

The

Bulletin

June 2015

Florida State
Guardianship Association



Florida State Guardianship Association's Official Monthly Newsletter

President's Message

What a truly exciting time it is to be leading FSGA. There are many informational updates and recent news to share. Recently, two actions took place in our State Legislature. Rep. Passidomo's HB5 passed officially through both the House & Senate bodies, was fast tracked, and has made it's way to the Governor's desk awaiting signature into law. If you recall HB5 dealt primarily with the ETG and Wheel issues. Senator Detert's SB1226 died on the floor of the State Senate due to the early adjourning of the State House of Representatives. This bills death couldn't have been better news for all guardians. SB1226 basically dealt with establishing an Office of Public & Professional Guardians. If successful SB1226 would have meant many changes to the current Statewide Public Guardianship Office in the Dept. of Elder Affairs as well as requiring "licensing" of all Professional Guardians. I am thankful to the House of Representatives for their early session walkout as by this action FSGA has been afforded a short time for study and development of criteria relating to licensing of Professional Guardians. I believe licensing will be the future issue for Professional Guardians to deal with. FSGA supports the licensing effort and is committed to offering input for moving this idea forward to reality. In this vein, as FSGA President, I recently established an Ad hoc Licensing Study Committee to execute the association's role as a stakeholder in this process. The Licensing Committee is made up of representatives from a cross section of community member groups. Among participating members are the FSGA Board of Directors, RPPTL, Elder Law Section, Clerk of Courts, Fiduciaries, and FSGA Legislative Committee representation. The committees end goal is to effectively study, review, develop, and define educational requirements establishing components necessary to address the criteria of licensing. Guardianship in Florida changes loom large before us as the profession becomes more regulated with the switch of focus from "certification" to "licensing". FSGA must continue to press forward through all avenues available, in all regions of the State, offering input and ideas concerning the guardianship processes. As individuals we guardians tend to be a strong lot. Collectively we are not only strong but carry the ability to wield great sway in the future of our profession. I've encouraged all Chapter Presidents to consider hosting an advocacy gathering at their local levels, be it a BBQ or Cocktail Hour event, in order to meet & greet our elected officials in the hope of engaging in open dialogue to voice our concerns, offer our ideas, and identify common goals. Senator Detert, referred to Professional Guardians as "cockroaches". While one might presume this reference carries only a derogatory meaning lest we forget "cockroaches" have been around for 40-50 million years, adapting to ever changing circumstances, surviving when other species were destroyed and serving a greater purpose in the chain of life on earth. Not unlike guardians who tirelessly act to provide care, dignity, and life quality to those vulnerable and less fortunate among us.

Regards,

Jetta L. Getty, NCG-CG
President FSGA



FLORIDA STATE GUARDIANSHIP ASSOCIATION

DON'T MISS OUT! REGISTER TODAY!

SAVE THE DATE!

JULY 23, 24, 25, 2015

SPECIAL PRICED DISNEY TICKETS

These tickets offer pre-arrival savings of 10% on our Full-Multi-Day (2 days or longer) Tickets and include a complimentary bonus visit to an additional Disney Experience at any one of the following (additional details are listed on the web site):

- Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Water Park
- Disney's Blizzard Beach Water Park
- DisneyQuest® Indoor Interactive Theme Park
- ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex
- Disney's Winter Summerland or Disney's Fantasia Gardens Miniature Golf Courses (before 4 p.m.)
- A round of golf at Disney's Oak Trail Golf Course

The site also contains our partial-day tickets,



After – 2 pm and After – 4 pm tickets, which are exclusive to the meetings market.

Disney Ticket Microsite:

For your reference, your custom Disney Ticket Microsite URL is:
<http://www.mydisneymeetings.com/fsga15/>

The ticket prices listed on our collateral and ticket store reflect the applicable discounts and include tax. Since these tickets are not available for purchase at our Theme Park Ticket Windows, your attendees will need to advance purchase them through your custom website. All of our Meeting & Convention tickets include FastPasses (details are listed on your Microsite) which can be secured by your attendees up to 30 days prior to their theme park visit date.

FSGA 28th Annual Conference 2015

The FSGA 28th annual Conference 2015 event will be held at the
Buena Vista Palace Hotel & Spa
1900 E Buena Vista Drive, Lake Buena Vista, Florida 32830

Reservations can be made by calling the hotel at 866-397-6516.
Mention FSGA to secure the discounted group rate.

2015 Conference Co-Chairs

Karen Greene 561-503-1088, Robin Phemister 321-720-5961, Sherri Graham 239-980-0662.



Florida State Guardianship Association • 400 Executive Center Drive, Suite 208 • West Palm Beach FL 33401
Phone: (800) 718-0207 • Fax: 877-896-0464 • Email: Conference@FloridaGuardians.com • www.floridaguardians.com

Conference Information

Requesting Input & Ideas on the Licensing of Professional Guardians in Florida

Have ideas, issues, concerns, you would like to share regarding Licensing of Professional Guardians in Florida? As a part of the 2015 FSGA 28th Annual Conference Event in July, you'll be given the opportunity to share your input.

FSGA will make available a very simple form on-site during conference for attendees who'd like to voice their comments, concerns and suggestions. The completed

forms will be given to the FSGA Ad hoc Licensing Study Committee for review and consideration. We encourage you to pick up one of these forms at the FSGA Information Desk area, complete it and turn it back in to the appropriately marked box ensuring you, our members, are indeed given an avenue to be heard. Thank you!

Conference Committee Report

Your 2015 FSGA 28th Annual Conference Committee is hard at work! We are excited to report the terrific progress we have made in preparing for our upcoming conference. The schedule of sessions is set! We are jammed packed with impressive Presenters & fabulous topics! CLE Credits are available for attorneys and paralegals! Available CEU includes Professional Guardians, Social Workers, Nurses, Nursing Home Administrators & Case Managers.

