

SAN DIEGO MEMORIAL SOCIETY

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FALL-WINTER 2013 NEWSLETTER

2014 ANNUAL MEETING

SAVE THIS DATE: APRIL 12, 2014 – SDMS 56TH ANNUAL MEETING.

Information on location and speakers will be available in the Spring-Summer Newsletter mailed to you in March, 2014.

IT'S YOUR SOCIETY

Every organization depends on the members of the organization to survive. To keep the members interest, the leadership needs to always reach out to find what the needs of the members are. The input from the members, ie: communication from the members to the leadership is vital to the health of any organization. The annual meeting of the San Diego Memorial Society is a key communication component for members to share their thoughts with the leaders they elect. This year, indeed every year, board members are elected, reelected, to your Board of Directors. They are your voice. This is why your attendance is so important at our annual meeting, April 12, 2014. I realize this is a long way away from now but PLEASE mark your calendar for this event. You will receive details about the meeting in our next Newsletter due out to you in March 2014.

In the meantime your Society needs your assistance. We need members to attend events to help "sell" your society to potential new members. You know why you joined and we would like members to help others understand why they should join the San Diego Memorial Society. It is far less threatening than you would think. It is always a non-threatening atmosphere. Our members are sitting at a small table and answering questions. The questions are usually much the same. We have most answers already scripted. There are very few variables. It is a nice, friendly few hours talking with people that are seeking solutions to meet their needs. You are a member, you already have answered the question, "why should I join the Society"? If you would like to volunteer to staff some of these events call Barbara at (858)391-1267. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Tim Jenkins
President of the Board of San Diego Memorial Society.

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Timothy Jenkins – President
Victor Savino – Vice President
Frances San Clemente – Treasurer
Caroline Flanders – Secretary

Russ Armstead – Director Emeritus
Michael Cooney - Director
Elaine Durson – Director
Kenneth Fousel – Director
Stephen Ross – Director
Philip Vinci – Director
Fredricka Ward – Director
Paul Ward – Director
Cindy Wilson - Director



*A nonprofit, nonsectarian association
established in 1958.*

6/06

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THE FUTURE OF THE SAN DIEGO MEMORIAL SOCIETY

We're hard to raise money for, as you can imagine. We don't feed hungry kittens or save homeless dogs. We spend all day talking about dead people. But It's only donations that keep this phone line/email/website open for the next family year after year. We'd be really grateful if you'd consider adding the San Diego Memorial Society to your annual charitable giving list. Thanks!

Honestly, I can't thank the members who regularly contribute to the Society enough. I, on occasion, also receive a donation from a family who has just lost a loved one and realized not only how much money was saved but how smooth everything went because the loved one was a member of the San Diego Memorial Society.

I hate to continue to repeat myself but the existence of the Society depends on your donations. The one-time lifetime membership fee of \$40 not only saves the family a sizeable amount of money at the time of death but makes the trip to the mortuary so much simpler for everyone involved. We contract only with wonderful mortuaries in the County that go out of their way to give our members their time and services at such a greatly discounted price. Our members receive more attention for much less money than the general public that use these same mortuaries. That is because these participating mortuaries respect and look forward to serving our members in any way they can.

The enclosed envelope is for your donation to the Society. Just to include these envelopes is an additional cost to the Society of \$500, therefore we only enclose them in the Fall-Winter issue. But, hopefully, they will help increase the number of our donations. Please remember, no donation is too small and all are greatly appreciated. It is up to you members to help keep this Society up and running. The volunteers that are responsible for day to day operations can't do their jobs if there is not adequate funds in the bank to keep the organization viable.

Once again, thank you so much for your time and financial help!!

Barbara Thomson, Office Coordinator

FYI: SHIPPING CREMATED REMAINS

Prior to August 26, 2013, cremated remains were not identifiable in the mail stream. If a package containing cremated remains could not be located while in the Postal Service's possession, it could cause negative customer experiences and generate unfavorable publicity for the Postal Service. The new Label 139, CREMATED REMAINS, allows USPS to identify these packages during processing and transportation.

The new Label 139 will be applied by Sales and Service Associates to shipments disclosed as cremated remains that are accepted and paid for at the retail counter. Remember, cremated remains must be shipped using Priority Mail Express or Registered Mail. If you have any questions you may contact NFDA at 800-228-6332 or your local post office.

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. 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.

AGING IN PLACE WITH DIGNITY

CAREGIVERS – 5 things to ask

Licensing requirements and government standards for the home health care industry aim to protect seniors from unqualified caregivers. Non-medical home care, however, remains completely unregulated in the state of California, which means its even more important to ask potential home care agencies all the right questions, according to Timothy J Colling, vice president of A Servant's Heart Care Solutions.

Are the caregivers employed by the home services agency? It's not always safe to assume a caregiver works for the company that sends them. Some agencies operate as brokers, meaning they can't be held responsible for the actions of their independent contractor caregivers.

Does the agency do background checks? Background checks can help to weed out dangerous or unqualified caregivers. Colling said how the agency does the checks is also important; he recommends running applicants' fingerprints through the Department of Justice database.

What languages do the caregivers speak? The caregiver will need to be able to speak, read and write fluently in the language of the patient or client. Check with the agency to see if they can accommodate specific requests.

Is there a written service agreement? Review the written service agreement carefully before signing it. Make sure the agreement outlines what is expected of the caregiver and gives information on cancellation policies.

Does the agency test caregivers for diseases such as TB? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends regular TB screenings for health care workers.

The above information courtesy of U-T Health, Section E dated September 10, 2013.

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 instruction 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.....**

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

BEFORE I GO, YOU SHOULD KNOW (This would be a great Christmas Gift!)

The above named booklet is now available thru the San Diego Memorial Society for your purchase. The price is \$15 per copy (free shipping). It includes the following:

- *Your funeral plans
- *Where your important papers are
- *Who should take care of your pets and how
- *Who to call when the time comes
- *That you love them enough to get it together with.....

Before I Go, You Should Know, the comprehensive end-of-life planner. Featuring illustrations by Edward Gorey. It is spiral bound, BIG - has 30 pages to record everything from your preference for burial or cremation to how to close down your social media accounts and online life. Also includes two **free** chapters from the book Final Rights with consumer funeral and burial rights and rules specific to California, a survivor's checklist of important but often overlooked tasks when death occurs. There is also a place to record all the biographical information your family will need for an obituary, funeral or memorial service.

To purchase this much needed booklet please fill out the following information and mail to San Diego Memorial Society, 13446 Poway Rd. #207, Poway, CA 92064 along with your check for call Barbara at 858-391-1267 and pay with a credit card over the phone.

Please send me _____ copies of Before I Go, You Should Know. My mailing information is:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Find enclosed a check for _____

DONATIONS ALWAYS NEEDED AND GREATLY APPRECIATED!