

# WreathsForTheFallen.org

## Annual Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2015

**I. Call to Order**

John Thomas, President of the WreathsForTheFallen.org, called the 2014 Annual Meeting to order on Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the VFW in Little Falls MN at 1:55 pm.

**II. Roll Call**

There were 21 members present. Those present were – John Thomas, Norv Pervier, Ron Robbins, Carrie Johnson, Charlie Makidon, Debi Makidon, Brenda Robbins, Richard McConnell, Jerry Ratcliff, Jayme Storlie, Fuzzy Christen, Trudie McConnell, Diann Bates, Carl Bates, Mykel Barthel, Dave Dressler, Laura Becker-Pallister, Rosie Hauge, Jim Parent, Jason Olson and Bridget Olson. Everyone in attendance signed the sign in sheet. Everyone present was entitled to one vote if a vote was required.

**III. Opening Pledge of Allegiance & Prayer**

Everyone stood, faced the flag and recited 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.”

Carl Bates led us in prayer and we took a moment of silence to remember the 5 Marines that were killed earlier in the week.

**IV. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting**

We had not had any general meeting yet this year so the minutes were from the Officers Meeting that was held on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2015. Minutes were accepted as submitted and posted on the web site.

**2014 Year End Treasures Report**

Ron Robbins, our treasurer gave his treasures report. At 12-31-14 the checking account balance was \$ 15,464.70 after all wreath expenses were paid for. At June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the checking account balance was \$3,346.88.

Total contributions received through 12-31-14 were \$58,216.63. We currently have a checking account, savings account, Memorial Wreath account and the Preston Cemetery account. Year End financial statements were included in the Annual Report. Motion to accept the treasurer’s reports was made by Jayme Storlie and seconded by Robert “Fuzz” Christian.

**V. 2014 Year in Review**

John Thomas prepared a several page handout for the Annual Meeting. Part of that handout included several pages of events and projects we were involved in throughout the year of 2014. It was very well put together and very informative, including but not limited to events we attended (fairs etc), memorial wreath project, brochures, mailings, Memorial Day ceremony, placing flags and also removing them, and the Wreath Ceremony that was held on December 13<sup>th</sup> 2014. We placed 3800 wreaths in record time thanks to many helpful volunteers.

**VI. 2015 Proposed Projects and Events**

Another part of the Annual Report was a section for upcoming events and projects. Many of the events were attending local fairs, military rendezvous and Camp Ripley's open house. Lots of discussion about our presence at fairs and the complex rules some fairs have for anyone to have a booth and/or use space provided at the fair. Time and committed volunteers are an essential part of attending fairs and each fair will be handled separately. WreathsForTheFallen.org will only do events that deal with Veterans. A thank you was extended to all those who have volunteered at fairs and other events. John Thomas also shared with everyone the 'Honorable Mention' that he had received from the St Cloud Rendezvous and the Camp Ripley Open House thanking the Patriot Guard and WFTF members for everything they do for the Veterans and their families.

The Memorial Day Flag placement and removal was discussed at length in regards to who should do it and are there other organizations that will be in charge. Several other organizations have indicated they would like to take part in this project.

Preston MN Cemetery is a huge project for 2015. That cemetery is opening in the fall with the first burials projected in November. John has been corresponding with David Swantek about our role in any wreath ceremony that may be held down there this year.

Camp Ripley Veterans Cemetery Expansion is also projected and planned for 2015 which will result in many more wreaths to be placed in 2015.

Information regarding these expansions is included in the Annual Report.

**VII. Annual Report – Other Information**

Conference call information was also included in the report as well as photos, a map of the cemetery, and brochure and printing information.

## VIII. Other Discussion and Q & A's

Assembly of inserts for the brochures – we completed this before the meeting started. Everyone present helped – great project done.

Events – comments and requests - for having a booth at various events throughout the year were made. Comments were heard from several people. Charlie Makidon asked if we could attend a Blue Grass Festival in July. WFTF has also received notifications for bike rides and other Veterans events that have been posted on our EVENTS page on our Web site.

Two way radios have been received from the Long Lake Conservation Center in Palisade MN. These have been donated to be used at the Wreath ceremony. John Thomas has replaced the batteries and has gotten all of them working. Thanks for the radios!

Parking at the Ceremony – discussed at length – Jim Parent offered to help with the parking at both the Memorial Day event and the Wreath Laying Ceremony. Jim and John will discuss details at a later time.

KIA's at the wreath laying ceremony was discussed. Because of the legality and wordage in the cemetery protocol we have decided not to lay special wreaths for the KIA's this year or in the future.

An Event Committee was talked about so that someone would be in charge of the volunteers and dates and times of specific events and also getting our materials and equipment to the designated sights.

Silent Auction – we discussed having a silent auction with some gifts we have received from several people. Special thanks were given to Jayme Storlie for the BEAUTIFUL fire ring he had made for us. Raffles and drawings were also discussed.

Upcoming Wreath Laying Ceremony was discussed. Norv Pervier will be the Commander in Charge the day of the ceremony and the speaker. More details will be handled as we get closer to the event date.

Meat Raffles – Fuzz Christian has confirmed that we can have some meat raffles at the St Augusta Legion. Friday nights or some Sundays have been mentioned. No dates have been set but Fuzz will set something up and keep us up to date.

Roberts Rules of Order were discussed for future meetings.

**IX. Closing Prayer**

Carl Bates led us in a closing prayer. Thank you Carl!

**X. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm

**XI. Door Prize**

Lucky winner of the beautiful Iwo Jima Print was Mykel Barthel!!  
Congratulations to Mykel!!

Minutes submitted by: Carrie Johnson  
Secretary – WreathsForTheFallen.org

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
John Thomas  
President – WreathsForTheFallen.org