Delaware Cemetery Board

Mark Christian, Chair

Edward Fielding

Bruce Ennis

Sally Williams

Paul White III

Delaware Cemetery Board

Volume 2 September 2016

Upcoming Meetings and Information

* The next two meetings will be held:

  Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016

  Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016

* Public meetings start at 10:30 a.m. The location will be announced on the State of Delaware's Public Meeting Calendar at https://egov.delaware.gov/pmc/. A reminder email will also be sent.

  RSVP to Candace Casto, Division of Public Health, Health Statistics Center, at candace.casto@state.de.us or call 302-744-4763.

* Financial assistance application packages are due two weeks before a scheduled meeting. Applications may be submitted every two years from the date of funds last received.

  Send registration forms with payment and financial assistance application packages to:

  Candace Casto
  Delaware Cemetery Board
  Division of Public Health
  Health Statistics Center
  Jesse Cooper Building
  417 Federal Street
  Dover, DE 19901

* To open a cemetery, you must check with the county in which the land is located. Call:

  New Castle County 302-395-5400
  Kent County 302-744-2471
  Sussex County 302-855-7878

* Historical markers for a cemetery are handled by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs at 302-736-7400 or http://history.delaware.gov/preservation/index.shtml.

* Help keep mailing costs down. Ensure your current e-mail address is on file. If you do not have an e-mail address, we will continue to send information via U.S. mail.

Delaware Cemeteries Required to Register

All Delaware cemeteries are required to register with the Division of Public Health every five years or upon change in ownership in accordance with Delaware Code: 29 Del. C., c. 7906A. The registration fee is $10.00 and checks are payable to the State of Delaware. The form and payment are sent to Candace Casto at the address listed to the left. Registration and financial assistance forms, along with the guidelines, can be found at http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hp/DECB.html.

Legislation also established the Distressed Cemetery Fund, which provides financial assistance to cemeteries lacking sufficient financial resources. Funds are used to maintain and preserve any land or structure used or intended to be used for the interment or entombment of human remains. Cemeteries must be registered before they are eligible to apply for funds. The maximum amount that may be requested is $10,000 which must be matched with real dollars and/or volunteer hours. All application packages are submitted to the Delaware Cemetery Board for approval two weeks before a scheduled board meeting.

The Division of Public Health refers complaints to the appropriate agency and investigates violations of laws and regulations. Vandalism in a cemetery should be immediately reported to the local police jurisdiction in which the cemetery is located.

Consumer issues with cemeteries should be reported to the Department of Justice's Consumer Protection Unit at 302-577-8600, 800-220-5424, or online at http://attorneygeneral.delaware.gov/fraud/cpu/.

Distressed Cemetery Fund Highlights

In Fiscal Year 2016, seven cemeteries received awards totaling $62,437.50. Awards were used to repair and restore tombstones, fences, stone walls, and gates; and to remove trees and brush. The seven awardees were:

- Hartly United Methodist Church Cemetery
- Little Creek Friends Burial Ground
- Montgomery Family Cemetery
- Mt. Zion Cemetery
- Riverview Cemetery
- Sailors Bethel United Methodist Church Cemetery
- Wilmington & Brandywine Cemetery

The photos to the right show before and after work completed at the Montgomery Family Cemetery in Hockessin. Tombstones were repaired and reset, a stone wall and gate were repaired, and trees were removed. *Photos submitted by Francis and Kathleen Drejka.*

BEFORE

AFTER

DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Division of Public Health
Health Statistics Center