

# ***WreathsForTheFallen.org***

## ***Meeting Minutes***

**April 12, 2011**

### **I. Call to order**

John Thomas called the regular meeting for the WreathsForTheFallen.org to order on Tuesday April 12, 2011 at 6:30 pm at the St Augusta American Legion Post 621 in St Augusta MN .

### **II. Roll call**

A sign in sheet was passed around and signed by everyone present. There were 23 members present. Fuzzy Christen, Greg Studer, Ron Daniels, Jason Olson, Starr Marshall, Carrie Wahl, Norv Pervier, Ken & Joyce Tveit, Bob & Denise Larson, John Thomas, Ron Robbins, Rick & Carrie Johnson, Freddie Barbeau, Jamie Storlie, Bill & Fran Kokett, Jerry & Marion Robbins, Curt Hutchens and Jerry Ratcliff. It was FANTASTIC to have so many members at the meeting! Thanks to everyone for coming and participating – it was a great meeting!

### **III. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

The minutes from the last meeting which was held on March 8<sup>th</sup> at the VFW in Little Falls, MN had been emailed to all members on file and a copy was also available at this meeting to be reviewed. A motion was made by John Thomas to approve the minutes, Fuzzy Christen seconded the motion - motion was passed and the minutes were approved.

### **IV. Treasurers Report**

The treasurers report was read by Ron Robbins, treasurer. He reported that the beginning balance on March 1<sup>st</sup> was \$ 2,376.85, after expenses of \$ 1,194.30 and donation deposits of \$ 355.00 the balance at 3-31-11 was \$1,537.55. Jamie Storlie made motion approve the treasurers' report as read, Norv Pervier seconded the motion. Motion passed – Ron submitted report.

### **V. Committee Reports**

**Wreaths Procurement Committee** – Bob Larson, committee chairperson, gave his report. He stated that not much had happened during the last month but that the committee will continue to check on pricing for the wreaths and keep us updated at future meetings. Comments were made about the wreath stands, it was mentioned that we are still checking into that but had to have everything approved by the Cemetery Board. It was noted that there are now 3812 gravesites at Camp Ripley cemetery as of 4-12-11.

**Contributions Committee** - Norv Pervier, chairperson for the committee, presented his report. He reported that 550 Organization and 550 Sponsorship forms had been printed and tri-folded FREE of charge by Lakes Printing in Brainerd MN. **A HUGE THANK YOU to Lakes Printing!!!** Norv said the committee will continue entering names and addresses into the database and working on the mailing list. Joyce Tveit has been working very hard to process all the Thank You's received last year and reported that it was very touching to read all the notes and letters received from the many donors. She said our work was very appreciated by people who could not provide a wreath themselves for their loved one. Joyce said that so many of the donations were for more money than just 1 wreath so that more wreaths could be provided for those unable to do so. Some of these letters will be on our web site for everyone to view. Before and during our meeting we had a table of **GREAT volunteers** stuffing envelopes with letters and sponsorship forms to get ready to mail! They had a great time and got a lot of work done in a short amount of time – **THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED!**

Lakes Printing also printed 2000 letterhead, envelopes and business cards for a very reasonable charge of \$ 250.00! They have been very helpful and supportive of wreathforthefallen.org.

John Thomas added that he contacted Bob Schole about the Microsoft Access accounting program for managing all the donations.

**Web Site Committee** – John Thomas, chairperson for the committee, gave an update on the status of the web page. He had his video set up and went through the whole web site – making note of how to maneuver the sight. **GREAT presentation and a wonderful web site. THANKS TO JOHN and Patrick Iten** for all the countless hours of working on the web site. Pictures, videos, veterans' memorabilia, donation page, news articles, press releases, upcoming events, links to Patriot Guard, Civil Air Patrol, Camp Ripley, MN State Veterans Cemetery, our history and goals, are just some of the many areas that you will be able to access on the web page. The web address is [www.wreathforthefallen.org](http://www.wreathforthefallen.org) and John commented that if anyone entered .com or .net they would be automatically redirected to the official site. This should make it very easy to access the site. We will let all the members know when it is up and fully operational. When it is, please check it out and share the address with everyone you know. It is an amazing web site with lots of information – not only about our organization but many other veterans' sites. John Thomas and Lydia Sasse are the contact persons if you should have any concerns about the site.

Jamie applauded all the committee members and the process that was being made by everyone. Everyone has done a great job in getting so much done already this year! Congrats to everyone!

## **VI. Old Business**

Carrie Johnson reported on the status of the 501(c) (3) tax exempt application with the IRS. She reported that the application had been filed with the IRS and we have received a letter on 3-31-11 from the IRS stating that the application is being

processed. The letter did not state how long the process would take – could be up to 6 months. She mentioned that the paperwork is also being processed by the State of Minnesota for that tax exempt status.

## **VII. New Business**

The idea of having patches, stickers, decals was also discussed. Good conversation about ideas, people who can provide help, where to get them made, costs and how to distribute them. The patch seemed like a great idea to promote wreathsforthe fallen.org. We will continue to explore the options.

John brought up the idea of **FACEBOOK** and maintaining that outlet. It would be a great social media site that would access hundreds and hundreds of people. Starr Marshall said she would be interested in helping with that site.

Jason Olson talked about the Motley Fair this summer. He said they would donate booth space for us during the fair! The fair runs from June 24 – 26<sup>th</sup>.

We would have to have someone be at the booth during the fair hours.

**THANKS to JASON OLSON** for lining this up – it will be a great place to promote our organization!

## **VIII. Next Meeting**

It was decided that the next general monthly meeting will be on **Tuesday - May 10<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm. at the VFW in Little Falls. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month.**

Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us – ALSO - please share with them information about our web site and that they are welcome anytime! Web address is: [www.wreathsforthe fallen.org](http://www.wreathsforthe fallen.org). It should be fully operational soon.

## **IX. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Jamie Storlie and seconded by Bill Kokett.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING!!  
IT WAS A GREAT MEETING!**

Minutes submitted by: Carrie Johnson, Secretary

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

***Remember - - "It's not about Us – It's about Them"***