

FCA-KC

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Kern County

(Formerly Kern Memorial Society)

P. O. Box 1202 Bakersfield, CA 93302-1202

Affiliated with the national Funeral Consumers Alliance, Inc., and member of Funeral Consumers Alliance of California

FCA-KC NEWSLETTER

JULY 2015

2015 ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCHEON
Saturday, July 25th, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Rusty's Pizza

6675 Ming Avenue, just west of Ashe Road

Order something great from the menu. No reservations needed.

FCA-KC Interim President T. Ken Ishida, Ph.D. will be discussing current issues on death and dying as well as funeral options. Dr. Ishida's area of teaching is in psychology and aging. The FCA-KC board of directors invites all members, their families, friends, neighbors and the public. Come and meet your board volunteers who are doing a job that no other organization addresses – protecting your right to choose a meaningful, dignified and affordable funeral. The general meeting will be followed by a meeting of the board of directors.

If you are a member of FCA-KC and do not attend the annual meeting, you can send in the ballot below voting for or against the nomination for a two-year term on the organization's board of directors.

What else can do I do with this enclosed envelope?"

1. Donations are very welcome as they increase our ability to serve the community as well as our members. Memorial donations pay tribute to the deceased and are appreciated by the family.
2. It is difficult to keep our membership updated. You can help by writing a note telling us of any changes in your name, address, email or phone number. Mortuaries seldom let us know when one of our members has died so we must rely on their friends and relatives to give us that information.
3. Write down the names of friends and relatives you know who would benefit from learning how to plan for their final rites so they can be on our mailing list. Also let us know of any organization that would welcome a FCA-KC speaker.

Ballot for 2015-2017 Board Members

For:

President

T. KEN ISHIDA For _____ Against _____

Vice-President

INGE KAPLAN For _____ Against _____

Treasurer

SHEILA ROSS For _____ Against _____

Secretary

KITTY PIERCE For _____ Against _____

At-Large (Vote for one or two)

MELISSE HERRING For _____ Against _____

STEVE EPPS For _____ Against _____

4. Please note: To save on cost and volunteer time from this point on the FCA-KC Newsletter will be sent by email. If you wish to continue to receive a hard copy by mail you must notify us by written request.

Want to know about your rights as a funeral consumer? Worried about being scammed? If you would like a member of FCA-KC to speak to your organization, please leave an email message at fca-kc@live.com and we will respond to help arm you with information about your consumer rights. Our web site is fca-kern-county.com.



In the News

July 1 from *The Bakersfield Californian* by John Cox:

“The Federal Trade Commission, responding to a Freedom of Information Act request filed by The Californian, has released the names of seven Bakersfield mortuaries it says violated price-disclosure rules during a six-state undercover investigation last year.

“The companies are: Alma Funeral Home & Crematory, Bakersfield Funeral Home, Basham-Anspach Funeral Care, Cecil Martin Family Funeral Care, Jesse E. Cooley Jr. Funeral Service, Mission Family Mortuary and Ruckers Mortuary....”

For more see:

<http://www.bakersfield.com/News/2015/07/01/FTC-names-7-local-funeral-homes-penalized-for-price-disclosure-violations.html>

Mortuary Price Survey

In light of the above, every two years FCA-KC conducts a general price survey of mortuary service providers in the Kern County area. Our thanks go to volunteers from the CSUB Social Work program students supervised by board director Dr. Roseanna McCleary. They personally visited each one to obtain a price list. This survey is compiled as a public service to give consumers a general comparison of funeral prices. Published in September 2014 you can download a copy from <http://www.fca-kern-county.com/Documents.html> by clicking on the button on the left “2014 Mortuary Price Survey.” If you have any problems reading or understanding the general price survey, you can read about the “General Price List (GPL)” at the website of the national Funeral Consumers Alliance, <https://www.funerals.org/frequently-asked-questions/47-how-to-read-a-general-price-list>.

The State of California Cemetery Funeral Board’s video summarizes important points of the Consumers' Guide to Cemetery and Funeral Purchases. For more information, please contact the Cemetery and Funeral Bureau at www.cfb.ca.gov or 1-800-952-5210. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4kn_00M80E&feature=youtu.be

They tell us that suicide is the greatest piece of cowardice... that suicide is wrong; when it is quite obvious that there is nothing in the world to which every man has a more unassailable title than to his own life and person. ” [Arthur Schopenhauer](#)

No one wants to die. Even people who want to go to heaven don't want to die to get there. And yet death is the destination we all share. No one has ever escaped it. And that is as it should be, because Death is very likely the single best invention of Life. It is Life's change agent. It clears out the old to make way for the new.” [Steve Jobs](#)



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Board of Directors

T. Ken Ishida - *President (Interim)*
Inge Kaplan - *Vice-President*
Sheila Ross - *Treasurer*
Kitty Pierce - *Recording Secretary*

Directors

Melisse Herring
Roseanna McCleary

Volunteer

Merridith Warren,
Membership Administrator
Website & Email Administrator
Honorary Board Member

Return Service Requested

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