

WreathsForTheFallen.org

Officers Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2011

I. Call to order

John Thomas called the officers meeting to order at 2:30 pm at the Fort Steakhouse in Fort Ripley MN.

II. Roll call

Officers present were, John Thomas–President, Bob Larson–Vice President and Carrie Johnson–Secretary. Treasurer Ron Robbins was absent.

III. Treasurers Report

Ron Robbins was not able to attend the meeting but he submitted his treasurers report to John Thomas who presented it to the Officers. The **total contributions to date are \$ 15,473.12**. He also submitted a check register including all deposits and withdrawals to date. This register will be used to prepare the 2012 budget.

IV. Topics of Discussion

2012 Budget – We have started to prepare a budget for 2012 based on 2011 but also considered many of the expenses (printing, web work, advertising, etc) that had been donated this year by some very generous companies and individuals. The budget will have to take into account expenses that will not be donated next year. The Officers will have several meetings to review 2011 and plan for 2012. A budget is not only needed for our accounting purposes but also for the IRS when we file the year end returns.

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 changes on a daily basis. The number of wreaths needed for the ceremony on December 10th will be based on the number of burial sites, the number of wreaths donated by the Civil Air Patrol and the donations received prior to our cut off date. The estimate to date is approximately 3000 wreaths less what the CAP delivers.

Erickson's Greenhouse from Brainerd MN will be our local supplier of wreaths this year. Mykel Barthel has provided wreaths in the past and will continue to do so this year. He will provide the majority of the wreaths. We will also purchase a smaller amount of wreaths from Mickman Brothers and Wreaths Across America. John Thomas and Bob Larson –(wreath committee chairman) met with Mykel to

review what Erickson's Greenhouse is proposing to provide for wreaths this year. Mykel had given permitting information to Bob for our records. We will be submitting a purchase agreement for the wreaths as soon as we have an accurate number of wreaths needed. It was noted that the donations have been less than expected so far this year and we are hesitant to order more wreaths than the money available. We are extremely hopeful that the next few weeks we will receive additional donations.

John commented that he had a meeting the Capt. Marcel Kobberdahl from the Brainerd Civil Air Patrol and that he is still planning on meeting with Pat Cruze with the St Cloud Civil Air Patrol sometime very soon. The CAP has been very instrumental in the wreath laying ceremony.

John has uploaded the new revised '**History of the Wreaths Laying Ceremony**' on our web site and also on FACEBOOK.

Patches – we have received our second order of patches. They are available now for only \$5.00 (our cost). Please call or email John if you would like one @ 218-829-6622.

Radio news – John Thomas will be doing some more radio interviews in the next couple weeks to advertise and promote wreaths for the fallen. On Wednesday October 26th he will be on WJJY – a Brainerd Radio Station. # 106.7 FM He will be on at 12:10 pm approx. right after the noon news – on their Community Focus program.

Patriot Guard update – John gave an update as to what position the Patriot Guard will have for the Wreath Laying Ceremony. WreathsForTheFallen.org will be responsible for the wreath laying logistics, maintenance and the removal of the wreaths. The Patriot Guard will aid as a non mission. The event will be posted on the WFTF web site and also on the Patriot Guard web site. Rick Johnson will be our liaison between the WreathsForTheFallen.org and the MN Patriot Guard.

Cemetery Section Leaders – We have prepared a list of section leaders to supervise the wreath distribution at the cemetery on December 10th. It will be emailed to everyone who signed up for a section. We will have a 'Pre Run' meeting on Saturday, November 26th at the Canteen to plan and discuss any issues with the ceremony. All section leaders and anyone else who would like to be involved with the planning should be at the meeting. Please watch for more details and/or any changes that may happen. We will also be planning the display and wreath placement at the columbarium.

V. Next meeting time & place

We have set up several meetings for the next 6 weeks.

The next **Officers meeting** is set for Tuesday November 1st at 2:00 pm at the Fort Steakhouse in Fort Ripley.

The next **General meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday November 8th at the VFW in Little Falls – **this will be the last general meeting before the wreath ceremony.**

Reminder - - VETERANS DAY IS FRIDAY NOVEMBER 11TH

Pre Run for the wreath ceremony will be Saturday November 26th at the Canteen.
AND – the Wreath Laying Ceremony is Saturday, December 10th!!!

If you have any questions or need any information please log into our web site at www.wreathsforthefallen.org or call John Thomas at 218-829-6622.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend!

VI. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by:



Minutes approved by:

