

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Meeting February 16, 2012 Armed Forces Reserve and Community Center 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Attendance: Monica B, Paul B, Jim J, Jim R, Carol Ann S, Susan M, John T, April T, Brad R, Bob B, Gaylen S, Dawn S, Don C, Bryce H, Kerri K, Curtis A, Carol A, Ron S, Donna N, Irene B, Leon B, Brian Q, Dan J, Scott G.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests at our meeting were

- Leon B and Brian Q from the Polaris Battalion Sea Cadets. A presentation was made on the Sea Cadet program. All branches of the military are accepted except the Air Force which has their own program. There are programs for ages 11 – 13 and 13 – 17. They drill 8 hours two days a month at the Cambridge AFRCC, other units are in Duluth and in Blaine. Web site information: www.Polarisbattalion.com.
- Donna N from AVVA discussed the upcoming breakfast fundraiser 3/25/2012, 8:00 – 12:00 at the Isanti Community Center for the Fisher House for the families of patients at the Minneapolis VA Hospital
- Scott G from MACV who assist with fuel, heating oil, housing for positively motivated veterans

The minutes from our last meeting were e-mailed. A motion was made by Carol Ann S and seconded by Jim J to approve the minutes.

The treasurer's report was presented with a balance of \$33,918.73.

Web site report - Scott F reported that we have had 3,441 visitors. AVVA Pancake breakfast is on the calendar page. Chemical Company breakfast photos are on the success stories page. Facebook – 3 more likes, the public is invited to our meetings.

Billboard report – Gaylen S reported that Bradford Township needs to re-set the sign. We may need to do a temporary sign for Clarence's recycling. The sign posts need to be fixed at the hospital, will need to contact Denise, our point of contact. A motion was made by Ron S with a second by John T to purchase two new 4 x 8 aluminum signs at an approximate cost of \$450.00 each.

Resource/Brochure committee and Friends of BYR – Denise B reported the brochure committee basically re-tooled some of the divisions and fixed some punctuation and spelling on the second page. A QR code will be added. Jim J motioned we accept changes and purchase brochures with a second by Paul B.

Support our Troops – John & April T reported they were contacted by a Girl Scout troop to donate cookies. A contribution was made by the VVA chapter 684 of supplies to ship to our troops overseas. There will be a meeting with the Executive Board regarding new procedures.

Community Resource Coordinator – Lindy P was not available for a report.

Congregational Committee – Bryce H reported that Bob B from SMART Recovery will be at the next Ministerial Association meeting.

Fund Raising/Finance Committee Report – Gail G – Arctic Plunge Chili Feed, March 2, 3:00 to 8 p.m. - Sign Up Sheet circulated last month. Gail will call those who have signed up during the week of February 27 and remind you of your commitment. A signup sheet is being circulated tonight for any who wish to volunteer on Saturday, March 3, at the plunge. We will set up a table from noon until 4 p.m. with informational material. We would like to have at least two volunteer for each time slot. We continue to receive unsolicited donations. Since our last meeting we have received \$100 from an anonymous personal donor. Additionally, we received a \$200 donation from the Isanti Knights of

Columbus designated for camo quilts and a \$200 donation from the Mother Seton Guild at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Isanti. Thank you to all who are responsible for these donations.

Camo Quilts for the Troops report by Bob and Mary F – The total number of quilts made is 178 with 131 sent to service members. We will need about 160 quilts sometime in the first quarter of 2013. We have 60 Army quilts on the shelf, if we continue to average four quilts per week, we should be able to meet our goal of one quilt for each person.

We need to build a relationship with the Family Support Group.

School Liaison – Candi L was not available for a report. There is training for school district staff available soon.

Law Enforcement – Ron S reviewed the Public Safety De-escalation Tactics for Veterans in Crisis that will be available shortly. Course information and estimated costs were provided.

Discussion of participation in the Isanti County Fair, last year we received donations of \$635 with our costs being \$160. We also received several volunteer contacts and names of service members. During our total years at the fair, our participation has netted us \$89.00. Jim J made a motion seconded by Brad R to participate in the Isanti County Fair.

Veterans often visit the VSO office to apply for service connected disability for PTSD. Occasionally a veteran needs a diagnosis to pursue the claim but does not have the funds to pay for the diagnosis. A motion was made by Jim J with a second by Paul B to cover the cost for the assessment for one of these veterans.

Don C reviewed upcoming events presented by the Military Education Resource Center at the ARCC Cambridge Campus. Tuesday, March 27, 2012 there will be a Veterans Panel from noon – 1:00 p.m. Someone from our group needs to be available for a presentation. There will be a Veteran & Military Family Appreciation Picnic on Thursday, May 3, 2012 from 5:00 – 6:45 p.m. followed by a Veterans Forum in the Peterson Community Room at 7:00 p.m. with Congressman Chip Cravaack as guest speaker.

New Friends of BYR were presented:

SMART Recovery – a free support group for those seeking to gain independence from addictive behaviors. Meeting every Thursday from 10:00 – 11:30 at CLC. Available to all veterans, families of deployed service members, Active Duty, and Guard/Reserve. Motion to accept by Paul B with second by Bryce H.

Polaris Battalion Naval Sea Cadet Corps – landscaping, painting, mowing, snow blowing, clean out garage, gardening, vacuuming – available to families of deployed service members. Motion to accept by Jim J, second by Carol Ann S.

Clarence's Recycling - He will donate all the money he is paid for the cans recycled on two Saturdays per year. BYR is to pick the two Saturdays. BYR will do the advertising in the local papers. BYR will provide 4 workers to direct traffic, help unload vehicles and have a table. He wants the 4x8 sign up before the first Saturday. The Saturdays chosen are the first Saturday in May and the first Saturday in October. Motion to accept by Ron S with a second by Jim J.

Bob B and Jim R will attend the Yellow Ribbon Rendezvous on February 24 – 26, 2012 at Cragun's Resort.

BYR will have a Chili Feed at Captains Friday, March 2, 2012 from 3:00 – 8:00 p.m. Gail will contact those who signed up to help. The Arctic Plunge is Saturday, March 3, 2012 at Captains. Volunteers are needed from noon – 4:00 p.m. Signup sheets are circulated.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the AFRCC.