

# FUNERAL CONSUMERS ALLIANCE OF SUNCOAST FLORIDA, INC.

Visit our NEW website [www.fcasuncoastfl.com](http://www.fcasuncoastfl.com)

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941-953-3740

July, 2024

Celebrating our 52nd Year serving over 9000 members

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Summer 2024

Hello Members and Friends, since our last update we've completed our merger with FCA Tampa Bay and we had a very successful Giving Challenge this year. With the Patterson Foundation match, we raised \$2984.88. A special thanks to all who participated. A couple of changes to our preferred providers. We are no longer recommending Robert Toale and Sons (formerly Wiegand Brothers) or any of their affiliates. They are corporate owned (SCI) and no longer provide reasonable prices or service (more on this below). We have added a new family-owned provider, Maloney Funeral Home. They offer very competitive pricing and great service. We continue to add valuable, useful information for you by publishing our newsletters twice a year, adding more content to our website at <http://www.fcasuncoastfl.com> and locating more participating providers. Tucked inside this newsletter is our donation envelope. This is a great time to send a donation to your Alliance. We are all volunteers, but marketing and newsletters have a price. Thanks to all who have or who will donate to our mission. Finally, a big thanks to our board members and trustees for the ideas they provide and contributions they make on your behalf.

Keith Miller– President

## A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

Greetings Members,

Having completed our merger with FCA Tampa Bay, I can now concentrate on some organizational efficiency plans. One of our long-term goals was to create a member database and link your paper service records to it. The database would stay offline to reduce the chances of a data breach. The board has agreed this will greatly streamline recordkeeping. To cover the cost of this effort, we plan to pursue a grant from the Community Foundation of Sarasota. As the secretary, I answer all the phone calls and queries. I've fielded a few from a distressed family members who are trying to make sense of what their loved one had planned. Sometimes the service record has the answer. If yours is out of date, download an update form from our website and mail it to us completed. We are no longer recommending Robert Toale & Son (formerly Wiegand Brothers). As Keith mentioned above, they just no longer offer value to our members. As a Service Corp International property, they are all about profit. To help better understand, when Lance Wiegand (one of the brothers) passed away recently, his family chose Maloney Funeral Home rather than Robert Toale's Wiegand Chapel. If you have chosen Wiegand Chapel, please reconsider as we have many family-owned choices to select from. If you prepaid Wiegand Chapel, you can cancel that contract for a full refund (Keith did this years ago). If you prepaid at a really good price years ago and plan to retain that contract, just warn your family that they will get the services you paid for, but there will be a heavy sales pitch for more. The board of your Funeral Consumers Alliance continues to meet quarterly, and we continue to welcome new members and new board members. As always, we can use your help to share the benefits of belonging to our Alliance with your friends and families. Let us know if you would like extra brochures mailed to you or have anyone interested contact us. Contact us if you want to confirm the provider you have chosen or if you would like to change providers. As always make your choice of funeral provider based on what best fits your needs and **SHARE YOUR WISHES WITH THOSE WHO WILL BE FOLLOWING THEM!** We have a good supply of brochures and other informative pamphlets that can help in the planning process. **JOIN US!** We have room on our board. If you are interested in becoming a part of our board, contact us at 941-953-3740 or by email at [fcasuncoastfl@gmail.com](mailto:fcasuncoastfl@gmail.com). Current participating funeral providers are shown below.

Christopher White – Secretary

**PLEASE SEND US AN EMAIL TO CONFIRM WE HAVE YOURS OR IF IT HAS CHANGED**

## **CURRENT PARTICIPATING FUNERAL PROVIDERS & PRICES**

**Your Traditions Cremation & Funeral Chapel** - 2118 Constitution Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34231 941-921-4247  
Direct Cremation with minimum container \$1090, \$35 medical examiners fee is included for members of FCA \*Prices subject to change

**All Veterans All Families Funerals & Cremations** – 7 South Lime Street, Sarasota, FL 34237 941-377-1060 Simple Cremation \$795.00 for members plus \$35 medical examiners fee and Death Cert. \*Prices subject to change

**Maloney Funeral Home** - 2401 Cattlemen Road., Sarasota, FL 34232, 941-759-3133. Family owned. Direct Cremation with minimum container \$1090.00, \$35 medical examiners fee is included for members of FCA. Death Cert \$10. \*Prices subject to change

**Sound Choice**, 5200 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL, 34232 941-312-6371 Simple Cremation Package \$1090 for FCA members (normally \$1295) and includes \$35 medical examiners fee, 1 death certificate, temporary urn and complimentary placement at Beautiful Palms Memorial Park.

