

WreathsForTheFallen.org

December Meeting Minutes

General Meeting and Section Leaders Meeting

December 7, 2013

- I. The sign in sheet was passed around for everyone to sign.

It was a horrible cold day so our attendance was lower than expected but a great turnout in spite of the weather.

All section leaders and others involved with the wreath laying ceremony were asked to attend this meeting to prepare for the National Remembrance Ceremony at the MN State Veterans Cemetery at Camp Ripley MN which will be held on Saturday December 14th. There were 15 members/volunteers present, Chuck Katka, Carl & Diann Bates, Charlie Makidon, Jerry Patton, Mary Vogt-Patton, Bob & Denise Larson, Jayme Storlie, John Thomas, Roger Danielson, Bill Balaski, Dick McConnell, Fuzzy Christen and Carrie Johnson.

- II. John Thomas called the meeting to order at 11:00 at the Canteen by the main gate of the Veterans Cemetery at Camp Ripley. This was a combined December General meeting and the Section Leaders Meeting. A special moment of silence was observed as this was the 72nd Anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

- III. John passed around sheets that listed all section leaders, the sections that the wreaths will be placed, phone numbers and email addresses of everyone helping place the wreaths and others helping with the information table, KIA wreath laying, parking and other people who have donated and/or working with the refreshments. There will be 7 sections that will have wreaths placed along with the columbarium and wreaths for the KIA's. Some wreaths will stay at the ceremonial area

and some kept on hand for future burials this winter. He also had a map of the cemetery showing how the sections were laid out. We will have an information table again inside at the committal building with several members available to help visitors with any questions they may have and to help visitors find the section they may be looking for. They will have name tags so they can be identified. A donation jar will be placed at the information table.

- IV. Guidelines for section leaders – John also passed out a printed set of guidelines to be followed by all section leaders the day of the ceremony. These guidelines were very informative and detailed and will be very helpful to everyone and are to be followed very closely by everyone. These guidelines covered everything from staging the wreaths, communications, information cards, timing, refreshments, actual laying of the wreaths, special sponsored wreaths, parking, ceremonial area wreaths and maps.
- V. Staging – Staging of the wreaths will begin at 7:30 a.m. – no later. Delivery trucks will be there around 7:00. 4 different trucks will deliver wreaths – TCBX – Mickman – WAA and Norgaard.
- VI. National Remembrance Ceremony begins at 11:00 a.m. This is the same time that all ceremony's take place in the United States. Ceremony should take around 20 minutes. No wreaths are to be placed until AFTER the ceremony. Someone will stay in each section to stage during the ceremony.
- VII. KIA's wreaths are placed BEFORE any other wreaths are placed.
- VIII. Special Grave Specific Requests are placed next. Anyone who had requested a wreath to be placed on a specific grave site will be placed by a family member and if no one is in attendance the wreath will be placed by a volunteer.

IX. Placing wreaths – John went over the details of laying the wreaths – which are listed in the guidelines. Several people had questions and wanted to verify the correct way to lay a wreath. John and Dave Swantek reviewed everything before today's meeting.

X. 2 way radios will be provided by Long Lake Conservation Department which will greatly aid in the communications and in case of an emergency. Thank you ! Fuzzy Christen will pick up and deliver the cookies from Apperts – Thanks Fuzzy and Craguns Resort has offered to pay for the refreshments. Thank You ! Tom Smith will get the coffee and 2 families will work the refreshment area – Pete & Jan Bauer and Jennifer Eibensteiner Family. Roger Danielson and Rick Johnson are in charge of parking. We talked about logistics of parking. There will be a donation jar at the information table. There will be at least 6 volunteers helping at the information table this year.

XI. Patriot Guard will have a flag line at the ceremony. Post mission and recap will be at the Canteen following the ceremony. Patriot Guard will also have a meeting that afternoon at the Canteen.

XII. Wreath Removal will be on Saturday – February 1, 2014. Everyone who is able is asked to help on this day.

XIII. Next general meeting will be in January 2014 – dependent on the weather. No date was set. Might have it on February 1st after we take the wreaths off the graves. Watch your emails for updates. The next officers meeting will be after the wreath laying ceremony. John will send out an email and this might be a conference call.

Discussion also included the most efficient way to hand out the wreaths, having the cards in alphabetical or numerical order. We will address that after the ceremony and get input from all section leaders.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m. The canteen provided a special lunch and many of the members enjoyed lunch during and after the meeting.

Minutes submitted by: Carrie Johnson, Secretary

Minutes approved by: 
John Thomas, President

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING AND HELPED IN
ANY WAY TO MAKE THIS EVENT SUCH A GREAT SUCCESS.
EVERYTHING THAT EVERYONE DOES IS APPRECIATED BY SO MANY.