

The Bylaws Get an Update

Sixty-four years after Society members set forth their governing rules in a small, four-page booklet, members agreed it was time to review and update the bylaws to meet the current needs. On April 13, 2018, members unanimously adopted new bylaws that complied with federal requirements to obtain 501©(3) status as a not-for-profit organization.

The first notable change was a slight change in the name of the organization. Members agreed it would be wise to include the word "cemetery" in the group's name and so the official name was changed from the Memorial Society of Wright City to the Wright City Cemetery Memorial Society. The Society's purpose was expanded to "serve in the preservation, care and beautification of the Wright City Cemetery, a municipal cemetery, as well as educating others in the history of the cemetery".

Membership again was open to any person who has an interest in the Society's objective and purpose upon payment of annual dues. Dues are now set annually by the officers with the approval of two-thirds of the membership. (Membership dues are currently \$5.00.)

The meeting date was changed to the second Tuesday of the month, and meetings are now conducted at 5:30 p.m. rather than the mid-afternoon. The new bylaws eliminated the requirement that Society members entertain their fellow members

A major addition to the bylaws is a provision for the dissolution of the Society. Should the Society become idle for 24 consecutive months and "good faith attempts by its members to reconstitute the Society are not successful, the Society shall be dissolved", according to the current bylaws. After all outstanding liabilities are paid, the bylaws state that all remaining assets of the Society shall be transferred to the Cemetery Endowment Fund held by the City of Wright City. That fund allows the City to use the interest income only for the care and maintenance of the cemetery.

While it is the intent that the Society shall long endure, should it ever become inactive, its assets can now never be used for anything other than caring for and maintaining the Wright City Cemetery.