

WreathsForTheFallen.org

Officers Meeting Minutes

March 29, 2017

I. Call to order

John Thomas called the Officers meeting to order at 11:35 am on Wednesday, March 29th at the Fort Steakhouse in Fort Ripley MN. Officers present were – John Thomas- President, Jerry Ratcliff- Vice President, Carrie Johnson-Secretary, Bob Larson-Wreath Procurement Officer and Shirley Nelson our Chaplin.

II. Treasurers Report

Ron Robbins was not able to attend the meeting but he gave his reports to John who gave them to Carrie Johnson. He submitted his reports through February 29th, 2017. He also submitted the year end reports for 2016. We currently have 5 bank accounts which Ron maintains. We have our checking account, savings account, and savings accounts for the Preston, Duluth and SW cemeteries. The balance in the general fund at February 29th was \$62,346.69. Contributions for 2016 were \$78,388.88.

III. Topics Discussed

Wreath Ceremony Recap- We all agreed the ceremony went very well again this year but talked about a few issues that were brought to our attention. The weather was very cold and we had some complaints about the sponsorship cards and trying to handle them in the bitter cold. We discussed the reasons for and against the cards. We will address this issue again with the section leaders at a later date. Motion was made by Bob Larson to table the discussion – Carrie seconded it – motion passed to table discussion. The wreath distribution to the various section was brought up wondering if there was any way to get a more accurate count after they are delivered. The refreshment area had lots of help and everything went well. Cragun's from Brainerd once again donated the cookies for the event. Thank you Craguns! We discussed purchasing several insulated coffee servers. The power has been an issue in the building and keeping the coffee hot is sometimes a problem. Insulated coffee servers would help be very helpful – we agreed to purchase 5 servers to keep in our inventory. If anyone has any comments or suggestions on the wreath ceremony please send John Thomas or any officer a note.

Parking – Jim Parent will not be in charge of parking next year. There will be several changes to the parking guidelines next year which we will have to discuss at subsequent meetings.

Wreath Removal – John gave us an update on the wreath removal that took place at the end of January. It took 22 minutes and there were many helping hands.

Mailings, brochures – We will have to update our brochures and mailings this year. John has been talking with Lakes Printing to make some necessary changes. The envelopes will also be changed to make them more user friendly. John will be talking with Patrick Iten of Iten Design about the changes to the brochure as this is a

complicated process. We discussed giving donors an account number to more easily track donations, addresses, names and other information and changes. All the officers agreed that this would be great.

Memorial Holiday Weekend – WreathsForTheFallen is not doing anything formal at the ceremony this year. Other various local organizations and groups will place the flags at each grave stone and we will help to remove those flags after the Memorial Day weekend. John will email everyone with updates and details.

Upcoming Events – We talked about having a presence at the local fairs but we decided that it was too hard to get volunteers to commit and help with the preparations involved for setting up and working at the fairs. Anyone who would like to represent us at a local fair should give John a call for more details. He can be reached at 218-829-6622.

Red Bull Event – Jerry Ratcliff will once again work at the Red Bull Event in North Branch MN on Sunday June 25th. HE WOULD LIKE OTHER VOLUNTEERS IF POSSIBLE. Please give John a call for more details. This event is a huge contributor to the CSOAF (Citizens Supporting Our Armed Forces) which is 100% volunteer organization supporting our military and their families.

Annual Meeting – The Officers discussed the Annual Meeting. The details of where and when were talked and tentatively planned for Saturday May 13th, 2017 at the VFW in Little Falls MN. The VFW has been a great place to have our meetings as it is centrally located. Carrie will check into availability. John will send out an email when the plans are finalized. This date may be too early to notify everyone.

Get Well Wishes – We are sending prayers and get well wishes to John Thomas as he has had many health issues the past several months. Take Care John!

IV. **Next Officers Meeting**

We did not set up a time for the next officer's meeting.

V. **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:25 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Carrie Johnson – Secretary

Minutes approved by: _____
John Thomas – President

If you have any questions or need any information please log into our web site at www.wreathsforthefallen.org or call John Thomas at 218-829-6622