

WreathsForTheFallen.org

Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2011

I. Call to order

John Thomas called the regular meeting for the WreathsForTheFallen.org to order on Tuesday night November 8th, 2011 at 6:30 pm at the VFW Club in Little Falls, MN.

II. Roll call

There were 20 members present. A sign in sheet was passed around for everyone to sign. Members present were – Carrie Johnson, Ron Robbins, Freddie Barbeau, Fran & Bill Kokett, Laura Hofius, Shirley Langland, Ken & Joyce Tveit, Jerry Ratcliff, Mike Coffman, Ron Daniels, Rick Johnson, Fuzzy Christen, Mykel Barthel, Dale Armstrong, Norville Pervier, Bob & Denise Larson and John Thomas.

Opening Prayer /Pledge of Allegiance

After roll call we all stood, faced the American flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

I pledge allegiance, to the flag of the United States of America, And to the Republic, for which it stands, One Nation, Under God, Indivisible with Liberty and Justice for all.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes from the last meeting which was held on October 11th at the VFW in Little Falls MN were addressed. All meeting minutes had been emailed to all members on record prior to the general meeting and also posted online on our web page at <http://www.wreathsforthefallen.org/index.cfm?pageid=9711> . Everyone present approved the minutes as reported.

IV. Treasurers Report

Ron Robbins - our treasurer – presented his report. He reported that the beginning bank balance on October 1st was \$ 10,608.56. In October he paid office and administration expenses of \$352.31 and deposited \$5,337.93 leaving a balance of \$15,594.18 at 10-31-11. A savings account has been set up at the Deerwood Bank in Brainerd to aside \$5,000.00 for the 2012 budget. We have also approved the purchase of 1000 wreaths from Erickson's Greenhouse in Brainerd MN for the price of \$10,000.00. After these deductions the bank will have a balance of \$ 594.18.

Motion was made to approve the treasurer's report – it was approved by all present, motion passed and Ron submitted his report for the record. An updated wreath contribution spreadsheet was passed around for everyone to review. The total donations received to date were \$19,807.51.

V. Committee Reports

Wreaths Procurement Committee – Bob Larson, committee chairperson, gave his wreath procurement report stating that everything was moving along very nicely. A purchase agreement was submitted to Erickson's Greenhouse for 1000 wreaths and 300 from Mickman Brothers. Bob will monitor the donations as they are received and order additional wreaths accordingly on a weekly basis. Fran Kokett will be the representative from the Wreath Committee to oversee the wreath process in the final weeks before the wreath laying ceremony.

Contributions Committee – Norville Pervier, committee chairman, gave his report as of November 8th. He reported that since our last meeting we had received 164 donations from individuals ranging from \$15.00 to \$60.00 and 9 separate donations from VFW posts, auxiliaries, Lions Club and other business which ranged from \$50.00 to \$1000.00. He also updated us on his contacts with various businesses, TV stations, radio stations and newspapers. Jerry Ratcliff, Joyce Kveit and several other members also shared the contacts that they had made during the last month. It was noted that many businesses need a fairly long lead time before they will make a donation. Something we will plan on during our fund raising next year. Ron Robbins reported that Deerwood Bank out of Brainerd will make a donation after Veterans Day 11-11-11. Norville submitted his report for the record.

Web Site Committee – John Thomas, committee chairperson gave an update on our web site. He noted that there has been a 47% increase in web activity in the last month. We are at the point that we have to renew our web site fees. He reported that a 5 year renewal was by far a better deal than just renewing for 1 year at a time. We have 3 URL's at this time; .com, .org, and .net. This makes it very easy for anyone to log into our web address. John added that all the monthly meeting minutes are added to the site and new photos and videos are added very frequently. Any questions or comments about the web can be directed to John Thomas at 218-829-6622 and/or Lydia Sasse at 218-765-4477 or 218-330-1085.

Cemetery report – as of 11-1-11 – there were 4073 internments at the State Cemetery at Camp Ripley. John keeps in contact with Dave at the cemetery every week to get any updates or changes to any of the plans for the wreath laying ceremony.

VI. Old Business

Facebook update – nothing new to report. Just spread the word and make new friends!

Logo patch – Ron Robbins had the patches available for sale. The price of the patch is \$ 5.00 each - which is our cost.

Budget Committee- the Officers continue to work on the budget and have opened a savings account at the Deerwood Bank to set aside funds for the 2012 budget.

Radio News - John Thomas-our radio celebrity - reported on his many radio interviews with the local radio stations this fall. There should be several more in the upcoming weeks to remind and to inform the communities about the wreath laying ceremony on December 10th.

Endowment Fund – Creating an Endowment Fund to perpetuate the future of the wreathsforthe fallen was mentioned again and will be addressed next year. More information will be gathered before making any decisions as to how to form and endowment fund..

VII. New Business

Cemetery Section Leaders – John prepared a schedule of all the section leaders for the cemetery. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to be a leader and take care of a section of graves on December 10th. Thanks to everyone who will be helping that day as it takes a lot of volunteers to make good things happen. If anyone would like a list of the section leaders please contact John Thomas at 218-829-6622 or John@WreathsForTheFallen.org.

PRE RUN – There will be a pre-run for the ceremony on Saturday December 3rd. We will meet at the Canteen at 11:00 and review how things will run on December 10th. We will also be going to the cemetery to familiarize everyone with the layout.

STAGING – It was agreed that the staging on the wreaths will be the morning of the ceremony – DECEMBER 10th. 3 trucks will be delivering the wreaths – TCBX for Erickson's Greenhouse, Mickman Brothers and Wreaths Across America early in the morning.

Section Signs – it was mentioned by Rick Johnson that we should make up some signs for each section so everyone would know where each section was located.

Safety vest – it was also mentioned that the section leaders should wear some kind of safety colored vest to be more visible to the visitors and guests the day of the ceremony.

Bikers With Big Hearts – Cindy & Cal Wolf – will be serving hot cider, coffee and cookies at the cemetery on December 10th!! They have been extremely gracious and our hearts go out to them for helping us out!!! We appreciate everything they do for us!

Meat Raffle – We will be looking into having a meat raffle at the St Augusta Legion maybe on Friday November 18th or December 2nd. Bob ‘Fuzzy’ Christens will contact the legion to see if we could possibly have one before the wreath ceremony.

Wreath Removal – will be approximately on February 1st 2012 depending on the weather. This will be done by all volunteers as a group and will be planned in January.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next general meeting for ALL members will be on December 13th – the second Tuesday of the month - at the VFW in Little Falls, MN at 6:30pm. (6:00 to meet & greet & eat) This will be AFTER the ceremony and we will recap the event at this time.

IX. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Closing prayer was given by Freddie Barbeau.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bob Larson and seconded by Robert “Fuzzy” Christens.. Motion passed - meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED!!

Minutes submitted by: Carrie Johnson, Secretary

Minutes approved by:
John Thomas, President



Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us at our meetings and share our web site: www.wreathsforthefallen.org .

Remember - - “It’s not about Us – It’s about Them”