

SAN DIEGO MEMORIAL SOCIETY

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FALL-WINTER 2012 NEWSLETTER

2013 ANNUAL MEETING

SAVE HIS DATE – APRIL 13, 2012 – SDMS 55TH ANNUAL MEETING
San Diego Education Association office located at 10393 San Diego Mission Road, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92108. Meeting starts at 1:00 PM. More info will be in the Spring-Summer 2013 Newsletter in March.

SPREADING THE WORD

As your President I am keenly supportive of the need to always be on the hunt for new members of our Society. New members are the lifeblood of any organization. The leadership of your Society is constantly seeking new members. We have leaders attending meetings at local hospices, visiting retirement homes, talking to retirement groups, holding Expos, attending Health Fairs.... and, well you get the idea. What I have discovered is that one of our strongest assets is our MEMBERS. Our members talk to neighbors, friends, family, business colleagues and, in fact, are talking to potential new members in all walks of life.

I am inviting all members of our Society to step up and join the leadership in spreading the word about our organization. We get offers to meet with various groups from time to time and we need members to volunteer to attend and explain what the San Diego Memorial Society is all about. We can, of course, “train” our members in what information they would need to answer questions and explain the values of membership. The “conversations” we have with groups of potential new members are always relaxed and friendly.

Our one time Lifetime Membership fee helps to keep our Society solvent. We are fortunate to receive donations from time to time to help keep us in the “black”. Our expenses are low but we do have many fixed expenses and income is always an issue.

In the past our Office Coordinator, Barbara Thomson, has been very successful in gathering in donations. She is tireless in her efforts to keep the Society healthy financially. We had one member that remembered us in her will. More recently a member shared with your Society part of the money she saved for the final arrangements of her loved one by him being a member of the Society. They were welcomed generous gifts.

A President of any organization would be remiss in their duties if they failed to acknowledge the hard work the members of their Board of Directors give in support of their goals. The San Diego Memorial Society’s Board of Directors is an all volunteer platoon. They give quarterly Saturday mornings to support the goals that the members have identified in our governance documents. The committee meetings often are an evening event. Most of our Board Members are actively employed and the time they give to the Society must be carved out of their busy schedule. I am proud to say they do so very willingly. That said, we can always use more volunteers.

Tim Jenkins

President of the Board of San Diego Memorial Society.

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Timothy Jenkins – President
Victor Savino – Vice President
Caroline Flanders – Secretary
Frances San Clemente – Treasurer
Russ Armstead – Director
Barbara Thomson – Director
Elaine Durson – Director
Kenneth Fousel – Director
Maria Pino – Director
Stephen Ross – Director
Paul Ward - Director Emeritus
Cindy Wilson - Director
Philip Vinci - Director
Fredricka Tiumalu - Director



*A nonprofit, nonsectarian association
established in 1958.*

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2013 ANNUAL MEETING	1
SPREADING THE WORD	1
WE SINCERELY NEED YOUR HELP	2
UPDATE ON HUMPHREY MORTUARY	2
ANNUAL CONTRACT CHANGES FOR PARTICIPATING MORTUARIES	3
YOU CAN'T DIE FOR FREE	3
WELCOMING A NEW INTERN!!	3
Future Newsletter's and correspondence via E-Mail	4

WE SINCERELY NEED YOUR HELP

Once again, due to the slow recovery of our economy, SDMS, like so many other non-profits, is struggling to keep up and running. Our membership numbers are down and our donations have dropped off tremendously. We could not afford another EXPO in 2013. Our EXPO's were very successful but definitely were not a money maker nor were they expected to be. The purpose of them was to get the information about SDMS out to more people and also let the general public become aware they have options for many things in planning for the end of life, which we all know is inevitable.

It is very difficult for me to keep asking annually for donations from our wonderful members but I have no other choice. Once again, our sole source of income is the one time Lifetime Membership fee of \$40 and what donations we receive from our members. You are never required to pay dues and you save a minimum of 30% at your time of need over what you would pay were you not a member. That is a substantial savings. Also, when you are taking care of your Trusts, etc., and considering donations to some of your favorite non-profits, it would help us so much and we would be eternally grateful if you would remember the San Diego Memorial Society in those Trusts and Wills.

The Society is kept alive by a small group of members who are volunteers, receive no compensation, but are willing to give of their time and efforts to keep us going to help the many people out there who can't afford the outrageous prices charged by so many mortuaries and cemeteries here in San Diego County. If you are unable to help financially, help us by spreading the word about us. I am always delighted to mail any information you might need to do this. Much of our information is available on our website: www.sdmsonline.com. And remember, you can also donate by going to our website and clicking on the donate button and putting in your information and paying with your credit card. No donation is too small. We do so appreciate any amount you can find it in your heart and wallet to give. We need every dollar we receive from our wonderful members

Thanks again for your time and help.

