

WreathsForTheFallen.org

Officers Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2012

(Actual May Officers Meeting)

I. Call to order

John Thomas called the May officers meeting to order at 2:00 pm at the Fort Steakhouse in Fort Ripley MN. Officers present were – John Thomas, Bob Larson, and Carrie Johnson. (Because of meeting time conflicts the May Officers meeting was rescheduled to June 1st 2012).

II. Treasurers Report

Ron Robbins was not present hence he did not submit a treasurers report. He will submit his report on June 12th at the next general meeting.

III. Topics of Discussion

Memorial Day Events – John Thomas gave a recap of his day at Craguns for the **Memorial Day Family Fun Days** that were held on Sunday May 27th. John had been invited to MC the ceremony in the morning and then he ‘manned’ the WreathsForTheFallen display alongside the silent auction area until 3:00 pm. He commented that he had a fabulous day and made many new contacts, met many new people, and handed out lots of brochures. We have been invited to attend this event every year. He said it was a great day. He also commented on the Memorial Day service that he participated in at Eagle Bend. John, Norville Pervier and Jerry Ratcliff all attended this ceremony. It was another great ceremony. We also received a \$50.00 donation from the Eagle Bend Cemetery which was very much appreciated ! Thank You !

The **Memorial Day Flag placing** was held on Friday May 25th at the Camp Ripley State Cemetery. An American Flag was placed on each and every grave site at the cemetery. It was a gorgeous day with many many people there to help. It went quickly and the cemetery was beautiful with all the flags waving and all the beautiful memorials people had placed for those who passed away. This was another great event for a good cause. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way. It was awesome to see so many there to help. Lots of photos and videos have been posted to our web site from all of the Memorial Day events.

Bob and Carrie both attended the Memorial Day Ceremony at the **Camp Ripley State Veterans Cemetery** on Memorial Day. It was an absolutely gorgeous day and the ceremony was great. Bob and Carrie both handed out hundreds of

brochures and introduced many people to WreathsForTheFallen.org ! The people, the flags, the music, the speakers – everything was awesome. Dave Swantek – the cemetery director – did an amazing job of preparing a service and program that truly honored our fallen veterans and their families. The Patriot Guard stood a flag line for the entire program and helped with the parking. There were so many people it was just breathtaking. A great event to be part of. Lots of photos and videos from the service have also been posted on the web. Thanks to EVERYONE who helped in any way to make this day so successful and memorable.

The wreaths that were placed by each of the branches of the military looked beautiful. **Thank you to everyone who helped** 'refresh' the older wreaths and make new wreaths – they all looked beautiful. We will continue to work on some of those wreaths as we did not have enough time this year to redo all of them.

Fundraising – We continued to talk about different types of fundraising. We talked about meat raffles, silent auctions and other types of events. Everyone is encouraged to bring their ideas forward. All suggestions would be appreciated. Bob told us about a **meat raffle that will be held at the VFW East Side / Waite Park on Friday June 29th**. Everyone is welcome to attend. They do the work, we just need to have a presence there and hand out brochures.

Meat Raffles – We discussed having several meat raffles this year. We were very pleased with the results of the raffles we had last year and decided it would be great to do this again. Bob Larson has been a great contact person for organizing the raffles. We would entertain any location to have a meat raffle. We could do as many as possible if we have some volunteers to work at the raffles. We need volunteers to help out. Bob informed us that the St Augusta Legion is booked up until August with meat raffles – we need to get on their calendar for August or this fall for sure.

Fairs, Shows, Events- Crow Wing County and Morrison County are fast approaching – in July and August. We still need volunteers to set up a fair committee so that we have a better idea of what we need at the fair, and also get people signed up to work the booth. Anyone interested ????????

Communications - Bob Larson made a contact with the MN School of Business in St Cloud and also at St Cloud State and they have invited him to speak at the school this fall.

Cemetery is Growing ! – We talked about how fast the cemetery is growing and the number of funerals that are held each day. Our goal to place a wreath on every grave keeps getting bigger and bigger. Plans are in the works to create several new areas at the current cemetery at Camp Ripley yet this year and also

build 3 more State cemetery's in Minnesota – one by Preston MN and the other up by Duluth and another in SW Minnesota. Our mission is expanding!!

IV. Other Notes:

Norv Pervier will head up the Civil Air Patrol wreath fundraising drive this year.

Thank You Norv!

Price of the **wreaths** will remain the same this year at **\$15.00 each**.

Events are being **posted daily** on our web site.

Bob Larson mentioned that we should **hold our general meetings to 1 hour**.

We all agreed on this – making mention that maybe more people would attend if they knew the meeting would only take about an hour.

Agenda – if anyone is interested in being on the agenda for any meeting that they should call John at 218-829-6622 and he would add them to the meeting agenda.

Our sympathies are going out to Ron Robbins who lost his brother in May.

Ron – you are in our thoughts and prayers and you have our deepest sympathy!

We are thinking of you.

V. Next General Meeting

Next general meeting will be held on Tuesday June 12th at 6:30 pm at the Little Falls VFW. All are welcome. We will try to hold all our general meetings to 1 hour.

VI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.

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

Minutes submitted by: Carrie Johnson

Minutes approved by : _____