

**West St. Paul
Beyond the Yellow Ribbon
Minutes of June 4, 2019**

1) Call Meeting to Order and Introductions

Chair Le called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Members Present: Sherrie Le, Chair
SSG Ralph Blystone
Jan Bremner, Volunteer Coordinator
Shirley Buecksler, Secretary/Treasurer
Julie Burkhardt
Ed Iago, Business Liaison Officer
Mark Juelfs
Brad Legrid
MaryJo McBride
Jesse Mettner
Melissa Pond-Benesh, Vice Chair

Also Present: Tammy Rainwater, Family Readiness Officer
Mike Windsperger, Yellow Ribbon Regional Outreach Coordinator
for Central Minnesota

2) Minutes of May 7, 2019

Continued to July 2, 2019 meeting.

3) Treasurer's Report

Buecksler provided the Treasurer's report for the Committee, which is attached to the minutes as part of the record.

Current Balances:

- Checking: \$ 2,012.72

May 9, 2019:

Deposit of \$64.99 from South Robert Street Business Association to reimburse for the Christmas tree

- Savings: \$12,285.00

4) Old Business

A. Follow-up Merger Meeting

Le and Iago met with the Cities of Mendota, Mendota Heights and Lilydale. Windsperger and Gades also attended.

Windsperger summarized the meeting and said that the other Cities had many good questions and were able to receive answers, which alleviated some of the stress the other Cities were feeling. He said they talked about the Board and that there should be someone from each City on it. Windsperger said we are still in the talking stages. Each City is going to find people from different key areas. All of the eight key areas should be covered and will open up more avenues for collaboration.

Le said they also discussed that each of the four Cities will have equal voting rights. Two representatives from each City may vote but there may be others attending meetings, so we will need to figure out some rules. This and other areas will need to be discussed with the other Cities. Le said all of our same members can continue to attend meetings but we need to decide who can vote. She said voting is for financial assistance. When requests come in to use Yellow Ribbon funds, we usually have a vote.

Mendota Heights is going to talk with their Chaplain group. Mettner said the Chaplain group is shared between West St. Paul and Mendota Heights.

Le said we should also reach out to the School District because we should be working with them, as well. She said we should be recognizing graduates who are joining the National Guard.

Le said the Mayor of Mendota is going to talk to the VFW Post 6690 in Mendota to see if someone from their post would like to be on the steering committee.

Windsperger said they talked about officers, voting members and bylaws. He said we will start writing the action plan next month. Le said there will be one action plan, which has minimum requirements in each area. She questioned how we meeting that requirement. Windsperger said the military appreciation event in August will fall under the steering committee's part of the action plan.

SSG Blystone said the August event will include the unit and their spouses and children. He said there are about 112 military members. He will get a count soon of who will attend, as well as age ranges.

Le said Cpt Gades also mentioned that anyone already on the steering committee has an assignment and responsibility. This group will meet with a few other people on July 9th at 2:00 to work some of the rest of this out, get some of the action plan written, etc.

Le said they also talked about incidental expenses, such as copy paper and the Marketing & Communication Manager's time. Each City may use some of their staff time that won't be charged to the Yellow Ribbon.

Le said she will send the action plan out to everyone.

Iago said he would like everyone to be at the meetings to get their thoughts. For the other communities, he said there is some paperwork to go through, as well as some unknown questions, but everyone here may be able to help with these things.

Within the action plan, Iago asked if everyone could provide some feedback. Le said anyone who was involved in it once before could think of ways we are already doing it or ways it could fit in with what can be reasonably accomplished.

Le said we will work on the action plan together with the other Cities. The other Cities will bring other resources to the table.

Le said they also talked about scheduling meetings for 2:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. At the next planning meeting, she said they will discuss whether meetings should rotate between cities and locations.

B. Summer Event Planning

Le asked SSG Blystone if they will need assistance organizing the children with games. He said it would be great if we have some volunteers to assist. SSG Blystone will check with the Air Force Base at the airport for renting sports equipment.

Face painting and a balloon artist would be great.

SSG Blystone said the FRG will give families their briefing. He said it would be great to have someone there from the Yellow Ribbon to speak, also. SSG Blystone can bring a speaker system.

SSG Blystone will order burgers and hot dogs and will bring condiments, Gatorade, and coolers from other bases to use. Yellow Ribbon will bring buns, side dishes, chips, charcoal, lighter fluid and additional coolers. Iago will check with grocers for some of these items.

Other Cities may have a large grill to use.

C. Parking During Three Week Training

Parking has been worked out for the Guard's annual three week training. Le will send SSG Blystone a map of where they can park at the ice arena. SSG Blystone said Guard members will ride together to cut down on the number of cars parked there.