There are still Sponsor/Exhibitor opportunities available. Sign up today for the chance to showcase your company by going to the FSGA website, downloading the Sponsor/ Exhibitor Brochure 2015 and send it along with your payment to the FSGA Executive Office. FSGA's 28th Annual Conference is shaping up to be our heaviest attended conference ever! For more information or any questions, please contact one of your Conference Chairs or the FSGA Executive Director at 1-800-718-0207. Be sure to secure your travel plans booking your hotel stay soon.

2015 Conference Co-Chairs,

Karen Greene, Robin Phemister, Sherri Graham

Important Survey!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FLclerksGA>

The Florida clerks want your feedback, questions and comments about the issues and problems affecting the ethical and advocative services provided to persons under guardianship by guardians, attorneys and all other service providers. Please give your honest and candid feedback on the following questions. The information you provide will be used to develop a value-added Clerk's plenary panel session at the FSGA Conference on July 24th.

Background: The 67 elected clerks of the court throughout Florida have the statutory duty to audit and investigate guardianship reports and advise the court to its findings. Based on "best practices" that were developed by the clerk's association, legislation was codified in 2014 and 2015 giving the clerks the ability to perform greatly enhanced audits and obtain documents from guardians and non-parties. The clerks role in Florida Guardianship Law is vital and serves as a "check" and "balance" to the legal system. The clerks are not interested parties and have no stake in the outcome of any guardianship proceeding. The clerks are independent and objective which are hallmarks of professional auditing and investigating. Currently, there are approximately 20-25 counties performing enhanced guardianship auditing; constituting 35-45 percent of guardianship cases throughout Florida. In the coming months, more counties will be implementing enhanced guardianship auditing programs.

**FSGA 28th Annual
Conference Sponsorship
Opportunities Available!**

Sponsorship and exhibiting are a great way to meet and greet over 300 guardians and related professionals! The conference will be held July 23-25, 2015 at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel & Spa in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. For more information, please visit: www.floridaguardians.com/education/conference.

Limited Sponsorship and Exhibitor opportunities remain available. Please contact the Executive Office at 800-718-0207.

Company Sponsorships

- Florida Institute for Neurologic Rehab (FINR)
- Trustco Bank
- True Link Financial
- Alternative Home Health Care
- Guardian Trust
- NeuroInternational
- Palm Beach Chapter of FSGA
- Edward Jones
- COA In Home Services
- Gulf Coast Chapter of FSGA
- Southwest Florida Chapter of FSGA
- Alternative Home Health Care
- Young at Heart Elderly Services

- Mid-Florida Guardianship Association
- Mullins Memorial Funeral Home & Cremation Service
- South Florida Guardianship Association
- Southwest Florida Chapter of FSGA
- Space Coast Chapter of FSGA

Exhibitors

AGED

- Alpert Jewish Family & Children’s Service
- Alternative Home Health Care
- Brevard TRIAD
- Caregiver Services
- ComForCare Home Care
- Encore At Avalon Park
- Exact-GPS
- Family Extended Care
- FirstLantic Healthcare
- Florida Elder Law Association
- Florida Institute for Neurologic Rehab
- Guardian Trust
- Jurisco
- Kathleen Flammia, P.A.
- Levin HomeCare Nurse Registry
- Mobile Physician Services
- NeuLife
- NeuroInternational
- PS Financial Services
- Right At Home
- SEM Applications
- Southwest Florida Chapter of FSGA
- True Link Financial
- Trustco Bank
- UnitedHealthcare Community Plan
- VITAS Healthcare

Nominating Committee Report & Notice

FSGA needs you to volunteer and share your experience, skills and knowledge! There are a number of Board positions open for election this year. If you have an interest in serving the greater guardianship community consider completing a nominations form ([included here](#)) and submitting it along with your brief resume. Board members serve a term of three years as leaders in the development of policy and governing oversight of the association operations. The following is a list of the current open positions on the FSGA Board of Directors for 2015:

At Large Board Member, one opening, representing all members. Area Director Board Member, open Areas I, II, IV, V & VII, representing Membership in each specific area.

The map on page 8 will assist to identify the open areas for the above positions.

*Area Directors are elected by the members from their specific area. All nominees must reside in the area for which they submit to become a Candidate. The specific role of each Board position is described on our website under the “About FSGA” section.

According to the Associations Bylaws, this report is intended to serve as formal notice to the Association’s Membership for the upcoming Annual Meeting and Elections taking place during the 28th FSGA Annual Conference 2015. The general membership Annual Meeting is scheduled as part of our luncheon Saturday, July 25, 2015.

If you’re thinking a three year commitment might not be the best fit for your leadership role with FSGA, consider becoming involved on an annual basis by joining one of our many active committees offering your services in a particular focus area of interest. We look forward to seeing each of you in July!



With **True Link**, you can simplify funds distribution, save time, and improve quality of service.

As a guardian, you work tirelessly for your clients. We know that protecting their financial well-being can be challenging—especially when each situation is unique. True Link is here to help.

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- Keep clients safe while preserving their independence



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 415-496-9814



The True Link Prepaid Visa Card is issued by Sunrise Banks, N.A., member of FDIC, pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A Inc. and can be used everywhere Visa debit cards are accepted.

FSGA NEEDS



We have a number of Board positions **open for election** this year. If you have an interest in serving the greater guardianship community and would like to help further the efforts of FSGA, we want you!

