



NORTHERN DAKOTA
COUNTY
BEYOND THE
YELLOW RIBBON

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

April Monthly Mtg. 4/6/21
@ Lilydale City Hall 2:00 - 3:30pm

May Monthly Mtg. 5/4/21
@ Lilydale City Hall 2:00 - 3:30pm

CONNECT WITH US:

Helpline: 651-259-2614

Email: yellowribbon@wspmn.gov

Website: [https://wspmn.gov/832/
Beyond-the-Yellow-Ribbon](https://wspmn.gov/832/Beyond-the-Yellow-Ribbon)

[Facebook.com/ndcyellowribbon](https://www.facebook.com/ndcyellowribbon)



Yellow Ribbon News

People Helping People:

“Back in November of 2020 we received a call on our helpline from a former Korean War veteran. He received a letter from the City of West St. Paul Code Enforcement department advising him to remove the graffiti on the wall on his property, requesting that it be done within 10 days. The problem was this veteran was in South Dakota helping his family with the harvest, and wouldn't be home until early December. He had no other family members in the area, nor had he even seen their graffiti. He reached out to BTYR for support.

A member of our BTYR went to the property and assessed the situation. The graffiti couldn't be scraped off without leaving significant marks. It could be painted over, but it was 4 feet high and 60 feet long, made of aged, porous limestone.

After taking photos and scrapings from the wall, we visited our favorite paint store. They matched the color perfectly and we covered the graffiti. The cover passed inspection by the city and they notified the veteran that the matter was resolved and thanked him for expediting the matter.

We never met the veteran, he never met any of us BTYR members, but he did call and leave a very nice message on our helpline thanking us.....that's all we could ask for.” -NDC BTYR Board Member

Local Business Spotlight:

Minneapolis Saint Paul Plumbing Heating Air

We recently reached out to a local Executive who we knew we could count on, and who's support of local veterans aligned with our board's mission. MSP is available to help local veterans and their families with mechanical problems they might have. They are a company that we trust and gives honest evaluations and fair pricing. They understand that supporting veterans and their families is just good business.

MSP is a 100-year-old company that is stepping up; understanding the benefits of serving our nation's veterans by being an exemplary BTYR Community Partner. Their executive wishes to remain anonymous, but we'd like to acknowledge this fantastic and generous business here.

To learn more please contact us at yellowribbon@wspmn.gov

So what exactly is the Yellow Ribbon?

When you ask that question, you get a variety of answers ranging from “I’m really not sure”... “I think it has something to do with the military”... “It’s a group that welcomes home veterans”... AND, “I don’t know.”

What those answers tell us is that we who are involved in the Yellow Ribbon need to do a better job of educating the public; especially to past and present veterans and their families.

The Short Answer: Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, “BTYR”, is a national organization with cities that are sanctioned by the state to provide services to current and past military personnel and their families.

We are not the Veterans Administration and we are not Social Services, but we do have specific guidelines on how to operate and what we can and cannot provide.

This article will not explain in sufficient detail all of the things that a Yellow Ribbon organization can do.

The Bottom Line: We are here to try and assist veterans and their families in any manner that we possibly can. The optimum word is “try”, as we’re not able to do everything we might like, or specifically what the veteran or their family needs. However, we are associated and affiliated with multiple veterans groups and usually can refer the party to the correct source.

The public very rarely hears about anything that a Yellow Ribbon organization does; we tend to fly under the radar. Confidentiality is always optimum and the reward is that you feel good because it’s the right thing to do.

If the brave men and women during World War II had not stepped up to do what they did, you would not be reading this. Simply put, the men and women that have served and continue to serve in our military provide the citizens of the United States with the privilege to do what we do.

We welcome inquiries. We welcome people who have an interest in volunteering. We welcome donations and contributions that all go to the support and benefit of veterans and their families.

As soon as it is medically safe, we invite you to attend our meetings. In the meantime, we invite you to participate on our Facebook page.

Stay safe. Next time you see a veteran, thank them for their service. - Ed Iago, NDC BTYR Business Liaison





Minnesota Military Radio

Northern Dakota County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon was featured on Minnesota Military Radio. Listen here starting at the 22:39 mark.

<https://minnesotamilitaryradiohour.com/20210131-structural-heart-disease-and-northern-dakota-county-yellow-ribbon>

TLC Provided by a couple of great West St. Paul businesses

The NDC BTYR holds responsibility for the American flag that flies in Albert Park in West St. Paul; raised and lowered when necessary by a great Yellow Ribbon volunteer, Mr. Mark Tessmer.

Recently, time, weather, and wind were taking it's toll on the flag so we took it down to have some minor rips repaired.

It first needed to be professionally cleaned. Camelot Cleaners in West St. Paul stepped up and professionally cleaned and pressed it. In addition, the rips needed to be repaired so off it went to another great business in West St. Paul; PJ's Alterations. At PJ's Alterations the flag was trimmed and triple-stitched, with great precision, for additional protection.

These two fine West St. Paul businesses, Camelot Cleaners and PJ's Alterations, provided the services free of charge and the flag will be reinstalled back to service in Albert Park. Many thanks again to both businesses!

Northern Dakota County BTYR Merger

In 2019, the cities of Mendota Heights, Mendota, and Lilydale merged with the West St. Paul Beyond the Yellow Ribbon group to become the Northern Dakota County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon (NDC BTYR). Neil Garlock, former Mayor of Mendota Heights and veteran of the United States Marine Corp, will serve as the Chair in 2021.

A Letter of Appreciation

Northern Dakota County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon received a thank you letter from the MN Adjutant General in appreciation for the Thanksgiving meals provided to the National Guard. A special thanks to our Community Partners, Oxendale's Market and Cub Foods for assisting us in providing those meals to families in the community.



December 23, 2020

Northern Dakota County BTYR
Mendota Heights City Hall
ATTN: Mayor Neil Garlock
1101 Victoria Curve
Mendota Heights, MN 55118

Northern Dakota County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon:

Please accept my sincere thanks and gratitude for your generous support during the Thanksgiving Holiday for our Soldiers and Airmen serving on State Active Duty in support of the State of Minnesota. I appreciate your commitment to the Minnesota National Guard and being part of the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Network.

Your sense of service and willingness to support our team will be remembered and forever appreciated.

We were all thrilled to know that the citizens of our great state share our sentiments and stand ready to assist.

Thank you for your support and best wishes for the upcoming new year.

Sincerely,

Shawn P. Manke
Major General, Minnesota
Army National Guard
Adjutant General

Thanks to Our Community for Their Ongoing Support

The mission and work of Northern Dakota County [NDC] Beyond the Yellow Ribbon in supporting our service-connected community is made possible through the generous monetary, in-kind, and volunteer support of organizations and individuals across our region. We wish to thank the following community partners, service providers, and volunteers:

Community Partners

- Cub Foods West St. Paul
- Dakota County Veteran's Affairs
- Dave Meisinger
- Dunkin' Donuts
- Easy Rest
- Gateway Bank
- