

DOUGLAS COUNTY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION  
20<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
Thursday, April 28, 2016, 7:00 PM  
First Congregational UCC, Alexandria, MN

**Call to Order.** President John Chlian called the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Douglas County Cemetery Association to order at 7:03 p.m.

**The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.**

**Welcome and Introductions.** President Chlian welcomed those in attendance. President Chlian introduced and thanked the current Board Members for their time and commitment the past year, Secretary Kirscht, absent. Lloyd Flaaten was present from the Douglas County Historical Society. President Chlian informed the group that our speaker for the evening was unable to attend.

**Display/materials.** Douglas County Cemetery Association, Minnesota Association of Cemeteries and Douglas County Historical Society materials are available at the display table.

**In the News.** Tara Bitzen was thanked for articles in paper. These and the Senior Perspective articles bring awareness of cemeteries and those who care for them. Those serving thirty years and over thirty years were thanked.

**Meeting Minutes.** 2015 Annual Meeting minutes approved. Motion by Ralph Gunderson, Roger Thompson second. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report.** Report for Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2015 was presented by Treasurer Sue Tvrdik. Sue reported that we have 44 member cemeteries; Paul Amundson did not charge to speak at our last annual meeting. Essay Contest expenses were covered. President Chlian was thanked for funding the Brandon/Evansville Pizza Party. Balance on hand: \$854.27. Treasurer's Report approved. Motion by Karoline Doherty, Gene Rasmusen second. Motion carried.

**Membership report.** Membership Report Approved. Motion by Ralph Gunderson, Tom Hill second. Motion carried.

**Old Business.**

**Findagrave.** Findagrave mentioned and contributors thanked. Link on our website.

**Essay Contest.** 2015 Contest run through website, it helped considerably. Total forty-five this year, nineteen last year. Hope they continue to keep cemeteries in mind through life. Brandon Evansville had thirty-three essays submitted. Some restructuring of how awards are presented may take place for next year. Thanks to our contest sponsors.

**Newsletter/Website/MAC.** Kathryn Liesemeyer was thanked for her work on our newsletter. Portions of our website ([www.dccamn.com](http://www.dccamn.com)) reviewed. MAC website was also mentioned as a resource for our members.

**Funding Sources.** Thrivent Action Teams and operation Round Up were discussed. Two state statutes worth looking at are 306.55 and 471.84:

**306.55 ASSESSMENTS LEVIED FOR LOT CARE; ENFORCEMENT.**

When assessments are levied by a cemetery association authorized to levy assessments by its articles of incorporation, bylaws, or otherwise for the care, upkeep, and maintenance of any lot or lots in the cemetery and remain unpaid for a period of five years, the unused portion of the lot or lots reverts to and becomes the property of the cemetery association in which the lot or lots are located. The reversion becomes effective upon entry of judgment in the district court of the county in which the cemetery is located, in proceedings instituted for that purpose after petition by the association to the court and after a hearing on the petition, upon notice to interested parties as prescribed by the court.

**471.84 CEMETERIES; APPROPRIATION BY CERTAIN SUBDIVISIONS.**

The governing body of any city of the fourth class or statutory city or town may, in its discretion, appropriate a sum not to exceed \$10,000 per annum to any public or privately owned cemetery located within or without its boundaries if the cemetery is used for the burial of the dead of any city of the fourth class or statutory city or town without restriction.

**Project Help.** The local Sentenced to Serve program as well as Life Rite are possible sources of help for cemetery projects. Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps also mentioned as a possible partner in cemetery preservation projects (involves shared cost).

**Mention.** Faith Lutheran Community Cemetery held their first burial.

**Lot Pricing/Location Fees/Green Burials.** Question was asked if any of our members has considered raising plot prices for a second inurnment on a plot. Location fees for lots and monument placement were discussed. Green burials are allowed and fall under cemetery policy. Discussions on how to mark for two cremations and vault requirement for cremations.

**New Business.**

**Election of Board Members:** Donna Gunderson has resigned for health reasons and was thanked for her years of service on the board. Ralph Gunderson, Joel Blank and Kevin Sather have expired first three-year terms. Gunderson and Blank have volunteered to accept a second three-year term. Nominations from the floor were sought for an additional director. None were offered and the nominating committee had no candidates to present. DCCA bylaws allow 3-13 directors. The current DCCA board can appoint a replacement for the time remaining on Donna Gunderson's term. The membership agreed that at the present time, the number of board positions will be eight directors and one ex-officio director. Ralph and Joel will continue into their second terms.

**Topic Who is a Veteran.** Discussed briefly with members.

**Adjournment.** President Chlian adjourned meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Blank  
Acting Secretary