All you need to do is complete and submit the application on the following page along with your resumé and the nominating committee will then consider your application. The map on page 2 will identify the open areas highlighted below. The current volunteer opportunities include:

- Vacant Area Director* positions: Areas I, II, V, & VII
- Expiring Area Director* positions: Areas IV & V
- One expiring At-Large Director position



**Area Director nominees must reside in the area for which they desire to become a candidate as Area Directors are elected by members from their specific area.*

The role of each Board position is described on our website under the “*About FSGA*” tab. Send completed forms and resúms to *Scott Greenberg* at scott.greenberg@comforcare.com.

Chapter Outstanding Member Award 2015

CHAPTER MEMBER RECOGNITION AWARD - NOMINATION FORM

The FSGA will recognize an outstanding member of each chapter. Nominations are by chapter according to criteria below. Criteria questions should be completed clearly with specific examples. Nominees will be recognized at the FSGA Annual Meeting of the Members. All submissions should be directed to the FSGA Executive Office.

Minimum Qualifications: Must be a chapter member in good standing for at least one year. A Chapter is not required to submit a nomination each year. Nominations must be received by June 15, 2015.

PLEASE BE SPECIFIC IN DETAILING HOW THE NOMINEE MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA
**ATTACH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IF NECESSARY

Nominees Name and Chapter _____

Provides outstanding person centered services _____

Promotes the ethical practice of Guardianship _____

Serves as an effective advocate for person(s) under guardianship _____

Demonstrates exemplary service to the Chapter or Profession _____

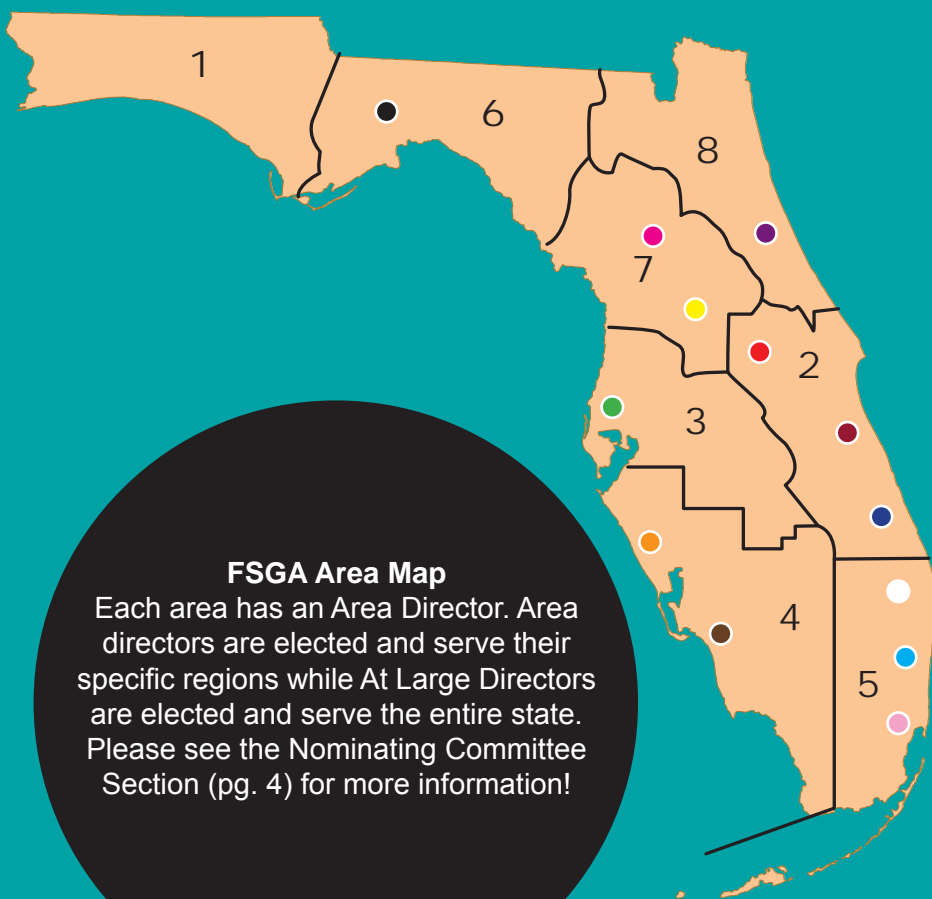
CRITERIA

- Provides outstanding person centered services
• Promotes the Ethical practice of Guardianship
• Serves as an effective advocate for person(s) under guardianship
• Demonstrates exemplary service to the Chapter or Profession

FSGA Award Criteria - Dtd. Feb. 19, 2013

FSGA Mission Statement

The Florida State Guardianship Association is dedicated to the protection of the dignity and rights of incapacitated persons and to increasing the professionalism of guardianship through education, networking and legislative action.



- Area 1
 - Escambia
 - Santa Rosa
 - Okaloosa
 - Walton
 - Holmes
 - Jackson
 - Washington
 - Bay
 - Gulf
 - Calhoun
- Area 2
 - Seminole
 - Orange
 - Brevard
 - Okeechobee
 - Indian River
 - St. Lucie
 - Martin
 - Osceola
- Area 3
 - Pinellas
 - Hillsborough
 - Hernando
 - Pasco
 - Polk
- Area 4
 - Manatee
 - Sarasota
 - Desoto
 - Charlotte
 - Lee
 - Glades
 - Hendry
 - Collier
 - Monroe
- Area 5
 - Palm Beach
 - Broward
 - Miami-Dade
- Area 6
 - Gadsden
 - Liberty
 - Franklin
 - Leon
 - Wakulla
 - Jefferson
 - Madison
 - Taylor
- Area 7
 - Alachua
 - Gilchrist
 - Levy
 - Citrus
 - Marion
 - Lake
 - Sumter
 - Bradford
- Area 8
 - Nassau
 - Duval
 - Columbia
 - Union
 - Baker
 - Clay
 - Putnam
 - St. Johns
 - Flagler
 - Volusia

FSGA Area Map

Each area has an Area Director. Area directors are elected and serve their specific regions while At Large Directors are elected and serve the entire state. Please see the Nominating Committee Section (pg. 4) for more information!

Chapter Key

- Big Bend
- La-Mar Beach
- Central Florida
- Southwest Florida
- Gulf Coast
- Heart of Florida
- Mid Florida
- Hillsborough
- Broward
- Space Coast
- Palm Beach
- Treasure Coast
- South Florida

Board Directory

Executive Committee**President**

Jetta Getty
386-763-0030
jetta12397@aol.com

Immediate Past President

Scott Greenberg
561-630-1620
scott.greenberg@comforcare.com

President Elect

MaryLou McKeon
386-253-4700, ext. 224
guardianship@coaiaa.org

Treasurer

Robin Phemister
321-720-5961
robin@solutionsbyrpm.com

Secretary

Sherri Graham
239-980-0662
sherrigraham70@hotmail.com

At Large Directors**Lee Eakin**

561-684-1991
eakinl@jfcsonline.com

Karen Greene

561-432-7800
karengreene@hiredhearts.com

Stephen Hertz

305-868-4562
sghatty@bellsouth.net

Margaret Nagele

561-713-8400
mnageleng@gmail.com

Anthony Palmieri

561-355-6782
apalmieri@mypalmbeachclerk.com

Area Directors**Area III Director**

Fernando Gutierrez
727-776-2266
24-7guardian@email.com

Area IV Director

Sylvia Winters
941-377-2910
sjmwinters@aol.com

Area V Director

VACANT

Area VI Director

Melinda Coulter
850-445-3271
coultermom@aol.com

Area VIII Director

Bob Reese
386-503-4370
bob@rjrmanagement.com

Chapter Presidents**Big Bend Chapter President**

Gail Rapp
850-544-4326
gail.rapp@bigbenddopg.org

Broward County Chapter President

Cindy Kramer
954-533-6884
cindymkramer10@aol.com

Central Florida Chapter President

Nicola Fitchner
407-765-0352
nfitchner@cfl.rr.com

Gulf Coast Chapter President

Ellie Himes
941-379-5270
elliehimes@verizon.net

Heart of Florida Chapter Designee

Del Webster
352-245-9282
commodore@embarqmail.com

La-Mar Beach Chapter Designee

MaryLou McKeon
386-253-4700, ext. 224
guardianship@coaiaa.org

Mid Florida Chapter President

Barbara Young
352-255-6161
bobbi13117@embarqmail.com

Palm Beach Chapter Designee

Michelle Hollister
561-401-0743
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South Florida Chapter President

Jacqueline Hertz
305-868-5933

Southwest Chapter Designee

Sherri Graham
239-980-0662
sherrigraham70@hotmail.com

Space Coast Chapter Designee

G. Ranea Mackey
321-626-5321
GMackey2@cfl.rr.com

Treasure Coast Chapter President

John Dalton
954-336-4086
johndalton@comcast.net

Liaisons**FL Bar Elder Law FSGA Liaison**

Michelle Hollister
561-401-0743
michelle@michellehollister.com

NGA Liaison

Scott Greenberg
561-630-1620
scott.greenberg@comforcare.com

Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Section of The Florida Bar Liaison

Darby Jones
813-898-2805
darbyjones@professionalfiduciary.com

Executive Office**Executive Director**

Ian Cordes
800-718-0207
ian@floridaguardians.com

Custom Name Tags

The Heart of Florida Chapter offers customized professional name tags. The name tags feature the FSGA trademark, your name, and your title(s). Contact commodore@embarqmail.com for more information!



Committee Directory

Legislative Committee

Lance McKinney, Chair

The Legislative committee meets once per month by telephone. It is one of FSGA's larger committees with roughly 20 members participating. For more information please contact the Committee Chair, Lance McKinney at lance@omplaw.com.

Bylaws, Policy, & Procedures Committee

Lee Eakin, Chair

The Bylaws committee meets frequently, and has about ten members. The committee often uses Go To Meeting to meet and performs document review on line.

Membership Committee

Robin Phemister, Chair

One of FSGA's most important committees, meets regularly to address various membership issues. For more information please contact the Robin Phemister at robin@solutionsbyrpm.com.

Finance Committee

Del Webster, Chair

The Finance committee is chaired by Del Webster. The committee meets on an as needed basis. Contact Del Webster at commodore@embarqmail.com for more information.

Public Relations Committee

Gina Rossi-Scheiman, Chair

The PR Committee meets once per month by telephone. For more information please contact the Committee Chair, Gina Rossi-Scheiman at gr.fsga@hotmail.com.

Education Committee

Melinda Coulter, Chair

The Education Committee will meet regularly by telephone. For more information please contact Melinda Coulter at coultermom@aol.com.

Conference Committee

Sherri Graham, Karen Greene, Robin Phemister, Co-Chairs

The Conference Committee and subcommittees thereof meet regularly and more increasingly around the time of conference planning. Contact Sherri Graham, Karen Greene, or Robin Phemister at sherrigraham70@hotmail.com, hiredhearts@aol.com, and robin@solutionsbyrpm.com, respectively, for more information.

Nominating Committee

Scott Greenberg, Chair

The nominating committee shall be created by the Board of Directors. The committee meets on an as needed basis. Submit nomination forms and questions to Scott Greenberg at scott.greenberg@comforcare.com. You can find nomination forms on our website at floridaguardians.com/committees under the Nominating Committee section or click here to download the form if viewing *The Bulletin* from a pdf.



