

WreathsForTheFallen.org

Officers Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2012

I. Call to order

John Thomas called the October officers meeting to order at 2:10 pm at the Fort Steakhouse in Fort Ripley MN. All our officers present were – John Thomas, Bob Larson, Ron Robbins and Carrie Johnson.

II. Treasurers Report

Ron Robbins reported that the checking account balance was \$ 26,077.62 and the savings account balance was \$1,085.33.

Contributions to date are \$ 25,687.50 and coming in every day.

Bob Larson reported that the Vietnam Veterans donated \$1060.00 to us from their pig roast this fall. THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU !!

The officers talked about **the budget** for next year – for 2012 we had budgeted approximately \$5,000.00 for administrative and general expenses but thought we will have to increase that to \$7,000.00 - \$8,000.00 to cover the possible increase in printing, mailing and other expenses that may have to be covered. We will discuss the budget at future meetings.

III. Other Topics we discussed

Memorial Wreaths – we talked about the current status of the Memorial Wreaths that we are designing for the Memorial Day Ceremony at the cemetery. We agreed that the project should be put on hold till after December. There are now 11 wreaths that will have to be made. We decided to focus our attention on the wreath laying ceremony at this time. We have time this winter and next spring to finalize that project.

Christmas Memorial Wreaths – we talked about pricing, vendors, the bids we have received. **Current number of grave sites at the cemetery as of 10-23-12 is 3209 !!!** Bob Larson is working on the bids that have been submitted. We will be purchasing the wreaths from Erickson's Greenhouse and Mickman Brothers. These will be the same suppliers as we used last year.

Communications - John Thomas updated us on some interviews that he will be doing on some local radio stations. On 10-12 he will be on KKIN in Aitkin, on 10-24 he will be on WJJY in Brainerd, on 10-26 he will be on 3WI in Brainerd and on 10-29 he will be on KNSI in St Cloud. He will have a very busy schedule. He will also be reaching out to other radio stations and TV stations in the area.

Community Representative - We discussed again having Community Representatives from many different cities and towns in Minnesota. We will work

to put together 'kits' for each representative to have to promote WreathsForTheFallen.org in their communities. We will try to get as much information as possible to each representative so as to make their work easier. We are going to work on a checklist to make sure everyone gets the same information. We want to get this ready this winter.

Patriot Guard – They will be helping us at the ceremony again this year. John Thomas will be in touch with Rick Johnson to go over the details.

IV. Other Notes:

Conference Calling – we are going to try using conference calling to connect with our officers and members sometime in the near future. John has contacted the phone company and has all the details to make conference calls so that many people can be connected on the same phone call. We are going to try this to see how it works and if we have any interest. He will set the time of the call and anyone who would like to join in just has to dial # 605-475-4000 and then enter the code they receive via e-Mail. If all goes well we would all be connected. John will send out an email to give us all the details. This would save people a lot of driving time and maybe more people could participate. The first test of the conference call system is scheduled for October 30th.

V. Next General Meeting

Next general meeting will be held on Tuesday November 13th at 6:30 pm at the Little Falls VFW. Everyone is welcome. We will have to go over a lot of plans at this meeting so please try to be there if you are helping with the wreath ceremony. We will try to hold the meeting to 1 hour but may run over as this will be a busy meeting. Please bring any suggestions or comments with you as this will be the time to bring them up.

VI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.

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: _____

