

# SAN DIEGO MEMORIAL SOCIETY

Simple, Inexpensive, Dignified Cremation and Burials

## FALL-WINTER 2011 NEWSLETTER

Phone: 858 391-1267

Fax: 858 391-1268

13446 Poway Rd. #207

Poway, CA 92064-4741

www.sdmsonline.com

barbara@sdmsonline.com

**SAVE THIS DATE – APRIL 14, 2012 – SDMS 54<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING AND 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL END OF LIFE EXPO – Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, CA 92108. Meeting starts at 12: 30. Event – 12:30 to 3:30. More info will be in the Spring-Summer Newsletter.**

## A PLEA FOR YOUR HELP!

It is very difficult to ask our wonderful, devoted, loyal members who have been very generous in the past, to help us once again. Without raising our Lifetime Membership Fee or asking for annual dues (which would be cost prohibitive), we need to ask for your help at this time. With the economy affecting all of us, the Society has cut back as deeply as we can. We are desperately in need of any donations you can manage to send at this time.

Indeed it would be a tragedy for an institution like ours, which has survived the peaks and valleys here in San Diego County for over 50 years, to finally succumb due to lack of funds. We have no intention of letting that happen if there is any way we can prevent it. As you can see, we no longer put out a fancy newsletter. We are no longer sending out the donation envelopes that had always been included with our newsletter and were a handy reminder to mail in your donations. By omitting the envelopes we save over \$500 each mailing, But, even with that it still costs over \$2000 every time we mail a newsletter.

We have over 15,000 members and only a very small percentage of you have found it in your heart to contribute over the years. Our only income is from your one time Membership fee and donations that we receive.

You get so much in return. By becoming a member of the San Diego Memorial Society you are saving a minimum of 30% off the cost of your final arrangement and in some instances over 50%. That is a sizable savings and if you compare costs of our Participating Mortuaries with the large mortuaries owned by large corporations you are saving even more.

Any amount will help. If each of our 15,000 members contributed only one dollar, that would finance our Society through most of next year, so please don't think a small donation will not help or be appreci-

### YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Russ Armstead – President  
Barbara Thomson – Vice President  
Caroline Flanders – Secretary  
Frances San Clemente – Treasurer

Elaine Durson – Director  
Kenneth Fousel – Director  
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Timothy Jenkins – Director  
Maria Pino – Director  
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Paul Ward – Director Emeritus  
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Cindy Wilson - Director



*A nonprofit, nonsectarian association  
established in 1958.*

6/06

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ated. We also need help bringing in new members. We have never been able to afford to advertise so we rely on referrals from other members, family, clergy, hospice and social workers. Word of mouth helps keep us growing.

If you belong to a Sr. Citizens group or any other organization and would like for someone to come speak at one of your meetings and tell your other members about the Society, just call the office. If you live in a Mobile Home Park, Assisted Living Facilities, Senior Apartment Complex, etc. just give us a call and we will have someone contact you to set up a time and date to come and talk about the Society and all of its wonderful benefits. Also remember that all of our members are not Seniors. We have many middle aged and younger members. Membership makes a nice, thoughtful gift.

Anything you can do to help us gain more members and bring in more money is desperately needed. Now that we tried having our annual meeting coincide with our first ever End-of-Life Expo it helped considerably to get the Society name in front of many more people and bring in more members. That is why we are going to try it again next year. We have never been able to afford advertising so this is our way of trying to attract more members to take advantage of the wonderful savings all of you enjoy plus it makes it so much easier when death does come calling. But we need your help to put on another End-of-Life Expo plus keep us up and running 24/7. That is another huge advantage for our membership, being able to reach someone during an emergency which was impossible when we maintained an office with such short hours (9-12 Monday thru Thursday). We are growing more each year but we badly need your financial help to continue to do so.

We now have a new and younger Board of Directors with a lot of new ideas to help the Society grow. They are willing to donate their time to benefit the Society in any way they can. The Office Coordinator is willing to donate her home and her time 24/7 to keep the Society available when so badly needed in emergencies when people have not preplanned and suddenly there is a death in the family.

I do so hope you can find it in your hearts to help us with a donation to insure us still being here for another 50 plus years.

Thanks so much for listening and thanks in advance for any financial help you can afford at this time.

Our mailing address is:

**San Diego Memorial Society,  
13446 Poway Rd. #207  
Poway, CA 92064.**

'Til next time.....

