



October 5, 2018

Ms. Dona Spain  
City of Coral Gables  
Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Dept.  
2327 Salzedo Street  
Coral Gables, FL 33134

RE : Pinewood Cemetery Association

Dear Dona :

I am writing to express my interest in becoming a member of the Pinewood Cemetery Association. As a native, and resident of Coral Gables, since I was a teenager I have always been interested both in genealogy (working on the research, writing and publishing of two books regarding my family) and, of course, older cemeteries and burial grounds. I was always fascinated by the fact that Pinewood, arguably the oldest cemetery in Miami-Dade County, is right in our back yard, and it has been gratifying to see it go from what was essentially an abandoned forest to what is now, in essence, more of a historical parkland.

As you know, the first major exhibit we took on when I became Executive Director was "Sacred Ground – the Rise, Fall and Revival of Lincoln Cemetery". That exhibit, which has garnered press nationwide, will always be of my favorite exhibits. As a Museum, we have been very much hands-on with this historic, but neglected black cemetery. It has a fascinating history which I have very much enjoyed uncovering, but it has been equally gratifying to physically be there, pulling weeds, spraying and cutting down the overgrowth. From a Museum Staff project, it has grown to where we now have over 100 volunteers a month helping to bring it back to its former, beautiful state.

I am enclosing a copy of my resume which focuses on my work in non-profit and charitable organizations over recent years.

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope to have the opportunity to be an active participant in Pinewood.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Allen".

John Allen  
Executive Director  
Coral Gables Museum



**John R. Allen**

Allen is a third-generation Miamian, being born At Doctors' Hospital in Coral Gables. While he was raised in Pinecrest, his parents continued to be active in the Coral Gables community. He is an avid reader and collector of books, primarily on European history, Florida history and cinema, and is proud of his collection which currently comprises in excess of 4,500 volumes collected over a period of more than 45 years.

An avid lover of the Miami-Coral Gables area, Allen has lived his entire life in the area where he was born. He earned his under-graduate degrees in Political Science and History at the University of Miami, where he also pursued his post-graduate studies.

In 1992, while working as regional director for a large personnel management company, Allen became a member of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce. From 1994 until 2017, he held several management and executive roles for a regional financial institution headquartered in Coral Gables, becoming Vice President of Operations in 2010. In that position he was responsible for bringing in new business exceeding \$130,000,000, in addition to fiscal administration and responsibility for all areas of general operations. Since his resignation in 2017, after over 24 years, he has served as the Executive Director of the Coral Gables Museum.

For several years, Allen has been an active participant in several non-profit, charitable and business organizations in South Florida. His community involvement has included the following:

**CORAL GABLES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:**

- \*Trustee Member, 1994 – Present**
- \*Chair, Ambassadors Committee, 2010-2012**
- \*Member of the Board of Directors, 2011 – 2018**
- \*Treasurer. 2011-2013**

- \*Member of the Executive Board, 2011 – 2018**
- \*Member of the Finance Committee, 2011-2017**
- \*Chair of the Trustee Council, 2013-2015**
- \*Chair-Elect, 2015-2016**
- \*91<sup>st</sup> Chair of the Chamber, 2016-2017**
- \*Immediate Past Chair, 2017-Present**

#### **CORAL GABLES MUSEUM:**

- \*Member of the Board of Trustees, 2012 - 2017**
- \*Vice Chair, Board of Trustees, 2015-2017**
- \*Member, Executive Board, 2015-2017**
- \*Chair, Board of Trustees, 2017**
- \*Executive Director, 2017 – Present**
- \*Member, Paist & Stewart Society - 2017**

#### **CORAL GABLES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION:**

- \*Member of the Board of Directors, 2011 – Present**
- \*Chair, Community Giving Committee, 2015-2016**
- \*Member, Community Giving Committee, 2015 – Present**
- \*Member, Executive Board, 2015-2016**
- \*Member, Merrick Society, 2015 - Present**

#### **CORAL GABLES ART CINEMA:**

- \*Member of the Board of Directors. 2011-2014**

#### **MIAMI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FOUNDATION:**

- \*Member of the President's Cabinet, 2012 -2015**

#### **CORAL GABLES BAR ASSOCIATION:**

- \*Community Member, 2014-2017**