

WreathsForTheFallen.org

September Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2012

I. Call to order

The September meeting for WreathsForTheFallen.org was called to order by President, John Thomas on Tuesday night September 11th, 2012 at 6:35 pm at the VFW in Little Falls, MN.

II. Roll call

There were 11 members present. A sign in sheet was passed around for everyone to sign which also made them eligible to vote if necessary. Those present were, Ron Robbins, Carrie Johnson, John Thomas, Norv Pervier, Bob Larson, Bill & Fran Kokett, Jayme Storlie, Mykel Barthel, Freddie Barbeau, and Jerry Ratcliff. Thanks to everyone for coming.

Opening Prayer /Pledge of Allegiance –

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by everyone and then Jayme Storlie suggested we observed a moment of silence in honor of September 11. Everyone bowed their heads and reflected on the memory of 9/11.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Minutes from the August 14th general meeting were addressed. No changes or adjustments were mentioned so Bob Larson made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted, Mykel Barthel seconded the motion and motion passed. The minutes were posted on the web and emailed to everyone on record. Copies of the minutes are always posted on our web page at: www.wreathsforthefallen.org for everyone to review.

IV. Treasurers Report

Ron Robbins, treasurer – presented his report. He reported that the beginning on August 1st was \$ 4,343.17 and after paying expenses of \$ 343.99 and making deposits of \$ 784.76 there was a balance of \$ 4,783.94 in the checkbook on 8-30-12. Money has been transferred from our savings account to our checking account to cover expenses that were budgeted for 2012. Balance in the savings account is approximately \$1600.00. Jayme Storlie made a motion to accept the treasurers report as read – Bob Larson seconded it and the motion passed. The report was submitted to Carrie Johnson for the record.

V. Committee Reports

Contributions Committee – John Thomas gave us an update on the contributions to date. He reported that we have received \$7,913.50 in donations as of 9-11-12. John is maintaining a spreadsheet for all donations received with various pieces of information - # of donations, donation amount, average donation, monthly breakdown are just a few. Very informative and useful! Norv Pervier talked about the progress he has been making with donations and sponsorships. He also shared a report prepared by Joyce Tveit and the contacts she has been making since our last meeting. Both Norv and Joyce have been making significant contacts to reach out to the businesses and communities in the area. Norv is also the official in charge of the CAP (Civil Air Patrol) drive in the Brainerd area. The kick-off for the wreath drive in Brainerd starts on Monday 9-17-12. Norv also shared with us news about a new 2nd hand store that has opened in Little Falls. It is called Kollect-It-Korner – Thrift & Gift Store. They take in and sell used / like new items. They are located at 54 East Broadway. They also take items in on consignment and anyone can do this. WFTF can be a beneficiary for some of the proceeds if our members donate / drop off items to be sold in the store. If interested in donating please call 320-774-0742 and tell them you are with the WreathsForTheFallen. Thanks to everyone who has been out and about making contacts! If we all do a little together we can do a lot !

Wreath Procurement Committee – There was no new news on the wreath status. Next month we will have an update about wreath pricing and availability.

Web Site Committee – John Thomas is actively updating the web everyday with news, events, photos and videos. Anyone who would like to help John should contact him at wreathsforthefallen@charter.net or call him at 218-829-6622. We could use help posting events, rearranging the web site contents. Any help would be appreciated.

Other Committees – Anyone interested in being on a Committee? We would like to start a few more committees but need your help. Other committees or groups we would like to start up are: **Advertising / Communications Committee**, a **Cemetery Committee** and maybe an **EVENT Committee**. If you are interested in helping out on any committee please let us know. Our new saying this year is “**Many Hands Make For Light Work.**” And – we are looking for a few more hands!

VI. Old Business

Facebook – Thanks to Amanda Stone for helping with our FACEBOOK page – we all greatly appreciate you help !

Brochures – Thanks to Lakes Printing for doing an awesome job with our printing needs this year! They gave us great pricing on envelopes, letterhead, letters, sponsorship forms, mailing and assembly. They have done a fabulous job for us.

Meat Raffles – No meat raffles have been scheduled at this time.

VII. New Business

Cemetery Growth and Progress – John Thomas updated us on the progress being made at the cemetery. Because of some delays the project is expected to be in late September of this year. Currently the actual burial sites is 3193 and 564 in the columbarium and new sites average 4-7 per day. John will keep us updated monthly so we can have an accurate count of wreaths needed for our goal of placing a wreath on every grave site.

Cub Food Coupons – We will be advertising on the back side of the cash register receipts at Cub Foods beginning on 9-24-12 and running through December. John Thomas secured a great deal with the advertisers and everyone agreed it was a wonderful advertising campaign for us. Our logo should appear on thousands of receipts this fall.

Community Representative – We talked in length about having a community representative in various locations throughout Minnesota. Brainerd and Little Falls have really good coverage from our members but we want to 'spread the word' and be able to reach more people. We have a list of all counties in MN and are going to work on getting someone to act as a representative of WFTF to make contacts in many other areas. Any suggestions or volunteers please contact any one of our officers. We need to have representation from all over MN to reach our goal. Everyone joined in this conversation and thought it was a great idea.

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS –

Vietnam Veterans Hog Roast will be at the VFW in Sauk Rapids on Saturday October 6th starting at 4:00. Part of the proceeds will be donated to WreathsForTheFallen!!!! Mark your calendar and plan on going. Call Bob Larson if you have any questions. 320-240-9508.

Please log onto our web site at www.WreathsfortheFallen.org to see more events posted.

DATE FOR WREATH LAYING CEREMONY – Please mark your calendars - - the wreath laying ceremony will be on **December 15th this year !**

VIII. Next Meeting

The next Officers meeting is scheduled for 9-25-12 at the Fort Steakhouse in Fort Ripley at 2:00 pm.

The next general meeting will be on Tuesday night – October 9th at 6:30pm at the VFW in Little Falls. Everyone is welcome to attend and encouraged to come to our meetings – especially now when we are doing more planning for the upcoming ceremony.

IX. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

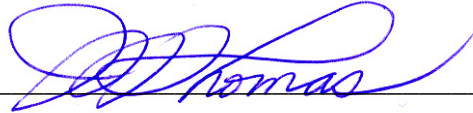
Freddie Barbeau led us in a closing prayer.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ron Robbins, seconded by Bob Larson, motion passed - meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

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

Minutes submitted by: Carrie Johnson, Secretary

Minutes approved by: _____

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John 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"

President: John Thomas 218-829-6622

Vice President: Bob Larson 320-240-9508

Treasurer: Ron Robbins 218-829-1159

Secretary: Carrie Johnson 218-829-4618