

“VOICES OF CHOICES”

OUR NEWSLETTER

END OF LIFE CHOICES ARIZONA
SUPPORTS OPTIONS FOR ONE WHO IS
TERMINALLY ILL AND MENTALLY
COMPETENT TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN
LIFE'S END, INCLUDING FREEDOM FROM
UNNECESSARY PAIN AND SUFFERING
DURING THE LAST PART OF LIFE.

Spring 2005

The Statewide Chapter of End-of-Life Choices (formerly Hemlock Society, now Compassion & Choices)

P.O. Box 12126 • Tucson, AZ 85732 • Toll Free 1-877-535-3600 • E-mail: info@choicesarizona.org • Web: www.choicesarizona.org

END OF LIFE CHOICES ★ ARIZONA

Fifth Freedom Foundation

A State Chapter of



compassion & choices
Compassion In Dying • End-of-Life Choices

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Please Give Generously Now

Expenses are up, revenues are down

You may notice that this issue of our newsletter is eight pages long. The last issue was twice the size at sixteen pages and packed with useful information. A primary reason that this issue is so brief (and absent of photos) is a shortage of funds. We can not afford to maintain our excellent newsletter in the format to which we have become accustomed. And there is much more that we can not afford to do.

The basic problem is that expenses are up, revenues are down. Of our approximately two thousand + members in Arizona, we heard from 206 households who donated \$7,807 in response to our annual Fall fund raising campaign. We are certainly grateful for your contributions, but nonetheless we raised only about sixty-five percent of what was given last year, and our expenses have increased. Thus far, throughout the history of our statewide organization, we have limited our requests for funds to one request each year, in the Fall. We are now forced to abandon this policy. We need an urgent second request, and this is it. You will find no form to fill out, no self-addressed and stamped return envelope, and no gift for you as in years past. We can't afford it.

Now I and your Board of Directors simply ask you to give, and to give generously, by donating through our web site or by mailing a check (made out to Fifth Freedom Foundation) directly to:

Executive Director, JLA
207 N. Maguire Avenue
Suite # 111
Tucson, AZ 85710

The need is greater than ever. Our Advance Directive Packages are in much greater demand, as are our other services. The Advance Directives alone cost \$1,000 up front to print which we only get back very slowly. Terri Schiavo left a great legacy of raising people's awareness of the issues addressed by End of Life Choices. Thanks to her legacy, our speaking engagements are way up, but so are the costs for handouts to accompany a presentation. Now is the time to build upon this awareness and to meet the increased requests before us. Yet we are financially hamstrung. There is so much more we could do to help if we had sufficient funding.

Ours is not a "sexy" cause. It is not a glamorous cause for which to seek funding. Our work is, nevertheless, important and one hundred percent relevant!

(continued on page 2)

Give Generously *(continued)*

I hope you will make a generous contribution now. Your gift will enable us to continue our good work as well as to build upon our present services by offering more to more people in the future. In addition to you and I, there are approximately another five million and thirty thousand Arizonans who approve of our cause and endorse our mission. Of those, well over one million are seniors. We must reach out to these citizens and invite them to join us and to support us. To do so costs money we do not have.

Thank you for your consideration and, I hope, for your gift. I can not imagine a time when our fellow citizens have been more receptive to our cause than now.

With warm regards,
John

“Thank you” to these donors to our Annual Fund Drive

Contributors since last newsletter:

Bev Blackwood
Martha Bogert
Gladys Chelgren
Joy and Patrick Coffinger
Ward Condit
Janet Daniel
Dwayne Fink
Jahala Ford
Robert Foster
Milton and Daphne Hanson
Edmund and Patricia Hughes
David and Gypsy Lyle
Paula Madsen
Virginia Marr
William McDowell
Jean Myers
Jane Poston
Becky Rae
Tanya Robbins
James Sanford
Herbert Sliger
Marion and Harold Stump
Leland Wilson
Catherine Work

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

(All meetings are free. Please bring your friends!)

