

WreathsForTheFallen.org

Officers Meeting Minutes

November 27, 2012

I. Call to Order

John Thomas called the November officers meeting for the WreathsForTheFallen.org to order at 2:02 at the Fort Steakhouse in Fort Ripley MN. All officers were present – John Thomas – President, Bob Larson - Vice President, Ron Robbins – Treasurer and Carrie Johnson - Secretary.

II. Treasurers Report

Ron Robbins did not give an official report – he will do so at the next general meeting. He did however report that he is making bank deposits quite frequently since donations are coming in daily. Total donations to date are \$ 38,387.00 compared to \$ 28,115.96 in November 2011.

III. Topics Discussed

Because the meeting is so close to the Wreath laying ceremony this meeting basically focused on the planning and final preparations for the ceremony.

- Wireless Wi-Fi will be available at the information table that will provide us with an internet connection for two laptop computers for making grave location lookups quickly available.
- We have made arrangements for extra coffee pots, tables and refreshments based on the projected number of people coming. Cal & Cindy Wolf (Bikers with Big Hearts) will be providing the refreshments again this year. Thanks so much to them.
- The Patriot Guard will be standing the flag line at the ceremony as part of the National Remembrance Ceremony and also assisting us with parking at the cemetery. After the ceremony they will help lay the wreaths. Rick Johnson is our contact person with the Patriot Guard.
- John handed out the printout of the Section Leaders and the map of the cemetery which shows all the sections of the cemetery. We reviewed all the leaders, made sure all sections were covered, reviewed the actual count to date, reviewed the grave specific requests and reviewed the wreaths that have been ordered to date.

- All section leaders will get a copy of the printouts and maps at the section leaders meeting on Saturday December 1st.
- John has prepared for a press release on Saturday December 1st prior to the section leader meeting at 10:30 at the Canteen.
- Mykel Barthel / Ericksons Greenhouse and Mickman Brothers will be providing 20 extra wreaths each to be used for interments after the December 15th to February 2nd.
- Total occupied gravesites in the cemetery are 3220 and there has been 578 grave specific requests to date. There will be 5 KIA wreaths presented. There will be 7 sections and the columbarium where wreaths will be placed.
- An information table will be set up in the committal hall with Freddie Barbeau, Laura Hofius, Joyce Tveit, Diann Bates and Roger Danielson assisting.
- We will have 2 way radios available complements of the Brainerd CAP.
- John Thomas is project supervisor 218-829-6622
- Ron Robbin is assistant supervisor 218-829-1159
- Norv Pervier will be staging supervisor 218-829-0011

Removal of wreaths – we set the date of February 2nd 2013 for the wreaths to be removed from the cemetery at 10:00 am subject to weather conditions at that time.

Future ideas – we discussed different ideas of what the future might hold when the expansion of the cemetery happens. Could have up to 500 additional grave sites next year to plan for. Also – the cemetery in Preston MN, is in the planning stages and that also will add to the number of grave sites and wreaths needed at State Veterans' Cemetery's.

IV. **Next Meeting** – the Section Leaders Meeting will be on Saturday December 1st at 11:00 at the Canteen. All section leaders are expected to be there. If they can't they should call John Thomas at 218-829-6622 and let him know.

V. **General Meeting** – the next general meeting will be Tuesday, December 11, 2013 at the VFW in Little Falls MN. This is a regular scheduled meeting – the last one before we lay the wreaths. This can turn out to be a very important meeting to “fine tune” the event.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Carrie Johnson

Minutes approved by: 

John Thomas, President