

WreathsForTheFallen.org

Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2011

I. Call to order

John Thomas called the regular meeting for the WreathsForTheFallen.org to order on Tuesday June 14, 2011 at 6:40 pm at the Brainerd American Legion in Brainerd MN.

II. Roll call

There were 16 members present. A sign in sheet was passed around for everyone to sign. Those present were, Ron & Sharon Robbins, Carl & Diann Bates, Jerry Ratcliff, Bob & Denise Larson, John Thomas, Lydia Sassie, David & Laura DiMartino, Freddie Barbeau, Bill & Fran Kokett, Carrie Johnson and Norv Pervier.

Opening Prayer – Freddie Barbeau led us in prayer. After the prayer Carl Bates updated us on the condition of Pastor ‘Chip’ (Julian) Avelsgaard and several other veteran funerals and visitations in the area. We included Chip in our prayers and Carl will continue to let us know how he is doing. We all signed a card for Chip and his family.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes from the last meeting which was held on May 10th at the VFW in Little Falls were presented. The minutes had been emailed prior to the meeting to all members on record. Ron Robbins made a motion to approve the minutes, motion was seconded by Lydia Sassie. Motion was approved. Minutes were approved as submitted.

IV. Treasurers Report

The treasurers report was presented by Ron Robbins, treasurer. He reported that the beginning balance on May 1st was \$ 1,208.39. Promotional and administration expenses of \$167.39 were paid in May, and a deposit of \$30.00 left a balance of \$1,071.00 at the end of the month. Bob Larson made motion to approve the treasurers report as read and Norn Pervier seconded the motion. Motion passed – treasures report approved and submitted by Ron.

V. Committee Reports

Wreaths Procurement Committee – Bob Larson, committee chairperson, gave his report. He reported that he had contacted several greenhouses about purchasing the wreaths this year. He was still waiting for some pricing for the wreaths and delivery charges. He commented that things were looking good. He will continue to keep us updated at each meeting.

Contributions Committee – Norville Pervier, chairman of the committee presented his report. He stated that while the web site still needed some fine tuning he still had the bulk mailings to be sent out to the VFW's and American Legions. The date for those to be sent out was discussed and we decided to go ahead with the mailing. The letters for the individual requests were being stuffed and prepared for mail at the meeting. Several members present were working on this project. THANK YOU !

Norv also had the brochures and holders available. He handed out lots of brochures to the members present so that they could be placed at different locations in the area. He will keep track of the locations. The brochures are extremely well done and a very nice hand out to anyone interested in our organization. These brochures will also be available at our booth at the Crow Wing County Fair and the Morrison County Fair – both fairs being held in August. Norv submitted his report to the secretary.

The issue of receipts was mentioned – John Thomas had a form as designated by the IRS for receipts and will make copies to be sent out to donors. It was agreed that receipts will be sent out only for donations over \$250.00 as the IRS specifies, unless the donor requests one.

Web Site Committee – John Thomas, chairperson for the committee, gave an update on the status of the web page. The web address is www.wreathsforthefallen.org and it is **UP and RUNNING!!!** Please let everyone you know about this site- it is a fantastic web site with lots of information relating to our mission, our organization, Veterans, events, history, videos, pictures and a multitude of other things. Please log onto the site and 'move' around the site. Let John Thomas know if you have any issues and he will gladly try to fix it, and also if you have anything that you would like posted on the site. This web page is for the members so feel free to access it anytime and share it with your friends, family and anyone who may find it interesting and helpful.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JOHN THOMAS - for working so hard and so long in getting this web site up and running – from start to finish !!!! His dedication to this organization is astonishing. The web site is fabulous - Thank you John !!

Lydia Sassie is in charge of posting any related events. If you have any information to post contact her at **218-765-4477 or 218-330-1085**.

John has also logged into Google Analytics which is a program that monitors our web site activity. It is a great free service and will help us track hits on the site.

VI. Old Business

Carrie Johnson reported on the status of the **501(c)(3)** tax exempt application. Our application **HAS BEEN APPROVED!!!** WreathsForTheFallen.org is now an official 501(c)3 organization ! The approval letter from the IRS is posted on our web site. The state has been sent a copy of this ruling and they are continuing to process our ST-16 form at this time. They now have everything they need to complete their filing process.

Brochures – we had 3500 brochures printed up and we purchased 3 cases of 24 brochure holders.

Fair booths, dates, times and sign ups were discussed. A sign up sheet was available to sign up to 'man' the booth at the Crow Wing County Fair and the Morrison County Fair. We still need lots of people to sign up. There is a sign up schedule posted on the web site or just call John Thomas at 218-829-6622 if you would be willing to spend some time at the fair to visit with people about our organization. The Crow Wing County fair – in Brainerd – runs from Tuesday August 2nd to Saturday August 6th. The Morrison County Fair – in Little Falls – runs from Thursday August 11th thru Sunday August 14th. If you or anyone you know would like to help out it would be greatly appreciated!!!

We will be able to share booth space with different groups – Army recruiting, Marine Corp, the Civil Air Patrol and Little Falls VFW. THANKS so much for letting us share the booth space – we greatly appreciate it!

Meat Raffle – There will be 2 meat raffles at the St Cloud Eagles Club with proceeds going to the wreathsforthe fallen.org. They will be on July 8th and July 22nd. If you can help work either of these nights it would be great! Please call Bob or Denise Larson at 320-240-9508 or 320-266-3061 if you can help out. It should be a fun time! Great time to support our mission, support the Eagles Club and visit with old and new friends!!

VII. New Business

We have been invited to prepare a presentation for VFW in Cold Spring on Tuesday July 12th. This is a regional meeting for Eastern Stearns County VFW's. John will do the presentation and Bob Larson will accompany him.

The Senior Center in Brainerd would also like a presentation and some brochures.

VIII. Next Meeting

Motion was made by Norville Pervier to cancel our July meeting because of the conflict with the meeting and presentation at the Cold Spring VFW. Ron Robbins seconded the motion and it was approved to cancel the July meeting. **The next meeting will be on August 9th at the VFW in Little Falls at 6:30pm.** We will however be emailing updates on the fair and other important information – so please watch your emails!

Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us at our meetings
– and share our web site with them.

Web address is: www.wreathsforthefallen.org

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Dave DiMartino and seconded by Lydia Sassie.
Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

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

Minutes submitted by: Carrie Johnson, Secretary

Minutes approved by:



Remember - - “It’s not about Us – It’s about Them”