

## Warrior to Citizen Campaign

Farmington, MN

March 23, 2010

### **Members present:**

Jean Lesetmoe, Sandy Roberts, Bobbie and Tom Girard, Steve and Annette Kuyper, Brad Kruger, Ron Ersfeld, Sarah Miller, Tom Huonder, Beth Faflak, John Guist  
Guests: Buffy Sedlachek and James Rone, CLIMB Theater

### **CLIMB Theatre:**

Buffy and James presented information about CLIMB Theatre which stands for Creative Learning Ideas for Mind and Body. They host interactive classes and plays to help educate and solve societal problems. They have contacted us as Buffy is an award-winning screen play write who has written a play, *Return to Honor*, which highlights the challenges faced by a family and a community in dealing with military reintegration. The play has been performed one time in Richfield to rave reviews. They have applied for funding from the state and are waiting to hear if they will received it. They should hear by the end of May. Once funding is secure, they would like to offer the play in 35 venues across the states. The venues would need to pick up the matching funds resulting in about \$300 per venue. The audience is for both military families and community members interested in supporting them. Mike Wold at St John Neumann Church in Eagan has already offered their church as a location. Mike is part of the Eagan Yellow Ribbon Network. Buffy will keep us informed about the funding and when they would be ready to book venues. CLIMB Theatre will help with PR. Committee was very interested in participating. W2C could have a table there before and after the play.

**ACTION: Annette will contact Mike Wold and Bud Johnson, the leader of Eagan's YR Network to let them know we are interested in partnering on hosting this event.**

### **Monthly Veterans Dinner:**

First one was March 1<sup>st</sup>, at the Episcopal Church of Advent. Only had about 8 vets but asked them all to bring a friend next time. Next Dinner: Monday, April 5 at 6:00PM The River Community Church, 408 Third Street. The church is all set with volunteers to none needed from our group. Annette will get flyers over there to hand out.

**ACTION: Pass the word to get more veterans there. Annette will send flyers to the Rosemount and IGH Armory as well as a reminder to her distro list.**

### **Military Family Night at the PD:**

Prizes were delivered to the kids. Wished more families had attended. Suggestion to have it later in the month next year, after daylight savings time. Next year will have Farmington Canine in attendance. Railroad safety group was a hit so will have them next year. Thanks to Tom Girard and his planning committee for a nice evening!

### **Spaghetti Fund Raiser:**

Raised \$1637 but \$437 went to the Legion for hosting. They had not told us they would charge us this year. They are trying to be consistent with all organizations but since ours is aligned with their mission and values, Brad took the concern to the Post Leadership and we may get our \$400 back. (\$37 was for salad at cost). Go Brad!

### **Swarm Game:**

Due to low interest, all agreed this event should be been cancelled.

**ACTION: Annette notified Lindsey Bailey who organized it all to thank her for her efforts.**

**Mother/Grandmother Luncheon:**

Committee working along. Looking for donations of small items for gift bags as well as larger prizes such as themed baskets for the drawing. We have 26 Mothers/Grandmothers who have already registered. Working on lunch menu and donations. Next planning meeting: March 31 6:15PM at Church of the Advent.

**ACTION: Annette will send donation letter to everyone in case they have a contact for donations. Pass the word!**

**Military Family Picnic:**

First planning meeting was held and other cities such as Inver Grove Heights Yellow Ribbon Network have joined us! Committees have been formed for PR, Logistics and Activity/Sports. Also working on Art students who can do face painting and colored hair spray. Planning committee requested \$500 as flexible funding for expenses. W2C Committee unanimously approved funding.

**ACTION: Next planning meeting is 6:30pm April 20th at the Farmington VFW.**

**National Guard Weekend Meal:**

Farmington, Lakeville, Inver Grove Hgts. and Rosemount to participate. No date has been set yet. But are looking at sometime in July or August. Annette is working on getting the correct commander to approve and will send dates out when she finds out the drill schedule.

**ACTION: Annette will follow up with unit to come up with a date.**

**Reintegration Weekends:**

Minneapolis Convention Center - Looking for a Yellow Ribbon Network City groups to participate on April 10/11 from 6:30am – 10AM.

**ACTION: Contact Annette if you would like to sign up.**

**Dew Days June 17 - 20<sup>th</sup>:**

VFW has offered the float again this year. Do we want to use the opportunity to have W2C cards printed up and walk along the float with our shirts on passing the word? Or, invite military families again? (Note: Rotary had 3,000 colored cards printed for their event last year. They passed the cards to all adults at the parade).

**ACTION: Everyone think about how we can participate in the parade and Annette will place it on April's meeting agenda to decide.**

**W2C Business Card:**

Suggestions to place a Yellow Ribbon on our cards in addition to our logo and to use the back side for things such as, "Do you know a military family? Tell them about W2C!" or, "If you are a military family, contact us".

**ACTION: John Guist took the suggestions and will work on a card mock up. He also knows a printer that we may be able to get a good deal with. John will bring to next meeting.**

**Yellow Ribbon Schools/School Partnership:**

A template has been approved by the state to have schools apply for "Yellow Ribbon" status indicating that they are doing everything they can to support military families throughout all areas of their schools. At the same time, we wanted to help plan the Veteran Day celebration and Voice of Democracy participation within the schools. A small committee from W2C is going to discuss how we can speak to the schools about this and perhaps form a collaborative working group.

**ACTION: Annette will schedule a meeting with our subcommittee (Lisa, John, Ron, Tom Huonder and Annette) to look over the template and discuss a plan for partnering with school leaders.**

### **YR Job Coach Program**

The Deployment Cycle Support Team of the MN National Guard has established a volunteer Job Coach Mentor program. This program matches volunteers with veterans to help position them in the best light for a job search. Help with resume writing, interview skills and networking is needed. If you are interested in being a mentor or know a veteran who needs a mentor, information and sign up can be found on [www.beyondtheyellowribbon.org](http://www.beyondtheyellowribbon.org). Annette has been mentoring two young men and it is very rewarding to help them in their job search!

### **Tribute to the Troops**

On May 2 in Eagan, there is Tribute to the Troops, a 5k run and 3k walk. Also, at 1PM, Scoops for the Troops at Ring Mountain Creamery at 1965 Cliff Lake Road. This event is held in memory of LCpl Daniel Olsen, Cpl Conor Masterson and LCpl Adam VanAlstine, young veterans who have lost their lives in service to our country. We can have a good showing from our network! Details and registration are at: [www.scoopsfortroops.net](http://www.scoopsfortroops.net). Annette is running the 5k and needs some partners-Steve is not volunteering for that!

**ACTION: Annette will see if there is an opportunity to have a table or get our flyers out at this event.**

### **Treasury Report**

Current balance \$6,239.06. \$1200 earmarked for Luncheon and \$500 earmarked for picnic.

### **Next Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 27, 6:30pm - 8:00pm at City Hall**