Tucson

☐ Saturday, May 21, Tucson - Annual luncheon and meeting of the Tucson Chapter. Speaker will be **Vickie Fischer**, President of End of Life Choices Arizona, at 10:00am, followed by a luncheon at 11:45am, at the Viscount Hotel, 4855 E. Broadway (between Swan and Rosemont). Cost of the luncheon is \$10 payable in advance by May 11 (although you may attend the speech without attending the luncheon). Menu choice is: (1) Cobb salad, (2) Salmon Caesar salad, (3) Trio salad. Dessert choice is (1) Peach melba, (2) Chocolate mousse, (3) Raspberry sorbet. Send check and menu choice to Cherie Esser, 64162 E. Meander Dr., Saddlebrooke C.C., Tucson, AZ 85739. For more information contact Cherie at 825-2219 or jcbesser825@yahoo.com.

Green Valley

☐ Saturday, October 8, Green Valley - Green Valley Chapter meeting in the El Dorado room at La Posada. Details to follow.

☐ Saturday, December 10, Green Valley - Green Valley Chapter meeting at the Country Club. Details to follow.

Sierra Vista

☐ Saturday, July 9, Sierra Vista - 12:30pm. Meeting of the Cochise County Chapter in the Mona Bishop Room of the Sierra Vista Public Library, 2600 E. Tacoma St., Sierra Vista.

☐ Saturday, October 8, Sierra Vista - 12:30pm. Meeting of the Cochise County Chapter in the Mona Bishop Room of the Sierra Vista Public Library, 2600 E. Tacoma St., Sierra Vista.

Phoenix

☐ Saturday, November 5 - **State Conference** - 10am to 3:30pm, location to be announced (in Phoenix area). Keynote speakers:

- ★ **Linda Lopez**, Arizona State Representative and Assistant House Minority Leader
- ★ **Marsha Temple**, CEO, National End of Life Choices
- ★ **John Abraham**, Executive Director, End of Life Choices Arizona



“Nurse, get on the internet, go to SURGERY.COM, scroll down and click on the ‘Are you totally lost?’ icon.”

How we differ from FEN

FEN is another “right to die” organization about which there seems to be some misunderstanding. The point of this article is to correct some of those misunderstandings.

FEN is not interested in changing laws to improve care and create new options for choice in every state. We are and we have initiatives in many states. In Arizona alone this year four bills were introduced related to our cause.

FEN is not interested in engaging chapters to change attitudes and practices in communities across the nation. End of Life Choices (Compassion & Choices) has about 90 chapters nationwide, and we have 10 chapters here in Arizona.

FEN is not interested in putting any resources, talent, time or money into defending aid in dying where it is already legal. We are, we have and we do.

FEN is not interested in using the courts to make doctors, hospitals and nursing homes honor advance directives. We are, we have and we do. If you encounter a case where a patient’s advance directives were not honored, please contact us immediately. We shall now prosecute physicians for negligence and abuse if they do not honor advance directives.

FEN is not interested in cultivating collaborative relationships with political leaders and mainstream groups that advocate for civil liberties and end of life care and choice. We are, we have and we do.

FEN is not interested in raising the public’s expectations and doctors’ standards for care and choice at the end of life. We are, we have and we do. One of the legislative items introduced in Arizona this year does just that, calling for physicians to establish guidelines for pain management.

FEN is not interested in intervening at the end of life to give people the best in symptom management and hospice care. We are, we have and we do.

FEN is not interested in serving anyone but members of their own organization. We are, we have and we do serve all who inquire, whether or not they are members of End of Life Choices (Compassion & Choices).

FEN is hurting End of Life Choices Arizona because they are competing for the same limited membership and monetary and volunteer resources.

FEN maintains that they serve people not served by other right to die organizations, specifically claiming that End of Life Choices (Compassion & Choices) serves only those who are terminally ill. In fact, End of Life Choices (Compassion & Choices) serves all who inquire and, when it comes to determining who may qualify for guidance at the end of life, we make our own determination about who may or may not be near the end of life or terminally ill. We do not adhere to

any formula stipulating that someone must have six months or less to live. Nor do we require that a physician must pronounce someone “terminally ill.” We handle every inquiry on a case by case basis.

