

WreathsForTheFallen.org

Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2011

I. Call to order

John Thomas called the regular meeting for the WreathsForTheFallen.org to order on Tuesday August 9th, 2011 at 6:34 pm at the VFW in Little Falls MN. (There was no regular meeting in July due to meeting conflicts.)

II. Roll call

There were 12 members present at the meeting. A sign in sheet was passed around for everyone to sign for the record. Those present were, Ron Robbins, Bob Larson, John Thomas, Lydia Sassie, Freddie Barbeau, Bill & Fran Kokett, Carrie Johnson, Norv Pervier, Mykel Barthel, Dr. Mike Denery and Richard Gadarian.

Opening Prayer /Pledge of Allegiance

After roll call we all stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. It had been a long time since many of us had to say that. We did well and it felt good. Everyone should say that every once in a while just to reaffirm our beliefs.

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.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes from the last meeting which was held on June 14th at the American Legion in Brainerd were presented. The minutes had been emailed to all members on record prior to this meeting and also posted online on our web page at www.wreathsforthe fallen.org . John Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes, motion was seconded by Bob Larson - motion was approved. Minutes were approved as submitted.

IV. Treasurers Report

Our treasurer – Ron Robbins -presented the treasurers report next. He actually submitted reports for June & July since we did not have a meeting in July. He reported that the beginning balance on June 1st was \$ 1,071.00. He paid promotional and administration expenses of \$1,102.68 and made deposits of \$2,438.52 leaving a balance of \$2,406.84 at the end of July. Bob Larson made motion to approve the treasurer's report as read and Lydia Sasse seconded the motion. Motion passed – treasures report approved as submitted by Ron.

V. Committee Reports

Wreaths Procurement Committee – Bob Larson, committee chairperson, reported that he is continuing to contact wreath providers to get prices and deadlines for ordering wreaths. He has a meeting with Mickman Bros on 8-15-11 to get their pricing and what their deadline is for ordering wreaths. Mykel from Ericksons Greenhouse in Brainerd was present and gave his update for what he can do for us this year. He commented that he is prepared to do up to 4000 wreaths. He has the machines, space and trucks to handle this quantity of wreaths. He has a big cooler and he can start to cut bows after the 2nd frost of the year. He has 8 wreath makers ready to go. The number of wreaths that we will need will depend on the donations received prior to the deadline and the number of sites at the cemetery which continues to increase. John Thomas stays in touch with Dave at the Camp Ripley cemetery about changes and updates.

Contributions Committee – Norville Pervier, chairman of the committee presented his report. He reported that he has received 20 donations from different organizations ranging from \$ 20.00 - \$ 500.00 and 13 donations from individuals. Total donations received are just over \$ 3400.00. The donation jar at the Crow Wing County Fair brought in \$180.00. Norv encourages everyone to spread the word and ask people and organizations for donations so we can reach our goal of placing a wreath on every grave site at the Camp Ripley National Cemetery. He continues to work on mailings. We have more brochure holders and flyers to distribute. Bob Larson reported on the meat raffles –we made \$350.00 at the 1st meat raffle at the St Cloud Eagles club , \$300.00 at the 2nd raffle at the St Cloud Eagles Club and \$276.00 at the raffle at East Side VFW. We did not work at the East Side VFW location but they donated the raffle proceeds to us! A huge **THANK YOU** goes out to them and to everyone that donated and/or helped out to organize or work at the raffles. It was a great time and a great opportunity to meet and greet and raise some money. At this time we do not have any meat raffles scheduled but we would like to do more if anyone knows of an opportunity please let one of the officers know and we can make arrangements to help out.

Web Site Committee – John Thomas, chairperson for the committee, along with Lydia Sassie gave an update on the web page. Our web page address is: www.wreathsforthe fallen.org. They reported everything is going well with the new site. John can get reports that track the activity on the site which is very interesting and informative. He can tell which areas on the site have the most hits and the most interest. Very interesting tracking reports. Please let everyone you know about this site - it is a fantastic web site with lots of information relating to our mission. If anyone has events, videos, pictures or articles they would like to share on the site please call John Thomas or Lydia Sassie and they will be

able to post it on the web page. This web site is for the members and we would like to make it a fun and interesting site for everyone. There are several events posted on the site already so please check it out! Anyone who visits the web site can make a donation so please tell everyone that if they are interested in making a donation they can do so on the web! All contact information is on the web site.

VI. Old Business

Bob Larson and John Thomas each reported on the meat raffles, the Cold Spring VFW presentation, the Brainerd Senior Citizen presentation and the Crow Wing County Fair. The presentations are going good with good attendance and lots of interest. The Crow Wing County fair was rather disappointing as we did not have very many volunteers to help out at the booth. Just a few members had to cover every day and night at the fair. We discussed having a chairperson for the fairs that could organize volunteers and make sure everything need would be available and taken care of. We are scheduled to be at the Morrison County fair in Little Falls this week but so far have very few volunteers scheduled. The county fairs are a great venue to meet people and recruit members. If you can help out in any way it would be greatly appreciated - please let us know.

Brochures – we ordered more brochures and holders. They have been handed out at fairs and businesses in the area. It was discussed that we should make an insert to put into the brochures so people can become members or make a donation with that insert. It would include our mailing address on it and people could fill in their name, address and make a donation with any honoree that they would like to honor with their donation. Everyone agreed that would be a great idea so Lydia Sassie made a motion and Bob Larson seconded the motion to make a 1/3 page insert to be put into the brochures. Everyone approved –motion carried. When we reprint the brochures – at a later date – we will incorporate this insert into the brochure so it will be one piece of literature.

Meat Raffles – We do not have any planned at this time but would be very interested in participating in additional meat raffles this fall if anyone has information on any possibilities. Please call Bob Larson at 320-240-9508 or 320-266-3061. It's a great time to support our mission, support the sponsoring locations, meet and greet and visit with old and new friends!!

VII. New Business

Facebook – we are now on Facebook! Please add us as a FRIEND and be up to date on our organization!! Tell all your friends!! You can call Lydia Sasse if you need more information about our Facebook account.

Newspaper Database – John Thomas reported on the progress of our newspaper database that he and Joyce Tveit have been working on. The report

is very detailed and will be extremely helpful to send out news releases. Joyce has 404 listings already! **Thanks to Joyce and John** for the tedious and time consuming job - it is SO appreciated by everyone. This database will be a very useful tool in communicating with the public everywhere in Minnesota.

Logo Patches, Badges – Ron Robbins made up some badges with our logo on to be worn at the fairs, raffles and presentations so we could be more easily recognized at these events. He did an excellent job! John also passed around some patches he had made with our logo on that can be sewn on vests or jackets. The patches were passed around and everyone thought that was a great idea. Our cost would be \$5.00 each. We would sell them to anyone interested. Bob Larson made a motion to initially buy 25 at a cost of \$125.00. Rob Robbins seconded that motion – everyone agreed and the motion passed. John Thomas will place the order with Minnesota T's from Brainerd and the patches should be available at the next general meeting.

Fundraising Possibilities – We discussed different possibilities to raise money through fundraisers, raffles, drawings etc. Mykel Barthel shared with us a fundraiser/raffle drawing that his organization the Bond Slaves is having this fall. They are selling raffle tickets for \$1.00 with many prizes being donated to them for the raffle. He mentioned that part of the proceeds will be donated to our organization – WreathsForTheFallen.org. The Bond Slaves is a motorcycle club that does various things for people in need. Several of our members took books of tickets and will be out selling these tickets. The drawing will be held on September 8th in Brainerd. Please contact Mykel at Ericksons Greenhouse at 218-829-5213 if you would like more information or tickets. We discussed more ways to raise money. More ideas will be addressed at the next meeting.

Patriot Guard - Short discussion about what role that Patriot Guard will be playing in placing and removing the wreaths this year. They have always been a huge part of this event and we are very thankful for their help. We are staying in touch with them. We are working on getting a contact person to work between the 2 organizations regarding the dates and times.

Officers meeting – The next officers meeting will be on August 23rd at 2 pm at the Fort Seakhouse.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next general meeting for all members will be on September 13th in Brainerd at 6:30. (6:00 to visit and eat)! Location will be at the American Legion unless you hear otherwise. Please watch for emails for updates and news!

IX. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Freddie Barbeau led us with a closing prayer.

Motion to adjourn was made by Carrie Johnson and seconded by Fran Kokett.

Everyone approved - motion passed -meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED!!
GREAT MEETING!**

Minutes submitted by: 

Minutes approved by: 

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

Web address is: www.wreathsforthe fallen.org

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