

THE METHODIST CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
September 7, 2025

Call to Order:

The Methodist Cemetery Association Annual Meeting, via Zoom, was called to order at 2:08 p.m. by President Diane Tamayo.

Roll Call & Establishment of Quorum:

A. Report on Membership

Kathy Hardy advised that the Association has eleven (11) Life Members two (2) of whom are Honorary. To date, dues have been received from eighteen (18) Annual Members with (3) dues payments in the mail. Unfortunately, we have had to remove one Lifetime member, Jacque-Lynne Schulman, whom we just recently learned had passed away in October, 2024.

B. Establishment of a Quorum

It was determined that with ten (10) Members attending via Zoom, and with three (3) proxies received, that there was a quorum to conduct business at this meeting. The Bylaws require seven (7) voting Members be present to conduct business. Proxy forms were received from Carolyn Shelton, William Clift, as well as Charles Clift.

C. Introduction of Attendees

Diane requested that each of the Members attending via Zoom introduce themselves and state the family names of their relatives buried in the Methodist Cemetery: Steve Davis is related to the Riley's and Queen's; Pat Ryan is related to Helen Burke; Amy Patterson O'Keefe is related to the Queen and Burrows families; Kathy Shoemaker Hardy, Steve Shoemaker, and Nancy Shoemaker Werner are related to the Shoemaker, Payne, Eld, Ernest, and Beach families; Jeanette Pablo is related to the Queen's; Therese Desanto is related to the King and Hurdle families; Bart Robey is related to the Robey and Burrows families; and Diane Tamayo is related to the Huddleson, Walther, and Shoemaker families.

President's Report:

President, Diane Tamayo, advised that she is currently in Oklahoma visiting her daughter and her daughter's family, especially her still new grandson. She expects to be back to her home in D.C. sometime in November.

While at home this summer, she and her husband spent about twelve hours cleaning up the Cemetery grounds and hauling away bags full of debris. During this time, she had help from her nephew, Clark, her son Pete and his girlfriend and her children, as well as Kathy Hardy. Unfortunately, Kathy uncovered a nest of yellow jackets who were not happy being disturbed. This area will be marked so future Cemetery workers/volunteers do not have the same experience.

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Office Reports:

A. Approval of 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

The minutes from last year's Annual meeting were mailed to each member last fall and have also been posted on the Cemetery's website. Hearing no requests for revisions, Steve Shoemaker made the motion for approval of the minutes, seconded by Kathy Hardy. The minutes were adopted unanimously.

B. Treasurer's Report & Expenditure Limits – Kathy Hardy

See attached Treasurer's report for 2024. Also attached are the budgeted expenditure limits for 2024 and 2025. There is an explanation on the bottom of these latter reports as to their function.

Kathy made a motion to approve the budgeted spending limits for 2025 as outlined in the attachment. The motion was seconded by Amy O'Keefe and approved unanimously.

C. 2026 Proposed Budget

See attached projected expenditure limits for the upcoming year.

Webmaster's Status Report:

A. Overview of Webpage

Steve Shoemaker provided a screen shot of the current webpage displaying tabs for *Home, History, Organization News, Meeting Minutes, Burials, Tombstone Photos, Family Stories, Members Only, and Contact Us*. The *Members Only* Section includes *Bylaws, Financial Reports (2014-2024), and Membership Directory*.

B. Contact Us Section

Inquiries to this section of the website are forwarded to the Association's e-mail address. Our President, Diane, answers these inquiries.

C. Members Only Section

- This section of the website will be password protected. A discussion followed about how to establish this password and how often it should be changed. It was the general opinion of the Members in attendance that a single password be used and distributed to the Members as requested.
- Any Member can be added into the *Membership Directory*. Members without internet access may also be listed in this *Directory*. A form will be developed to distribute to the Members to allow them to choose what information they wish to provide to other Members. Some may want to provide full contact information, while others may provide more limited information. One important feature will be the ability to provide family surnames of those resting in the Cemetery for genealogical research purposes. Steve will develop the form and it will be provided to the Membership in the near future.

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D. Website Domain

- The domain name registration expires on May 22, 2026. This is for the domain name only (Methodist Cemetery Association) and does not include hosting the website. The domain is now on *Go Daddy*.
- The hosting is provided by *Blue Host* which will renew on August 5, 2026. Steve is reviewing the possibility of relocating the domain name to *Blue Host* as well.

Unfinished Business:

A. Increasing Membership

Amy O'Keefe has been researching avenues to increase our Membership. She explored various *Facebook* pages and selected three (3): *Descendants of Samuel Queen 1655-1711*, *You Might be a Native of D.C.*, and *DC We'll Always Remember*. She obtained authorization from all three (3) of these pages to put up a solicitation on their pages for Membership into The Methodist Cemetery Association. She will continue to explore these sites as well as the *Blog Pages on Ancestry* and similar sites. Diane offered that Jacque-Lynne had previously mentioned the *Association of Oldest Inhabitants of D.C. (AOIDC.org)*, which also has a newsletter, as a possibility for Members. A discussion ensued with various ideas offered. Therese Desanto advised that she will try to fix our Cemetery on *Find a Grave* so that it is more easily researched. Amy will continue her search and provide updates as developments warrant.

B. Tree Maintenance Contract

We have been contracting with Mulheron Tree Experts. Two (2) years ago the Tulip Poplar tree had a large downed limb. The tree has some tips touching a power line. We have been waiting for PEPCO to address the situation so the tree can be trimmed further by Mulheron. While Diane has made several attempts to follow up, there has been no response from PEPCO and no action. Jeannette Pablo agreed to contact the power company to get their work scheduled.

C. Increasing Revenue – Donations from Mandatory IRA Withdrawals

Diane and Kathy both spoke of the benefits to the Association if some of our Members designated the Association as beneficiary of part of one or more of their required IRA distributions. They will discuss a procedure for promoting this idea to the Membership.

D. Record Archival Project

American University has agreed to archive our older records. There are two (2) five (5) drawer file cabinets in Diane's Rockville home with these older records such as Cemetery cards and old letters, along with genealogies of many families. Some items have already been donated. The box of materials received from Donald Barnes last year has been reviewed and resolved. Many of these records did not belong to the Cemetery. Steve Davis, Amy O'Keefe, and Jeanette Pablo will make arrangements with Diane to review the Cemetery documents in her home to determine which should be archived. Diane is in Oklahoma until sometime in November so the project cannot begin until she returns.

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New Business

A. Election of Officers for the 2025-2027 Term

Amy O'Keefe conducted the election of Officers for the upcoming term. With no nominations from the floor, the following Members were unanimously elected to the following Officer positions:

President	Diane Tamayo
Vice President	Jeanette Pablo
Treasurer	Kathy Hardy
Recording Secretary	Dan Nielsen
Corresponding Secretary	Pat Ryan

Open Discussion

No new items were presented for discussion.

With no further discussion to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Ryan

Pat Ryan
Corresponding Secretary