**Meet Your
CLER / Elder
Law Cert.
Requirements!**

Course No. 1406260N

Guardianships: The Essentials

Course Classification:
INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

Audio, CD, and Materials: *These materials are excerpted from the 2014 FSGA annual conference with a unique course number. The materials duplicate 7 hours provided at that event. If you claimed credit for those topics under the 2014 FSGA annual conference, you should not reapply for duplicate credit under this program.*

Course List: (1) Ethics in Guardianship, (2) Restoration of Rights, (3) Local Orders in Guardianship, (4) Attorney and Guardian Fees, (5) The Examining Committee is Appointed, (6) Use of Expert Testimony in Capacity Proceedings, (7) Court-Appointed Counsel.

CLE Credits

CLER PROGRAM
(Max. Credit: 9 hours)
General: 9 hours
Ethics: 1.5 hour

CERTIFICATION PROGRAM
(Max. Credit: 7.0 hours)
Elder Law: 7.0 hours
7/28/2014-1/28/2016

Seminar credit may be applied to satisfy CLER/ Certification requirements in the amounts specified above, not to exceed the maximum credit. Prior to your CLER reporting date (located on the mailing label of your Florida BarNews or available in your CLE record on-line), you will be sent a Reporting Affidavit if you have not completed your required hours (must be returned by your CLER reporting date).

**Presented by Florida State
Guardianship Association.**

Visit www.floridaguardians.com for the order form and additional information.
Call 1-800-718-0207 with any questions.

If you would like to join a committee, contact the committee chair for information!

FSGA Thanks Our Donation Supporters

Gold

Lee Eakin, ACSW, NCG, Alpert Jewish Family and Children's Service

Michael Haase, 1776 Moving and Storage, Inc.

Silver

Kathleen Foust, Heart of Florida Guardians

Robert Julian, Esq., South Florida Guardianship Program, Inc.

Jody Leslie, Attorney, Leslie & McLaughlin, L.L.P.

Kathleen Phillips, South Florida Guardianship Program, Inc.

Bronze

John Cramer, MSW, NCG-CGC, Comprehensive Guardianship Services, Inc.

Jetta Getty, BS, NCG, GA, CPGW, GC, Young At Heart

Herman Hale, RN

Lona D.C. Hale, RG, ADC, CDP

Robert Hicks, RH Guardian, L.L.C.

Nanette Ochoa Shaw, NCG

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Gina Rossi Scheiman, NCG, Treasure Coast Guardianship and Advocacy

Catherine F. Rowlands, MBA, CMA, RG, Total Long-Term Care Consultant Services, Inc.

Janet Shearer, Central Florida Guardian Solutions, L.L.C

Philip Stevenson, CRMP, PS Reverse Mortgage



Florida State Guardianship Association Presents

Examiners-What Rules apply!

COURSE CLASSIFICATION: INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

Webinar/Internet and Materials: *These materials are excerpted from the 2014 FSGA annual conference. The materials duplicate 2 hours provided at that event. If you claimed credit for those topics under the 2014 FSGA annual conference you should not reapply for duplicate credit under this program.*

The Examining Committee is Appointed:

Lance M. McKinney, Esquire

Review what information the examiner shall have access to in making an opinion. What pleading and information can be sent to the examiner and by who. Who can be present for the examination and can it be recorded. Independent medical exams of the AIP, can they be demanded and how to go about them. Multiple exams by the committee and coordination between examiner. Who's expert are you?

Use of Expert Testimony in capacity Proceedings:

Matt Linde, Esquire

What the new evidence code requires under Daubert standard. What are generally accepted scientific studies and methods? What to look out for in cross examination and direct testimony.

Education Committee

*Knyvett Lee — Chair
Lance McKinney — Program Chair*

CE CREDITS

Continuing Education (Max. Credit: 2 hours)

FS. 744.331 requires that Examining Committee members have an initial minimum of 4 hour training and then an additional 2 hours of training during every 2 years thereafter. The course may be taken by internet or video by first obtaining approval of the Chief Judge in the applicable Circuit. The following Circuits have approved this course for internet or video presentation.

TO REGISTER

www.floridaguardians.com

MAIL: completed form with check

FAX: completed form to 877-896-0464

The Chief Judges of the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 10th, 13th, 15th, 17th, 19th, and 20th Judicial Circuits of the State of Florida recently approved the 2-hour Examining Committee Training Course as produced by the Florida State Guardianship Association for continuing education credits as provided over the internet as required under 744.331.

Legislation News

Legislative Committee Report

On May 13, 2015 the Legislative Committee of FSGA held it's monthly meeting. Discussion centered around the recent death of SB1226 related to establishing an Office of Public & Professional Guardians and Licensing requirements. It was noted HB5 addressing the ETG & Wheel issues was on the Governor's desk awaiting signature to become law. SB366 & SB318 did not make it out of the Senate. HB1225, the House counterpart to SB1226 also did not make it through session. Outline of planning for moving forward efforts of advocacy were addressed. Among idea topics shared were local Chapter hosting grassroots events such as BBQ or Cocktail receptions offering the opportunity to engage in sharing constructive communication with political leaders, individuals scheduling meetings with Legislative Representatives, creation of an FSGA Blog, creation of a committee comprised of various stakeholders tasked with studying and development of criteria addressing the licensing issue.

It was noted change is most effective when it is done with deliberate calm, void of the emotions of anger, fright, fight, and grief. This year Legislatively has been challenging and an exercise in patience and wisdom where calm, self assured, confidence has played well as the associations response. Nothing worth having is ever easy. Our struggle isn't over however, we've been afforded a little window of time in order to rally together, regroup, and define our profession going forward. If you've yet to become involved I urge you to get in the game and join us.