Barbara Thomson, Office Coordinator

Note: You may also make donations with a credit card on our website:[www.sdmsonline.com](http://www.sdmsonline.com)

## **UPDATE ON THE 501(c)(3) Status**

As of this date we have had no final word on the status of the 501(c)(3) application that was submitted to IRS in June of 2011. Hopefully we will have a decision, one way or another, by our next newsletter which will be coming to you in March 2012.

## FUTURE NEWSLETTER'S AND CORRESPONDENCE VIA E-MAIL

If you are interested in receiving your newsletter or any correspondence from your Society via e-mail and you have not already notified us, send us an e-mail giving permission to start corresponding with you on occasion by e-mail. Be sure and include your name, address and email address on any correspondence to [barbara@sdmsonline.com](mailto:barbara@sdmsonline.com). If you choose this method you will no longer receive your newsletter or any correspondence from us via U.S.Mail. This saves the Society money on printing, addressing and postage. Also be sure to send us any change of e-mail address or mailing address so we can keep our records current.

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

## INFO ON PARTICIPATING MORTUARIES AND CEMETERY

December is when we contact our mortuaries and cemetery for their new information and any changes they wish to make . Shortly after January 1, 2012 our website: [www.sdmsonline.com](http://www.sdmsonline.com) will have the updated list of Participating Mortuaries and Cemetery with any changes that have been made. We will be mailing the new list of Participating Mortuaries and Cemetery in the newsletter which you will be receiving in March 2012. Be sure and check the website in January to see if we have made any changes to our list. Also, if you have not done so, it is important you discuss with your family what your wishes are and go over the Final Planning Booklet that you have filled out so they know where to find all of your information on final arrangements. It is not necessary to contact the mortuary until time of need but I can't stress enough the importance of discussing it with your family. It is also important to carry your SDMS membership card in your wallet.

**REMINDER: Are your Advanced Directives up to date? You need a Health Care proxy (durable power of attorney for health care), a Living Will , plus your Last Will and Testament. Carry a card in your wallet that states you have advance directives .**

## VETERANS BURIAL ALLOWANCE INCREASED

The Veterans Benefit Act of 2010 (the "VBA of 2010") was signed into law by President Obama in October 2010. The legislation was H.R. 3219. It made several changes to Veterans Benefits; however, for those working with veterans, the most important, it amended 38 U. S. C. Chapter 23 Section 501. This is the section pertaining to Burial Benefits and Plot allowances and other items. The effective date on these changes was delayed until October 1, 2011.

Effective October 1, 2011, the Burial Allowance increased from \$300 to \$700. The Plot allowance also increased from \$300 to \$700. Each of these are to be indexed annually for Cost of Living increases.

Unfortunately, it seems personnel in Decedent Affairs departments at VA Medical Centers and Veterans Service Officers around Southern California has virtually no knowledge of the change. Many have heard of a change but have no real details. Therefore, the verteran or his family might need to make them aware of this at time of need. The change has been confirmed as taking effect October 1, 2011.

**SAN DIEGO MEMORIAL SOCIETY  
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**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!**

### **UPDATE ON HUMPHREY MORTUARY**

For those long time members of San Diego Memorial Society who filed their Service Instruction Booklets with Humphrey Mortuary here is the latest information. They have changed the name to Funeraria Del Angel Humphrey but only the name has changed. They are still taking very good care of all of our members who signed with them. I get calls from family members telling me how pleased they were with the way everything was handled. Many of the employees have worked there for a very long time. They did build a beautiful new mortuary some years back so the address is 753 Broadway, Chula Vista, CA 91910. Their phone no. remains unchanged: 619-425-9111. Humphrey's is to be called at the time of death of a member. The San Diego Memorial Society receives a list each month of our members they have serviced. They average about 20 per month. I would suggest if you haven't looked at your Service Instruction booklet for awhile it would be a good idea to look it over to see if it should be updated. Only you can make changes in your end of life arrangements with the mortuary. Take a few minutes and look it over to see if the info is current and if not, make the change and mail a copy of the changes to Humphrey's with a note telling them to attach the changes to the original booklet. Be sure your copy was signed on the last few pages by someone from Humphrey's. That made it a contract. If you have any questions call the Society office at 858-391-1267 or talk to them at Humphrey's. Be sure to let them know you are a member of the SD Memorial Society.

**DONATIONS ALWAYS NEEDED AND GREATLY APPRECIATED!**