

**Funeral Consumers Alliance of Western PA
Annual Meeting
10/25/25**

Minutes (DRAFT)

Attendance:

Stephen Christian-Michaels	Beverly Bronder	Bob Niedbale
Andrea Christian-Michaels	Mary Anne Packer	Marjorie and Bob Niedbale
Susan Jones	Maxine Russ	Judy Schryer
Tom Stackrow	Dorothy Joseph	Terra Treasure
Debbie Stackrow	Mark Seibel	Mary Lucas

1. Call to order

Stephen Christian-Michaels

Stephen Christian-Michaels called the meeting to order at 10:07

2. Secretary's report, Sept 2024 Annual Minutes, corrections/approval **Andrea Christian-Michaels**

Motion to approve the minutes of last year's annual meeting was made by Tom Stackrow.

Motion was seconded by Susan Jones. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Treasurer's report

Tom Stackrow

- a. Summary 2025 YTD
- b. Budget for 2026 (calendar year)
- c. Contributions YTD \$3,210

The Year-to-Date summary September 30, 2025, shows the following Actual:

Revenue	\$2,515
Expenses	\$3,417
Deficit	\$902

The PNC checking account balance is \$9,850

After cashing in the \$10,000 CD last year

We brought in \$695 in revenue and are projected to spend \$318 thru 10/31/25

We also expect to raise additional revenue through the Giving Tuesday fundraising in December.

The 2026 budget was presented including the following projections:

Revenue	\$3,650
Expenditures	\$3,650

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report including the Year-to-Date Statement and the budget for 2026 was made by Tom Stackrow

Second of the motion was made by Dorothy Joseph. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Presidents Report – Review of the Past Year

Stephen Christian-Michaels

- a. William Eckels Funeral Home closed this year, 3 funeral homes closed last year.

- b. Membership statistics (* at least)

i. Active members	1,048	Active members w/FH selected	693
		Active members w/no FH selected	355
ii. Inactive members	831*	Active members who selected closed FH	44
iii. Deceased members	1,296*	Active members w/non-participating FH	42
iv. New Members In 2024	3	Active members w/participating FH	607
v. New members in 2025	3		

c. Accomplishments

i. Webpage launched

Andrea Christian-Michaels

1. Options for funeral arrangements
2. Options for paying for funeral arrangements
3. Added articles on topics related to the funeral industry and new developments
4. Resources page
5. Will be adding a payment capability for members to make donations or pay dues
6. We are planning to switch to a Google For Nonprofits platform to save on costs

ii. Increasing FCAWP in resource guides (United Way, AC Area Agency on Aging, Srs. Blue book.

iii. Last year, 2024. ended the year in the black

iv. Sent two members to National Funeral Consumers Alliance semi-annual conference

d. Trends from the annual conference

i. Alkaline Hydrolysis Cremation approved in many states, PA house passed bill this month, but it needs to pass the Senate also

ii. Human Composting is approved in a smaller number of states

iii. Indigent burial – many families can't afford funeral/burial costs

iv. In-home funerals are legal in most states at much lower cost

v. Many FCA affiliates moved from linking members to FH's to canvassing all FH's price lists, publishing lists on their website and/or distributing to hospices, nursing homes, and hospitals

vi. Most FCA affiliates are seeing a decrease in membership, some affiliates are changing their focus to creating a regional price list

vii. Most FCA affiliates are having difficulty finding volunteers and board members

viii. Most FCA have difficulty raising funds to cover expenses

5. Future

Stephen Christian-Michaels

a. Investigating a relationship with the Pittsburgh Death Community which is made up of Grief therapists, death doulas, hospice workers and some staff who work at funeral homes.

The goal of this partnership would be for:

i. Cross organization board member representation

ii. Cross organization advertising

iii. Cross organization website links

iv. Cross organization events (Death Café, Funeral Planning Seminars)

b. Adding payment capability on the website – membership dues, donations

c. Recruiting more volunteers for funeral planning seminars, funeral home price list canvassing

d. Increase the # of email news updates between newsletters

e. Pittsburgh Gives – promote December fundraiser to help us end the year in the black, again

f. Further reducing costs by using email distribution, rather than printed materials and mailings

g. We plan to produce a new brochure for the association

h. Questions for membership:

i. Should we add additional funeral homes to our list of participating funeral homes?

1. The map shows where we have funeral homes and their names

2. The map will be left on the table.

3. Please review it before you go and give us your input

a. areas we should seek funeral homes

b. names of funeral home to add

ii. Should we add the ability to include more members in annual meetings via Zoom?

Mary Anne Packer announced Calvary Church could help with technical assistance for holding hybrid meetings, in-person and zoom.

6. Elections of Officers

Stephen Christian-Michaels

Nominations on the Floor for new board members

There were no nominations.

Slate of Officers

Stephen Christian-Michaels	President
Susan Jones	Vice President
Tom Stackrow	Treasurer
Andrea Christian-Michaels	Secretary

Vote of the slate of Officers for 2026

The vote unanimously approved the slate of officers.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:43

Stephen Christian-Michaels

8. Green Burials speaker

**Laura Faessel, Penn Forest
Natural Burial Park, Verona, PA**