FEN says that they support research (for a “peaceful” pill) and we do not. This is partially accurate. They do contribute to the work of Dr. Philip Nitschke. End of Life Choices ceased their contributions, as have other prominent leaders in the movement, because no results were being achieved and Dr. Nitschke seemed to be taking too many risks. FEN does not do research: you can contribute more directly to research by seeing www.euthanasia.net. End of Life Choices (Compassion & Choices) is, however, in favor of research and may contribute to other efforts.

Finally, and most regrettably, it is a pity that this movement, as it has throughout its history in this country, continues to be fragmented in such a way. Cooperation and truth-telling would go a long way to making ours a stronger movement. ■



“Drat! My favorite way’s not in the book!”

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Dr. Monte DuVal

Dr. Harvey Turner

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Bob Wallace, Ph.D., Sun Lakes

Irene Weitzman, NW Valley

ADVISOR TO THE BOARDS

Monte DuVal, M.D., Phoenix

How YOU Can Help

- 1) **Volunteers needed for our new and improved Client Support Program (formerly Caring Friends).** You can help those who call in for our guidance. You can receive excellent training on the National level. Please call or email John Abraham for more information.
- 2) **We need documented cases of "bad" deaths.** If you know of someone who suffered needlessly, please consider sending us documentation of the event: dates, times, places, specific treatments (or lack thereof), physicians' names, etc.
- 3) **We need more physicians for our Medical Advisory Group.** If you know of a physician sympathetic to our cause, please advise us ASAP.
- 4) **We'd like to build an AZ database of physicians to whom our members may turn for help.** If you know of any such physician, please notify our Executive Director ASAP. (No physician would be listed who does not first agree to be listed, and all such listings shall be proprietary information). This notice will appear in every newsletter until we have at least 2 such physicians in any town of over 20,000 population in AZ. To date we have 0 — so call me!
- 5) **Invite someone else to join us!** We must grow. Call 877-535-3600 or see your chapter leader for a membership application to give to a friend.
- 6) **Become a chapter leader where we need another chapter:** Kingman, Lake Havasu City, Mesa, Tempe, Glendale, Wilcox. We have a thorough Training Manual for you. Contact Executive Director.

Luis Haj WONG



www.BestTucsonRealtors.com

Working Together To Help You



John T. THAXTON

FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO *COMPASSION & CHOICES*: John T. THAXTON and business partner Luis H. WONG, of Long Realty in Tucson, will donate to *Compassion & Choices* 10% of their 2005 commissions from properties bought or sold through members and referrals of *Compassion & Choices*. When contacting John, simply refer to *Compassion & Choices* to assure the 10% donation, which does not affect the transaction price of any properties. As a Board Member of the Tucson Chapter of *Compassion & Choices*, he looks forward to working with clients who share the values of *Compassion and Choices*, as well as to making a contribution to support the organization. Also, one of his areas of special interest is working with senior clients. Please contact: JThaxton@LongRealty.com; cell: (520) 603-3677; office: (520) 407-8627; www.LongRealty.com/JThaxton

Now for sale at 25% off retail: Dr. Timothy Quill's latest book, *Physician-Assisted Dying: The Case for Palliative Care and Patient Choice*. This is the definitive book for our cause.



Our raffle fund raiser brought in \$2,250. "Thank you" for your efforts to all who participated. The winners are:

M.J. Chittenden (EOLC Prescott member), 2005 Vehicle

Frank Calville, Cruise

David Eldridge, Fiesta Bowl

Melissa Mayer,
Notre Dame game

L.L. Muleahy,
UA season tickets



We now have more membership brochures. How many do you want to give to friends, family, neighbors, colleagues, your hair stylist, your dentist, your grocery clerk, etc.?



Donated to us is a crypt in The Mausoleum of Peace at East Lawn Cemetery in Tucson.

