



BEYOND THE YELLOW RIBBON NEWSLETTER

Educate, Reconnect and Connect

April 2019

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JOINING COMMUNITY FORCES CONFERENCES

The first 2019 Joining Community Forces Conference is just a few weeks away. Joining Community Forces (JCF) is a conference to unite Yellow Ribbon Network volunteers, service providers and community leaders. The purpose is to share best practices, build relationships and provide updates on military support initiatives.

We now have the Eventbrite invitation set for the Joining Community Forces conferences. Please note we had one date change:

April 24th 8:00 - 2:00 Courtyard Marriot, Mankato

May 1st 8:00 - 2:00 Black Woods Banquet Center, Proctor

May 22nd 8:00 - 2:00 Bethel University, St. Paul (**DATE CHANGE**)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/minnesota-beyond-the-yellow-ribbon-12660419891>

Please forward this out to your teams and anyone that may have an organization that serves veterans, service members and their families. This is a free event and lunch is provided. If you have any dietary restrictions please let your Yellow Ribbon Regional Outreach Coordinator know.

Agenda

- Yellow Ribbon Regional Outreach Coordinator Presentation
- Collective Impact, Tiffany Kovalski, Building Healthy Military Communities and Allison Alstrin, Project Got Your Back
- Engagement and Leadership, Todd Dufault <https://todddufault.com>

Captain Adam Gades, State Family Programs Director

Rachel Johnson, Northern MN YRROC

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Minnesota National Guard State Family Program Mission Statement

The MN National Guard State Family Programs promotes awareness and self-reliance in our service members and their Military Family Members. We prepare, assist, and support them throughout their military service. We coordinate with State and Federal agencies to connect Service Members, Veterans and their families to resources. It is our mission to ensure effective and timely care when it is needed.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

April: Month of the Military Child



We are in need of 35 volunteers to act as greeters, directional support and to staff the Yellow Ribbon table on Friday, April 12th at the Mall of America, third floor Culinary North Space. The shifts are 1-2 hours and will run from 12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. This volunteer opportunity is important as it supports our families attending in honoring military connected youth in conjunction with the Month of the Military Child. There will be approximately 1,500 plus military and family members in attendance. This is a great way for our

Yellow Ribbon Networks to raise awareness and connect with the community.

If you are interested please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080c4ea8ac22a2fc1-month1> by April 1st.

Many Yellow Ribbon Networks are planning their own recognition for military connected children and youth. This is an amazing opportunity to show your support to them for their sacrifices and also allows them to connect with others who are going through similar experiences with a parent who is away from home due to drill or deployment. With deployments picking up again, knowing and connecting with others who experience mom or dad away for an extended period of time can become a support network. If you are in need of assistance with any activities you are providing please let your Yellow Ribbon Regional Outreach Coordinator know to either assist or connect you to the right resource.

PROCLAMATIONS

We are super excited to share St. Cloud Technical Community College and Chisago Lakes Yellow Ribbon will be proclaimed. The following information provides detail on their ceremonies.

Please consider attending these events to show support to a new Yellow Ribbon Network and Company in our state.

St. Cloud Technical Community College



St. Cloud Technical Community College will be proclaimed on April 18th. The program will be from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. at the St. Cloud Community and Technical College.

Chisago Lakes Yellow Ribbon

The Chisago Lakes Yellow Ribbon will be proclaimed on May 4th. The program will begin at the Chisago Lakes Middle School, 13750 Lake Blvd., Lindstrom, MN 55045 starting at 1:00 p.m. with activities and entertainment until 5:00 p.m.

RESOURCE OF THE MONTH

Military Mental Health Coalition



The Fifth Annual Military Mental Health Coalition: Behind the Uniform conference will be May 2-3, 2019 at Camp Ripley. The Military Mental Health Coalition is a non-profit organization comprised of civilian and military volunteers that bring together stakeholders from all sectors in order to positively contribute to the mental health and overall wellness of military-connected members of the community.

