

Warrior to Citizen - Meeting Minutes  
7/28/09

Attendees: Annette Kuyper, Jared Kuyper, Steve Kuyper, Chaz Johnson, Brad Kruger, Lisa Sammlar

**Treasury Report:**

We have a balance of approximately \$2600 which includes \$700 from the steak fry.

**Dew Days (June 18-28):**

We had two families ride on the float in the Dew Days parade. Two families had a family member currently deployed and two families had their loved ones returned. This is a great way to be involved within the community celebration. We will continue it next year (pending the city's decision on Dew Days events).

**MVFS Backpacks:**

Backpacks for school children are being filled July 27th-August 4th at Heritage commons in Lakeville. The backpacks are filled specifically to meet the needs of individual military children per their school supply checklists. All of the materials are donated and free to the families. This is being run by the MN Veterans Family Support Group. Volunteers are encouraged to assist with this project as many, many backpacks need to be filled.

**Update: MVFS filled over 550 backpacks that were sent all over Minnesota and they had so many volunteers, they finished ahead of schedule. Thanks W2C volunteers for helping!**

**Congregational Care Conference**

This training is to help churches learn how to support their military families and minister to the community. Northern Heights Church in Arden Hills has invited Farmington churches to join them on September 26th for their conference. Annette will email the Farmington churches to poll them, asking if distance and location would be prohibitive factors in them attending the Arden Hills conference. Shepherd of the Valley Church in Apple Valley has also offered to host a conference in the fall. Annette will speak to the area churches and Arden Hills to also discuss the possibility of a halfway meeting place such as in Bloomington.

**Update: Local churches thought the north location would be a factor. Northern Heights would like to stick with their original date and felt it was too late to find a new location.**

**Action: Annette will work with the Guard and Shepherd of the Valley to come up with a new date in October/November. We will target the south metro churches to attend this one and they will target the north metro churches.**

**W2C T-shirts:**

Polo shirts are being considered along with T-shirts we would like to order. Chaz will look into a possible company to make this happen for us. We want to find a company that can make shirts readily available to us as the orders come in. It has been decided committee members would have red shirts and we would order a different color to sell to the general public, perhaps yellow.

**Haunted House (October 9th and 10th):**

The hours of the Haunted House will be 7-10p.m. and we are looking for volunteers for setup the weekend before and for manning the W2C table during the event, as well as overseeing the Wall of Heroes. Scott Mills is looking into creating a portable wall for us so we can easily transport it to and from various events. Annette found someone to recap our first year in a brochure format and when that is complete we will have it available to pass out at the Haunted house.

**Fall Community Training:**

This will be held at St. Michael's Church in Farmington either October 13th or 20th, date yet to be determined. Brigadier General Joe Kelly and two Iraqi war veterans will speak in order to educate the Farmington community on the history of the National Guard, future Guard, what the

new "normal" is in terms of the Guard, what families deal with when returning from deployment, etc. Free babysitting and refreshments will be provided.

**Action: Annette will follow up with Scott and St Michaels on the dates and get back to everyone so mark calendars.**

### **New Action Plans**

#### **Dates for 2010:**

Tabled to be discussed and agreed upon at a later meeting.

#### **Casualty/Injury Process:**

Begin to think about what would happen if Farmington would lose a soldier...who the contacts would be, how we would reach the family, how the community can help, etc. It was also suggested that we reach out to the Family Readiness Groups locally that have been impacted to invite them for a dinner at a church in order to support each other and create a place for conversations between groups. The FRG's are receiving a lot of support right now so perhaps after the attention wanes, we reach out.

**Action: Annette will gather FRG leader information and place this on a future meeting agenda.**

#### **Action Plan Review:**

The committee needs to review our Beyond the Yellow Ribbon City Action Plan in order to determine what missions we have accomplished, what missions we still need to complete, any changes we need to make, and any additions we think need to be added. Chaz suggested we look at what we have done and "what parts of our mission statement we will be addressing when 1000 soldiers return in April." Annette would like to see more involvement from the schools, churches, and businesses in Farmington. All of this will be discussed in more detail at our August meeting and subsequent fall/winter meetings.

**Action: Annette will add to the August meeting agenda**

#### **First Anniversary Celebration:**

Our first year is fast approaching. Warrior to Citizen has much to be proud of!! We will celebrate with refreshments at our September meeting to commemorate this important anniversary.

**Next Meeting Date:  
Farmington City Hall  
August 25th, 2009  
6:30-8PM**