

Florida State Guardianship Association

FSGA BULLETIN

Volume 4 Edition #2

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.



FSGA is excited to announce we will be providing again in 2021 a monthly schedule of webinars and terrific events featuring the most notable of speakers and well-timed subjects for everyone and particularly guardians.

For example, our 2nd Annual Ethics Symposium is scheduled for Friday, April 16th.

The symposium's unparalleled lineup of presenters includes once more the nationally recognized Kenneth Goodman, Ph.D., founder and director of the University of Miami School of Medicine's Institute for Bioethics and Health Policy, and Jonathan Beever, Ph.D., the founding director of the University of Central Florida's Center for Ethics. Also we have Dr. Alan Rozen, MD, the Chief Medical Officer of Platinum Palliative Care, along with Valerie Fuldauer, MSHL, Gregory Knupke-Coe, RDN, and Samantha Ballantine, LNHA.

And our lauded **Webinar Series (free to members)** starts this month on **February 26th at 12 Noon** featuring information to know on **COVID – 19 Vaccinations** presented by Dr. Mary Jo Trepka, MD, Infectious Disease Epidemiologist & Chair, Department of Epidemiology at FIU's College of Public Health & Social Work.



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Here**

In 2020, FSGA was pleased to bring more than 20 hours of high-quality continuing education for Professional Guardians, as well as attorneys and related professionals.

The many distinguished speakers featured included Elder Affairs Secretary Richard Prudom, State Senator Kathleen Passidomo, the Honorable Judges Lisa Davidson (Chief Judge, 18th Circuit), Charles Greene (Administrative Judge Probate, 17th Circuit), Margaret Schreiber (9th Circuit), and Michelle Morley (Senior Judge, 5th Circuit). As well as the Honorables, Palm Beach Clerk Sharon Bock, Pinellas Clerk Ken Burke, and Okaloosa Clerk JD Peacock.

Last year's list of presenters will be hard to surpass but we are certainly on our way in assembling another outstanding ensemble.

We are very pleased to be bringing these distinctive educational opportunities again this year!

The Florida State Guardianship Association, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation, an affiliate of the National Guardianship Association.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello everyone,

We hope everybody has been as terrific as possible so far this year!

Well folks, we were all looking forward to 2021 being much better than last year, and unfortunately we have more months to go dealing with great challenges and the need to continue taking many safety precautions for ourselves and all those around us. So for the near future, let's do our best being as patient as possible and to do as we preach which is to make as prudent decisions as we can and especially for those we serve.

As for FSGA, there are nonetheless many good things on the horizon. Some that are already visible like a redesigned website that will hopefully be more useful to all and more functional. And as you are beginning to see, more worthwhile and beneficial continuing education opportunities with terrific and accomplished speakers. Stay tuned as there will be more announcements and events to come that will further establish FSGA as the leading organization in Florida for guardians and related professionals, and as leader around the country as well.

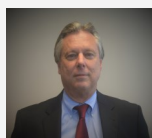
On behalf of all of us on the Board, we are working hard to see to it FSGA has a positive and productive year ahead in spite of the current hardships we are enduring. We are all volunteers and your individual participation and feedback is very much needed as well.

In any event, please do not let your guard down, remain vigilant and certainly be safe!

Thank you,

Carlos McDonald

Acting FSGA President



Special News on the COVID vaccines and Guardians

Since mid-December 2020, FSGA has been in direct contact with Governor DeSantis's Office, and Elder Affairs Secretary Richard Prudom, as well as OPPG Director Chante' Jones, requesting that all guardians, both private and public, throughout Florida continue to be considered as "essential workers" and therefore become eligible to receive the COVID 19 vaccines at the earliest possible opportunity. We repeated these efforts again just a couple weeks ago in January directly with the Governor's Office.

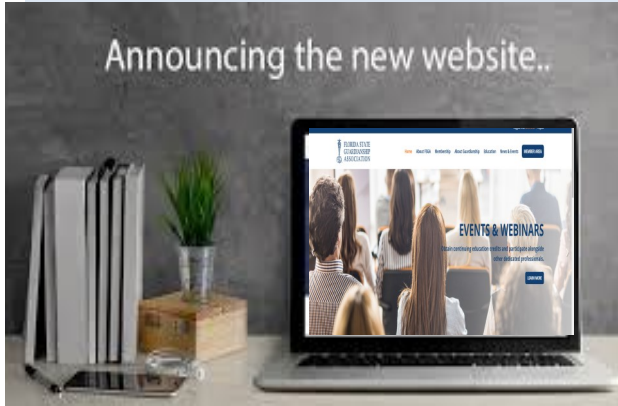
The good news is that everyone has been receptive to our overtures. The bad news is as we know there is just not enough vaccines to go around anytime soon. Additionally, there are various groups in essence competing and requesting to be prioritized. For instance, these include first responders and firefighters, teachers, and basically the entire hospitality industry such as hotel workers.

