



# Annual Meeting & Report

July 12, 2014

Annual Meeting Agenda – Saturday July 12, 2014  
Camp Ripley Snack Bar - Little Falls

**\*\*1:00pm\*\***

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call – Sign in (*everyone signing in will be on the Board of Directors for this meeting and will be entitled to one vote*)
3. Opening 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."**

4. Approval of minutes from last meeting (*as posted on our web site*)
5. Treasurers Report – Ron Robbins, Treasurer
6. 2013 Year in Review
7. 2014 to Date and Future Projects & Events
8. Guest Speaker; Major John Donovan from Camp Ripley
9. Sign up for County Fairs and State Fair
10. Assembling Brochures for distribution.
11. Future use of conference calls for meetings:
12. Q & A
13. Closing Prayer (*Carl Bates*)
14. Adjournment

**\*\*Meeting time may be adjusted for allowing for refreshments**

# 2013 Financial Report

10:49 AM  
06/30/14  
Accrual Basis

## WreathsForTheFallen.org Profit & Loss January through December 2013

	TOTAL
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
43400 · Direct Public Support	
43450 · Individ, Business Contributions	49,467.17
Total 43400 · Direct Public Support	49,467.17
45000 · Investments	
45030 · Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	3.31
Total 45000 · Investments	3.31
46400 · Other Types of Income	0.04
Total Income	49,470.52
Gross Profit	49,470.52
Expense	
61000 · Wreath Purchase	
61100 · Memorial wreaths	541.87
61000 · Wreath Purchase - Other	29,755.00
Total 61000 · Wreath Purchase	30,296.87
65000 · Operations	
65010 · Books, Subscriptions, Reference	128.00
65020 · Postage, Mailing Service	592.39
65030 · Printing and Copying	2,207.34
65040 · Supplies	1,179.94
65050 · Telephone, Telecommunications	590.81
Total 65000 · Operations	4,698.48
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	
65110 · Advertising Expenses	
65112 · Promotional Expences	1,474.55
Total 65110 · Advertising Expenses	1,474.55
65100 · Other Types of Expenses - Other	25.00
Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses	1,499.55
68300 · Travel and Meetings	
68310 · Conference, Convention, Meeting	22.94
68320 · Travel	80.97
68300 · Travel and Meetings - Other	137.49
Total 68300 · Travel and Meetings	241.40
Total Expense	36,736.30
Net Ordinary Income	12,734.22
Net Income	12,734.22

## 2013 Year in Review

1. The year started out fairly slow with a few officers meetings to take care of routine business matters. Editing our brochure, mailing letter, sponsorship forms and preparing for our yearly mailing which totaled over 2000 letters.
2. We made several presentations to various groups. Several county fairs honored us with an invitation to participate at there military day activities. The big surprise was, we received an invitation to be in the Minnesota State Fair on Military Day. We scrambled to acquire the necessary items to have a presentable booth. All in all everything worked out OK and we were able to hand out over 2000 of our 4 color brochure to the fair goers. We were also honored by the presence of Rose Clement and her beautiful “Flag” bike. We were able to find some space to display it as well. Her bike proved to be a great attraction for our area.
3. We were invited to be on a number of radio stations during the year. KKIN Radio in Aitkin had us on several times. Our thanks go out to Charlie Makidon and Carroll and Joy Janzen for providing that opportunity to spread the word. Other radio stations we were on include:
  - a. 3Wi Brainerd
  - b. KLTF Little Falls
  - c. WJJY Brainerd
  - d. WVAL Sauk Rapids
  - e. KNSI Saint Cloud
  - f. WDAY Fargo “Heroes of the Heartland with Eric Marts”
  - g. WCCO TV Minneapolis

*(Many of the interviews are posted on our web site)*
4. In August we made a mailing of 2220 letters and brochures. Shortly after the contributions and wreath requests started to arrive. This kept us quite busy as we received 977 contributions and 941 grave specific wreath requests. 174 more than 2012. Between taking phone calls and listing contributors and specific wreath requests filled over 1160 lines in our yearly financial spread sheet kept the office busy.
5. We were invited to have a booth at the Camp Ripley Open House on September 1<sup>st</sup>. At a special ceremony Camp Ripley paid special honor and recognition to two veteran related civic organizations; the Minnesota Patriot Guard and WreathsForTheFallen.org.

6. One of our projects was to replace the over 20 year old artificial wreaths used at the May Memorial Service at the cemetery. With the assistance of a number of businesses (*Crafts Direct, Action Graphics, American Steel, Iten Creative,*) we were able to construct new wreaths and plaques for the center of each wreath. Each one representing each branch of service and a number of service organizations as well. A large storage cabinet was also constructed by Herget Building so the Memorial wreaths would be protected and kept in good condition during the year of storage.
7. The December 14<sup>th</sup> National Remembrance Ceremony and wreath laying was an extremely successful event. Due to the added contributions from many commercial and veteran organizations we were able to provide 3549 wreaths to honor our country's fallen veterans. They were delivered to the cemetery at 7am on the 14<sup>th</sup>. In a short time the appropriate numbers of wreaths were staged at all the sections. Meanwhile inside the committal building work was underway to set up hot beverages (*donated by Caribou Coffee*) and cookies (*Appert's Foodservice*) for everyone. Also information tables were set up with two computers to aid in looking up grave locations. By 11am many people had arrived for the ceremony and wreath placement. After the ceremony everyone went to the various sections and in a short 35 minutes every grave site of our country's fallen veterans and their family members had received a wreath. A truly remarkable event. Everyone should give your selves a big hand for such an achievement.
8. The wreath removal was accomplished on February 1<sup>st</sup> in short order due to the participation of the many supporters that came to assist with the removal. The Little Falls American Legion Post 46 also performed a Flag disposal Ceremony and over 500 American Flags were retired from daily life.

## **2014 to Date and Future Projects & Events**

1. The year started off fairly quiet. After the February 1<sup>st</sup> wreath removal we basically took some time off for the first few months of the year. Now it is time to again prepare for spreading the word about WreathsForTheFallen.org on radio stations, County Fairs, presentations to groups, The State Fair, and our yearly mailing.
2. We had been asked by David Swantek, Cemetery Director, to assist in arranging Parking Coordination, Traffic Control, Wreath Presenters and Flag removal after Memorial Day.
  - a. Three of our faithful supporters, Rick Johnson, Jim Parent, and Roger Danielson stepped up to form a parking committee to coordinate the volunteers that are needed to assist with the various parking and traffic duties. The Brainerd American Legion Riders Post 255, Boy Scout Troop 33 from Swanville, along with a number of Patriot Guard members and other volunteers were able to park 1176 cars by the time the ceremony started. There are now several other organizations that indicated they would like to assist in future events.
  - b. We were able to arrange for 12 wreath presenters, each representing a branch of the service or organization. Also Freddie Barbeau and Maggie Brotherton handled the issuing of the Memorial wreaths to the presenters.
  - c. The day after Memorial Day it rained, causing a delay in the removal of the flags. Good weather on the following Thursday allowed the removal. With the added assistance of the Gold Star Ambulance crew along with a number of soldiers from Camp Ripley we were able to remove the over 3000 flags and prepare them for storage in about 45 minutes. Another remarkable achievement from all our supporters.
3. One of our faithful supporters, Laura Becker-Pallister asked if she could set up our portable booth at Wal-Mart in Saint Cloud on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and pass out some brochures. With the assistance of Bob Larson they were able to distribute several hundred brochures in just a few hours.

4. When it comes to providing a booth at county fairs or other civic events we have learned it is next to impossible to have enough people to staff the booth for several days. We have learned that participating at a one day event such as a military day we are more successful.

a. Possible 2014 fair dates are;

1. July 29<sup>th</sup> Crow Wing County Fair
2. August 7<sup>th</sup> Morrison County Fair
3. August 10<sup>th</sup> Benton County Fair
4. August 26<sup>th</sup> Minnesota State Fair

“The 2014 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Military Appreciation Day will be Honoring children of service members. What booths can expect: convey into fair grounds in the morning with one vehicle to set up booth, man booth from 8:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m., free entrance tickets for booth workers. You will need to bring all equipment for your booth (to include table and chair). You will be invited to call into coordination meetings bi-weekly starting in late June.”

5. Some of our display items we have acquired include:

- a. 1 small & 1 large lighted folding picture board
- b. Large TV and DVD player
- c. Folding banquet tables and patriotic chairs
- d. A portable booth that can be used at any event.
- e. WFTF T-shirts
- f. Wireless sound system
- g. We have also ordered a number of patriotic display items such as table covers, pendants, banners and the like. The State Fair day is designated to honoring veteran’s children so we have ordered some special individually wrapped USA flag Buttermints for the kids.

*(Guest Speaker; Major John Donovan from Camp Ripley)*

6. Sign up time for the fairs:

7. Future:

- a. As you know The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) broke ground on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> last year on a new State Veterans Cemetery in southeastern Minnesota. The 169-acre site was donated by Fillmore County and is located just off Highway 52 in Preston, Minnesota. We have been asked to see if we can provide the same service to our country's fallen veterans at Preston as we do in Little Falls. The new cemetery is scheduled to open in 2015.
- b. Work is underway to acquire a veteran's organization near the new cemetery's location to undertake the placement and removal of the honor wreaths each year.
- c. Over the years we have developed an operational plan that has worked very well not only in raising the necessary funds and being able to honor our country's fallen veterans each year.
- d. Additional veteran's cemeteries in the Duluth area and Southwest Minnesota are scheduled for future construction.

8. Future use of conference calls for meetings:

- i. Our supporters and contributors live in many cities, not only in Minnesota, but other cities in the US also. We have found that driving to monthly meetings is not practical due to the distances involved for many. We have been using a telephone conference call system for our officers', meetings for some time now and it has worked out quite well for most meetings.
- b. Our regular monthly meetings can be reduced to only a few that is necessary for planning our participation in the new state veterans' cemeteries and events such as fairs and preparing our brochures.

**Looking into the Future:**

- c. The number of fallen veterans we will honor grows each and every year. In just a few years we will have a total of four state veterans' cemeteries here in Minnesota. This will allow visiting families to be within 75 miles of one of the cemeteries.
- d. Current plans are to keep all accounting and the official business at the present location.
- e. Maps of the Preston cemetery and a revised map of the MSVC in Little Falls are on the last two pages of this report.



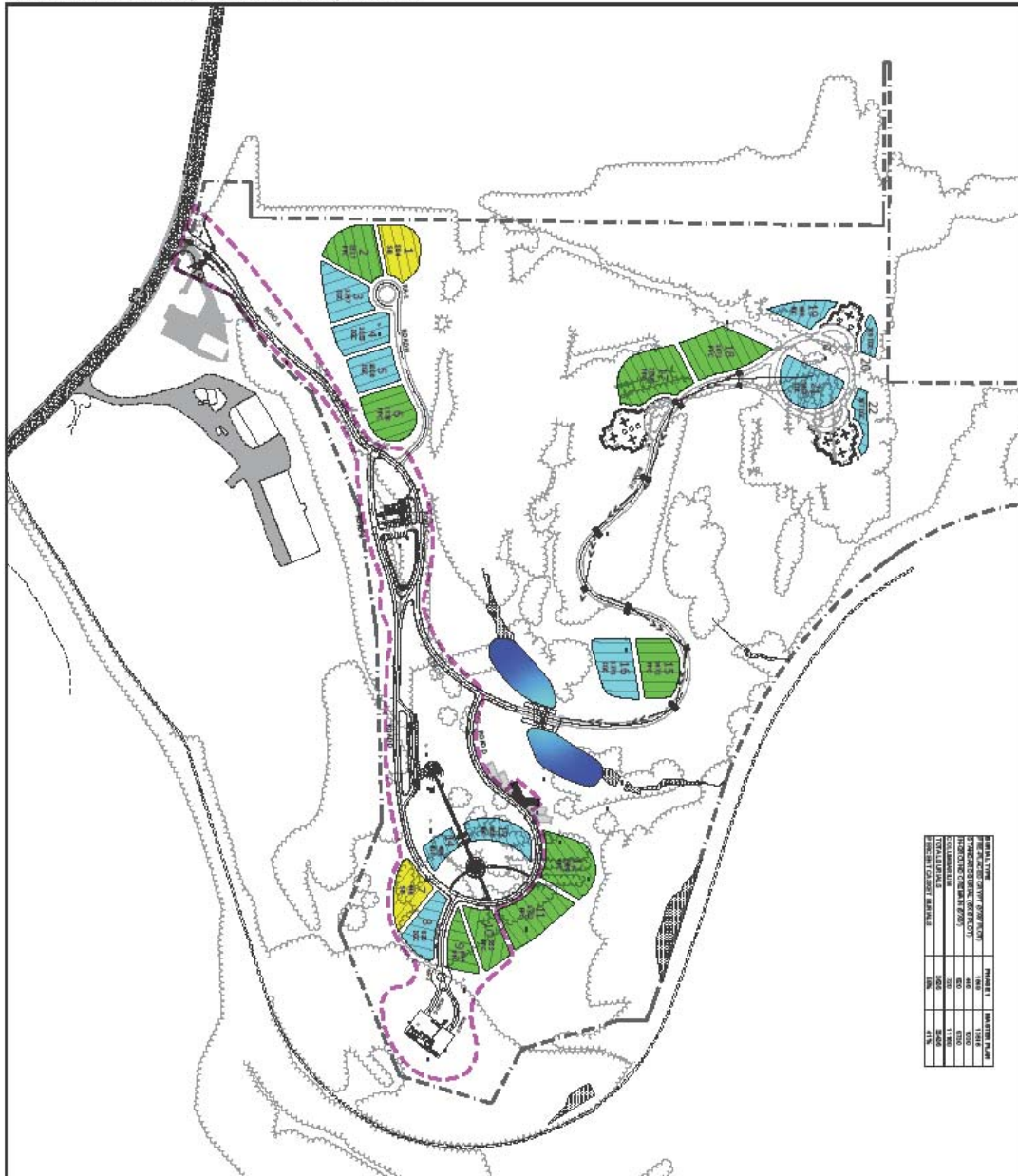
We wish to thank all who have been so helpful in our mission to honor our country's fallen veterans and their families.

Many have volunteered and performed duties that greatly contributed to our success.

# THANK YOU!



Photo by Carrie Johnson



ITEM	QUANTITY	UNIT	AREA	PERCENTAGE
PROPOSED STANDARD BURIAL	150	SQ. FT.	150	100%
PROPOSED PRE-PLACED CRYPTS BURIAL	150	SQ. FT.	150	100%
PROPOSED 18'-GROUND CREMATION BURIAL	150	SQ. FT.	150	100%
PROPOSED PRE-PLACED CRYPTS - DOUBLE DEPTH BURIAL	150	SQ. FT.	150	100%
TOTAL	600	SQ. FT.	600	100%



- LEGEND**
- PROPOSED STANDARD BURIAL
  - PROPOSED PRE-PLACED CRYPTS BURIAL
  - PROPOSED 18'-GROUND CREMATION BURIAL
  - PRE-PLACED CRYPTS - DOUBLE DEPTH BURIAL
  - IN-GROUND CREMATION (7'x7' BURIAL PLOT)
  - STANDARD BURIAL (7'x7' BURIAL PLOT)
  - IN-GROUND CREMATION (7'x7' BURIAL PLOT)
  - PHASE 1 DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARY

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION

**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**PRESTON STATE VETERANS CEMETERY**  
**MASTER PLAN 1**  
**BURIAL MASTER PLAN**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE SEAL, PROFESSIONAL LICENSE NUMBER AND SIGNATURE OF THE DESIGNER ARE IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.  
 PROJECT NAME: PRESTON STATE VETERANS CEMETERY BURIAL MASTER PLAN  
 DESIGNER: JAMES J. JOHNSON  
 EXPIRES: 2016  
 LICENSE NO.: 400000

JAMES J. JOHNSON, P.E.  
 2025 S. Highway 96 NW  
 Grand Rapids, MN 55743  
 Tel: (828) 484-4800  
 Fax: (828) 634-1211  
 www.johnsonp.com  
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