Lance McKinney, Chair FSGA Legislative Committee

Update on HB5

Governor Rick Scott, signed into law Tuesday, June 2, 2015, Rep. Passidomo's HB5 on Guardianship. HB5 establishes new law relating to Emergency Temporary Guardians with prohibitions on ETG's being able to continue serving as Permanent Guardian. HB5 also contains focuses on the "wheel" concept. Please read HB5 in its entirety to learn all this legislation brings in the way of changes to the guardianship community and practice of professional guardianship by going to the Florida House of Representatives website at www.myfloridahouse.gov.



Florida House of Representatives in session.

FSGA Chapter Reports**Mid-Florida Chapter Report - May 2015**

Our April 8th meeting was hosted by Harbor Chase Assisted Living Facility in Lady Lake. We had a speaker supplied by Baldwin Brothers Funeral Home, Denise Johnson presented us with the changes, suggestions, ideas regarding burials and cremations*. On 5/13/15 we will have an informational table at the Health Fair that is sponsored by Avante of Mount Dora. Also, our regular meeting will be for our guardians during the evening of that same day. On June 10th, our meeting will be at the Cove of Tavares' Clubhouse; the speaker will be Nick Barton of AGED.

*1 CEU was given.

Treasure Coast Chapter Report - May 2015

On May 22, 2015, myself as FSGA President, MaryLou McKeon, as FSGA President Elect, along with Scott Greenberg, FSGA Immediate Past President, Bob Reese, Area Director for Area 8, Anthony Palemeri, FSGA At Large Director, Ian Cordes, FSGA Executive Director attended the May meeting of the Treasure Coast Chapter held at Allegro ALF in Stuart Florida. Members of the Board of Directors of FSGA Treasure Coast Chapter were formally inducted into positions. It was an honor to be present among such a dynamic and energized group of local individuals and be able to share and exchange our collective ideas and efforts. An overview of the Florida State Guardianship Association member benefits, planned focus action areas, and recent legislative happenings were discussed. Many thanks are due John Dalton, FSGA Treasure Coast Chapter President, Scott Greenberg, FSGA Immediate Past President and Gina Rossi-Scheiman, FSGA Treasure Coast Chapter Secretary for their amazing efforts and achievements locally in the rejuvenation of this areas chapter. Thank you!

Palm Beach County Chapter Report - May 2015

There was a monthly meeting on June 11th, 8:30-10am at Brookdale North Boynton Beach (formerly Newport Place) 4736 NW Court, Boynton Beach - (561) 202-1917. The guest speaker was Bonnie Conrad who spoke on the topic of Fraud and Exploitation Issues Impacting Guardianships. For information, contact Allison Negri by June 9th by phone (561-630-1620) or email (allison@comforcare.com).

La-Mar Beach Chapter Report - April 2015

La-Mar Beach Chapter met on the evening of June 4, 2015, at Red Robin, Port Orange Pavilion location for what has become known as the Chapter's "fun" meeting of the year where business is conducted but we gather for enjoyment of each others company. President, Wayne Bostick, conducted a short business meeting during which the Chapter voted to sponsor tables at the FSGA 28th Annual Conference 2015 event in contribution to the State Association. Other action included the donation from the Chapter in a show of support to Ron Crisp, long time Chapter member, in honor of his late wife Linda. A donation of \$500.00 was approved for the Linda Crisp Scholarship Foundation. This foundation was established to honor those who work diligently within the community giving of themselves in assisting others much as Linda did all her life. La-Mar Beach Chapter voted to turn over remaining inventory of FSGA T-shirts to the State Association. Having sold various shirts on behalf of FSGA for a good number of years, the Chapter felt it was time to cease offering any sale items based on the recent discovery relating to collection of sales tax on goods sold and reporting of same to the Florida Department of Revenue. There were several guests present at this most recent meeting indicating interest and growth within the Chapter. Three of the guest are currently undergoing the processes for becoming Register Professional Guardians. Election of Officers for the upcoming year was addressed with the Secretary placed in charge of creation and distribution of voting ballots. The Chapter breaks for the summer months of July & August returning to active meeting schedule September 3, 2015. Chapter members wish each and every one a safe summer season. With regards, Jetta L. Getty, La-Mar Beach Chapter Vice President.

Guardianship News

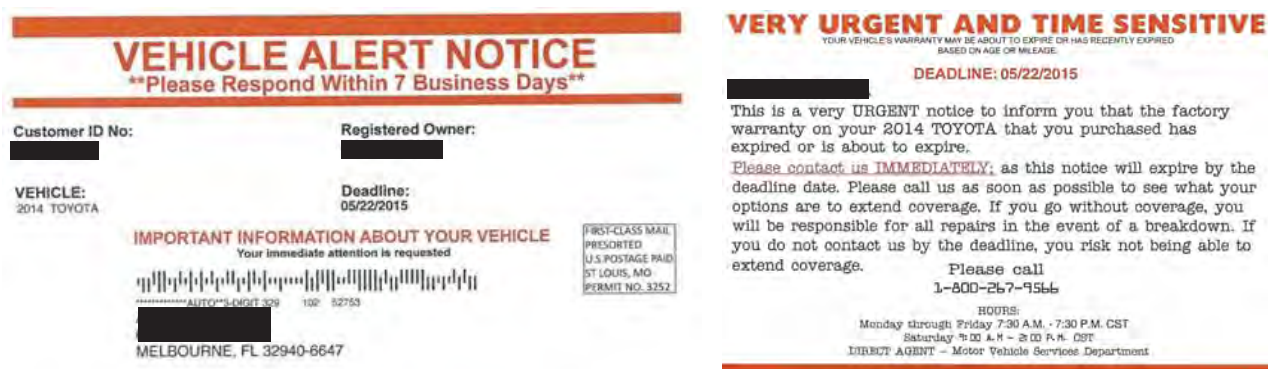
Auto Warranty Notices Confuse Consumers

From the Desk of State Attorney Phil Archer

This is one of the most annoying and deceptive marketing campaigns I have seen recently. It uses postcards, letters, and phone calls to sell outrageously priced extended automobile warranties to unsuspecting customers. The important-looking postcards/letters aren't quite a scam, although some consumers refer to them as such. It's actually a solicitation from a company that sells extended service or car warranty insurance on behalf of other companies. And the truth is, your car's warranty may be far from expiring!

