

WreathsForTheFallen.org

November Meeting Minutes

11-13-12

I. Call to Order

The November monthly meeting for WreathsForTheFallen.org was called to order by President, John Thomas on Tuesday night November 13th 2012 at 6:31pm at the VFW in Little Falls MN.

II. Roll Call

There were 16 members present. Those present were – Jerry Ratcliff, Norv Pervier, Joyce Tveit, Jan Hallin Nelson, Bob Larson, Jerry Patton, Mary Vogt-Patton, John Thomas, Mykel Barthel, Amanda Stone, Ron Robbins, Bill & Fran Kokett, Freddie Barbeau, Carrie Johnson and Jayme Storlie. Everyone in attendance signed the sign-in sheet and were able to vote on any issues that would be presented at the meeting.

After the call to order we all faced the American flag and joined in reciting 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.

New Members – New members at the meeting were introduced and greeted. Joyce Tveit was accompanied by her sister tonight – Jan Hallin Nelson from Backus. She has been a great promoter of WreathsForTheFallen up in the Backus area. Thanks to Jan for joining us tonight!

III. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

John Thomas asked if there were any questions, comments or changes that needed to be made on the October minutes. No one had any comments so the minutes were approved as submitted. The October minutes have been posted on our web site at www.wreathsforthefallen.org.

IV. Treasurers Report

Ron Robbins –our treasurer – gave the treasurer’s report. The balance on October 1st was \$ 19,893.06 and after paying expenses of \$138.00 and making a deposit of \$10,622.67 the balance at October 31st 2012 was \$30,377.73. John Thomas reported that donations were coming in every day now. He commented that the contributions from the VFW’s, Legions, other Veterans organizations and local business’s have been larger than last year but the individual donations have been down. We are looking forward to reaching our goal! Jayme Storlie brought in some contributions that he had received from some of his co workers that amounted to \$550.00!! Thanks Jayme and everyone who has worked so hard to get out and get the donations!!

V. Committee Reports

Wreath Procurement Committee – Bob Larson – chairperson – reported that he had accepted bids from Erickson Greenhouse and Mickman Brothers Inc for the wreaths this year. We have placed an order for 1200 wreaths from Erickson’s and 1600 from Mickman’s so far this fall.

Web Site Committee – John Thomas – chairperson – reported that everything was working out well with our web site and we continue to get ‘hits’ on the site. He also mentioned that many donations are being processed through the web site.

Contributions Committee – John Thomas updated us on the contributions received to date and Norv Pervier also commented that we are at 92% of our goal! Norv also reported on the status with the Brainerd CAP (Civil Air Patrol) and also the St Cloud CAP. The St Cloud CAP will not be donating wreaths this year but will be able to help place the wreaths. The Brainerd CAP has already procured 220 wreaths this fall. Great job!

Cemetery Committee – we still have not formally started a cemetery committee – but John Thomas keeps us updated on the actual grave sites at the cemetery and the status of the new construction. John met with Dave Swantek, the cemetery director, and they discussed parking, placing the wreaths, help for the handicapped visitors, computer access, tables and many other issues relating to the wreath ceremony. Mykel Barthel will provide 2 tables to be used as our information area. We will have 3 volunteers helping at the information table the day of the ceremony. We will continue to work on the details. We have set up December 1st to be our Pre Run at the cemetery at 11:00. Current grave sites are 3220 at 11-13-12.

VI. Old Business

Community Representatives –We are continuing to work on setting up community representatives in several towns and cities all over the State. We will work on this project more extensively after the first of the year.

Press & Promotions – John Thomas informed us of all the radio stations that he has done interviews with this fall. He has been at KKIN, WJY, 3WI, KLTF, KNSI and WVAL and also at the St Cloud Daily Times. He has received very positive feedback from all interviews. He has also sent out several news releases to promote WFTF.org and our mission and goals to over 400 newspapers throughout the state of Minnesota. Thanks to John for being an awesome promoter of our organization!

Conference Calls – We did a recap of the conference call that we had on October 30th. Everyone who participated in the call felt it went very well. We will continue to have conference calls at various times as needed to notify and communicate with our members. John will always email out a notice when we will schedule a conference call so that all members will have a chance to participate.

VII. New Business

2012 Section Leaders – John has prepared a list of people who have volunteered to be the section leaders at the cemetery this year. They are as follows:

Section 1: William Bollinger, Chuck Reem,
Captain Marcel Kobberdahl (Brainerd CAP)
Major Larry Smith (St Cloud CAP)

Section 2: Bill & Fran Kokkett

Section 3: Bob & Denise Larson

Section 4: Carl & Diann Bates

Section 10: Jerry Ratcliff, Jayme Storlie

Section 11: Robert “Fuzzy” Christen, Gary Abbott

Section 12: John Orlando, Carrie Johnson

KIA Wreath Laying: Tom Smith, Lydia Sasse, Jim Parent, David Dimartino
and Richard Hirschey

Columbarium: Brenda Robbins and Andrea Corey

Information Table: Freddie Barbeau, Laura L Hofius, Roger Danielson

Refreshments: Cal & Cindy Wolf (BIKERS WITH BIG HEARTS)

Project Supervisor: John Thomas

Asst Supervisor: Ron Robbins

THANKS TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS – YOU ARE ALL SO HELPFUL AND WONDERFUL

There will be a meeting for all section leaders on December 1st at 11:00AM at The Canteen for a briefing for the event. Please call John Thomas at 218-829-6622 if you have any questions!

Upcoming Events –

- *Thanksgiving Day – 11-22-12. Give thanks for the blessings we all have.
- *Officers meeting 11-27-12 – Fort Steakhouse 2:00
- ***PRE RUN for section leaders – Saturday December 1st at 11:00 at The Canteen**
- *Last general meeting before the ceremony – Tuesday December 11th at 6:30 pm
- ***December 15th – Saturday – Wreath laying ceremony – 11:00 am**

Wreath Removal Date – Tentatively set for the first Saturday in February 2013.
Annual Meeting – Discussion involved setting a date for the annual meeting. Joyce Tveit made a motion to have the meeting after the wreaths are removed and our project is finished for this year. Carrie Johnson seconded that motion and our annual meeting will be scheduled for some time in February. That date will be set at a later date. Everyone agreed with the motion and it was passed. This will become part of the by-laws for future annual meeting dates. John Thomas asked Bob Larson to handle the arrangements.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next Officers meeting will be on 11-27-12 at the Fort Steakhouse in Fort Ripley at 2:00.

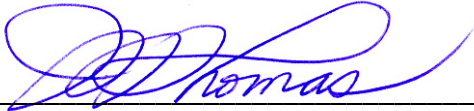
Next monthly meeting for WreathsForTheFallen.org will be on Tuesday, December 11th 2012 at 6:30 pm in Little Falls MN at the VFW. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come. New faces are always welcome! This will be the LAST general meeting before the ceremony!

IX. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Freddie Barbeau led us in our closing prayer.
Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jayme Storlie and seconded by Mykel Barthel. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm

THANKS FOR COMING TO THE MEETING!

Minutes submitted by: Carrie Johnson, Secretary
WreathsForTheFallen.org

Minutes approved by: 

John Thomas, President
WreathsForTheFallen.org

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