



HOW TO WRITE A GREAT OBITUARY

- www.funeralbasics.org

After the loss of a loved one, family members are often overwhelmed by all of the decisions that have to be made in the midst of their grief. One of the details that has to be taken care of is the writing of the obituary. If you have recently lost a loved one and don't know where to start with the obituary, you may find the following tips useful. This information will walk you step-by-step through the process of writing a great obituary.

Announce the death

Start off the obituary by announcing the death of the loved one. Provide the name and a very brief description, the age of the deceased, and the day of passing. You can probably squeeze all of this information into one sentence. For example:

On Monday, September 4, 2017, John Doe, loving husband and father of four children, passed away at the age of 74.

Provide general biographical information

Include some biographical information such as birth date, upbringing, education, marriage information, accomplishments, and work history. Be compact and precise with your wording. Try to get as much meaning into as few words as possible.

John was born on July 31, 1943 in Houston, TX to Bob and Jane (Smith) Doe. He received his law degree from the University of Texas in Austin in 1971, and he practiced business law for 31 years in Houston. On May 28, 1975, he married Grace Ann Lewis. They raised two sons, Nick and Joel, and two daughters, Alice and Lisa.

Make it personal

To write a great obituary, it's important to capture the spirit of the loved one who has passed. Compose a paragraph that describes not only what your loved one did, but also what your loved one was like. For example, focus on hobbies, passions, and personal characteristics. Remember, newspapers will charge you by line, word, or inch (depending on the publication), so don't write more than you can afford. A short, factual obituary might be all you need. But if you want to write a special, personalized obituary, include details like this:

John had a passion for painting. He also loved to bird watch, and he combined his two favorite hobbies to create extraordinary art. His paintings of various birds were much admired not only by friends and family, but also by all who frequented the coffee shops where his paintings were displayed. He was also an avid music lover and a collector of Beatles memorabilia. He was

known for his quick wit, his infectious smile, and his kind and compassionate spirit.

Listing the family members

While you don't have to mention every nephew and cousin by name, it's important to write a general overview of the family members who passed away before the loved one as well as the surviving family. Close family members can be listed by name, and other relatives can be referred to more generally.

John was preceded in death by his father, Bob, and his mother, Jane. He is survived by his wife Grace, his four children, Nick, Joel, Alice, and Lisa, his brother Paul, and several cousins, nieces, and a nephew.

Funeral information

Provide the date, time, and location of the funeral. Also include information regarding donations, flowers, or condolences.

A funeral service will be held on Thursday, September 7th, 2017 at the Church of Christ on Main Street at 1 o'clock p.m. Flowers or donations may be sent to 1234 St. Houston, TX.

Put it all together, and you've got a complete obituary.

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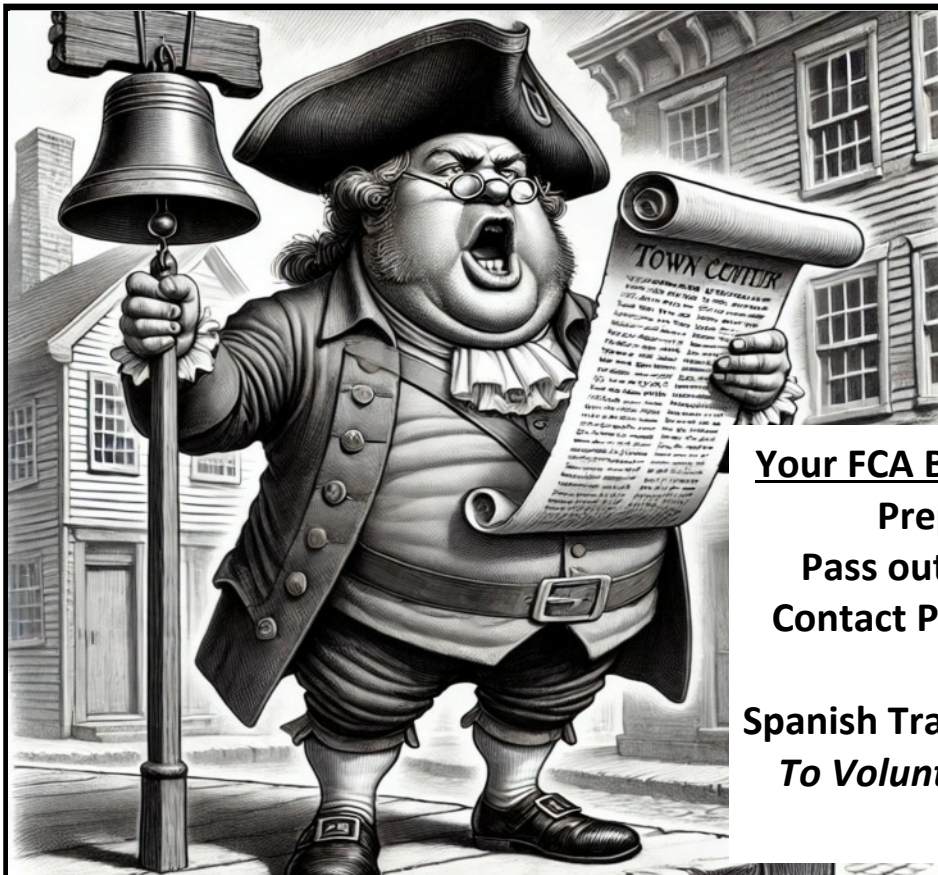
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BULLETIN BOARD

SEEKING BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



Funeral Consumers Alliance (FCA) is seeking persons who may have an interest in serving on the FCA Board of Directors. We desire candidates who can work with the present team to achieve the FCA goals and mission and who are willing to commit the time necessary to attend meetings, resource fairs and presentations. Please contact President, Georgia Snodgrass, by email at fcasatx9@gmail.com with a short (no more than one page) resume about the qualifications you have that would make you an effective part of our team. Resumes must be submitted by close of business Friday, October 31, 2025. At that time, a meeting will be scheduled to interview prospective candidates from any resumes received as well as incumbent candidates. The board positions are for 3 years commencing April 1, 2026. Attendance at one meeting a month and the Annual Meeting in March is required. Once interviews are completed, the Nominating Committee will present a slate of candidates to be voted on by the members at the Annual Meeting in March 2026. If you have the time and commitment to be a part of the FCA team, we look forward to hearing from you.



HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Your FCA Board is recruiting volunteers to:

Prepare Newsletter Mailings

Pass out info at Fairs & Presentations

**Contact Prospective Members to Discuss
the benefits of FCA**

Spanish Translators at Fairs & Presentations

To Volunteer call 210-341-2213 or email

fcasatx9@gmail.com

A Message from Chapter President, Georgia Snodgrass

Your FCA Board of Directors has been very busy since the Annual Meeting in March 2025. They have been making presentations, manning tables at Resource Fairs for numerous groups around the San Antonio area, as well as attending networking events to make our presence even more known in the communities in and around San Antonio. If you have a group of any sort (church, work, family) that you would like us to meet and make a presentation, we are more than happy to do that. There's no charge, and no group is too small. Just contact Janice Barsun or Jessie Ong at 210-341-2213.

Thanks to our donors this year. Every donation, no matter what amount, is greatly appreciated. We had some equipment that had to be replaced so the donations we received helped with that replacement. Donor envelopes are included with each Newsletter. For those receiving their Newsletter electronically, an on-line donation can be made through the website.

We appreciate our hardworking Treasured Volunteers who have put in many hours helping with Newsletter distribution, research and preparation of the Cemetery and Mortuary surveys that come out each year. We couldn't do it without them.

We look forward to seeing lots of members (familiar faces and news ones) at the Annual Meeting in March 2026. There will be more information about date and time in the February 2026 Newsletter. My hope is that we will see many more new faces in 2026! There seemed to be an air of excitement and enthusiasm last year. And, there will be surprises!!!

Thanks to all of our members. We appreciate you and continue to work tirelessly on your behalf.

