

DOUGLAS COUNTY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
18th ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday, April 24, 2014, 7:00 PM
First Congregational UCC, Alexandria, MN

Call to Order. President John Chlian called the 18th Annual Meeting of the Douglas County Cemetery Association to order at 7:10 p.m.

Welcome. President Chlian welcomed those in attendance and introduced the speaker for the evening, David Inman with the Minnesota Genealogical Society, St. Paul.

Introductions. Board Members were introduced and President Chlian encouraged comments and questions at any time during the meeting.

Display/materials. President Chlian also noted the display table set up with information from both Douglas County Cemetery Association and the Minnesota Genealogical Society. Also available were a variety of informational handouts and copies of several submitted essays from the 2013 Essay Contest.

The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

Meeting Minutes. The April 25, 2013 Annual Meeting minutes were presented for approval by President John Chlian. Motion to accept the 2013 Annual Meeting minutes as presented was made by Marv Trana. Gabe Pipo seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report. Report for Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2013 was presented for approval by Treasurer Sue Tvrdik. Treasurer Tvrdik went through the past year's financial activity and outlined the reasons the Board of Directors voted to increase in the annual dues (from \$20 to \$30) – noting that the membership dues have been \$20 since first introduced. Both the 2013 Essay Contest (county-wide) and the May 2014 Cemetery Tour are costly endeavors. Other general items which have continually increased over the years are postage, printing and general supply costs. Marv Trana made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2013 as presented. Sandy Alvstad seconded. Motion carried.

Membership report. Report was given by Membership Secretary Sue Tvrdik. As of December 31, 2013 the Douglas County Cemetery Association had 43 active members. Secretary Tvrdik welcomed (3) additional cemeteries to the Association as of this start of this meeting. New members tonight: Faith Lutheran Church Cemetery of Miltona (a new cemetery), Spruce Hill and Trinity (Carlos)/Zunker.

Old Business.

Findagrave update. President Chlian reported on the increase in Findagrave memorials for Douglas County. County cemeteries on the site have increased from 68 to 72 and individual Douglas County memorials entered have increased from 10,174 to 11,600. With over 30,000 burials in Douglas County there is a long way to go yet.

Efforts to Promote Awareness. Financial and staffing issues continue to be a challenge for many of our cemeteries. President Chlian reported on the ways our Board has been active in promoting community awareness.

- Cemetery Tour. A cemetery tour will be offered once again this spring. DCCA has donated \$200 to help District 206 Community Education with this event. Cemeteries on the tour include: Brandon Cemetery, St. Ann's Catholic Cemetery, Chippewa Cemetery, Edgefield Cemetery and Mound Grove Cemetery (Evansville). Mound Grove has recently acquired the Elmer House History Center and will be including a tour of this as well. Member attendance was encouraged, sign up is open through May 16th tour date is May 20th 1:00-4:00 or 5:00.
- Essay Contest. Gabe Pipo explained what the Essay Contest was about – theme, funding sources, participation (county-wide), family involvement and Veterans Day presentation. About \$2000 was raised from community sponsors. Contest sponsors would like to see this continue in the hopes of greater participation in future years.
- EchoPress/Osakis Review articles.
- Encourage cemeteries to promote themselves. Members shared what is working for them. Examples –offered by those in attendance included: annual meeting with pot luck and freewill donations, Memorial Day or other special services with offering, Perpetual Care funds.

New Business.

Bylaws. The Board of Directors wanted to distribute bylaws and clarify/modify the following (3) sections as follows:

- Section 7 – clarification on voting rights – one vote for each member *cemetery*
- Section 8 – the technicality of setting a record date for voting eligibility (40 days prior to annual meeting), Board will set the record date at one of the regular board meetings.
- Section 10 – 2 prior amendments incorporated into this section, a) directors must be members and b) number of directors allowed reads “not more than thirteen”).

Election of Board Members. John Chlian, Julie Kirscht, Gene Rasmusen and Donna Gunderson have expired terms. All have volunteered to serve a second term. We currently have 11 Board Members and would accept nominations from the floor for an additional two members. None offered. Marv Trana made a motion to accept a unanimous ballot. Second by Dennis Tolifson. Motion carried. Motion to adopt the unanimous ballot comprised of:

- John Chlian
- Julie Kirscht
- Gene Rasmusen
- Donna Gunderson

made by Joel Blank. Second by Marv Trana. Motion carried.

President Chlian reminded board members there would be a short organizational meeting upstairs following the annual meeting.

Adjournment. Motion to adjourn was made at 8:00 p.m. by Barb Sather. Second by Gabe Pipo. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kirscht
Secretary