

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Meeting July 21, 2011 Armed Forces Reserve and Community Center 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Attendance: Denise B, Bob F, Mary F, Scott F, Jim R, Bob B, Susan M, Brad R, April T, John T, Gail G, Colleen E, Curtis A, Carol A, Dan J, Jessica H, Bryce H, Douglas R, Irene B, Judy S, Gaylen S, Peter S, Jeff S, Wanda B, Monica B.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special guest was Wanda B who came to thank those who helped with the storm damage cleanup for her son who is deployed. Isanti Township has committed to picking up the brush. Another deployed service person's family was also assisted after the damage left by the storm.

A motion was made by Gail G and seconded by Mary F to approve the minutes from our last meeting that were e-mailed. Minutes from the July Executive Board meeting were e-mailed to members along with tonight's agenda.

The treasurer's report was presented with a balance of \$3,692.14 via Skype from the Isanti County Fair. Mary F made a motion to approve the report with a second by Gaylen S. A motion was made by John T with a second by Brad R for approval to use the BYR account to deposit donations from four area veteran's organizations contributing toward the cost of the flag and medal case for the family of the Korean War veteran who died in a POW camp. A check will then be written from this account to cover the cost.

Web site report by Scott F – we have had 2,533 visitors. Everything is updated except the last minutes and agenda. A volunteer is needed to keep the Facebook page updated.

Billboard report by Gaylen S – The Bradford Town Board approved placing a 18x24 sign inside the Town Hall and will place a 4' x 8' sign on their property.

Resource/Brochure committee report by Denise B – nothing new since last meeting. We will need to correct the school and resource contact people listed.

Friends of BYR are being contacted by Denise B – Friends are being contacted to ensure they are offering the same services listed on our web-site.

Support our Troops – books have been sent to the soldier who requested them. Special request from troops need to come to the Executive Board for approval.

Community Resource Coordinator – Jessica H reported from the fair via Skype. Thank you to those who helped with the storm damage clean-up. Allina is ready to issue a check for "Dollars for Doers". Gail will check with the County regarding information needed.

Congregational Support committee – Bryce H is currently counseling two couples. Military Recovery Group 55008 will be starting a 12 step recovery group in September for military and veterans. The new Smart Recovery program at the St Cloud VA Medical Center was discussed. Letters written by families at New Hope Community Church will be sent to troops serving in the Middle East. Bryce's goal next year is 100% accountability of Isanti County churches.

Breakfast with the Army Reserve 704<sup>th</sup> Chemical Company is in the initial planning stages by Curtis A. The date will be a Saturday, in November, December, or January for approximately 25 soldiers.

Fund-Raising Committee report by Gail G – The following donations have been received: \$80.00 from sale of blankets, \$202.00 from the Patriot Ride, \$20.00 from an anonymous donor, \$100.00 from the Wild River Pioneers 4H Club, \$79.00 from the donation jar at Northbound Liquors. We will have a hotdog stand at WalMart on Saturday, July 30, 2011 for which we need volunteers.

Camo Quilts for the Troops report by Bob and Mary F – We continue to meet every Monday from 1:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. We have completed 85 quilts and have sent 35 to our service persons deployed. Last Monday, we made cool ties, as the shipment of quilt kits had not yet arrived. A HUGE thank you to Don G who drove 800 miles to pick up the 50 kits we just received.

School Liaison – Candi L was not available for a report.

Law Enforcement Training report – Ron S was not available for a report.

The Isanti Rodeo Parade was on Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to those who helped construct the float and those who rode on it.

Curtis A will be the coordinator to work with our adopted units: the Army Reserve 704<sup>th</sup> Chemical Company, and the 850<sup>th</sup> Horizontal Engineer Company.

The Isanti County Fair will run through Sunday, July 24, 2011. Volunteers needed to work the booth in the Curling Club Building. Because of the conflict with our July BYR meeting Jim R provided his report from the Fairgrounds via Skype.

Isanti County BYR has been requested to host a Yellow Ribbon Proclamation Ceremony on either November 2 or November 30. Jim R and the Executive Committee are working on locating a venue.

The 5th annual Motorcycle Ride out of Captain's on Long Lake to support the Yellow Ribbon. All proceeds from the ride will go to Isanti County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon. The event takes place on September 4th. Sign up is from 9:30-10:30, the ride leaves at 11:00. Volunteers are needed to support this event. The local newspapers need to be contacted to cover the ride.

A request has been received to help the son of a deployed service person with costs associated with a baseball trip. A motion was made by Bob F with a second by Denise B to approve up to \$200.00. Motion failed. In lieu of a donation from BYR a hat was passed and \$150.00 was collected from those in attendance.

The following new Friends of BYR were presented and approved following a motion by Susan M with a second by Irene B for

- Colleen Evenson
  - Home based tying military fleece blankets. \$20.00 of each military blanket that she sells will be donated to Isanti County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon

And a motion by Colleen E with a second by Monica B for

- Elaine's Flowers & Gifts II
  - 10 % discount to All Veterans, Families of Deployed Service Members, Active Duty, and Guard/Reserve

Everyone is invited to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rib Fest with proceeds going to the Isanti County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, August 18, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the AFRCC.