Barbara Thomson, Office Coordinator

UPDATE ON HUMPHREY MORTUARY

The name of Humphrey Mortuary, which was purchased in 2008 by SCI, Inc., has been officially changed to Funeraria del angel Humphrey. Many of the same employees that have worked there for many years are still there. They are taking wonderful care of our members that signed up between 1958 and 2008 with Humphrey Mortuary. Their address is still 753 Broadway, Chula Vista, CA 91910 and their phone no. is still 619-425-9111. They are not, nor will they ever be shown on our Participating Mortuary list since they no longer accept our new members. I receive reports frequently from longtime member families letting me know how wonderfully they were taken care of by the employees of the old Humphrey Mortuary. You may change to one of our current Participating Mortuaries if you so choose, but keep in mind, you will usually pay more for your final arrangements if you do make the change. If you have any questions about this please feel free to call the SDMS office at 858-391-1267 and I will be happy to answer your questions.

ANNUAL CONTRACT CHANGES FOR PARTICIPATING MORTUARIES

The annual contracts for our Participating Mortuaries end on December 31st. Check our website after January 1st to get the latest updated information on the mortuaries. We have already made some changes throughout the year and there may be more. Always remember that our website is the first thing updated when we make any changes to the list of Participating Mortuaries. I will be enclosing a current list in the Spring-Summer newsletter which will be coming to you in March.

YOU CAN'T DIE FOR FREE

Even if there is no funeral or memorial service and no medical expenses associated to dying, there will always be costs for dealing with the dead body. In California, there are as yet only three legal ways to deal with human remains. These are, in descending order of cost: burial, cremation and pre-arranged whole body donation. (Bodies of organ and tissue donors will be returned to the families for burial or cremation.)

Burial will always be the most expensive way to deal with human remains, because there is an obligation for cemeteries to be tended in perpetuity – lawns mowed, trees trimmed, flowers planted – jobs for which people must be paid. Families can decorate the grave with flowers, but mowing the lawn is a paid job. Forever.

Cremation, on the other hand, does not involve paying for anything in perpetuity, unless you bury or store the ashes in a cemetery or columbarium, in which case, see above. So the price of cremation can be quite a bit less than the price of burial. Of course, there are a lot of ways to spend your money doing something with the ashes-scattering them at sea or from airplanes, storing them in columbaria in elegant urns, making them into jewelry or concrete reef balls-but there is no requirement to do anything at all with ashes.

Whole body donation – if the body is accepted – comes with the smallest price tag, usually consisting only of paying for copies of the death certificate. The institutions that accept donated bodies will usually pick up at no charge. But whole body donation requires advance planning by the donating individual-it is not something your cash-strapped family can choose for you after you die. And, even if you sign up to donate your body, there are numerous reasons why the donation might not be accepted when the time comes, such as infectious disease, over-sized body, excessive trauma, etc.

Our office receives calls every day from people trying to figure out how to pay for someone's death, because nobody made any advance plans or saved up any money. We can help out with members discounted prices at our Participating Mortuaries, but there is no free lunch. Or free death.

WELCOMING A NEW INTERN

SDMS is happy to welcome a new intern who is learning the everyday operations and management of the office. Her name is Frances San Clemente and she is being trained to replace our current Office Coordinator, Barbara Thomson, when the time comes for Barbara to retire from her 24/7 job of running the office. Frances has been amazed at all of the phone calls and questions that come into the office in the SDMS quest to offer our services to the residents of the County of San Diego.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

VISIT US ON SATURDAY & SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23-24, 2013

We have, once again, been given the opportunity to have a booth at the upcoming U-T Successful Aging EXPO on the above dates at the Town & Country Resort & Convention Center in Mission Valley. This will be the third year for this event and we were lucky enough to be allowed to have a booth in this year's event, being a non-profit. This event is attended by approximately 20,000 people over the two day period. It is open from 9 AM to 3 PM both days. It definitely is a worthwhile expo for all of us to see just what is offered for those of us over 45. And it is free and there is plenty of parking. Hope to see you there.

RECEIVING FUTURE NEWSLETTERS VIA E-MAIL

Just another reminder for our members – if you are interested in receiving your SDMS newsletters via e-mail please notify us by emailing your instructions to barbara@sdmsonline.com. Be sure to include your name, address and email info and it is also important to notify the office of any change of mailing address or email address.

NOTE: If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please notify the office...

DONATIONS ALWAYS NEEDED AND GREATLY APPRECIATED!