

WreathsForTheFallen.org

Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2011

I. Call to order

John Thomas called the regular meeting for the WreathsForTheFallen.org to order on Tuesday night December 13th, 2011 at 6:38 pm at the VFW Club Room in Little Falls, MN.

II. Roll call

There were 19 members present. A sign in sheet was passed around for everyone to sign. Members present were – Leonard & Jan Nelson, Ken & Joyce Tveit, Jerry Ratcliff, Jayme Storlie, David Dimartino, Freddie Barbeau, Norville Pervier, Bob & Denise Larson, Ron Robbins, Mykel Barthel, Fuzzy Christen, Ron Daniels, Jim Parent, Lydia Sasse, Carrie Johnson and John Thomas.

Opening Prayer /Pledge of Allegiance

After roll call we all stood, faced the American flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 November 8th, at the VFW in Little Falls MN were presented. All meeting minutes had been emailed to all members on record prior to the general meeting and also posted online on our web page at <http://www.wreathsforthefallen.org>. John Thomas asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes. No changes or corrections, John asked for approval of the minutes, Jayme Storlie made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted, Bob Larson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IV. Treasurers Report

Ron Robbins, treasurer – presented the report. He reported that the checking account balance on November 1st was \$ 10,594.18. In November we paid office expenses and down payments on wreath contracts of \$2,587.63. Total deposits in November were \$6,442.87 leaving a balance of \$14,449.42 in the checking account. We have set aside \$7,500.00 to pay Erickson's Greenhouse and \$6,390.00 to pay Mickman Brothers for wreaths that had been ordered from them. The balance after these wreaths payments will be made will be \$ 559.42.

At the date of this meeting - 12-13-11- the payment due to Erickson's Greenhouse was \$5,000.00, and \$8,450.00 was due to Mickman Brothers. Jayme Storlie made a motion to accept these payments and Bob Larson seconded it. Motion was made and accepted to proceed with making these payments to Erickson's Greenhouse and Mickman Brothers. The savings account that had been set up at the Deerwood Bank in Brainerd in October has a balance of \$ 5,000.00 to be used for the 2012 expenses. Motion was made to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Motion was passed and Ron submitted his report for the record.

V. Committee Reports

Wreaths Procurement Committee – Bob Larson, chairperson, gave his report. His report was short and sweet! He congratulated and thanked everyone on the wreath committee for their outstanding job and hard work throughout the year and he also extended his thanks to everyone who had helped in any way to make this event so successful. He reported that almost 3000 wreaths had been placed. He said everyone worked well together and was very pleased with the results.

Contributions Committee – Norville Pervier, chairman, gave his report. Total contributions at 12-3-11 were \$25,456.51. He commented that the committee would start fundraising after the 1st of the year since many large corporations need any requests in early in the year to be approved. He also thanked his committee for all their hard work during the year.

Web Site Committee – John Thomas, committee chairman, gave an update on the web site. He had printed off a report from the web showing the usage and 'hits' on the web site. There has been a 92.62% increase in the number of visits to the site. There were 522 visits in the last 30 days. 70% of the visits were new visits to the site. He has had very positive feedback regarding the web page. New photos and videos will be added ASAP of the ceremony and laying of the wreaths. Anyone with photos are encouraged to get them to John or Lydia Sassie so they can be posted on the web. 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 – John Thomas read a letter he had received from David Swantek, the director from the State Cemetery . The letter thanked everyone for all their dedication and hard work that has made a perpetual impact on himself and all of the families of the heroes that we honored by placing a wreath at the ceremony. He said we should be proud of our efforts! John also commented that David was very pleased at how well everything was organized and how well everyone worked together to put this event together.

December 10th Wreath Ceremony Recap – John Thomas asked for comments, suggestions and feedback from everyone regarding the wreath ceremony and placement. EVERYONE had something to share – and no negative comments were received! Lots of comments were received regarding suggestions and ideas for next year to help things run a little better. There were so many people present at the ceremony that some things will have to be addressed before next year. Everyone was asked to email their suggestions and then we will review and implement the suggestions and ideas at the upcoming meetings. **We all had a great discussion!** Thanks to everyone who participated!

VI. Old Business

Logo patch – We sold most of the patches at the ceremony so we may have to order additional patches. We will discuss this at our next meeting.

Budget Committee - The Officers will meet in January to work on and prepare a budget for 2012.

Press Releases and radio News - John Thomas gave a short report on the news media that was present at the ceremony. He feels that there will be more coverage in the days ahead.

Endowment Fund – We did not address the endowment fund at this meeting. It will be addressed at future meetings.

VII. New Business

Thank You's – John Thomas will send a thank you to **Bikers With Big Hearts – Cindy & Cal Wolf** – for providing the hot cider, coffee and cookies at the cemetery.

Jason Olson – was on the agenda but didn't make the meeting.

Wreath Removal – will be on February 4th 2012. This will be done by volunteers much like last year. After the removal of the wreaths we will have an open meeting for everyone! Location and time will be announced after the plans are made. Please watch for details. Carrie Johnson was appointed by John Thomas to be the OCCC – Official Celebration Committee Chairwoman – so if you have any questions or ideas please email her at carrie@WreathsForTheFallen.org. Fuzzy Christen will be in charge of the cleanup crew.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next general meeting for ALL members will be on February 4th – the SATURDAY that we are removing the wreaths from the cemetery. Time and place to be announced – please watch your emails. This meeting will be our ANNUAL MEETING and year end celebration. There will be food and refreshments served. We will also have officer elections at this time. This will also be a time to Thank everyone involved with the ceremony.

Our regular scheduled meeting would have been January 10th 2012 (the 2nd Tuesday of the month) but after discussion it was decided to forego this meeting

and just have it the same day that we have to take off the wreaths. Bob 'Fuzzy' Christen made a motion to forego the January meeting, motion was seconded by Ron Daniels and the motion passed. Everyone was in favor of skipping the meeting in January.

IX. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Closing prayer was given by Freddie Barbeau.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bob Christens and seconded by Ron Daniels..

Motion passed - meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED!!
IT WAS A GREAT MEETING!**

Minutes submitted by: Carrie Johnson, Secretary

Minutes approved by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Thomas", written over a light blue grid background.

Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us at our meetings
and share our web site: www.wreathsforthefallen.org .

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