

WreathsForTheFallen.org

December Officers Meeting

December 29, 2014

The December monthly officers meeting for WreathsForTheFallen.org was held at the Fort Steakhouse in Fort Ripley at 1:00 pm. This meeting was called to recap / review the Wreath Laying Ceremony that was held on December 13, 2014 and to have a quick planning meeting for 2015.

Meeting was called to order at 1:10.

Officers present were John Thomas – President, Ron Robbins – VP, Carrie Johnson – Secretary, Bob Larson – Wreath Procurement Officer and Rev Shirley Nelson.

Treasurers Report: Ron Robbins emailed his monthly report to Carrie Johnson. He will submit a yearend report at the annual meeting. John Thomas presented his detailed spreadsheet for the period ending 12-29-14 to all officers. It included all donations received in 2014 including the contributor and all donation amounts and to whom, if designated, there were any grave specific requests. The spreadsheet is very detailed and kept with confidentiality. Total contributions at 12-27-14 were \$ 57,973.00. Ron also reported that we would be opening several new bank accounts for the new cemetery's that are being planned in MN – one in Preston MN and one in Duluth. Preston Cemetery will begin internments in 2015.

Other Discussion Included:

Mickmans – John Thomas reported that he had contacted Mickman Brothers regarding the wreaths purchased for the ceremony. They were very pleased that they could supply wreaths this year and would be more than happy to help us out again in 2015. John also told them about the new cemeteries in Preston MN and one being

planned in the Duluth area. They said they would also be happy to provide wreaths for those 2 locations as well.

Section Leader Volunteer Briefing – Everyone present was asked to make comments on this year’s ceremony and make any suggestions with any changes or ideas for next year. Everyone had prepared a list of comments and suggestions and they will be compiled for the annual meeting and the section leaders meeting for next year. Lots of good comments were made along with comments received from other members during the ceremony. Overall it was a very positive event with good comments and everyone expressed their Thanks for so many excellent volunteers that made the event such a great success. John will be sending out ‘Thank You’s within the next week.

KIA’s – The special wreath laying part of the ceremony was discussed and it was unanimously decided by everyone present that we would not have a special KIA wreath laying part of the ceremony in future years. We all agreed to adopt as part of our policy the policy based on the MN State Veteran’s Cemetery as described in their handbook. We felt that this was appropriate and the correct way to handle this situation.

Sign in Sheets – At future ceremony’s we will have a sign in sheet for all volunteers.

Wreath Procurement Officer – Bob Larson will continue to be our wreath procurement officer.

Chaplain – Reverend Shirley Nelson was at our meeting today and we invited her to be our Chaplain for WreathsForTheFallen.org. She has an extensive biography which includes being an ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church, pastoring since 1996 in several different states, a Counselor in Addictions, Health, Grief, Dissociative Disorders and other life issues. She has worked as a social worker, enjoys accounting, gardening, music and art. She recently purchased a

home in the Baxter area and enjoys volunteering at various organizations. She agreed to be our Chaplain and everyone present was very pleased and happy to have her as part of our organization. She can be reached at Chaplain@WreathsForTheFallen.org or at the Wreath office at 218-270-3070. Welcome Shirley – we look forward to having you with us!

Memorial Day Ceremony – It was discussed that we would not be doing any ceremony at the Preston Cemetery in 2015.

2015 Meetings – We discussed having quarterly meetings in 2015. We will bring this up at the annual meeting as well. Meetings could be specific in nature as to cover issues that need to be addressed at the time.

Wreath Removal- The removal of the wreaths will be on Saturday, January 31st at 11:00. Everyone is welcome to help and your help would be greatly appreciated. Dress for the weather and after the removal everyone is welcome to go to the Canteen for refreshments and lunch if so desired.

Winter Months – No meetings have been scheduled for the winter months as many of our members travel south and the roads and cold conditions make it harder for everyone to get together. Please watch for emails on any news and meeting dates.

Annual Meeting - We are planning on having our Annual Meeting sometime in March. This would include a wrap up of 2014 and a plan for 2015. John Thomas will look into a location for the meeting and will send out emails and post on our Facebook page when the meeting will take place.

Next officers meeting will be determined at a later date.

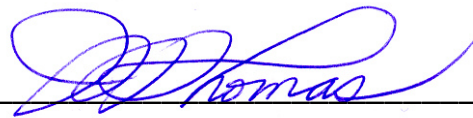
Next general meeting will be our Annual Meeting. Date, time and place to be determined. Please watch your emails. Please call our wreaths office at 218-829-6622 with any suggestions.

Adjourn- This meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Carrie Johnson

Secretary – WreathsForTheFallen.org

Minutes approved by: _____



John Thomas, President

WreathsForTheFallen.org

Please invite you family, friends and neighbors to join us at our meetings and also share our website with them:

www.wreathsforthefallen.org. Also check us out on Facebook – [wreathsforthefallen.org](https://www.facebook.com/wreathsforthefallen.org)