**Brewer and Sons Funeral Home**, 3328 S. Dale Mabry Highway Tampa, FL 33629, 813.835.4991, Brewers has very competitive pricing and discounts for our members with multiple chapels across central Florida. Our contract and Brewer's GPL are posted on our website. **Great news, Brewer has added another location in New Port Richey.**  
**Michels & Lundquist Funeral Home & Cremation Services, (727) 845-1957.**

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER**

For the period January- June 2024, our contribution revenue totals \$1,985.08 and our new membership dues total \$700.00 for a grand total of \$2,685.08. This is a increase of \$710.08 from last year. In addition, we received an additional \$2,984.88 from Giving Challenge donations. Expenses for this period were \$355.75 compared to \$3,707.82 for January-June 2023, a decrease of \$3,352.07. We have a year-to-date surplus of \$5,314.21. I want to give a sincere thank you to all of you who have donated to our organization.

*Chuck Treadway – Treasurer*

### **FCA Tampa Bay merger with FCA Sarasota-Manatee**

While our merger is complete, we have more work to do. We updated our profile at the Giving Challenge and participated in this year's Giving Challenge. We initiated our survey of the 4 northern counties - 115 providers. Fortunately, we inherited a contract with a family-owned funeral home, Brewer and Sons with 7 chapels and the rates are as good as or better than our preferred providers. We will merge the two chapter rosters soon. We are just working out the format details to keep some original identity as we have duplicate member numbers across the both rosters. Your member number won't change.

### **GIVING CHALLENGE 2024**

Giving Challenge 2024 was a great success for our chapter. After a few fees that were unavoidable, we raised \$1160 from online donations and \$400 from foundation donor advised funds. We received a Patterson Foundation match of \$1425 for a total of \$2984.88. That total will help us bolster our reserves to continue providing you the best service and advice in making your final arrangements. A special thanks to all who contributed.



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# HEARTWOOD PRESERVE

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Our Vice President, Rich Gilbert, discovered this hidden gem in Trinity, FL near New Port Richey. Heartwood Preserve is a conservation cemetery offering Natural Burial which takes the environmentally friendly practice of a simple, traditional burial and advances that concept to promote a greener world by keeping land in its natural state.

Heartwood is a nature preserve carved out of the Starkey Ranch, now known as Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park. It has 1000 acres of longleaf pine and flatwoods (lots of palmettos) and wetlands with cypress. Heartwood does prescribed burns from time to time, but that has no effect on those interred there. The cemetery occupies a little over 40 acres in the preserve.

As a natural cemetery, they offer traditional burial without the use of vaults. For you, this means that, unlike a conventional cemetery, you will not have to purchase a vault or grave liner. You have the option of burial with or without a casket and with or without an urn. Casket selection can be made upon approval by the cemetery, the use of a shroud is also acceptable. All burial containers they accept should be sustainably-sourced and 100% biodegradable, in keeping with their conservation mission and goals. Most 'green burial' containers purchased from funeral providers are welcome, upon approval from Heartwood Preserve's management staff. The Green Burial Council has a good list of appropriate options, although theirs are not the only options that are acceptable. Many products, such as locally made ones, meet natural burial standards but have not become certified by the GBC. [www.greenburialcouncil.org](http://www.greenburialcouncil.org)

Each burial includes the use of their beautiful Welcome Center for an hour prior to or just after the burial itself. It is available at a special Heartwood Family rate to rent for longer gatherings on the burial day. Some families enjoy having the convenience of staying for a potluck or a catered celebration of life party while at Heartwood rather than driving to someone's home or a restaurant.

So, what does this all cost. Full body interment is \$4250 and cremation burial interment is \$1650. About the only thing not included is a small stainless-steel marker designed to withstand those controlled burns. Keep in mind you still have the costs of a funeral home to pick up and transport the body. We are considering inviting Heartwood Preserve to our Annual Meeting in January for a presentation of this one-of-a-kind cemetery.

For more information check out their website <https://heartwoodpreserve.com>. 4100 Starkey Blvd Trinity, FL 34655 (727) 376-5111

Need something? Want to help? Let us know by using the form below. Complete the form and return it to:  
**Funeral Consumer's Alliance of Suncoast Florida, Inc., P.O. Box 15833, Sarasota, FL 34277.**  
If you need additional information or have questions, call us at (941) 953-3740

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE \_\_\_\_\_ COPIES OF THE ALLIANCE BROCHURE FOR MY FRIENDS.

I WISH TO UPDATE MY RECORDS. PLEASE SEND ME A BLANK SERVICE RECORD FORM.

I WILL SERVE ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. HAVE SOMEONE CALL ME AT:

\_\_\_\_\_.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY DONATION OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TO SUPPORT THE ALLIANCE.

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