This space is at eye level, indoors, and includes many "extras." It has a retail value of \$7,090. We are selling this to the highest bidder.



YES, I want to join End of Life Choices (Compassion & Choices)!

I understand this automatically includes state membership privileges in End of Life Choices Arizona, the Fifth Freedom Foundation, and most local chapters as well! Make check payable to Fifth Freedom Foundation.

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION

\$35 Single \$43 Couple Single Life Member \$350 Couple Life Member \$430

You folks are doing a great job! Here's an extra \$ _____ contribution to help the cause.

This is a yearly membership, renewable annually. Please send my newsletters (national and state) to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

Mail to: Fifth Freedom Foundation, P.O. Box 12126, Tucson, AZ 85732

Questions and Answers

— By Rob Rivas, Florida

Q Should I make copies of my living will and distribute them to my loved ones, the hospital, and my doctor's office? Maybe keep one in the glove compartment of my car?

A Well, doing this is certainly better than doing nothing, which is what too many people do. With all these copies of your living will everywhere your intentions will be well known and easily proven. That alone might enable them to be carried out.

However, there may be a better way. Before I explain, let me digress to point out how we both use the word "copies". We are careless about whether we mean "original" or "photocopy". We should not be so careless. The "original" is the one you and your witness signed with your own hand. A photocopy is a picture of the original. In my law practice, I always sign originals in blue ink so I can easily tell the difference.

When the terms of your living will are invoked, your healthcare provider might ask for the original and not accept a photocopy. Remember, one perfectly effective, lawful way to revoke a living will is to deface or destroy the original. With that in mind, when one sees a photocopy it is fair to ask, Where the original? How do I know whether the patient threw it in the fire last month in order to revoke it? Or whether the original has "REVOKED!" written across it with a red Magic Marker.

Some healthcare providers are always on the lookout for an excuse not to honor a patient's advance directives. You should not give them an excuse.

One solution is not to make photocopies of a signed document. Instead, sign as many separate originals as you need. If you decide to make photocopies, make sure each photocopy is stapled to a memo that says, "The original of this document is kept at blankity-blank location," and make sure it really is. ■



PLEASE CHECK YOUR NEAREST CHAPTER...

You are automatically a local chapter member (in addition to nat'l and state) in these communities.

- Phoenix/Scottsdale/Tempe Tucson Green Valley
- NW Valley (Carefree, Cave Creek, Glendale, Litchfield Park, Peoria, Sun City, Sun City Grand, Sun City West, Surprise)
- Sedona Cochise County Sun Lakes
- Prescott Yuma Flagstaff
- I WOULD LIKE TO HELP START A CHAPTER

Phone: _____

For more information visit our website (www.choicesarizona.org) or call us toll free at **1-877-535-3600** (in Tucson, call 577-2245); Fax: 520-751-1310

Legislative Update

Representative **Peter Hershberger**, whose committee was assigned two Right to Die bills, explained that the Speaker of The House flat-out told him not to hold hearings on such legislation, and threatened him by telling him that his committee would get no further legislation if he did hold hearings (Peter will have a chance to redeem himself next year!).

The bill asking doctors to establish medical guidelines failed by one vote in committee.

The bill asking the State of AZ to declare November 6, 2005 as Health Care Decisions Week was endorsed by the Secretary of State, passed by the House and Senate, and will be submitted to the Governor to sign. This will be a great opportunity to promote the use of Advance Directives, and we can "kick off" the week with our Annual State Conference of November 5.

Arizona Advance Directive Registry

The Arizona on line registry for advance directives is now up and running. You can post your wishes on line, thereby making them immediately available to doctors and hospitals. For details, see http://www.azsos.gov/adv_dir/ or call 602-542-6187, Toll Free: 800-458-5842. This service is at no cost to you. Thanks to our supporter Dr. Monte DuVal, for his influence and efforts in bringing this about!

End of Life Choices Arizona now has new and even more thorough packages of Advance Directives. Please see our website, www.choicesarizona.org or call (520) 577-2245.

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