

WreathsForTheFallen.org

December Meeting Minutes

12-11-12

I. Call to Order

The December monthly meeting for WreathsForTheFallen.org was called to order by President, John Thomas on Tuesday night December 11th 2012 at 6:35pm at the VFW in Little Falls MN. Jerry Ratcliff provided holiday cupcakes for everyone to enjoy before the meeting. Thank you Jerry!!!

II. Roll Call

There were 15 members present. Those present were – Bill & Fran Kokett, Jerry Patton, Tom Wayman, Dave Tidd, Mykel Barthel, Freddie Barbeau, Ron Robbins, Norv Pervier, Carrie Johnson, Bob Larson, Jerry Ratcliff, John Thomas, Joyce Tveit and Jim Parent. 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.

III. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

No comments were mentioned on the November minutes. They were posted on our web site at www.wreathsforthe fallen.org.

IV. Treasurers Report

Ron Robbins –our treasurer – submitted the treasurer's report for month ending November 30th 2012 to Carrie Johnson. The balance on November 1st was \$30,377.73, after paying expenses of \$4,433.99 and making a deposit of \$7,718.15 the balance at November 30th 2012 was \$33,661.89. The wreath purchases will be paid after the invoices have been received from the suppliers.

V. Committee Reports

Wreath Procurement – Bob Larson – chairperson – was present.

Web Site Committee – John Thomas – chairperson – was present.

Contributions Committee – John Thomas updated us on the contributions and the contributions received to date at 11-27-12 were \$38,387.00.

Cemetery – John Thomas gave us an update on the number of grave sites at the cemetery – 3220 occupied grave sites at 11-27-12. John has been meeting with Dave Swantek, the cemetery director, to finalize plans for the wreath laying ceremony.

VI. Purpose of Meeting

This meeting was called to order to discuss and review the status of the wreath ceremony that will take place on this Saturday – December 15th. John Thomas updated us about the parking, WiFi availability, staging, Flag Line procedure, wreath placement and went over everything regarding the ceremony.

7:30 am - Wreaths will be delivered to cemetery.

8:00 am – Staging of the wreaths – section leaders to be at their sections

9:00 am – Wreaths should be in place at the appropriate sections and secured with yellow caution tape, PG will be on site, refreshments should be set up and information table set up.

9:30 am – Visitors should start arriving

11:00 am – Ceremony begins

11:15 am – KIA Wreaths will be laid (After ceremony ends)

11:20-30 am – Wreaths can now be laid on Grave Specific sites followed by all the other wreaths.

NO WREATHS will be laid until the KIA's are laid.

NO WREATHS will be laid until AFTER the ceremony.

Metal rings on the wreaths CAN NOT touch the grave stone. We will not move any existing decorations.

Any wreaths or decorations already at the grave site CAN NOT be removed.

PARKING will be in Sections 13 and 16. Patriot Guard and Section Leaders can park in Section 7. Handicap Parking will be on the North side of the Administration Building. Help will be provided to anyone needed assistance. 2 Way radios will be provided the day of the ceremony. Jim Parent will be our 'go to guy' for parking.

Section Leaders have their instructions and will review the procedures at their sections to everyone wanting to lay a wreath.

Camp Ripley will be providing many 'helping hands' at the ceremony.

Any and all questions were addressed.

Conference Calls – The Officers had a conference call on Thursday December 6th to review the plans for the next meeting on December 11th and discuss progress and updates for the ceremony. Call lasted 45 minutes with all officers present. We will continue to have conference calls whenever necessary to keep abreast of issues that need to be addressed. John will always email out a notice to all members when he schedules a conference call, either for all members or for the officers – depending on who needs to be included in the call. These calls will not take the place of the general meetings unless it is necessary due to weather or other situations.

VII. New Business

This list was included in the November minutes but thought I would include them again just as a reference.

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 (having surgery)

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

Staging Supervisor: Norville Pervier

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

Upcoming Events –

***December 15th – Saturday – Wreath laying ceremony – 11:00 am**

Wreath Removal Date – Set for the first Saturday in February – February 2, 2013. Exact time to be announced.

Annual Meeting – The Annual meeting will be in February – sometime after the removal of the wreaths. Exact date to be determined.

VIII. Next Meeting

There will be a gathering at the Canteen following the wreath laying ceremony.

We have not set a date for the next Officers meeting yet because of the Christmas holiday schedules.

Next monthly meeting for WreathsForTheFallen.org should be on Tuesday, January 8th 2013 but will be verified at a later date. We will post this information as it is planned.

IX. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Freddie Barbeau led us in our closing prayer. Our prayers go out to Freddie's son who has been hospitalized and also to Gary Abbot who will be having surgery this week. May God bless them and their families.

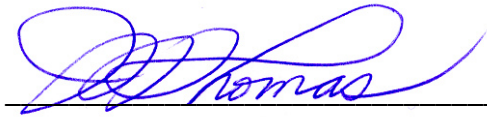
Meeting adjourned - at 7:45 pm

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas !

**THANKS FOR COMING TO THE MEETING AND FOR EVERYONE WHO HELPED
MAKE OUR GOAL POSSIBLE THIS YEAR!**

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. And our Facebook Page.