

August 2009

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I remember the funerals I attended in my youth, everyone was given an in-earth burial. I was often dragged by my mother to a mortuary to stare at the dead body of someone I knew in life. I was at first frightened and later reluctant to attend the viewing. There seemed to be no alternative.

Now most SDMS members choose cremation instead of burial. Not surprising, one of the determinations for this choice is cost. Not only are the prices quoted for embalming, caskets, viewing, and attending mortuary services quite high, but when one includes the price of cemetery lots, opening and closing the grave, and the cement liner that many cemeteries require, the burden for burials magnifies. The SDMS is planning on seeking help from cemeteries.

On another note, Josh Slocum, the Executive Director of our national organization has sent this warning concerning “Smart Cremation” a direct cremation business operating in several States. The government office that grants trademarks shows they’re owned by a private chain of funeral homes based in Houston.

Josh says, “I don’t like the fact that their website does not list prices – never a good sign. You have to enter your personal information to get a quote. Not good. I’m betting they’re marketing prepaid cremations to people, too, which is why you’re getting calls. As always, we don’t recommend prepayment, and certainly not to a company that won’t even disclose its prices on its site.”

We endorse this advice. Stick to the tried and true. The San Diego Memorial Society has been in business since 1958 and has served nearly 30,000 members in an economical and ethical manner!