Annual Report 2019-2020

Our usual activities were cut short by the pandemic. We were scheduled to provide five programs that had to be canceled. We were to have a booth at five health fairs that didn't happen. A planned free movie on home death care and burial was canceled. We still received many phone calls and emails from our web presence. Most of the requests were asking for financial help. We were able to provide information about lower cost choices.

A positive development this year was the many referrals we received from various hospice organizations. We also received requests from several funeral homes and cemeteries. Some folks outside our service area of the New River and Roanoke Valleys wanted to see their local funeral homes added to our survey and we complied.

We saw several more funeral homes have their prices on line and we supplied direct links on our survey. We experienced growing interest in home burials and greener options

Outreach

Provided information – to our area and beyond, some examples:

- Taught Getting Your Ducks in a Row, a four-session, six-hour class, for Lifelong Learning Institute
- Staffed our display table at the Radford University Nursing School health fair
- Presented a program at Blacksburg Public Library – Going out Green
- Delivered a program for Alexandria Public Library via Zoom on Writing Your Own Obituary
- Gave the program for VA Tech Women's Club via Zoom – Going out Green

Answered requests from our service area as well as from Pamplin, Emporia, Yorktown, Staunton, Charlottesville, Chesterfield, Williamsburg, Swoope, Richmond, Norfolk, Nelson County, Rockbridge County, Washington County, Knoxville, California, and North Carolina

Legal advocacy

- Monitored the State legislature, provided assistance to our local Delegate
- Monitored the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers
- Sent comments to the Federal Trade Commission

Helped consumers – members and non-members alike

Clark Howard refers people to Funeral Consumer affiliates on his radio show. We received several calls. Partnered with TimeBank to help folks with end of life planning. This were to be person-to-person, but they had to be done by phone.

Welcomed 13 new members

Annual meeting elects board/officers

The annual meeting was held on September 22 via Zoom. Although meeting this way is difficult for people who don't feel comfortable using this technology, it is the best that can be done when we are social distancing and avoiding inside meetings. The positive aspect of a Zoom meeting is that people who live farther away were able to join. A former board member who moved to Lynchburg several years ago was happy to be included.

In place of a guest speaker, we reviewed what we all need to know in the time of COVID-19. The synopsis of the annual report was presented, see page 5. After the meeting, the board elected officers for the coming year. See the sidebar on the right.
The board continues to meet monthly by Zoom. If you are interested in attending a board meeting, send your request by email and you will be sent the Zoom invitation. Zoom meetings need to be by invitation.

The important talk from page 2

It is important that all who care for you have copies of your advance directives. These include your doctors, lawyer, health care givers and the ones who hold your durable powers of attorney. The documents should be scanned and added to your electronic medical record. You should avoid storing the documents in a safe or locked file cabinet where no one can access them when needed. Make sure your family knows where these documents are kept. Having these documents available when needed will be a true gift to your loved ones.

Board of Trustees

2020 Term

Leanne Mitchell

Helen Renqvist

Sandy Schlaudecker

2021 Term

Linda Plaut

Harriett Cooper

Phil Olson

2022 Term

Ben Crawford

Darrel Clouse

Dianne Rencsok

Officers

President: Sandy Schlaudecker

Vice president: Phil Olson

Secretary: Linda Plaut

Treasurer: Dianne Rencsok

Isabel Berney, Administrator (volunteer)

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Affiliated with Funeral Consumers
Alliance www.funerals.org

Kroger Community Awards & Amazon Smile

Thanks to our members who have connected their Kroger Loyalty Cards to us. If you have a Kroger Plus card, consider signing up for Kroger Community Awards to give a percentage of your bill as a donation to FCAVBR.
Go online to https://www.kroger.com. If you already have a Kroger account, simply log in. If not, you will be asked to create one. When asked to select the organization to receive your rewards, enter this number:
TK761.

Amazon also supports us. At your browser, type smile.amazon.com. If you have an Amazon account, sign in and you will see the choice to select a charity. If you type in Funeral Consumers Alliance, several affiliates come up and you can scroll down to select Funeral Consumers Alliance of the Virginia Blue Ridge.