The mission of the Military Mental Health Coalition is to improve the overall health and wellness of military-connected members of the community (Veterans, active-duty, National Guard, Reserves, and family members) by raising awareness of persistent challenges, synchronizing the efforts of existing resources, and bridging the civilian-military divide.

The key note speakers for the 2019 Behind the Uniform conference include Stacy L. Pearsall, Chris Buckley and presentations by service providers throughout Minnesota. For more information and to register for the event <https://www.militarymentalhealthcoalition.com/annual-conference>.

NORTHERN MN NEWS

Hibbing / Chisholm Yellow Ribbon

The Hibbing / Chisholm Yellow Ribbon will be having their First Annual Veteran Information and Resource Fair on April 10th from 1:00-5:00 p.m. at the Hibbing Memorial Building. There are over 40 providers of the military and veteran resources that will be available to answer questions about benefits and connect veterans, service members and their families to needed resources in Northeastern Minnesota.

The Hibbing/Chisholm Yellow Ribbon will be hosting their 2nd Annual Women Veteran Retreat at Giant's Ridge May 3-5, 2019. The retreat is open to all branches and all ages to share unique experience and connect with other women veterans while enjoying scheduled events. The retreat was successful last year in connecting approximately 30 women that continued their relationship throughout the year. The 2019 retreat is full, however if you would like more information please contact Chris Magnusson at magnussonc@yahoo.com.

Crookston Yellow Ribbon

The Crookston Yellow Ribbon will be hosting their Veteran Information and Resource Fair on April 5th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Crookston VFW. There will be over 30 service providers for veterans, service members and their families to connect with. This is a great opportunity to get informed and connected with organizations in Northwestern Minnesota.

US Service Academy Information Night

Congressman Pete Stauber will be hosting the U.S. Service Academy Information Night on Thursday, May 9th from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Proctor High School, 131 9th Avenue, Duluth, MN 55810. Guest speakers include representatives from the U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, U.S. Military Academy at West Point and U.S. Naval Academy. The program will provide information on the opportunities and life at the academies, as well as the academy application process and the Congressional nomination process. Please know Federal Legislators are only able to nominate students from their Congressional Districts. Information will be available to determine the Congressional District where you reside and how to contact other offices. For more information please contact Margaret Cavanaugh, Academy Coordinator for Congressman Pete Stauber at (218) 355-0280.

CENTRAL MN NEWS

Operation Open Wide

Shablott Family Dentistry is excited to announce the fourth annual Operation Open Wide: an event to honor area veterans. For the fifth consecutive year, free dental services will be provided to veterans. Since starting Operation Open Wide in 2015, Shablott Family Dentistry has treated 69 veterans and given away more than \$238,000 of dentistry.

Initial appointments will be scheduled on June 18th in Hopkins and on June 19th in St. Paul. Treatments will be completed at both Shamblott Family Dentistry locations on Tuesday, July 2nd by their great team of dentists, hygienists and dental assistants. Eighteen veterans will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please pass along throughout your network and if you know a veteran in need please contact Bink Semmer at (612) 382-5755 or email bink@binksemmer.com.

SOUTHERN MN NEWS

This last month has been a blast and a huge learning experience! I am so glad to be in this position and have already built some incredible networks! I am still trying to get to each of your areas to meet you and attend your meetings. Please don't ever hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

I was able to speak to a group about what the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon was and how they can either get involved in their local Yellow Ribbon network or how we can get them started with a network in their area. Let me know if you would like me to present to a group in your area. I hope to see all of you at the Joining Community Forces events coming up. We have modeled them to be the same so if you can't make one of the dates, you can go to any of them and get the same great information!

We have also started the Minnesota State Yellow Ribbon Regional Outreach Coordinators Facebook page. You can go there to grab event posters and information from our groups around the state.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2303615423016974/>

YELLOW RIBBON COMPANIES

The following companies have been proclaimed as Yellow Ribbon Companies. If you are needing to reach out to any of the companies for assistance please let your Yellow Ribbon Regional Outreach Coordinator know. They will be able to assist with making the connection.

