

## ANNUAL MEETING OCT. 8, 2016

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Meeting was called to order by Secretary, Carrie Johnson at 1:05pm. There were 15 in attendance. Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was given.

Motions made by Jayme and seconded by John to approve **Secretary's minutes** as posted on the Web-Site. Passed

**Treasurer's report:** 2015 year end reported, \$69,595.99 in checking.

As of Sept. 2016 have received \$33,794.35

Motion made by Jayme, seconded by "Fuzzy" to accept Treas. Report. Passed.

**2016 Projects and events:** We did not set up at any fairs, as there were not sufficient volunteers to help. The St. Cloud Rendezvous was good. The Picnic at Belle Prairie was a good time. Patriot Guard sponsored a ride that bought in approximately \$1,200.00

**2016 Ceremony:** December 17, 11:00am, 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday. Same day as Wreaths Across America. Balsam cannot be harvested until after second frost.

There is insufficient parking spaces for all the cars. John met with Camp Ripley and Cemetery personnel to discuss alleviating the parking problem. For Memorial Day, a press release asked people to car pool. Worked well.

2016 is the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WWII. The Wreath presenters will be WWII vets. Deputy Post Commander, Lt. Colonel Chad Sackett will be the keynote speaker. National Anthem sung by John Snell of Motley, who is also Choir Dir. At Bethlehem Luth. Of Cushing.

There will be a 21 gun salute and taps by Mid-Minnesota volunteers headed up by Chuck Katka.

Brenda and Shirley will put ribbons on the Columbarium wreath.

Rev. Shirley will do the invocation.

Diane, Shirley and Carrie will work the information center.

We try to keep the ceremony under 20 minutes every year. Too cold for people to stand out any longer than that.

**Preston:** At the time of the meeting, there had been no contact with Preston, no invite to us, but we will send down wreaths, if they ask us, but we will not lay them.

**Mailings: 2016.** There have been 3400+letters sent out.

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**Vice-President:** Since the resignation of Norv Pervier, we are in need of a new Vice President.

Nominations open – on the ballot; Jayme Storlie, Jerry Ratclif. Paper ballots passed out, collected and counted by Bose and Blair. Result: Jerry Ratcliff is our new Vice-President. Thank you and Welcome to Jerry.

**New Business:** Reaching out to Veterans Service Officers to reach potential volunteers. The Veterans Service Officers have been informed of ceremony and the needs to carry it off. However, there is a confidentiality issue between Service Officers and vets. But, they do know and we hope they will act on that information.

John has been in discussion with Crow Wing Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, Cindy McCarthy, Commander in Brainerd, MN., regarding wreaths for Dec. 17, 2016.

Jim Parent offered up **Praise for Pres. John Thomas** and all the hard work he does and we want John to know he is appreciated. Also, **Praise given for Carrie and Ron** on a job well done and how much we appreciate them.

There is an American Legion Chili Feed in Brainerd on December 17, at 1:00pm, after the ceremony. Free for volunteers or free will offering and \$5.00 for others.

At this point Carrie left to go to Medal of Honor dinner in Mpls.  
John Thomas took over the meeting.

John went over volunteer list and Section Leader list.

**Section Leader and volunteer Briefing on December 10, 2016, at 11:00am at the Canteen.**

Closing prayer given by Carl Bates.  
Meeting adjourned at 2:32pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Shirley Nelson, Acting Secretary