There is usually an eye-catching warning on the card to get you to call their toll-free number. You're likely to hear high-pressure sales tactics and demands for a down payment and personal financial information before you're given details about the service contract. Never provide financial or other sensitive information like your bank account, credit card, social security or Driver's License numbers, as this information can be used to defraud unsuspecting consumers.

If you have questions about your vehicle's warranty, check your owner's manual, call the dealer who sold you the car, or contact the vehicle manufacturer. It's better to be safe than sorry!



A Note on Charity Scams

Charity scams take advantage of people's generosity by pretending to be a real charity in order to take your money. Scammers may solicit donations in different ways—by phone, over the internet, and in person. Do not judge a charity solely on an impressive sounding name as many organizations have names similar to well-known charities.

All charities soliciting within the state of Florida are required to register and file financial information with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Before donating, you can request written literature and a copy of the charity's financial report. If they do not provide you with the information you request, you may want to think twice about donating!

To verify if a charity is registered, you can call 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352). Protect yourself by knowing who you are donating to. Never give out your personal information over the phone unless you initiated the call and the phone number is from a trusted source.

Guardianship News

Unoccupied Vacant Homes!

Placing your ward permanently into a nursing home or other living arrangements outside of their home changes the status of the home for insurance purposes (if the home remains unoccupied). What you may not realize, is that sending your ward into what may be a temporary situation to a nursing home for physical therapy to recuperate from surgery (as an example) may place your ward's policy in jeopardy of cancellation for the very same reason. Almost all Florida homeowner's insurance companies define a home left vacant or unoccupied for more than 30 days, as "VACANT" or "UNOCCUPIED" and will cancel a regular homeowner's policy and/or deny a claim.

A cancellation notice of the homeowner's policy could happen as soon as the insurance company is made aware of the occupancy change, and worst case scenario, at the time of a claim. Of course, at that time it's too late to purchase the proper coverage, Vacant Home or Property Insurance.

Contrary to popular belief, Vacant Property Insurance isn't difficult to get for your ward. It can be more expensive than a regular homeowner's policy, and does not have the same coverage. Usually these policies do not cover contents of the home, and coverage for "riots or civil commotion" needs to be added as an endorsement when it's available. Vacant Home insurance is available in our Florida market place. Twelve month policies do exist that can be cancelled at the 3 month mark or after

(if the home is sold or the ward permanently returns to the dwelling). With this type of policy you're not locking your guardianship into a 12 month minimum premium.

It costs more, why? The reason that insurance companies have higher premiums for these policies is a direct result of the increased risks in an unoccupied or vacant home. Even for something like a water leak from a toilet, in a home that's occupied, is usually realized immediately, or when the owner comes home from work. In a vacant home, the leak may not be discovered until water is found running out the front door and is noticed by a neighbor! Other risks like vandalism and squatters abound with vacant homes, even in "nice" neighborhoods.

Bottom line: Consult with the agent for the current homeowner's policy to review the specific policy's rules about vacancy and unoccupied homes. Find the right insurance agent that will write the appropriate coverage for the ward's vacant home. Protect the asset.

Sharron Bauer, MLIS, is the Legal & Medical Professional Services Manager at Wasson Bay Area Insurances. As a licensed insurance agent Sharron specializes in the business and personal insurance needs of Legal and Medical professionals, including Professional Guardians.

*Most homeowner's policies will be cancelled by the insurance company when found to be vacant or unoccupied for 30 days or more. Consult your policy for specifics.



New FSGA Members*

Kandice Alder
Visiting Angels
Ocala, FL

Jeanne Bennett
O'Brien & Bennett, P.A.
Sarasota, FL

Raynor Bingham
Advance Nurse Registry, L.L.C.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Joseph Borremans, FAAPM, MPM,
CIPM, CSA
Florida Healthcare Enterprises, Inc.
Naples, FL

Christine Brannigan, RN, BSN, CM
Stuart, FL

Ross Cavaliere
Comforts of Home Care
Melbourne, FL

Vivian Ciulla
Shell Point Retirement Community
Ft. Myers, FL

Keith Cool
West Palm Beach, FL

Gerald Cullen
Brooksville, FL

Steven Denault
Senior Solutions Management, L.L.C.
Melbourne, FL

Christina Dickhoff, RN
Alzheimer's Community Care
West Palm Beach, FL

Judith Farley, RN
Ft. Myers, FL

Kathleen Flammia, Attorney
Kathleen Flammia, P.A.
Winter Park, FL

Rafael Fonseca
Ocala Oaks Rehabilitation Center
Ocala, FL

Prondolynn Ford
Ft. Myers, FL

Karen Gilbert, RN
Alzheimer's Community Care
West Palm Beach, FL

Debra Gorgens
Plantation, FL

Luis Govantes
Stellar Transport
Melbourne, FL

Mona Guinn Huff
An Answer to Care
Port St. Lucie, FL

Wendi Guyer, MSW
Office of Public Guardian, Inc.
Tallahassee, FL

Connie Gwin
Seniors Helping Seniors
Ft. Myers, FL

Dina Hitchcock
The Villages, FL

William Huggins
Dunnellon, FL

Rebecca Jacques, RN
Port St. Lucie, FL

Greg Kennedy
Avante At Leesburg
Leesburg, FL

M. Meredith Kirste, Attorney
M. Meredith Kirste, P.A.
Leesburg, FL

Lisa Kline Goldstein, Esq.
LKG Law P.A.
West Palm Beach, FL

Neal Korenstein
Grand Villa of Delray East & West
Delray Beach, FL

Patricia Leininger
Leesburg, FL

Jody Leslie, Attorney
Leslie & McLaughlin, L.L.P.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Rosa Letona
Kathleen Flammia, P.A.
Winter Park, FL

