

Bennett Cemetery Association

Goodbee, Louisiana

Bylaws of Bennett Cemetery Association

July 2021

ORGANIZATION

The Association was established for the purpose of preserving and maintaining the Bennett Cemetery, located on St. Tammany/ Tangipahoa line, off Hwy. 1077 on Bennett Cemetery Road. The property was originally donated by Daniel Bennett and Frederick Gottschalk for a burial site in the community. In 1956, the great great grandson of Daniel, August Bennett, legally donated one square acre, and in 1987 Virgil White donated .33 acres to give the cemetery more room.

The Association shall be operated as a non-profit organization, with no personal benefit to any member of the Association.

MEMBERSHIP

The Association is composed of members who meet the burial eligibility requirements, that are discussed further in this writing.

MANAGEMENT

These Bylaws provide for the management and care of Bennett Cemetery through the elected members of the Board of Trustees elected annually by the Association membership.

MEETINGS

The Board of Trustees shall set the time and place for the Semi-annual meeting or subsequent meeting as necessary to perform their duties for the betterment of the Association. The semi-annual meeting shall be held as determined by the trustees. The members shall be informed in writing by mail no less than fourteen days prior to said meeting. And, if possible, a text as a reminder as well.

TRUSTEES

Trustees shall be elected annually by simple majority of Association members present and may succeed themselves. The number of trustees elected shall be set and approved by the Association membership at one of the meetings. A trustee vacancy may be filled by the President with approval of a majority of remaining trustees.

OFFICERS AND ADMINISTRATION

Officers shall be elected annually from and by the trustees for the current year and requires a quorum and simple majority of those trustees present. A majority of the trustees is required for a quorum. Officers shall be President, Secretary and Treasurer. These officers may succeed themselves.

1. The President shall preside at all meetings and shall be charged with the responsibilities pertaining to policy, programs, management, business, properties, and performance. He/She may appoint such individuals and committees, as He/She may deem necessary to the accomplishment of His/Her charge.

2. The Secretary shall keep the records of the Association proceedings and unless otherwise assigned by the President, conduct the correspondence, issue notices as are provided for in these bylaws and perform other and further duties as the President may request.

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3. The Treasurer shall collect all monies and issue receipt for the same. He/She shall deposit all such monies in the name of Bennett Cemetery with a bank designated by the Board of Trustees of Bennett Cemetery.

FINANCE

The Board of Trustees of the Association shall review annually and designate a depository for funds of the Association. All funds withdrawn shall be by the signature of both the president and Treasurer.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Rules and regulations for the government of Bennett Cemetery Association provide for the Trustees to have full authority to prescribe such rules and regulations as necessary to insure proper management, maintenance, care, preservation, and for the security and protection of Bennett Cemetery.

BURIAL ELIGIBILITY

Bennett Cemetery was established for the purpose of providing burial space for the families and heirs of Daniel Bennett and Fred Gottschalk, and for the benefit of the community, since, at that time in 1884, there was no cemetery in the community. Now, in 2021, at this writing, we are finding that room for our heirs and family members is quickly being taken up and we must set guidelines for burial.

GUIDELINES FOR BURIAL

The number of graves in Bennett Cemetery is over 200 and not all are related. Those interred are all grandfathered in as family and will remain as such.

From this day forward, we as Bennett Cemetery Association, will address each new burial as to relation and kindred. If the recipient's family cannot show documentation of such, they will be turned away. Also, if there have been no monetary donations from that family for the upkeep of the cemetery, as requested in letters sent, the Board has the right to deny burial.

AMENDMENTS

Any amendment to these By-laws shall be proposed by resolution in writing. Such resolution may be discussed, amended, or otherwise, altered in accordance with parliamentary procedure, and when called for a vote, shall be balloted upon at the meeting. If the resolution or amended resolution be adopted by 2/3 majority vote of the members present, the same shall become effective. No vote shall be taken unless the Secretary has given written notice to all Association members. Including the proposed changes, not less than 7 days prior to the date and place of such meeting.

RULES FOR BURIAL

Bennett Cemetery does not sell burial spaces. The cemetery is operated and maintained by a Board of Trustees and depends on distributions from the Bennett cemetery's general fund. The following rules for use of the cemetery establish your responsibilities, those of this Association and the mortuary of your choice. They will be of assistance to you when the time comes to have a burial in Bennett cemetery.

1. Contact one of the Cemetery Trustees and state your desire to use Bennett Cemetery.

a. Establish with the Trustee your eligibility to use the cemetery. Provide the completed Bennett Cemetery Association **Descendency Form** to the Trustee. One of the following conditions must be met for a person to be buried at Bennett Cemetery.

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- 1) Must be heir of Daniel Bennett, related as a husband or wife or child.
- 2) Must be heir of Frederick Gottschalk, related as a husband or wife or child.
- 3) All interred as of March 2021, whether related or not, are grandfathered in.

b. After your eligibility is established, assist that trustee in determining the appropriate gravesite for burial.

2. Make funeral arrangements with the mortuary of your choice. Remind your funeral director that he must obtain a signed burial permit from the Trustee before burial arrangements can be completed.

3. If records of this Association do not reflect your immediate past giving to maintain Bennett Cemetery, a contribution must be required before the burial permit is completed for your funeral director, and then continued so the cemetery will be maintained.

4. With a signed burial permit in hand, your funeral director will arrange for opening and closing the grave as well as other services you will request of him.

All graves must have a marker placed within one year after burial.

All dirt must be removed from the grave site within one year from the burial date. If not removed the board will move said soil and charge the cost to the family. Sand will be provided for fill.

IF RULES OF THE BENNETT CEMETERY ASSOCIATION ARE NOT ABIDED BY, THE BOARD CAN FORBID THE FAMILY FROM BURYING IN BENNETT CEMETERY.

THE ABOVE RULES AND REGULATIONS WERE VOTED ON AND ACCEPTED BY THE BENNETT CEMETERY ASSOCIATION EFFECTIVE AS OF:

July 6, 2021