

DOUGLAS COUNTY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
21st ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday, April 27, 2017, 7:00 PM
First Congregational UCC, Alexandria, MN

Call to Order. President Joel Blank called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Welcome. President Blank welcomed members to the 21st Annual Meeting of the Douglas County Cemetery Association

The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

2016 Annual Meeting Minutes. Secretary Julie Kirscht read the minutes from the 2016 Annual Meeting. Minutes were approved by motion with one correction: *President Chlian was thanked for funding the Brandon Evansville pizza party.* Motion to approve by Bernice Trousil, second by Lloyd Flaaten.

December 31, 2016 Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Sue Tvrdik presented the December 31, 2016 Treasurer's Report. Beginning balance \$854.27, income \$1,660.00, expenses \$2,081.47, balance as of December 31, 2016 \$ 432.80. Motion to approve by Julie Kirscht, second by Ralph Gunderson.

2016 Membership Report. Membership Secretary Sue Tvrdik presented the 2016 Membership Report. Membership for 2016 was comprised of 45 cemeteries. Secretary Tvrdik noted that the permission to publish on our website was meant for a main contact from each cemetery board not all members of said board.

2016 Essay Contest. President Blank noted we had 46 fifth grade entrants from four schools, Osakis Elementary, St. Agnes Catholic School, Lincoln Elementary, and Brandon/Evansville. 31 certificates were awarded, including 3 Gold, 5 Silver and 23 Bronze. Funds available from the following sources: Osakis and Alexandria VFWs, Kathryn Liesemeyer - Katalyst Communications, REAs Operation Round-up, along with a portion of our member dues funded the 2016 awards. Certificates and prizes were presented to the students by Joel Blank and John Chlian. President Blank noted that selected essays are read at the each year at one of the local Veterans Day programs.

DCCA Website. Secretary Kirscht reviewed the website with members and encouraged those in attendance to take a look at it.

Director Position Qualifications Review. President Blank brought to our members' attention the desire of the current board to revisit the 2007 change to our bylaws as follows:

- Qualifications: 22 Mar 2007 Change to Bylaws: Section 10, "Directors need not be members." changed to "Directors must be members."
- Consider changing this back to original "Directors need not be members."

Member discussion addressing Board of Director positions followed. Motion made by Joel Blank to amend Section 10 of the bylaws as follows: "Directors need not be members. No more than two non-member directors, not to exceed one-third of the total number of directors." Second by Rod Schultz. Motion passed. Change to be made in bylaws.

Election of Directors.

Member nominations presented:

- Clifford Patrick, Hudson Cemetery
- Darrel Holverson, St. Petri Cemetery
- Jerry Buse, East Moe Cemetery

Non-member nomination presented:

- Tara Bitzen

President Blank made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot comprised of the four listed nominees. Second by Roger Thompson. Motion passed. In accepting the unanimous ballot of four nominees, the number of directors for 2017 increased from eight to nine. President Blank welcomed the new board members and announced there will be an Organizational Meeting following the Annual Meeting.

Minnesota Association of Cemeteries (MAC). President Blank read a letter addressing the value of permanent memorialization of cremation remains. Where and how to be remembered is important. MAC is working on a statewide initiative to raise awareness and emphasize the importance of leaving a tangible legacy and what cemeteries can offer to this end. The letter encourages members to donate to the cause.

Further discussed among members was the importance of memorialization for family members. Dana Hetland offered some helpful insight on this topic. With cremations, the crematory is final disposition as far as the state is concerned. Most cemeteries do not allow cremains to be scattered on top of existing graves, i.e., a family site. A certificate of cremation needs to be recorded with the cemetery so they know who is buried there. Cemeteries may want to consider having a policy disallowing the scattering of ashes over existing graves. Cremations continually bring new questions and challenges for cemeteries.


Findagrave. Vice President John Chlian thanked the Douglas County contributors to this site for their dedication. Last year the total Douglas County entries on this site surpassed 32,200.

Question/Comments. Maintenance and headstone cleaning suggestions were discussed amongst members. Discussion on how to best accommodate blended and or/broken families. The Minnesota Association of Cemeteries may have some information on this topic.

Recognition of outgoing members. President Blank thanked outgoing directors, John Chlian, Gene Rasmussen and Julie Kirscht.

Adjournment. President Blank made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 PM, Gene Rasmussen seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,


Julie Kirscht
Secretary