

WreathsForTheFallen.org

Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2012

I. Call to order

The April meeting for WreathsForTheFallen.org was called to order by President, John Thomas on Tuesday April 10th, 2012 at 6:35 pm at the VFW in Little Falls, MN.

II. Roll call

There were 10 members present. A sign in sheet was passed around for everyone to sign which also made them eligible to vote. Those present were – Jerry Ratcliff, Ron Robbins, Carrie Johnson, Michael & Deb Coffman, Freddie Barbeau, John Thomas, Jayme Storlie, Jim Parent and Mykel Barthel. We had received communications from a number of members indicating they had conflicting items and could not attend this particular meeting.

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

Minutes from the March 13th Annual meeting were passed around for everyone to review. The minutes had also been posted on our web site. There were no questions or concerns so Jayme Storlie made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Michael Coffman 2nd the motion and the motion was approved by everyone present.

A copy of the minutes is always posted on our web page at:

www.wreathsforthefallen.org.

IV. Treasurers Report

Ron Robbins, Treasurer – presented the treasurer's report. He reported that the beginning on March 1st was \$ 1,798.30 and after paying expenses of \$ 526.91 and making deposits of \$ 20.00 there was a balance of \$ 1,291.39 in the checkbook at 3-31-12.

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

Ron also reported that John Thomas and he loaded up his trailer with the wire that they salvaged from the wreaths that were burned and took the wire into the scrap yard. They took in 1,120 lbs and received \$100.80! Thanks Ron and John.

Ron also informed us that we have acquired the accounting services of CliftonLarsonAllen CPA Firm PRO-BONO! They will review and perform our year end audit and assist us with any financial needs we might have.

This is a fantastic benefit and we are very gracious for their help.

Jayme Storlie made the motion to accept the treasures report as read. Mykel Barthel seconded the motion and the motion was passed. Ron submitted his report for the record.

V. Committee Reports

Wreath Procurement Committee – Bob Larson, chairperson for the committee was absent so no report was given.

Web Site Committee – John Thomas gave us an update on the activity on the web page. He is able to print out various reports about the ‘hits’ and usage on the web page. He would very much like to have some help with posting events, updating information, deleting old information and just keep the site up to date. Anyone interested in helping out should contact John Thomas at wreathsforthefallen@charter.net or call him at 218-829-6622.

Contributions Committee – Norv Pervier, chairman of the committee was not present so no report was given.

Other Committees – We discussed at length the possibility of forming several more committees to help spread the work load. Some other committees may be an Event Committee, Advertising/Communications Committee, and a Cemetery Committee. We talked about making up a list of duties and things that the committee would be responsible for and asking for volunteers. We will ask everyone to watch their emails for more information about volunteering for any of these committees. Our new saying this year is “**Many Hands Make For Light Work.**”

VI. Old Business

Facebook – we are still looking for someone to help us set up and maintain our Facebook page. We know that this is a huge social media site but few of our members know how to navigate efficiently on it. Hopefully at our next general meeting someone will volunteer!

Meat Raffles – we are looking at having several meat raffles in the area this spring, summer and fall. ANYONE who would like to help set up a place and time is free to do so. Please talk to Bob Larson at 320-240-9508 if you would like more information and/or help in organizing a raffle. If any VFW Clubs or American Legions would like to sponsor a meat raffle for our organization they can also contact Bob. We are looking at the VFW in Brainerd, American Legion in Brainerd, St Augusta Legion, and Waite Park legion. More locations would be

great. We have had a lot of fun at the raffles we did last year and we raise money for wreaths!

VII. New Business

Memorial Day - Many events are planned. Jim Parent gave report about his conversation with Marty Skoglund from Camp Ripley about the wreaths and medallions that they need for the ceremony on Memorial Day. The artificial wreaths that the cemetery has been using for many years have deteriorated and need to be replaced. Since we provide wreaths for the fallen, we are checking out our options for provide the cemetery with some artificial wreaths that can be used for several years. They are looking at 9 wreaths – one for each branch of service. Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, plus POW/MIA, Merchant Marines, Disabled Vets and WAC's (woman's army corps) The wreaths would be all the same except for the medallion for each branch of service. Jim Parent, John Thomas and Jayme Storlie will all check into various options for the medallion and the wreath. It will be a great project for us to be part of.