SCATTERING CREMATED REMAINS IN TEXAS

- WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW - AI Assisted Creation



As cremation becomes a more common choice for end-of-life arrangements, many families are choosing to scatter the ashes of loved ones in meaningful places. But before you step onto a beach, board a boat, or hike into the hills with an urn in hand, it's important to understand what Texas law allows—and what it doesn't.

What the Law Says

Texas law provides families with several options for the respectful scattering of cremated remains, also known as "cremains." According to Texas Health and Safety Code

§716.304, ashes may be legally scattered in the following locations:

- **Uninhabited Public Land** – You may scatter ashes in remote areas, such as state-owned land or wilderness, provided there are no local restrictions.
- **Public Waterways or the Open Sea** – Scattering in rivers, lakes, or oceans is allowed but may require compliance with both state and federal rules.
- **Private Property** – Ashes may be scattered on privately owned land, but *only* with the express permission of the property owner.

Container Rules

Cremated remains must be scattered in a respectful manner. If the ashes are inside a **non-biodegradable container**, they must be removed before scattering. Biodegradable containers may be scattered along with the ashes.

Scattering Over Water

If you're considering a scattering ceremony at sea, Texas law defers to federal regulations. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that:

- Ashes be scattered **at least three nautical miles from shore** (this includes the Gulf of America).
- The scattering must be reported to the EPA **within 30 days** of the event. This can be done using a simple online form available through the EPA website.

For **inland waters**, such as rivers or lakes, check with state or local authorities. Permits may be required, especially in managed or protected water systems.

Scattering by Air

Scattering ashes by air is legal and does not require a permit. However, the ashes must be **released from their container** during the flight to comply with aviation safety regulations—no objects or containers may be dropped.

Special Locations May Have Rules

If you plan to scatter ashes in a **state park, national park**, or other managed public space, be aware that you may need written permission. Each agency sets its own policies. Always call ahead to ask about regulations or permitting requirements.

Final Thoughts

Scattering ashes can be a peaceful, symbolic act of remembrance. Whether you choose the waves of the Gulf, the hills of the Hill Country, or the quiet shade of a family garden, be sure your plans align with legal and environmental guidelines. A little preparation ensures that your loved one's final resting place is honored respectfully and lawfully.

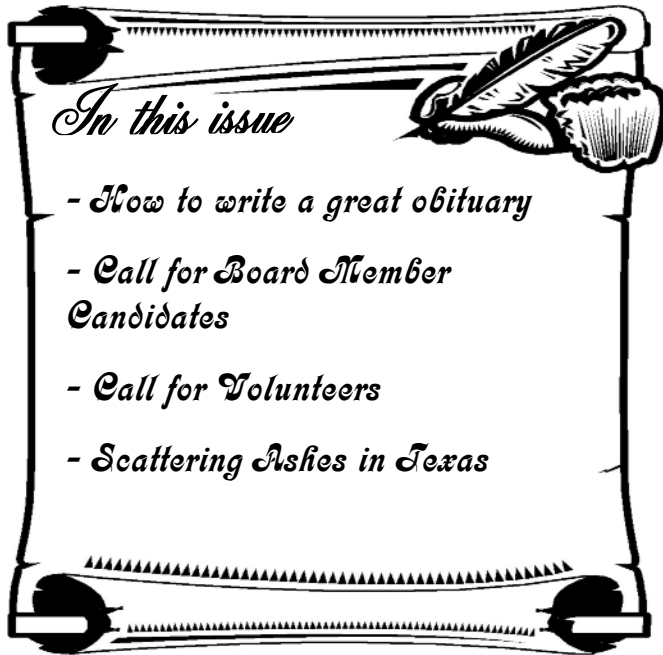


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Since 1948, over 70 years of dedicated service.

Funeral Consumers Alliance Of San Antonio, Texas

Established in 1948 as a non-profit consumers, all volunteer service and educational organization, advocating simplicity, dignity and choice in cremation and funeral practices.

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The Newsletter of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of San Antonio, Texas. Published for the information of members and friends of the Alliance. Newsletter Editor: Quintin Cantu

Contributions for Choices publication are welcome

FCASA Choices, P.O. Box 701884, San Antonio, TX 78270

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of Thanks*

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