

Summer 2017

Funeral Consumers Alliance of the Virginia Blue Ridge



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2017 Term

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Chris Walter

2018 Term

Jo Burroughs
Harriett Cooper
Phil Olson

2019 Term

Darrel Clowes
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Isabel Berney,
Administrator (volunteer)

Find out more

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Public program – October 11, 7:00 PM

The American Cemetery Movement, 1860-1915 ***Lee Sandstead***

Wednesday, October 11, 7:00 PM

Warm Hearth Karr Center

Directions to the Karr Center on p.4

Following the program, a short business meeting convenes to elect the Board of Trustees for the term ending in 2020. The nominating committee, consisting of Franklyn Moreno, Bobbie Littlefield, and Phil Olson, presents this slate for the Board of Trustees' term ending in 2020: Sandy Schlaudecker, Helen Renqvist, and Leanne Mitchell. Nominations from the floor also are accepted.

Death  *Café*

September 23, 1:00

Floyd Public Library, 321 West Main Street, Floyd

Save the date for our next Death Café. Come to discuss what is on your mind concerning death and end-of-life issues. Death Café is a global movement where people get together for meaningful discussions with no agenda other than death and dying and other related issues.

Trends from traditions



Cremation jewelry enjoys a very long tradition.

Funeral or mourning jewelry has been around for almost 500 years. Jet black jewelry worn to commemorate a loved one became popular in the 1600's and continued through the 1800's when jewelry and art made from the dead one's hair was common. The more money the family, the more elaborate the jewelry and many rings and pins would be passed out at the funeral as a token of remembrance. Queen Victoria wore her husband's

mourning ring for the remainder of her life, 40 years.

Today the tradition lives on as cremation jewelry where a small amount of cremated remains is put into a charm or locket. Ashes can also be made into diamonds or crystals. The internet abounds with choices and most funeral homes carry a selection of jewelry items.

Changes to Virginia laws



We watch our state for death issues.

FCAVBR routinely monitors the legislature and this year we were interested in several bills. Until the passage of HB1846, a death certificate had to be filed where the death occurred. As of July 1, a death certificate can be filed in any registration district in the Commonwealth. This is especially helpful to families not engaging a funeral home.

Two parts of the Code, § 38.2-3117.01 and § 54.1-2818.5, were amended to allow a funeral service provider to request, and allow a life insurer to provide, information about a deceased person's life

insurance policy, including the name and contact information of any beneficiaries of record. The amendments require a funeral service provider to make all reasonable efforts to contact all beneficiaries of record, if the beneficiary is not the decedent's estate. The amended laws also require the funeral service provider to inform the beneficiaries that the beneficiary of a life insurance policy has no legal duty or obligation to pay any amounts associated with the provision of funeral services or the debts or obligations of the deceased.

Historic cemeteries get state support

Since 1997, Virginia has subsidized the care and restoration of Confederate graves. This year, a new law, passed unanimously by both the House of Delegates and the Senate authorizes similar funding to help preserve and clean up overgrown and long-forgotten historically black cemeteries.

There are thousands of forgotten African-American cemeteries in the state. As Governor McAuliffe stated as he signed the bills into law, "It is truly immoral and unconscionable that we would spend money to honor the Confederate dead without making

an equal investment to preserve our historic black cemeteries."

Funds are appropriated for qualifying nonprofit organizations that preserve historical African American cemeteries established before 1900. Delegate Delores McQuinn introduced the bill to address the neglect of two cemeteries, one in Richmond and one in Henrico County, but the authorization applies to the entire state.



Support for African-American cemeteries

Death away from home is a possibility

Many of us have made plans for what happens when we die, but most of us expect that will happen at home or close by.

Americans travel a lot. What happens if we die away from home? If that occurs in the United States, it is a good idea to contact a Funeral Consumers Alliance affiliate to see what arrangements seem reasonable. Cremation is always less expensive than transporting a body. It is relatively easy to transport or mail cremated remains.

If death happens outside the United States, the survivor should contact the American consulate for assistance. Cremation is available in many countries. Transporting a body to the United States can be very expensive and there are often many regulations to meet. A local American funeral home can be helpful. If you do travel, it may be prudent to contemplate what would help your survivors if they are ever called upon to make decisions about your death away from home.



American consulate can help

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Directions to Warm Hearth Karr Center

From Interstate 81 take exit 118B (US 460 Blacksburg/Christiansburg/Virginia Tech).
Follow 460 West toward Blacksburg/Virginia Tech.

Stay on 460 West until you see an exit for 460 Business/Smart Rd. This exit will fork. Stay in the right lane and take 460 Business East toward Christiansburg. Turn left at the stop sign and left again at the light.

At the second light (Hightop Road), turn right. Take the second right at the bottom of the hill onto Farmview Drive. (You will see a Warm Hearth Village sign on the corner).

Follow Farmview Drive 1.2 miles to Warm Hearth Village. Once in the Village, follow the main road and directional signs to a left turn into the Karr Center – 2603 Warm Hearth Drive.