Placing Flags for Memorial Day – Friday May 25th is the day when we can help put out the little flags by each head stone for Memorial Day. This will start at 3:00 pm. The cemetery is fabricating additional posts to dig in the holes as we were very short last year. Everyone is welcome to help.

Sunday May 27th – Memorial Day weekend – WreathsForTheFallen has been invited to have a display table at Cragun's resort for their annual Memorial Day Family Event. We are listed as one of the recipients of the proceeds from this event. We are looking for a couple of members to spend the day at the display area. A sign up sheet will be at the next general meeting. This is a fun, family weekend for veterans and their families. The flyer for this event is posted on our web site.

Monday – May 28th – Memorial Day – Eagle Bend – We have been invited to be the Key-Note speaker at the Eagle Bend Memorial Day ceremonies at the GAR Cemetery in Eagle Bend. We discussed this event and decided it would be a great opportunity and honor to be at the ceremony. John Thomas and Jim Parent are planning on attending. The poster for this even is also posted on our web site.

The State Cemetery will also have a ceremony on may 27th. Lots of places to be on Memorial Day weekend so if anyone is looking for anything to do please look at our web page under events. We have over 60 events posted for this year already.

Cemetery Growth and Progress – John Thomas updated us on the expansion of the State cemetery and future cemetery's planned for Minnesota. We have received 6 video camcorders and we discussed the possibility of video taping the building progress – with time lapse photography.

KIA's – Jim Parent brought up a new idea for our organization. He talked about presenting a wreath at the funeral's for the men and women killed in action. Everyone present thought that was a wonderful idea and would be a great show of respect for the fallen. We will talk more about it at the next meeting but it was agreed that this would be something we should do. This would be just for the KIA's in Minnesota. Great idea Jim!!!

Banners – We have purchased 2 long banners with our name and logo on them to be used at events, raffles and other places where we could display our name. Jayme Storlie will look into making some frames for table top displays. John will get him dimensions.

We also talked about other things we need to have at our display areas such as fairs.

County Fairs - Crow Wing County Fair is July 31 – August 4th
Morrison County Fair is August 9th - August 12th.

If anyone would like to help coordinate a booth at these – or any other fairs in the area please let us know. We need lots of volunteers to have a booth at fairs. We will talk more about the fairs at our next meeting.

Other Important Notes:

April 28th – Vietnam Veterans Roast Beef Dinner in Waite Park starting at 4:00
Flyer is posted on our web site.

Gary Abbott is still in the hospital – please keep him in our prayers.

Freddie Barbeau turns 80 this month!! HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO FREDDIE!

Jayme Storlie led us in singing Happy Birthday to Freddie. Great lady and great friend!

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEB SITE FOR OTHER EVENTS & HAPPENINGS!!

ADDITIONAL WFTF CHAPTERS – We had a great discussion with everyone participating about setting up more chapters (or meeting places) in various locations so that more people could attend the meetings. We thought about St Cloud, Crosby, Brainerd, Little Falls, Staples and others. We would want to make it easier for more people to come to the meetings and to volunteer. We would like input from ANYONE who would like to come to a meeting but can't because of the distance. We will be discussing this at our next officers meeting on April 24th. We would like to have Chapter Leaders to hold meetings and to update the area members of our activities and progress.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next general meeting will be on Tuesday night – May 8th at 6:30pm at the VFW in Little Falls. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Please watch your emails for any changes.

IX. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Closing prayer was given by Freddie Barbeau.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jayme Storlie and seconded by Jim Parent.

Motion passed - meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

**THANKS TO ALL WHO CAME TO OUR MEETING!!
IT WAS A GREAT MEETING.**

Minutes submitted by: Carrie Johnson, Secretary

Minutes approved by:



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"