

# ***WreathsForTheFallen.org***

## ***Officers Meeting Minutes***

September 27, 2011

### I. Call to order

John Thomas called the officers meeting to order at 2:20 pm 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 reported that the bank balance on August 31, 2011 was \$ 5,081.97. He also reported that the donations to date were \$11,457.79. A spreadsheet was presented by John and reviewed showing all contributions received, from who, the date received, for which honoree if indicated by contributor and other necessary information. It is a very detailed report of all donations received.

### IV. Topics of Discussion

John Thomas gave us an update on the number of internments at the Camp Ripley National Cemetery. As of September 23, there were 4025 internments. This number continues to grow daily. John will continue to monitor the internments so we can have an accurate number of wreaths available for the wreath laying ceremony in December.

John also updated us on the web page activity. He commented that he has received very favorable comments regarding the site. He is asking for anyone that knows of any events to post that they would contact him or Lydia Sasse so they can be put on the web. John's # 218-829-6622 Lydia's # 218-765-4477 or 218-330-1085.

John commented that he had a meeting the Capt. Marcel Kobberdahl from the Brainerd Squadron Civil Air Patrol about our organization and to update him with all our activities and plans. He is still planning on meeting with Pat Cruze with the St Cloud Civil Air Patrol sometime in the next month. He also met with Mykel Barthel, owner of Erickson's Greenhouse and brought him up to date with our plans. He also thanked Mykel for the wonderful donation from the raffle put on by the Bond Slaves.

John has updated the History of the Wreaths Laying Ceremony on the WreathsForTheFallen.org Facebook web site. A copy of the revised history will be put on our web site also.

John submitted a letter he received from the United States Postal Service informing us that we were now approved to mail at the Nonprofit Standard Mail rate for all of our mailings!! This is a huge accomplishment and privilege from the US Postal Service! Thanks to John and Gregory Hall, manager of the Brainerd Post Office, for preparing and filing the application form. A copy of this authorization is posted on the web.

Radio news – John Thomas will be doing radio interviews several times in the coming months to advertise and promote wreaths for the fallen. On Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup> he will be on station 95.9 FM in Brainerd. And on October 10<sup>th</sup> he will be on KLTF out of Little Falls – station 960 AM at 10:00 am. He is planning on additional interviews as time permits.

Bob Larson – Vice President – reported on recent activity with the Wreath Committee. He is currently compiling information he has received from Mickman Brothers and Erickson's Greenhouse about the cost and delivery of the wreaths. He is closely watching the internments and the donations received to be able to plan for the wreath ceremony on December 10<sup>th</sup>. He will present an update at the general meeting in Little Falls on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

Facebook – we are still looking for Friends! If you go to our Facebook page and click on the LIKE icon we can be friends. Tell your friends!

We have 3 administrators on the Facebook account – John Thomas, Lydia Sasse and Laura Dimartino.

Patches – We have received our patches from Minnesota T's!! They look awesome and will be available at the next meeting. Only \$5.00!! That is our cost. These look great and can be easily sown on Patriot Guard vests and various fabrics.

## V. Open Issues

Other issues that we addressed included:

Planning for the wreath ceremony – who is going to arrange and plan the distribution of the wreaths once they get to the cemetery.

Who will provide the manpower to place the wreaths and then to remove the wreaths when necessary.

Who can be section captains – last year we had caption in each area to instruct the people where and how to place the wreaths. We would like to have volunteers come forward so we don't have to wait till the last day.

Plan the columbarium wreath placement, the number of wreaths needed, and preparing the name cards to display in that area. Also talked about having someone to handle the details for that area. It takes a lot of time to prepare the cards with all the correct information. Any volunteers ???

We also need to prepare a list of organizations and groups that will be present the day of the ceremony.

John will talk with a representative from the Patriot Guard for their status with helping with the wreath ceremony.

We also talked about planning and preparing for the 2012 budget, reviewing the current By-Laws and reviewing the election and terms of the officers.

VI. Next meeting time & place

The next general meeting is set for Tuesday October 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at the VFW in Little Falls MN. Meet, greet and eat time can start whenever you get there! Please join us as this meeting will include lots of planning and logistics for the Wreath Ceremony on December 10<sup>th</sup>!!! Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend!

VII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:31 pm.

Minutes submitted by: 

Minutes approved by: 