

WreathsForTheFallen.org

Officers Meeting Minutes

July 12th, 2017

I. Call to order

John Thomas called the Officers meeting to order at 1:15 pm at the Fort Steakhouse in Fort Ripley MN. Officers present were – John Thomas, Bob Larson, Carrie Johnson, Ron Robbins, Jerry Ratcliff, Bob Schule, Shirley Nelson and Denise Larson.

II. Treasurers Report

Ron Robbins submitted the current treasures reports.

III. Topics of Discussion

Identification Numbers – John Thomas and Bob Schule have been working / revising the donation spreadsheet to make it more efficient and with more detail. With so many donations from so many different donors we had to make some adjustments. John & Bob spent hours and days coming up with ID numbers to identify the donors and the Veterans whom would be sponsored. These ID numbers will be assigned to everyone and would be printed on their mailings, thus making posting the checks received more streamlined. John Thomas and Ron Robbins have been posting and documenting all contributions which requires a fair amount of time. These new account numbers will speed up that process. All members at the meeting had an opportunity to ask questions and voice any concerns they had. John & Bob were very helpful and good at explaining the new process.

Mailings – John talked to us about the mailings that he has been revising for this year. The actual envelopes and brochures need to be updated. John handed out a rough draft of the brochure and everyone was able to proof it. The new envelope design will include the ID numbers for easier posting. John has been in touch with Lakes Printing, the Post Office and Patrick Iten at Iten Creations to review and make changes before everything is printed. At this time it is unknown if the brochures will be ready for the next mailing. The ID numbers and the mailings were the primary reason for this meeting.

Events – WreathsForTheFallen.org will not be attending any fairs this year as a group but individual volunteers may attend if the desire. We have been invited to have a booth at the MN State Fair but we declined since we could not count on enough volunteers to be at the booth.

Camp Ripley Open House – will be on Sunday September 17th, 2107 and we will have a booth at that event. John Thomas and Jerry Ratcliff will be there. Other volunteers are welcome.

Red Bull Event – Bob Schule gave us an update on the Red Bull event. He enlightened us on the care packages they prepare.

Wreath Ceremony – This year the Wreath Ceremony will be on Saturday December 16th. This is the 3rd Saturday of December this year. John gave us a current count at the Camp Ripley cemetery and also at the new cemetery in Preston MN. John & Bob Schule have also had to account for donations coming in for the Preston Cemetery which required more adjustments on the spreadsheet. Preston Cemetery has approximately 100 burials at this point but will increase by the time of the Ceremony. Preston Cemetery will have their own ceremony but we will be ordering the wreaths. John talked about the increase in burials at the cemetery resulting in parking issues. Parking will be discussed as we get closer to the ceremony. The columbarium was also discussed as the number of burials have also increased in that area. John continues to monitor the changes at the cemetery.

Newsletter – We have not been able to send out our newsletter in several months and are currently looking for someone to help prepare a newsletter. Anyone interested should contact John at 218-829-6622.

Wreath Ceremony –Breaking News – THE DATE OF THE WREATH LAYING WILL BE ON DECEMBER 16TH THIS YEAR. This will be on the 3rd Saturday in December – not the 2nd Saturday !!!! PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDERS and tell your family, friends and neighbors !

IV. Adjournment

Shirley Nelson shared a closing prayer with us and meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.

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.

Minutes submitted by: Carrie Johnson

Minutes approved by: _____