

WreathsForTheFallen.org

Officers Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2012

I. Call to order

John Thomas called the March officers meeting to order at 2:45 pm at the Fort Steakhouse in Fort Ripley MN. All officers were present – John Thomas, Bob Larson, Ron Robbins and Carrie Johnson.

II. Treasurers Report

Ron Robbins presented his treasurers report stating that the beginning balance on March 1st was \$1,798.30 in the checking account and after paying expenses of \$526.91 and making a deposit of \$20.00 the ending balance on 3-27-12 was \$1,291.39. He submitted his report to Carrie Johnson, secretary.

III. Topics of Discussion

Recap of Annual Meeting– We talked about how the annual meeting went that was held on March 13th at the VFW in Little Falls. We were somewhat disappointed in the turn out but had a great meeting with everyone that was there. The revised by-laws were accepted and John has posted them on the web site. The minutes of the annual meeting were also posted on the web after that meeting.

Accounting – John Thomas informed us that we have been very fortunate to retain the services of CliftonLarsonAllen CPA's, pro bono for our year end audit and financial needs. This is fabulous news and we appreciate their help in providing this service to us. Ron Robbins Treasurer and Carrie Johnson secretary will work on the yearend tax return and have this CPA firm review it for accuracy before we file it with the IRS.

Brochures – John has been working with the printing company to create the brochure for 2012. This will be a 4 page self mailer type of brochure. We are looking at ordering a quantity of 10,000. These will not be dated so they can be used in future years if necessary.

Events and tasks – We reviewed a list of events and projects that we are planning or would like to plan for 2012. We all agreed that we need more helping hands to accomplish our goals this year. We want to form a few more committees and have more people involved. At the next meeting we will talk about these committees and what they would involve and maybe get some people interested in signing up.

Wreath Procurement Committee – Bob Larson informed us that we are now re-registered with Wreaths Across America for 2012. He also stated that he would chair this committee again this year. Thank You Bob!

Web Site Committee – John updated us on the web site. There are currently over 50 events posted on our web page. These include veteran's events, motorcycle rides, gatherings, meeting notices and many other types of events. There are numerous photos, videos and announcements also posted. John will continue to chair this committee for 2012. Thank you John!

Facebook – We talked about the huge possibility of keeping up to date on our facebook page. None of the officers are real adapt with posting on facebook so we may be looking at a facebook committee to help us out.

Meat Raffles – We discussed having several meat raffles this year. We were very pleased with the results of the raffles we had last year and decided it would be great to do this again. Bob Larson has been a great contact person for organizing the raffles. We would entertain any location to have a meat raffle. We could do as many as possible if we have some volunteers to work at the raffles. We need volunteers to help out.

Fairs, Shows, Events- We talked about attending the local fairs, Crow Wing County and Morrison County. We had attended these last year but in order for us to do that again this year we will have to have volunteers signed up in advance so all the time slots are covered. We would like to form an EVENT/FAIR Committee to help organize and work with the different events that we would like to have a presence at. We talked about how we would present our organization, the videos, handouts, donation jars, displays etc. A lot of time and planning needs to happen before we can have a booth or display.

Communications - We all agreed that the personal contact with the local TV stations, radio stations, businesses and the public is a huge part of sharing our mission and organization to others. John will continue to line up speaking engagements. Norv Pervier will continue to work with area businesses to secure donations. Norv will also head up the Brainerd Area CAP which has always worked very closely with WreathsForTheFallen.

Matching Funds – It was noted that we now have 2 local banks which will make matching funds to our mission. We will contact other banks to see if that would be a possibility for others to do the same.

Tokens of Appreciation – We talked again about how to show our appreciation for the donations we get each year. We agreed that donations over \$250.00 should be acknowledged with a special thank you. We also talked about putting

a special thank you in each of the envelopes that we send out when we do our fund raising if they have donated in the past.

IV. Coming Up Events

Memorial Day is fast approaching and we talked about our plans of helping to place flags at the cemetery for the Memorial Day service. They will provide more 'diggers' to make the placing of the flags easier. It was mentioned that the cemetery could use 10) new 24" artificial wreaths for the ceremony each year. The ones they currently have are deteriorating. We are going to check into some pricing and requirements of these wreaths. At the next meeting we are going to talk about setting up a Cemetery Committee to address all the issues with the cemetery and the different events that they have, that we could be part of.

The Moving Wall – will be coming to Minnesota a couple times this summer – in June and September. Please look at our events area on the web page for more details.

V. WreathsForTheFallen Calendar

We discussed having a special 'WreathsForTheFallen Calendar' where we could post everything that we have going on and also notes and comments about our members. Birthdays, surgeries, weddings, etc etc. Once again we would like a volunteer to update that calendar if we want to keep one going.

VI. Next General Meeting

Next general meeting will be held on Tuesday April 10th at 6:30 pm at the Little Falls VFW. We invite anyone and everyone to attend. We would like to make some plans for the events coming up and get some volunteers to help out. Food and beverage are available at the VFW. Please come if you can.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:15pm.

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

Minutes submitted by: Carrie Johnson

Minutes approved:

