

Warrior to Citizen- Meeting Minutes

6/23/09

Attendees: Paulette Olson, Barb Frank, Rita Cox, Brad Kruger, Sarah Miller, Annette Kuyper, Steve Kuyper, Ron Ersfeld, Kim Gustafson, Jodi Kelly

Vietnam Veteran Day – June 13th, 2009:

RECAP: Everyone reported that it was a terrific day. The Veterans had corsages and were deeply moved by the amount of people within the community that came out to greet the bus. Volunteers were pleased how it all turned out and how smooth the bus transportation to the state capital was. People are still talking about how cool the whole day was. Another win for W2C!

ACTION: Barb, Sarah and Paulette divided up the Thank You notes to send to everyone that donated to make the event so successful.

Dew Days – June 26th, 27th, 28th 2009:

The W2C group will be assisting in the Food Ticket Booth. Thank you to all the volunteers that are working a shift. Great way to meet people in the community and pass the word about W2C. Annette also has three families for the float. Two with deployed soldiers who will carry “Flat Daddy” pictures and one family whose soldier just returned from Iraq. Ron will help get everyone coordinated for the parade but need volunteers to do final touches to the float.

ACTION: Annette will decorate the booth and make sure everything is there for the weekend.

ACTION: Any W2C Committee member meet at the fairgrounds at 1:30PM Sunday to help put the final decorations on the float and get the families settled. Don't forget to Welcome Home Major Kent Porter!

Kids Fun Day – (Possible dates, Dec. 5th or 12th, 2009):

Scott and Annette tried many avenues to see if this would work. They had partnership with Operation Military Kids and the MN Daycare Association who would provide volunteers and plan the day. The actual location for this was a problem. One location wanted to charge \$300 for the insurance; another only wanted Farmington families to attend. Annette has reached out to the Lakeville W2C Group who are starting up to see if this is something they would like to host/sponsor and we could help. Also we can re-look at this in the spring and keep our ears open for a possible location.

ACTION: Annette will get back with Operation Military Kids with this decision.

Haunted House – October 9th and 10th, 2009:

The event will run two days from 7-10p.m. We will again have our Wall of Heroes and collect pictures sooner this year and only copies as it is difficult to return originals to their rightful owners. W2C does not need to help in the kitchen so volunteers will be needed to decorate the Wall of Heroes and man the W2C table during the Haunted House. Last year, this was a great way to meet people within the community and tell them about us. Since we spoke to so many that came thru last year and the personal conversations are so impactful to telling people about us, having 2-3 people during the busy times would be

recommended. Annette will be working with someone who is willing to put together a brochure highlighting all the things we have done this past year as well as upcoming events.

ACTION: Annette will make up shifts and have sign ups. She will contact both papers after Dew Days to begin to advertise for pictures.

December Cookie Exchange:

Kara Hildreth has volunteered to head, lead and organize this fundraising event for W2C. It will occur sometime in December and will be located at the TC Davis House. They are looking at the first Saturday in December. Participants will bring cookies and walk away with an assortment of different cookies and proceeds will benefit W2C. In addition, extra cookies will be made and sent to local families with deployed soldier and to the soldier.

Action: Kara will let us know if we are needed to volunteer for any part of this.

Patriotic Day – November 7th, 2009:

This is a community celebration being organized by some Farmington School administrators as well as other community members and the Farmington Lions. The event will include a free community dinner at the new Farmington High School in the early evening followed by a concert by the Army Band at 7p.m. Theme of the event is to show “how to give back to your community.” W2C has been asked to have the Wall of Heroes as well as a booth at the event. They are planning approximately 800 people to attend the event.

UPDATE: Annette will put shifts together and gather volunteers.

Congregational Care Conference:

This will take place at the Shepherd of the Valley Church in Apple Valley sometime in September or October. Annette will send the date out as soon as we have it and volunteers will be needed to follow up with local churches and help on the day of the event. We are partnering with the Lakeville W2C Group on this and possibly Hastings.

W2C T-Shirts:

Deadline is July 15th to order t-shirts on the website: www.farmingtonw2c.org.

Committee members will have the red ones and we will decide another color to have to sell as fundraising.

Fall Community Training:

St Michael’s has agreed to host a community training in October. Scott is lining up some great speakers such as perhaps General Kelly and injured vet John Kreisel. They will speak on the now and future of MN troop deployments and the impact a military deployment/injury has on a soldier. The church has given us two dates and we are checking with the speakers to choose one. Also, St Michaels will let us use their nursery for babysitting and Annette will see if they would be willing to provide coffee and cookies.

MVFS Backpacks

Our wonderful partner organization, Military Veteran Family Support (MVFS) is having their annual military backpack event. They fill backpacks for children of deployed or recently returned soldiers all over Minnesota. They need volunteers from July 27th to August 4th filling backpacks in two-hour shifts from 8AM-8PM. This will be done at Heritage Commons in Lakeville. Let's get out and show our support!

ACTION: Contact Jodi Kelly at jkelly@mnveteranfamilysupport.org if you can give time any of those days! They need a lot of help so bring your friends and family to help too!

W2C Steak Fry at the VFW July 18:

We have an opportunity to host a fundraiser steak fry at the VFW on July 18th. We need volunteers to help set up the night before, help with serving and other duties the day of. Saturday, July 18 from 5-9. Steak Dinner is \$9 per plate and we receive \$4 of that. We also need to provide bars and cookies for dessert.

ACTION: Annette put together a volunteer list and send out.

5013c Status

Jodi is heading up the process to become a non-profit 5013c organization. Germaine Beyl and Rita Cox have offered to help. The first step is to create bylaws and structure. This committee will get together, get a start on organizing and creating the bylaws and structure and bring back a proposal at a future meeting.

Treasury Report:

We have \$1,885.00 in our budget. We spent \$480.20 for the bus, corsages and other items for the Vietnam Veteran celebration. Received \$100 donation from the Legion.

Dates for 2010

Discussed need to begin to look at our recurring events such as the Military Mothers Luncheon, Military Family Day at the Police Department and the Military Family Picnic at the Fairgrounds. We will discuss the calendar more at the July meeting.

ACTION: Ron will check with the fairgrounds to see if we can reserve the same area for May 23.

ACTION: Everyone think of a good place to hold the Mother's Luncheon. Church of the Advent, while wonderful hosts is going to be too small (if the mothers talk about how wonderful it was and bring others... and you know we do!)

Meeting was adjourned.

**Next Meeting Date:
Tuesday, July 28, 2009 6:30p.m.
Farmington City Hall**