



San Diego Memorial Society

New Director! John K. Davis New Address! 4885 Ronson Court, Suite J New Email! john@sdmsonline.com

Fall, 2006 Newsletter published by
San Diego Memorial Society

Inside this issue:

Maggie's Message	2
Email Solutions	2
Donations Requested	2
Ashes In Space	3
Legislative Update	3
Warning! Humor Below	4

Welcome John!

Following the death of the Society's Administrator, Al Alferos, in February the Society's Treasurer at the time, Margaret (Maggie) Moody, resigned her volunteer position in order to serve the Society as its interim Administrator. She kept the office running smoothly and was a wonderful aid to members of the San Diego Memorial Society Board of Directors as the Board considered options for a more permanent solution.

The Board formed a search committee. A few months later the committee recommended that John K. Davis become Executive Director of the Society. He was hired to start in August. John is quickly modernizing office operations and is promoting the Society throughout San Diego County.

Our prior president, Robert Haller, resigned the first of August because of job demands. Vice president, Paul Ward, stepped into the leadership role for a few weeks until Maggie happily returned to the

Board and was elected President at the August Board meeting.

The future for the San Diego Memorial Society holds much promise. John has already significantly streamlined office operations and membership growth is increasing steadily.

You can help build the Society's future by assisting John to connect with San Diego organizations. If you know of a speaking opportunity, please contact John at the Society's office.



**SIMPLE, DIGNIFIED,
INEXPENSIVE
CREMATION AND
BURIAL PLANS**

**John K. Davis
Executive Director**

**San Diego Memorial Society
4885 Ronson Court, Suite J
San Diego, CA 92111**

**Phone: 858-926-5939
Fax: 858-374-7931
john@sdmsonline.com
<http://funerals.org/SanDiego/>**

Special points of interest:

- John K. Davis is the new Executive Director of the San Diego Memorial Society.
- We moved less than 100 yards from the old office. The new address is **4885 Ronson Court, Suite J.**
- Send email to:
john@sdmsonline.com

We Have Moved

With change there is often opportunity. The Board took advantage of an opportunity to move our office a short distance to a new suite.

The new office is large enough to host monthly Board meetings and is now located on the ground floor, so no one will have to climb stairs to reach us.

We have new technologies installed at the new location including broadband

Internet service, a new membership management database, a new phone system that includes voice over IP (VoIP) service via Skype (user name: sdmemsoc) and a new color inkjet printer—technologies that both make the office more efficient and also save the Society significant expense.

Once the phone system is well tested we will be

(Continued on page 3)



**New Address:
4885 Ronson Court, Suite J,
San Diego, CA 92111**



**San Diego Memorial
 Society President**

Maggie's Message

A number of San Diego Memorial Society members have never mailed a completed Service Instruction Booklet (SIB) to Humphrey Mortuary. There is, therefore, no record of you or your arrangements.

YOU need to get your SIB sent to Humphreys NOW. Not later, **NOW!** If you have not yet submitted your SIB, please rectify this situation immediately. Please, do not wait until it is too late.

Members who have completed their SIB and have sent it to Humphrey Mortuary

occasionally want to update their instructions. The easiest way to accomplish this is to send a letter outlining the changes to Humphrey Mortuary, 753 Broadway, Chula Vista, CA 91910, or fax the letter to 619-425-6055. It would be very helpful to include your membership ID number with the communication. We have that number if you have misplaced it.

If you would prefer to complete a new SIB, please let us know. We will insert your member ID number into a booklet and will send it to you with full instructions plus

a self addressed envelope for Humphrey Mortuary.

We also hear occasionally from members who have lost their membership ID card. We will happily replace it. Send an email message to John Davis at the office, john@sdmsonline.com, or call 858-874-7921, or fax your request to 858-874-7931.

Maggie Moody

"John Davis, purchased a domain name for the Society, sdmsonline.com, early in August ..."

Email Solutions

The email address used by the San Diego Memorial Society for many years was owned by our former Administrator, Al Alferos. When we tried to move the account into the Society's name we discovered transfer was not possible. Nor would AOL forward the email to another account. So, if you sent an email message to sdmem-soc@aol.com sometime after mid-July, it is somewhere in the ether and will not likely

ever be read by anyone.

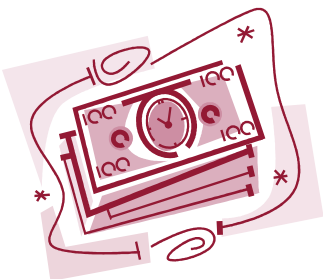
We partially resolved this situation when our new Executive Director, John Davis, purchased a domain name for the Society, **sdmsonline.com**, early in August and established email service for the domain with a hosting service.

Our new email address for general correspondence is **john@sdmsonline.com**. The officers of the Society

can also be contacted via email.

- Maggie Moody, President: **maggie@sdmsonline.com**
- Paul Ward, Vice President: **paul@sdmsonline.com**
- Russ Armstead, Treasurer: **russ@sdmsonline.com**

We will enjoy receiving your email message.



**You Can Assist the San
 Diego Memorial Society
 to Reach More People**

Donations Requested

The current members of the San Diego Memorial Society Board of Directors are committed to increase public awareness of the Society in San Diego County. We need to increase the Society's financial resources for this vision to become manifest.

Your one-time membership fee in exchange for lifetime access to the Society's services is a major source of

income used to fund our work. Our service also depends on voluntary contributions. Will you make an additional contribution to the San Diego Memorial Society?

Your gift will make it possible for us to reach people. We want to network with hospice, assisted care facilities, churches, senior service organizations, social services, business groups and

community associations.

When more people are aware of our effort to assist members in choosing meaningful after-death arrangements without emotional or financial exploitation, we will have an even greater impact in our community.

Please find a contribution envelope enclosed. Thank you!

We Have Moved

(Continued from page 1)

announcing our new Skype direct-dial number, so plain old telephone system users will be able to reach us through the Skype service.

Skype has eliminated the expense of long distance phone calls for the Society and may lead to eventually being able to terminate one or more of the Society's landlines.

The new database is a huge improvement. Our prior software was donated to the Society in 1989 and

runs under DOS, now an outdated technology. The application has served us well for many years, but using it to maintain member records had many limitations and inefficiencies.

The new application runs as a component under open-source code (OpenOffice.org Base), software that is free and well supported. The old DOS records were imported into Microsoft Outlook, so contact information is easily found and managed. Email is easily handled in Outlook and using a Skype plug-in we can now call a member directly

from their Outlook contact record.

The new office, additional space, improved technologies and new equipment are a big change for the better. The San Diego Memorial Society is now positioned to provide members excellent service far into the future.

Our current regular office hours are 9:00 AM to noon, Monday through Thursday, or by appointment. Stop by for a brief visit, see our new home and meet the new Executive Director, John Davis.



New Address:

4885 Ronson Court, Suite J

San Diego, CA 92111

Phone: 858-874-7921

Fax: 858-874-7931

Ashes In Space

Time Magazine reports in the March 6, 2006 issue that \$5,300 is the highest price paid for the service of having cremains shot into space, so far. Space Services is the company offering rocket rides for the departed.

The company boasts about celebrities that will be using the service including astronaut L. Gordon Cooper and Star Trek's Scotty, actor James Doohan. One can leave

a message of tribute to one or both of these celebrities at the Space Service website, but hurry, the launch is scheduled for October.

From the Space Service website: "Leaving Earth to touch the cosmos is an experience few have ever known, but many have often dreamed of. Space Services makes it possible to honor the dream and memory of your departed loved one by

launching a symbolic portion of cremated remains into Earth orbit, onto the lunar surface or into deep space."

The San Diego Memorial Society's Executive Director and volunteers learn of many creative or unusual ideas concerning disposition of cremains. This newsletter will feature another such idea in the next issue published in the spring.

*"...launching a symbolic
portion of cremated
remains into Earth orbit,
onto the lunar surface or
into deep space."*

Legislative Update

A new law in California has improved the likelihood that family members will be aware of the wishes of a decedent loved one concerning body and organ donation. Because of the law, Californians now have convenient access to a Donate Life California Registry.

The registry is administered by the four non-profit procurement organizations

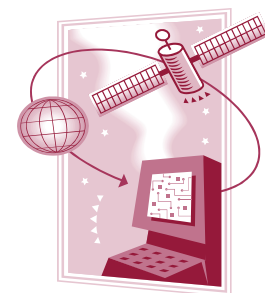
selected by the federal government to facilitate tissue and organ donation in California. Registration is free and confidential and requires only the registrant's consent and a little information. One may remove her or his name from the registry easily at a future date.

The registry is expected to increase organ donations because although most peo-

ple favor the idea and some have executed a legally binding DMV document to that effect, only 50% of families actually agree to the donation at time of death. Often the family's reason flows from uncertainty about the decedent's wishes.

You can add yourself to the registry here:

www.donateLIFecalifornia.org



**The Internet May
Increase Organ
Donations**



San Diego Memorial Society

4885 Ronson Court, Suite J
San Diego, CA 92111-1812

Phone: 858-874-7921

Fax: 858-874-7931

Email: john@sdmsonline.com

San Diego Memorial Society; a nonprofit, nonsectarian association dedicated to a consumer's right to choose meaningful after-death arrangements without emotional or financial exploitation.



"Death has a tendency to encourage a depressing view of war."

**--Defense Secretary,
Donald Rumsfeld**

Warning! Humor Below

- Found in the February 2006 issue of Reader's Digest: A newspaper in Columbia, South Carolina reported that *"the funeral business has launched a national effort to boost repeat business."* Good luck!
- *"Dying is a very dull, dreary affair. And my advice to you is to have nothing whatever to do with it."*
--Somerset Maugham
- On a grave in East Dalhousie Cemetery, Nova Scotia: *"Here Lies Ezekiel Aikle, Age 102. The Good Die Young."*
- Don't knock on Death's door. Ring the doorbell and run. He hates that!
- Mother-in-law on the phone: *"I've decided I want to be cremated."* Daughter-in-law: *"Great, get your coat on, and I'll be right over."*
--AOL SeniorNet
- Do you know the definition of *"Last Will and Testament?"* Well, you should, it's a dead giveaway.
- *"I don't want to achieve immortality through my work... I want to achieve it through not dying. I'm not afraid of death, I just don't want to be there when it happens."*
--Woody Allen

We're on the Web!

www.funerals.org/SanDiego/