. Your help is essential if we are to continue to provide this important service.
- If you are considering revising your will, or are just getting around to making a will, consider naming FCAVBR as one of your beneficiaries.
- Gift certificates are available. Provide a friend or family member with membership.



You can take it with you

One of the FCA tenets is that membership in this Alliance is transferable to any other affiliated group. The national network has given us several members who have belonged to the Funeral Consumers Alliances in California, South Carolina, New York, Charlottesville and Virginia Beach.

We live in a mobile society. Please let us know if you move. We can't keep contact with you if we don't know where you are. Call us at 540-953-5589, or e-mail fcavbr@bev.net with changes to your membership information. If you leave a phone message, please spell your last name and give a phone number where we

may reach you if necessary. E-mail addresses change frequently so if you have a new e-mail address, please let us know.

We respect your privacy so we do not share information with any other organization without your permission.

If your move is outside our area, we will send you a transfer form to register with the Alliance in your new location. You can find the national directory in your membership packet or on the Web site at www.funerals.org. We can also mail you a printed version.



"National directory available."

News from Charlottesville FCA

A Final Farewell

Nancy Lawson, a member of the board of the Memorial Planning Society in Charlottesville, has published her personal guide to end-of-life issues. The 234 pages are full of information on funeral or memorial services, advance directives, organ donations, hospice services, and what do if death occurs at home. There are outlines for funeral and memorial services in different denominations, including Jewish.

A Final Farewell is available for \$25 plus \$1.13 tax and \$4.95 shipping and handling from Golden Age Press, Inc.
982 Amber Ridge Road
Charlottesville, VA 22901-9502
434-823-9026
goldenage@adelphia.net

The **Memorial Planning Society of the Piedmont**, the FCA affiliate in Charlottesville, is in the process of changing its name to **Funeral Information Society of the Piedmont**

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

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.funerals.org/fcavbr

Membership reaches and exceeds 100

We welcomed our #100 member in February. Sharron and Ray Weaver from Fincastle put us into triple digits. We began just three years ago with nine committed individuals who saw the need for a funeral consumers group in the western part of our state. This is how we compare in size to some other FCA affiliates:

Local Affiliated Organization	Members
Memorial Society of Greenbrier Valley, Lewisburg, West Virginia	25
FCA of the Virginia Blue Ridge	102
FCA of Tidewater, Virginia Beach	311
Memorial Planning Society of the Piedmont, Charlottesville, VA	554
Memorial Society of Northern VA, Arlington	800
People's Memorial Association, Seattle, Washington	100,000

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED