

# **WreathsForTheFallen.org**

## **Annual Meeting Minutes**

**7-12-14**

### **I. Call to Order**

John Thomas our President called the 2013 Annual Meeting and the July General Meeting for WreathsForTheFallen.org to order on Saturday July 12th, 2014 at 2:00pm at the Camp Ripley Snack Bar at Camp Ripley in Little Falls MN. (Prior to the meeting at 2:00 everyone joined at 1:00 to have a cash bar lunch and to assembly brochures)

### **II. Roll Call**

There were 15 members present. Members present were – Ron Robbins, Norv Pervier, Doreen & Thomas Norgaard, Laura Becker Pallister, Carrie Johnson, Fran & Bill Kokett, Mykel Barthel, Carl & Diann Bates, Freddie Barbeau, John Thomas, Trudie & Richard McConnell and Norma Hudson. Everyone in attendance signed the sign in sheet and each person was entitled to one vote. Everyone present also received an Annual Meeting and Report binder consisting of the agenda, 2013 Financial Report, 2013 Year in Review Report, 2014 Projects and Events, and a map of the cemetery. They also received several informational handouts regarding the State Veterans Cemetery at Camp Ripley.

After the call to order we all stood and faced the American flag and joined in reciting 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**

Motion was made by John Thomas to approve the minutes from the last meeting that had been posted on our web site. Extra copies were also available at the meeting. Motion was approved by everyone present. All minutes are retained in the minute book and also posted on our web site at [www.wreathsforthefallen.org](http://www.wreathsforthefallen.org) on the Organizational Information page.

#### **IV. Treasurers Report**

Our Treasurer, Ron Robbins gave the treasurer's report for the period ending June 30<sup>th</sup> 2014. The beginning balance in the general account on June 1<sup>st</sup> was \$7,164.56 after paying administration expenses of \$780.30 and making deposits of \$725.00 the ending balance at June 30, 2014 was \$7,109.26.

Ron has been giving monthly treasurers reports at the monthly Officers meetings. All reports are maintained by Ron Robbins and Carrie Johnson. John Thomas made the motion to approve the Treasurer's report and it was approved as read by everyone present.

**Contributions and Sponsorships** – Total contributions to date (6-30-14) are \$6,756.25 compared to \$3,381.92 at 6-30-13.

John Thomas maintains a complete spreadsheet of all contributions.

It was noted that all contributions of \$250.00 or more will automatically have a tax exemption receipt mailed to them to comply with IRS regulations.

#### **V. Old Business**

**2013 Year in Review** - John Thomas reviewed with everyone the highlights of 2013. Everyone had a review in the handouts they had received so everyone had a copy. Thanks to John Thomas, Norv Pervier and Ron Robbins for putting the booklet together.

**Memorial Wreaths** – David Swantek has asked John Thomas if we could make another Memorial Wreath made for the XPOW organization. This would be one of the wreaths presented / honored at the annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the State Veterans Cemetery at Camp Ripley. Everyone present agreed and we will proceed to get the necessary materials to make the wreath.

**Cemetery Expansion** – John gave us an update on the Veterans Cemetery in Preston MN and also on the expansion at the Camp Ripley cemetery. Section 12 at Camp Ripley will be filled by the end of August. We discussed what we will need to do once the Preston Cemetery is finished. WFTF.org will supply wreaths to everyone buried there and hopefully the wreaths will be placed by volunteers from that area. Completion date and first burial will be in 2015.

VI. **New Business**

**State and County Fairs** – Several MN County fairs will be starting soon and WFTF.org would like to have volunteers present at the Military Appreciation Days at the local fairs.

**Crow Wing County Fair – Tuesday July 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Morrison County Fair – Thursday August 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Benton County Fair – Sunday August 10<sup>th</sup>**

**MN STATE FAIR – Tuesday August 26<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am – 4:00 pm**

Mykel Barthel graciously offered some space at his booth at the Crow Wing County Fair but it was decided that we would have someone present only on the Military Appreciation Day since we do not have many volunteers to cover all the days that the fairs run. Thanks Mykel – your offer was wonderful – we only wish we had more people to attend and work at the fair. We had a signup sheet available and many members signed up – THANK YOU SO MUCH!!! Anyone willing to volunteer any part of the day at these fairs should contact John Thomas at 218-829-6622 or any other officer.

**MN STATE FAIR** – Please call John Thomas at 218-829-6622 if you would like to volunteer your day at this fair. This fair is a great venue to introduce our organization to many hundreds of people.

**July 3<sup>rd</sup> @ Wal-Mart** – Laura Becker Pallister volunteered her time to set up a table at the Wal-Mart in Sauk Rapids MN (along Hwy 15) on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bob Larson also came to assist in spreading the word about WreathsForTheFallen.org. they greeted many people and received some cash donations. THANK YOU LAURA for your time and energy to get out and share our mission with so many!!! If anyone else would like to share their time by setting up a table at a local store or restaurant please let us know. We have many supplies and equipment available to set up almost anywhere.

**Wreath Laying Ceremony – SATURDAY DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> AT 11:00 AM.**

The Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony for 2014 will be held on Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:00. Please mark your calendars! Please watch for updates and attend meetings and/or conference calls if possible. WFTF.org will have many new jobs this year and everyone's help is appreciated.

### **VII. Next Meeting**

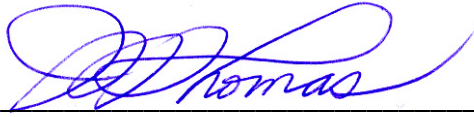
**A date for the next monthly meeting for WreathsForTheFallen.org was not set at this time. A conference call may be arranged. John Thomas will send out any information regarding upcoming meetings.** Conference calls have been working quite well and saves everyone drive time. Everyone agreed that we might not need monthly meetings but quarterly meetings would be good. The next Officers meeting will be set up by the Officers sometime in August. Please watch for emails and messages regarding meeting times or places.

### **VIII. Closing Prayer and Adjournment**

Carl Bates led us in our closing prayer. Thank you Carl.  
Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Carrie Johnson and seconded by Ron Robbins. Meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm

**THANKS FOR COMING TO THE MEETING – IT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!**

Minutes submitted by: Carrie Johnson, Secretary  
WreathsForTheFallen.org

Minutes approved by:   
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John Thomas, President  
WreathsForTheFallen.org

Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us at our meetings and share our website with them: [www.wreathsforthefallen.org](http://www.wreathsforthefallen.org)

and LIKE our Facebook Page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/WreathsForTheFallen.org>