Unfortunately, the need is great and the roll-out has been let's say "disjointed". While FSGA will continue its efforts to assist, everyone nevertheless shouldn't hesitate to pursue individual efforts in your home areas as best as possible. Little by little, we will get there.



INTRODUCING A WEBSITE THAT WORKS FOR YOU

Just several days ago we debuted our newly restructured website. If you have not already, please do login and change the temporary computer generated password to one you prefer, and of course retain that for your future use. The new website should also help with registering for webinars and events.



The website will continue to be enhanced as we go forward and many thanks to all those assisting in this project to date and also with our educational series. As with all of FSGA's committees, your volunteering and active participation is always needed and appreciated!

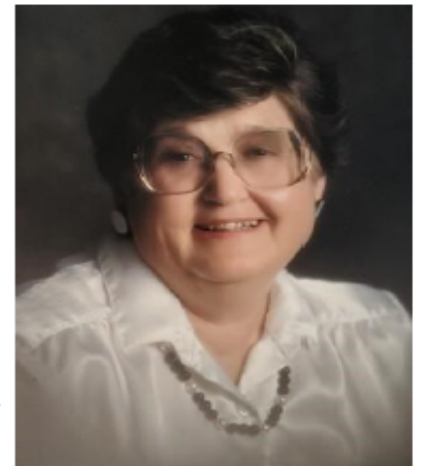
If you run into any problems logging in or navigating the site the executive office is always available to answer questions at 800-718-0207.

Barbara Whitley

As many of you know, Barbara Whitley passed away on December 11, 2020. Barbara was a strong influence in our community and was instrumental in helping out many persons who were in need. The obituary that was posted in Legacy.com states:

West Melbourne - Barbara R. Whitley, 87, was born in Chicago and passed away on December 11, 2020 in West Melbourne. Barbara moved to Brevard County, Florida in 1957 with her husband and remained a lifelong resident. Barbara earned a MS Ed in 1976 and an MSW in 1986, both from FSU. She worked as a Social Worker for the Brevard County Health Department from 1972 until 1983 when she founded South Brevard Hospice, later becoming Holmes Regional Hospice and eventually Health First Hospice.

In 1989 she started Brevard Guardianship Services a Not For Profit organization that provided guardianship services to elderly, developmental, mentally disadvantaged and indigent citizens and Private Case Management, a private practice opened to serve elderly clients and their families. Barbara was a life-long volunteer advocating for elder care and guardianships. Barbara is survived by her husband, Charles Whitley; daughters, Sue Ferron, Julie Whitley and Ruth Santore; granddaughters, Jamie Stingle, Candice Watson and Casey Kilbourne, 5 great-grandchildren.



*Many have had the pleasure of working with Barbara, or can recall interactions with Barbara in the past. May her example be an inspiration to us all. Our thoughts and condolences goes out to Barbara's family and friends.

*Thank
You !!!*

FSGA would like to extend a big thank you to our two national experts, Ben Orzeske, Chief Counsel at the Uniform Law Commission in Chicago



and Diana Noel, Senior Legislative Representative at AARP, in Washington DC.



Ben and Diana donated their time and expertise to our membership for an excellent session focusing on the state of states in guardianship legislation and the Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act (UAGPPJA).

NEW MEMBER BENEFIT FSGA'S WEBINAR SERIES



Without the generous support of sponsors FSGA would not be able to offer quality education free or at a nominal cost for our members. FSGA is launching a monthly webinar series on a variety of excellent topics. We are seeking sponsors for each monthly webinar. Those who want to strengthen their business

relationships and have an occasion to talk to our group about their services may consider becoming a webinar sponsor. Our webinars generally draw between 150-300 guardians, attorneys, fiduciaries, court and clerk staff, those in the medical field and many more. Webinar sponsorship is offered at \$500.00 and includes:

- Recognition and your logo (hyperlinked to your website) on emailed webinar notices (5 to 7 emails to our mailing list of 3000 plus)
- Recognition by the Host (logo displayed) at the start and end of the webinar (website link in the chat)
- Social Media tagging and shout-outs on Facebook and Twitter
- A thank you 'shout out' in our newsletter (with logo hyperlinked to the website)
- 3-5 minutes of live air time for your company to address our audience. You may either speak directly to our audience or you can show a marketing or promotional video about your organization.

Sponsorships are limited. Contact the [executive office](#) for more information.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's been a busy year for FSGA. Our Association stands strong with 500 members and 16 local chapters throughout the state, all part of our unified voice for guardians. This year FSGA has unveiled a new and improved website, been vigilant in responding to current events; and drastically increased our free quality virtual educational offerings in response to the current times. As the world changes and the needs of guardians do as well, FSGA responds with the best in quality education and support for those doing the good work of guardianship.