3M
ALLETE / Clean Energy
ALLETE / Minnesota Power
Allianz Life
Ameriprise Financial
Best Buy
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota
Capella University
Capital One Financial Corporation
Cargrill
Central Lakes College
Dakota County Technical College
Department of Homeland Security -Custom
& Border Patrol Hiring Center
Experis
Faelon Partners
General Mills
Great River Energy
The Goodman Group
Hennepin Technical College
Hibbing Community College
Hiway Federal Credit Union
Hormel Foods Corporation
Inver Hills Community College
Land O' Lakes
Mall of America
Marvin Windows and Doors
Mayo Clinic
McGough Construction
Metropolitan Council
Metropolitan State University
Minneapolis Community & Technical
College
Minnesota Department of Corrections
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Minnesota State
Minnesota State College – Southeast
Technical
Minnesota Sports & Entertainment (MSE)
*(Includes: Minnesota Wild, Xcel Energy Center,
Saint Paul River Centre, The Legendary Roy Wilkins
Auditorium)*
Minnesota Twins
Minnesota Vikings
Minnesota West Community and Technical
College
Moorhead State University
Normandale Community College
North Hennepin Community College
Northwestern Mutual – Bohanon Group
Prudential Insurance
Rasmussen College
Rochester Community & Technical College
Regions Hospital
RSM US LLP
Saint Cloud Technical & Community
College
Saint Cloud State University
Saint Cloud VA Health Care System
South Central College, Mankato / Fairbault
Southwest Minnesota State University –
Marshall
Superamerica / Northern Tier Energy
Target Corporation
Thomson Reuters
Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity
UPS
USAA
U.S. Bank
Wells Fargo
Xcel Energy

UPCOMING EVENTS

If we are missing your meeting or event please let us know so we can add you to the future upcoming events.

April Yellow Ribbon Meetings and Events	
April 2	Eagan Yellow Ribbon Meeting
April 2	West St. Paul Yellow Ribbon Meeting
April 4	Crookston Yellow Ribbon Meeting
April 5	Veteran Information Fair (Crookston)
April 8	Morrison County Yellow Ribbon Meeting
April 8	Blaine Yellow Ribbon Meeting
April 10	Veteran Information Fair (Hibbing)
April 10	Proctor Yellow Ribbon Meeting
April 11	Moorhead Yellow Ribbon Meeting
April 11	Warrior to Citizen Yellow Ribbon Meeting (St. Cloud)
April 11	Crow Wing County Yellow Ribbon Meeting
April 12	Purple Up! (Mall of America)
April 15	Women Veterans Initiative Working Group (St. Paul)
April 15	Grand Rapids Yellow Ribbon Meeting
April 15	Big Lake Yellow Ribbon Meeting
April 16	Wadena Yellow Ribbon Meeting
April 16	Elbow Lake Yellow Ribbon Meeting
April 16	Warrior to Citizen Yellow Ribbon Meeting
April 16	Bloomington Yellow Ribbon Meeting
April 16	Maple Grove Yellow Ribbon Meeting
April 17	Service Provider Network (Minneapolis)
April 17	Morris Yellow Ribbon Meeting
April 17	Chisago Lakes Area Yellow Ribbon Meeting
April 18	St. Cloud Technical and Community College Proclamation
April 18	Becker Yellow Ribbon Meeting
April 18	Lino Lakes Yellow Ribbon Meeting
April 18	Minnesota Warriors Board Meeting
April 18	Isanti County Yellow Ribbon Meeting
April 23	Mille Lacs County Commission Meeting
April 23	Kanabec County Coffee Talks
April 23	Watonwan County Yellow Ribbon Meeting
April 23	Farmington Yellow Ribbon Meeting
April 24	Joining Community Forces Conference (Mankato)
April 24	Dakota County Yellow Ribbon Meeting
April 24	Hugo Yellow Ribbon Meeting
April 28	School Counselor Conference