

WreathsForTheFallen.org
Officers Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2011

I. Call to order

John Thomas called the officers meeting to order at 3:00pm at the Fort Steakhouse in Fort Ripley MN.

II. Roll call

All officers were present, John Thomas – President, Bob Larson, Vice President, Ron Robbins, Treasurer and Carrie Johnson, Secretary.

III. Treasurers Report

Ron Robbins gave the treasures report. He reported that the bank balance on July 31, 2011 was \$2,406.84. He shared with us a spreadsheet that he is working on to track the donations received. John Thomas passed around a donation report for us to review that will be refined and updated as new donations are received. We were all in agreement that the more detailed the report the better it will be to track who the donations are for, how much the donation was, who sent the donation – name and address. All this information will be saved for future use and will save so much time in preparing mailings and thank you's.

IV. Old Business

We discussed the Crow Wing County Fair and the Morrison County Fair. We all felt it was pretty disappointing in our volunteers and with the attendance at the fairs. We appreciated everyone who stepped forward and spent time at the booths but felt that maybe next year we need to readdress the issue of having a booth at the fairs. We found out that a lot of our members were too busy to volunteer any time and some members worked double and triple shifts to cover all time slots. We will maybe see if we can get a Fair Chairperson for next year and see if we can get more volunteers signed up. It was a great opportunity for us to spread the word about WFTF. We did however get \$ 254.51 in donations at the fair so that was great!

Bob Larson mentioned that he will be working at the Benton County Fair in the Vietnam Veterans Booth in August. He will let us know how that turned out at the next general meeting on September 13th in Brainerd. It is great that we were able to join other groups in their booths this year.

Bob Larson gave us an update on the meat raffles and we all concluded that they were very successful for WreathsForTheFallen! We will look for other places to have additional meat raffles this fall.

John Thomas gave us web site update. He shared with us how he can track the 'hits' on our website at www.WreathsForTheFallen.org The web site is active and contains a substantial amount of information. John Thomas and Lydia Sassie add

new events, photos and videos regularly. He has added several 'related links' that make the web site even more interesting.

John mentioned that the 'newspaper database' is continuing to grow as more information is added. He now has 404 newspaper listed in the database thanks to Joyce Tveit who transcribed most of the data..

John reported that as of August 22, 2011 there were a total of 3,986 internments at the Camp Ripley Cemetery. This number changes weekly based on the number of burials. We are projecting that we will need approximately 2500 to 3000 wreaths this December. The total number is adjusted for burials in the columbarium, second internments, and wreaths that will be placed by the Civil Air Patrol.

Facebook – now has 60 friends!!! We want to use Facebook to make new friends and spread the word about our organization.

V. Open Issues

Bob Larson gave a report from the wreath procurement committee. He and John Thomas made a trip down to Mickman Brothers Inc – a huge wreath making corporation in Ham Lake, Minnesota. They learned Mickman's have about 500 people making very high quality wreaths in the fall of each year. They were greeted by the CEO and the President of the company and received a tour of the facility. Mickman Brothers prepared a proposal for providing wreaths for WreathsForTheFallen.org this year. That information will be shared at the next general meeting to be held in Brainerd on Tuesday September 13, 2011. They also received a full color brochure along with samples describing the different wreaths they make. Bob will be meeting with Mickman Brothers again after the next general meeting. No decisions have been made regarding any suppliers.

T-shirts and patches are on hold as the supplier has changed some pricing so this will also be brought up at the next meeting. Nothing has been ordered at this time.

John Thomas had 2000 brochure inserts made up – to be put into the brochures we already have. These inserts are 1/3 of a regular sheet of paper and have room for names, address, and information so people can order wreaths with this form. It also has information about paying with a check or credit card. We felt this would be a great addition to the brochure and a quick easy way for people to make a donation without going on the web site. Everyone took some of these inserts to put into any brochures they still have.

Final item addressed was the topic of the Patriot Guard and the WreathsForTheFallen.org. John was going to draft up a letter to the Patriot Guard and get a dialogue going between the 2 organizations. We will bring this up at the general meeting.

VI. Next meeting time & place

The next general meeting is set for Tuesday September 13th at 6:30 at the American Legion in Brainerd MN. Meet, greet and eat time can start at 5:00 PM.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Carrie Johnson, Secretary



Minutes approved by:

John Thomas, President

