

WreathsForTheFallen.org

Officers Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2013

I. Call to order

John Thomas called the January officers meeting to order at 12:03 pm at the Fort Steakhouse in Fort Ripley MN. All our officers present were – John Thomas, Bob Larson, Ron Robbins and Carrie Johnson.

II. Treasurers Report

Ron Robbins reported that the checking account balance on 12-31-12 was \$1,594.19. The savings accounts at 12-31-12 were – Preston Cemetery Fund - \$3,000.08, the Memorial Fund - \$1,000.03 and the 2013 Budget account was at \$11,064.41. The checking account at 1-31-13 is at \$2,231.19 after a deposit of \$747.00 and expenses of \$110.00. Ron submitted his report to Carrie for the record.

The officers briefly talked about the budget for this year. We currently have lots of brochures on hand. We will review our budget in the upcoming meetings.

John talked about a company called 'Razoo' which is a company like 'Pay Pal' which collects payments via the internet. We all discussed this and felt we did not need to deal with any more companies such as this. Pay Pal has been working good for us with the online donations and contributions. John notified Razoo and told them we would not be needed their service at this time.

III. Other Topics Discussed

Memorial Wreaths – Our next 'project' that we discussed was about the current status of the Memorial Wreaths that we are making for the Memorial Day Ceremony at the cemetery. There are 11 wreaths that we are making. Bob Larson has contacted Crafts Direct in St Cloud to get pricing for the wreaths. We will be using red, white and blue carnations on a 17" wreath with the emblem for each branch of the Military in the center. Bob & John will be working together to get pricing. At this time they were waiting for Crafts Direct to get back to them.

Flag Removal – February 2nd – a Saturday – will be the day we will remove all the wreaths from the cemetery at Camp Ripley. Rain – snow – or sleet – start at 10:00 am. Fuzzy Christen will arrange for coffee from Caribou Coffee. The Camp will be sending over some men to help us also – this should go quick as it sounds like we will have many 'helping hands' to get the job done.

Unserviceable Flag Ceremony – After the removal of the wreaths there will be an unserviceable flag ceremony at the cemetery. The American Legion from Little Falls is organizing this event. Anyone who has a flag that is no longer in service can bring the flag to the cemetery and it will be disposed of properly. Everyone is invited to stay and witness this ceremony. John has sent out emails regarding other details.

Communications - WFTF.org does not have any interviews planned at this time. The busy season is over – John can rest a little! We are all very thankful for all the coverage we received last year from the radio stations, TV stations, newspapers, posters and other media sources – it was great to have so much interest in our organization.

John is in the process of updating our (WFTF.org) email and long distance phone issues. We need to cancel our Charter Internet service. WFTF.org has been on John's personal lines and we need to change that. WFTF.org has a huge and growing capacity and needs to be changed to a different plan. CTC has a plan that would handle our needs and is reasonable with the rates. John has been reviewing plans and companies and feels this is a good choice. The officers all authorized John to go ahead and change plans and go with CTC out of Brainerd.

Email addresses: We are looking at changing / adding more email addresses. Some suggestions were: Events, Contacts, Information, Officers, and Support. John will keep us updated on any new email addresses that will be available for everyone to use. Please watch your emails for updates and changes to WFTF.org phone #'s and also email address for WFTF.org and also for John.

Community Representative - We discussed having Community Representatives from many different cities and towns in Minnesota. John has been working on putting together 'kits' for each representative so they would have all the tools to promote WreathsForTheFallen.org in their communities. Items would include – business cards, name badge, brochures, signs, decals, letterhead, envelopes and banners. The kit would include a history of WFTF.org and directions of how to promote what we do and how they should ask for contributions. We will work on this big project in the coming months.

Conference Calling – The conference calling is going good and we will continue to do that as is necessary. Thanks for everyone who has participated in those calls. John will always send out emails and instructions prior to any conference calls.

Web site links – Veterans Helping Veterans will have a link on our website.

IV. New Business

Annual Meeting – The Annual Meeting for WreathsForTheFallen.org will be on Tuesday March 12th at 6:00 pm at the VFW in Little Falls MN. Actual meeting will be at 6:30 – but you can fill your plates at 6:00. Bob Larson is the OCCCCCC – in charge this year and he has made plans for the dinner.

We will have **a vote** at the meeting for a **new Vice President**. Bob Larson will be stepping aside and we will need to replace him. Hate to see him step down as he has done a wonderful job for WFTF.org and a tremendous help to get this organization set up. We will miss him but know that he will still be active. He has other organizations that are dear to him that he wants to help out. We support him in everything he does. Everyone who attends the meeting will have a vote. At this time we have 2 nominations: Mykel Barthel and Norv Pervier

V. Next General Meeting

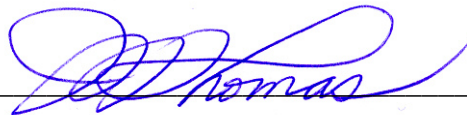
Next general meeting will be held on Tuesday February 12th at 6:30 pm at the Little Falls VFW. Everyone is welcome. Depending on the winter weather and comments received this may be a conference call type meeting. Please watch your emails for information.

VI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:15pm.

Minutes submitted by: Carrie Johnson

Minutes approved by: _____

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J Thomas", is written over a horizontal line.

If you have any questions or need any information please log into our web site at www.wreathsforthefallen.org or call John Thomas at 218-454-0448