

# **WreathsForTheFallen.org**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**October 11, 2011**

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

John Thomas called the regular meeting for the WreathsForTheFallen.org to order on Tuesday night October 11, 2011 at 6:30 pm at the VFW Club in Little Falls, MN.

### **II. Roll call**

There were 13 members present. A sign in sheet was passed around for everyone to sign. Those present were – Jerry Ratcliff, Ron Robbins, Bob & Denise Larson, Bill & Fran Kokett, Mykel Barthel, Jim Parent, Freddie Barbeau Rick & Carrie Johnson, John Thomas and Jayme Storlie.

#### **Opening Prayer /Pledge of Allegiance**

After roll call we all stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Jayme Storlie presented the American flag.

*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 that was held on September 13<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion in Brainerd MN were presented. All meeting minutes are emailed to all members on record prior to the general meeting and also posted online on our web page at [www.wreathsforthefallen.org](http://www.wreathsforthefallen.org) . Everyone present approved the minutes and they became part of the record.

### **IV. Treasurers Report**

Our treasurer – Ron Robbins, presented the treasurers report. He reported that the beginning bank balance on September 1<sup>st</sup> was \$ 5,081.97. In September he paid administration expenses of \$ 19.50 and deposited \$ 5,546.00 leaving a balance of \$ 10,608.47 at the end of the month. Jayme Storlie made the motion to approve the treasurers report as read and Mykel Barthel seconded the motion. Motion was approved and Ron submitted the report. It was also mentioned that the donations to date (10-11-11) are \$ 14,104.74 coming from 311 different contributors.

## V. Committee Reports

**Wreaths Procurement Committee** – Bob Larson, committee chairperson, gave his report stating that the committee is still reviewing the pricing, delivery options and cut off dates for the vendors that he has contacted this year. Mykel Barthel reported that he talked to Pat O'Brien of TCBX Trucking out of Brainerd MN and Mr. O'Brien has agreed to transport the wreaths from Erickson's Greenhouse to the State Cemetery at Camp Ripley free of charge !! **THANKS SO MUCH TO MR. O'BRIEN AND TCBX TRUCKING !!** John Thomas posted a link on our website for TCBX Trucking in appreciation of this generous donation.

**Contributions Committee** – Norville Pervier, committee chairman was not present at the meeting but his report was given by Denise Larson. She read the entire report that Norv had prepared, it was approved by all members present and submitted it for the record. The report stated that he had filled out several sponsorship applications in the Brainerd area and recommended that we as a group should contact Auxiliaries to request donations. Auxiliaries are basically a separate group from the Veterans Organizations and sometimes do not have access to the mailings that we send out. Joyce Tveit also reported in Norv's report that she had contact several businesses in the area and she also had an update on the mailings and brochures she had distributed.

**Web Site Committee** – John Thomas, committee chairperson- gave his update on the web page. He reported that several new links and credits have been added to the site. He had prepared a new revised 'History of Wreaths Laying at the MN State Veterans Cemetery' and passed out copies to everyone. Some changes were noted by members and John will make the changes and post the newly revised history on the web. It was a great discussion about the history and everyone present was part of the discussion. It was great ! John invited everyone to go to the web site and see what it is all about.. Any questions or comments about the web can be directed to John Thomas at 218-829-6622 and/or Lydia Sasse at 218-765-4477 or 218-330-1085.

**Cemetery report** – as of today – 10-11-11 – there are 4051 internments at the State Cemetery at Camp Ripley. A map was handed out showing the different sections at the cemetery. Volunteers signed up for different sections for the wreath laying ceremony that will be in December. John will make up a list of who has volunteered to be section captains.

## VI. Old Business

**Brochures** –Brochures were available along with the inserts. Everyone is encouraged to get the brochures out to various businesses. We have approximately 500 brochures left. So many members present told about the many places they had left brochures and/or posters. It is exciting !

**Facebook update** – nothing new to report.

**Logo patch** – we have sold all of the patches that we had initially purchased from Minnesota T's. We will be ordering more this week. The cost is \$ 5.00 each.

**US Postal Service-** we have received notification from the United States Postal Service that we are now approved to mail at the Nonprofit Standard Mail rates for all of our mailings. Thanks to Johns Thomas and Gregory Hall at the Brainerd Post Office for filing the application. This will save us a tremendous amount of postage. A copy of this authorization is posted on our web site.

**Newspaper update** – John will continue to add newspaper information to his newspaper database. Jerry Ratcliff gave John another newspaper – The Canary- to pull additional information from to be able to reach more readers.

## **VII. New Business**

**Endowment Fund** – Creating an Endowment Fund to perpetuate the future of the wreathsforthe fallen was discussed. It was a good discussion with input from several members. It was agreed that it was a good idea and that we should proceed to get additional information.

**Patriot Guard** - Rick Johnson will be our liaison with the Patriot Guard regarding the wreath ceremony.

**Meetings-** John Thomas is still trying to meet with Pat Cruze of the St Cloud CAP and will hopefully be able to meet with him in the next few weeks.

**Radio News** - John Thomas-our radio celebrity- has lined up several interviews with the local radio stations this fall. The next interview is scheduled for October 14<sup>th</sup> at KKIN radio in Aitkin and the 26<sup>th</sup> on Brainerd radio station WJJY. Please Tune In!

**Gold Star Mothers-** the Gold Star Mothers will be getting together at Maddens in Brainerd this weekend. We will make sure we have some brochures available to them up at Maddens.

**Budget Committee-** The budget for 2012 was addressed and Jayme Storlie suggested that we should have some committee meetings to begin working on the budget for next year.

## **VIII. Next Meeting**

**The next general meeting for ALL members will be on November 8<sup>th</sup> – the second Tuesday of the month - at the VFW in Little Falls, MN at 6:30pm (6:00 to meet, greet and eat)** We are having it in Little Falls again in hopes that more members from the St Cloud area will join us. We will be doing lots of planning and organizing for the wreath ceremony at this meeting since **this will be the last general meeting before we lay the wreaths at the cemetery.** So if you are interested at all in helping with the ceremony please come to this meeting!

The next **Officers Meeting** will be on Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup> at the Fort Steakhouse. At this time we should have more accurate information to be able to preorder wreaths and make additional plans for the ceremony.

**IX. Closing Prayer and Adjournment**

Closing prayer was given by Freddie Barbeau.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jayme Storlie and seconded by Freddie Barbeau. Motion was passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED!!**

Minutes submitted by: 

Minutes approved by: 

Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us at our meetings and share our web site: [www.wreathsforthefallen.org](http://www.wreathsforthefallen.org) .

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