***If you renewed or joined after January 1, 2021, your membership is active through 3/31/2022.**

**RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP**

Click Here

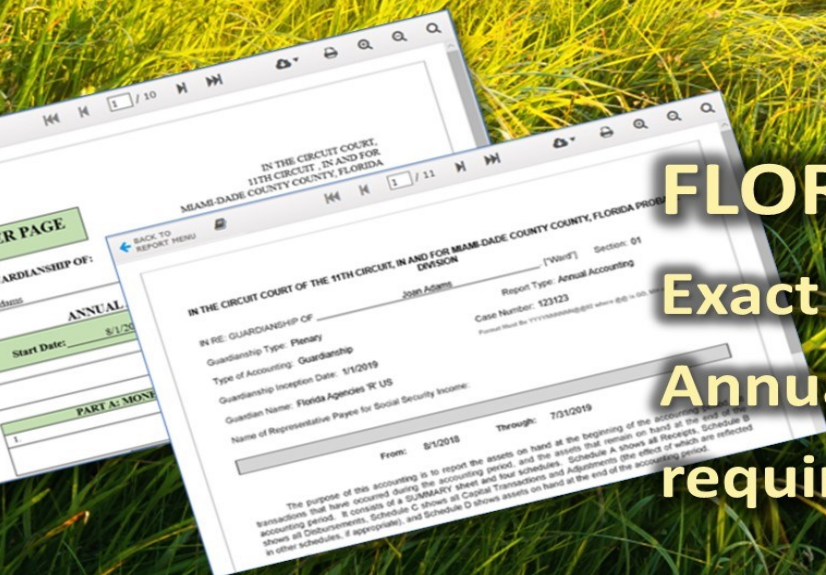
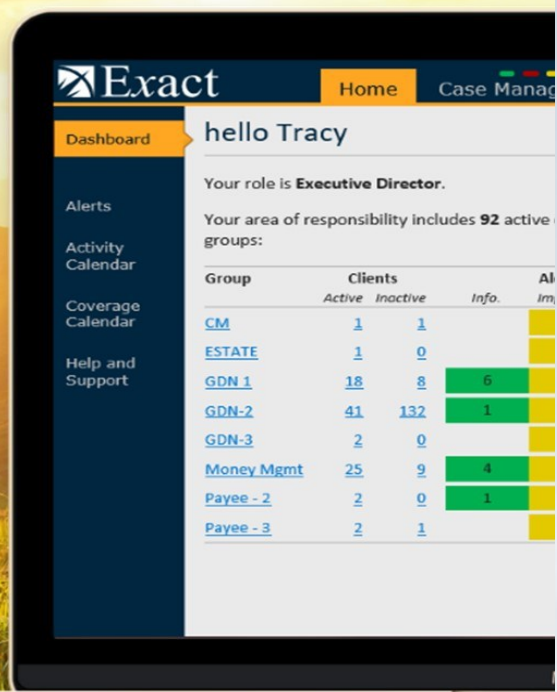
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SPACE COAST CHAPTER NEWS

We are pleased to announce the Commission on Law and Aging's 2020 Adult [Guardianship Legislation Summary](#).

The Summary reviews 22 new enactments from 38 states. Adult Guardianship Legislation Summaries from 2013 – 2018 are available on the Commission's website.

Please help us disseminate the Summary to your networks.

Thank you,



Dari Pogach,
Senior Attorney

ABA Commission on Law and Aging
www.americanbar.org/aging

The Space Coast Chapter, FSGA met on December 8, 2020 at Wuestoff Hospice in Viera, Florida for their first in-person meeting of 2020 since the Covid-19 quarantine restrictions were put in place. We were able to accommodate a limited number of members and visitors, keeping socially distant and wearing masks while we had the great honor of presenting (5) charitable organizations with donations from the Space Coast Chapter. Donations of \$500.00 each were given to Coastal Psychiatric, Genesis House, Aging Matters, Children's Hunger Project and National Veterans Homeless Support.



On February 9th, newly elected Rachel Sadoff, Clerk of Court and Comptroller of Brevard County addressed our membership on recent changes in the Probate and Guardianship divisions of the 18th Judicial Circuit Court, introduced us to the Probate and Guardianship staff and offered insight into the role of the Clerk in guardianship proceedings, reporting and oversight.

The Space Coast Chapter meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM. On March 9th our speaker will be Lennie Burke, National Master Guardian and Vice-President of FSGA providing much needed education on Preparing for the Unexpected. Please feel free to join us by Zoom.

FIRST COAST CHAPTER NEWS

The chapter has been meeting via Zoom due to the pandemic, and will continue to meet via Zoom until it is safe to meet in person. The chapter has revised their bylaws and have agreed to meet quarterly in 2021. Upcoming Chapter Meetings: May 11, 2021, August 10, 2021, November 9, 2021, October 12, 2021

LA MAR BEACH CHAPTER NEWS

Currently the chapter is considering donation to a local task force formed to provide homeless high school students with food, housing, and assistance. La-Mar Beach Chapter intends to resume meeting over Zoom, for more information contact Robert Reese.