

WreathsForTheFallen.org

Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2012

I. Call to order

John Thomas called the regular meeting for the WreathsForTheFallen.org to order on Wednesday night February 15th, 2012 at 6:40 pm at the VFW Club Room in Little Falls, MN.

II. Roll call

There were 15 members present. A sign in sheet was passed around for everyone to sign. Members present were – Ken & Joyce Tveit, Jerry Ratcliff, Jayme Storlie, Tom & Kim Rhett, Norville Pervier, Bob Larson, Ron Robbins, Mykel Barthel, Jim Parent, Lydia Sasse, Carrie Johnson, Mike Coffman 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

There was no meeting in January hence there were no minutes from January but the December meeting minutes were addressed and a motion was made by Jayme Storlie to approve the December minutes as submitted. Bob Larson seconded the motion – everyone approved and the minutes were approved as presented. All meeting minutes are emailed to all members on record and also posted online on our web page at www.wreathsforthefallen.org .

IV. Treasurers Report

Ron Robbins, our treasurer – presented his report. He reported that the checking account balance on January 1st was \$ 624.96, (this was after all payments were made for the wreaths). Expenses of \$352.53 were paid out in January and the January deposits were \$1,546.71 leaving a balance in the check book of \$1,819.14.

The savings account that had been set up at the Deerwood Bank in Brainerd has a balance of \$ 5,000.62.

Mykel Barthel made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Jayme Storlie seconded the motion, and the motion was passed to accept the treasurer's report, Ron submitted his report for the record.

V. Committee Reports

Wreaths Procurement Committee – Bob Larson, chairperson just mentioned that there was not a lot happening right now within his committee but would like some more volunteers to come forward and help this year on the committee as he is also the Vice President of our organization and gets very busy later in the year and also at the time we plan the wreath ceremony.

Contributions Committee – Norville Pervier, chairman, gave his report. He mentioned that he has started his campaign to collect donations from various businesses in the area and he encouraged everyone to get out and make our organization known where ever we are. He said the earlier we start with asking for donations the more exposure we will get and the better the donations will be. He would like to see the brochures updated with the date of 2012 and/or just printing that the wreath ceremony is always on the 2nd Saturday of December. Many others added to the conversation about the brochures. We will be getting more brochures printed as we are almost out. A 4 part brochure was also discussed. Norv also mentioned the 'Thank You's' that should be sent out. Thank you cards, plaques, letters and the cost of these items were all discussed.

Web Site Committee – John Thomas, committee chairman, gave an update on the web site. He noted that he has had lots of positive feedback from the site. Lots of photos and events have been posted on the site for everyone to check out. He said there are over 50 events posted at this time! He encouraged everyone to check out the web page and to let himself or Lydia Sassie know if you would like an event to be posted on the web. You can reach John Thomas at 218-829-6622 and/or Lydia Sasse at 218-765-4477 or 218-330-1085. You can also email John at john@wreathsforthefallen.org.

A great event coming up on Friday February 24th through Sunday February 26th is the Yellow Ribbon Rendezvous at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd

Lydia Sasse will be there representing our group and would like others to be present also! We will have a table and a video presentation representing WreathsForTheFallen.org. Everyone is welcome to attend. The event flyer is attached on our web site – this will be a great location and great place to introduce many people to our mission. Please watch your emails for more information.

Cemetery report – John Thomas gave a short update regarding the growth at the Camp Ripley cemetery and the expansion to 2 other areas in Minnesota. One site by Duluth and one site by Preston. Our mission is growing so hopefully our organization will grow also. David Swantek, the director from the State

Cemetery is very pleased with our work and our mission. He is looking forward to the growth. Also – he will be our keynote speaker at the annual meeting which will be held on Tuesday night March 13th. MARK YOUR CALANDERS!!

Committee Lists: As our organization grows we are looking to add a few more committees to help with our mission of placing a wreath on every grave at the State Cemetery every year in December. **Some of the committees that we looking to add are: Fair Committee, Advertising/Promotion Committee, Mailing/Communication Committee, and maybe a Cemetery Committee.** If you would like to be on a committee please let us know!!! We welcome everyone and would greatly appreciate more helping hands! You can call, email or come to one of our meetings – you are always welcome. Suggestion was made by Jayme Storlie to make up posters to place at various locations to let people know we are looking for help with the committees. Great idea!

VI. Old Business

Logo patch – We are almost out of patches again – we have ordered more so that we will always have them on hand throughout the year. Discussion did include where we are getting the patches from and that all efforts should be made that we buy products made in America.

Budget Committee- The Officers continue to work on the 2012 budget and should have it prepared by the time of the annual meeting.

Endowment Fund – We did not address the endowment fund at this meeting. It will be addressed at future meetings as it is still of interest.

Meat Raffles, events – Suggestions were made to have meat raffles throughout the year at various locations. Joyce Tveit suggested having a table at the Coborns store in Little Falls to make the public aware of our group. Bob Larson is our contact person for meat raffles if anyone would be interested in planning one.

Patriot Guard – Rick Johnson is our liaison with the Patriot Guard and he said that the 2 groups work very well together. He commented that the wreath removal was fantastic – he said “Many Hands Make For Light Work” which was our motto for the evening!

Brochures - We will be ordering more and that we all need to get them out to many places to spread the word about our mission.

VII. New Business

ANNUAL MEETING of the WREATHS FOR THE FALLEN.ORG will be held on Tuesday evening March 13th at 6:30pm the VFW in Little Falls MN.

Please mark your calendars! We will review by-laws, committees, recap 2011, accept nominations for officers, set terms for officers, and other business matters. Keynote speaker will be: Dave Swantek from the State Cemetery at Camp Ripley.

VIII. **Next Meeting**

The next officers meeting will be on Tuesday February 28th at the Fort Steakhouse at 2:00. This meeting will be to plan for our ANNUAL MEETING.

The next general meeting – which will be our ANNUAL MEETING, will be on Tuesday March 13th at the VFW in Little Falls at 6:30 pm.

IX. **Closing Prayer and Adjournment**

Closing prayer was given by Jim Parent.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jayme Storlie and seconded by Bob Larson.

Motion passed - meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

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

Minutes submitted by: Carrie Johnson, Secretary

Minutes approved by: _____

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Thomas", is written over a horizontal line.

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"