5) Liaison Reports

A. County and Military Resources Updates

Legrid said the event at Target Field is on August 16th, which targets homeless veterans. He said they are trying to provide a centralized outreach effort. The Yellow Ribbon can staff a booth at this event and that it's mostly veterans who come.

Let Legrid know if you are planning to attend.

B. Business/Fundraising Update

Iago said a check for \$500 (from LGM and Dunkin Donuts) was given to the Treasurer and another \$1,000 (from the Rotary Club) will also be received soon. He is waiting on two other businesses that indicated they will be submitting some financial assistance. One is Navy Island Plywood and the other is a veterinary clinic. Iago said he will let Le know who should receive plaques and flags.

Iago corrected his phone number to 651-259-2614. He said West St. Paul is creating notifications for businesses. In each of his presentations, Iago said there is a sign to post for veterans' assistance. Iago said he will take care of getting these to businesses. Nowicki will work on the appearance of the poster.

From a business standpoint, Iago said we have yet to have one business say no to become a community partner or service provider. One law firm may provide five free wills. He said he will have more information on this at the next meeting but that the free will service would be for veterans, families or parents of a service member because the Guard has their own legal services.

Legrid said if anyone needs help drafting their will, there is a free clinic the second Tuesday of every month at the VA.

Iago said two of our bigger employers have asked if we have veterans looking for jobs that they should call them. He asked if there is a way to get the names of these businesses to veterans. SSG Blystone said he can get it out to their unit. He also suggested sending it to Lisa Thomas. Iago will get this information to them this week.

Iago said that South Robert Street Business Association (SRSBA) has an annual fundraiser and that they are looking for donated items for a raffle. He said they are strong supports of the Yellow Ribbon.

Iago said he has two baseballs signed by Joe Mauer and asked if we should let SRSBA raffle one of them. He said he would ask them for information on who received it from the raffle. He said he would ask the Police Department to safeguard the other baseball until we decide what to do with it. Everyone agreed. Iago said he

will give the baseball to SRSBA for their fundraiser, which will be at the golf course in Inver Grove Heights.

West St. Paul Royalty may attend the August 18th event and could assist with games. A suggestion was made to raffle the other baseball at this event. The Yellow Ribbon will reimburse Iago for the cost of purchasing each baseball and case.

Iago said that South St. Paul Yellow Ribbon is going to hold a Town Hall meeting and said it would be great for West St. Paul to do the same. With the coalition, he said we could possibly ask NDC4 to do a piece on it. Le said the other Cities could also have their own Town Hall meetings to get support for this Yellow Ribbon but we could do one here, as well. She said the other Cities need to notify their community and get them excited and involved.

Le said she will ask the Marketing & Communications Manager to check with NDC4. She said we may want to announce it in connection with Veterans Day in November. Windsperger suggested that once we have a proclamation date, it could be done then.

Windsperger said there will be a new banner, at which time the other Cities will also get their city signs. He said they cost between \$45 and \$50.

6) New Business

A. Request From a WWI Veteran Who Needs Help with Weekly Cleaning

Le said we could talk to Darts about their service. She asked the Veterans Service Officer for information about this veteran's financials. Bremner is meeting with Darts tomorrow.

Le asked what information Darts will need and requested an estimate for weekly or twice weekly service.

Legrid said it would be good to know if this veteran is VA eligible. Le asked if this additional assistance is something the Yellow Ribbon would be willing to help with. It would be nice to look at his home to see how much work needs to be done and what type of cleaning he needs help with, as well as how big the house is.

SSG Blystone said he was asked to talk to the Yellow Ribbon committee regarding their departure ceremony. He said they are looking for a date in May 2020. The Mayor and City Council can come to the ceremony at the armory. He said Congressmen and Senators come but usually the City isn't aware of it. He suggested asking them to keep it on their calendar for the Guard's departure next year,

Le said the City was part of the Guard's welcome home ceremony and the ladder truck hoisted up the flag. There was a metal trough with ice and beer for the Guard

members. McBride said they also provided food for them. SSG Blystone said they may need a big space and the dome may be an option.

Le said Plan B last time was the dome but that we cannot grill inside. The dome wouldn't be big enough and we would need to reserve it ahead of time. Other options may be Sibley, Heritage or St. Croix schools.

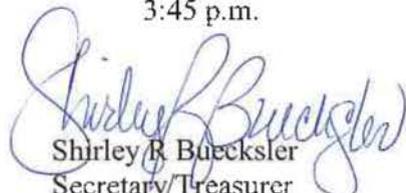
Le said she will talk to the School District to see if they're open to it and will reserve the dome as a backup.

7) Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Yellow Ribbon meeting is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 4, 2019.

8) Adjourn

Motion was made by Pond-Benesh seconded by SSG Blystone to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 p.m.


Shirley R. Buecksler
Secretary/Treasurer