Gail Renee Mackey
Guardian Case Management & Senior
Assessments, L.L.C.
Melbourne, FL

Karen Nelson
Solutions for Seniors, Inc.
West Palm Beach, FL

Tiffany Nisbet
Sarasota, FL
Nanette Ochoa Shaw, NCG
Polk City, FL

Diane Owens
UnitedHealthcare Community Plan
Tallahassee, FL

Robin Patrowicz, Attorney
Mt. Dora, FL

Allen Powell
Barbara Falowski Funeral and
Cremation
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Symenthia Ray, MSW
Office of Public Guardian, Inc.
Tallahassee, FL

Nicholas Reeves, Esq.
Reeves Law Office, P.A.
Miami, FL

Tulin Rivera
 UnitedHealthcare Community Plan
 Kissimmee, FL

Michael Rogers, Esq.
 Gaylor & Rogers, L.L.C.
 Eustis, FL

Leslie Santelli
 LKG Law P.A.
 West Palm Beach, FL

Janelle Schuler, NCG
 Adult Advocacy & Representation
 Rockledge, FL

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 Law Office of Kimberly A Schulte,
 L.L.C.
 Leesburg, FL

Marcy Shaw, Esq.
 The Law Office of Marcy L. Shaw
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N. Russell Shenk
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 St Lucie County Clerk of the Circuit
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 A Better Solution, Inc.
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Nancy Starr
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 Patrone & Kemp, P.A.
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Kristen Trabulsy
 St. Lucie County Clerk of the Circuit
 Court
 Ft. Pierce, FL

Janet Wallace
 Gulf Coast Realty, L.L.C.
 Ft. Myers, FL

Alice Warlick
 Lutheran Services Florida, Inc.
 Pensacola, FL

Christine Woods
 Seacoast National Bank
 Stuart, FL

Chastity Word
 Ocala Oaks Rehabilitation Center
 Ocala, FL

Chrisanna Wright
 Integra Guardians, Inc.
 Punta Gorda, FL

Terrance Wright, MBA
 Integra Guardians, Inc.
 Punta Gorda, FL

Polly Yates
 Office of Public Guardian, Inc.
 Tallahassee, FL

Laura Young, FRP
 The Keane Law Firm, Chartered
 Stuart, FL

Nina Zuckerman Chepp, Esq.
 Wintter & Associates, P.A.
 Hollywood, FL

*March 1, 2015

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"Guardian Action, no Personal Liability pursuant to F.S. 744.358"

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INFORMATION!**

REGISTRATION

Friday, September 25, 2015 - Tampa/USF CAMLS Building
or

Thursday, October 1, 2015 - Boca Raton/FAU Student Union Building

Register online at:

<https://elderconcert2015.eventbrite.com>

*A Special Thank You to:
Guardian Trust and Comerica Wealth Management*



Academy of
Florida Elder Law
Attorneys

2015 Board Meetings

Saturday, June 20, 2015
11 AM - 2:30 PM - FSGA Board of Directors Meeting
Buena Vista Palace Hotel & Spa, Lake Buena Vista

Thursday, July 23, 2015
5:00 PM - 6:15 PM - FSGA Board of Directors Meeting
Buena Vista Palace Hotel & Spa, Lake Buena Vista

Saturday, July 25, 2015
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM - FSGA Board of Directors Meeting.
Buena Vista Palace Hotel & Spa, Lake Buena Vista

2015 Annual Meeting

Saturday, July 25, 2015
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM - FSGA Lunch & Annual Meeting
Buena Vista Palace Hotel & Spa, Lake Buena Vista



QUESTIONS?

Have you visited FSGA's website recently? It is constantly being updated with new and important information about the association and the profession!

→ www.floridaguardsians.com

If you ever have questions or know somebody who needs some answers, you can always refer them to our website! The FAQ page is a great way to get started and answer some basic questions about guardianship. If that doesn't suite you, you can always call the toll-free phone number:

→ 1-800-718-0207



From the Executive Office

In addition to the Call for Submissions for "Guardians Good News", we would like to encourage you, our membership, to submit materials for this newsletter. Whether it be 'good news' stories, sharing personal experiences about overcoming and dealing with challenges, educational articles, editorial pieces, events, questions, photographs from events, recognition of exceptional service or awards, anything at all that you would like to share with the association and/or see in your monthly newsletter. We look forward to reading your submissions and hearing your ideas on how to improve *The Bulletin* each and every month.

Also, we will soon be selling advertising space in this monthly publication. The FSGA has over 400+ members and it would be a great tool to use for reaching out to the other members and their families. We'll alert the membership as soon as these advertising options become available. Thanks for reading!

FSGA Officers: Officers may be contacted through the FSGA website or 1-800-718-0207.



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Jetta Getty



President Elect
MaryLou McKeon



Immediate Past President
Scott Greenberg



Treasurer
Robin Phemister



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