

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Western Massachusetts MINUTES of 2024 Annual Membership Meeting

Date: October 20, 2024

1. Call to Order by Sandy Ward - 2:10pm
2. Unanimous approval of last year's (October 2023) Annual Meeting Minutes
3. President's Report – Sandy reported the following activities of the board:

Funeral Home Price Survey – FCAWM conducts a bi-yearly price survey of all funeral homes in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire counties. This year was our most successful yet; we collected price lists from 94% of western MA funeral homes. The comprehensive survey was completed in early May 2024 and a searchable table of results was posted to the FCAWM website.

Educational Outreach - FCAWM volunteers conducted more than 20 talks and panel discussions at Councils on Aging, libraries, hospice programs, and community organizations, and tabled at several wellness fairs. We also produced and distributed two newsletters.

Continued Learning & Research - Along with our outreach opportunities, FCAWM board members participated in many learning opportunities. These included webinars and meetings on the FTC Funeral Rule proposed changes, the Lake Forest Law Review “Future of Deathcare in America” symposium, the Kentucky Indigent Burial Program presentation, the Deathcare Superconference, and attendance at several monthly meetings of the MA Board of Registration of Embalming and Funeral Directing and regional meetings of the National Funeral Consumers Alliance.

Bylaw Review – After a thorough review, the trustees propose changes that await a vote today from our membership.

Thank You - Sandy thanked the trustees for their shared duty answering phone and email questions. She especially thanked Joan Pillsbury for her many years serving as Treasurer.

4. Treasurer's Report:

Starting Bank Account Balance	\$6,745.41 (as of 9/1/23)
Income, grants and donation	\$4,867.13
Expenses	\$3,866.74
Ending bank balance	\$7745.80

Thanks to Denise Wood for our Financial Review; such review is mandated in our bylaws.

5. Election of Trustees: Cecile Richard - 3-year term
Sandy Ward - 1-year term
Carol Papoulis* - 3-year term
Pamela Shad - 3-year term

6. Election of Officers: Jim Couchon - President
Sandy Ward - Vice President
Joan Pillsbury - Treasurer
Alex Tinari - Secretary

Slates approved and elected. [*Carol Papoulis withdrew a few days later.]

7. Vote to update our Bylaws – Passed unanimously.

8. Adjourn Business Meeting - 2:27 pm

The 2024 Annual Membership Meeting was followed by a talk by Lee Webster titled, "You Can Do This: Family-Led Deathcare."