

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Regional Conference

On Thursday, I attended a northwest regional conference for the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Moorhead. About 50 people from northwestern Minnesota gathered at M|State in Detroit Lakes. BTYR is a comprehensive program that creates awareness for the purpose of connecting Servicemembers and their families with community support, training, services and resources. I attended a session on best practices for successful unit representatives. We shared practices that worked well in our communities and those that weren't so successful.

BTYR Crookston was honored as being a BTYR city for five or more years. Moorhead should receive the same award next year. BTYR Moorhead was asked to provide a short presentation on our projects, successes and obstacles. BTYR Moorhead has provided assistance to service members, guard members and veterans in a variety of ways. We've repaired roofs, paid for tires for the spouse of a deployed soldier, provided bus, gas and food cards to families in need, held Christmas parties for guard members and their families, worked with the Moorhead Business Association to help Veterans and Guard members and families. Highlights of 2015 were our fund raisers for the MN Veterans Home in Fergus Falls, the VA Hospital in Fargo and the WDAY Honor Flight program. BTYR Moorhead is an organization of all volunteers from all parts of Moorhead. We have a city council member, a county commissioner, Moorhead schools, VA, all service organizations and community members. We have no paid staff and all our fund raising money goes to worthy causes. Gaming from the VFW is our strong financial partner providing us with funds to operate.



At the noon luncheon, I received a BTYR coin as a token of appreciation for the work we do. It was presented by Annette Kuyper, Director of Military Outreach from the State of Minnesota. I accepted the award in behalf of all of our wonderful hard working volunteers. BTYR Moorhead meets the second Thursday of each month at 0830, VFW, Dilworth, MN. All are welcome, our meetings are seldom longer than 40 minutes. We get it done!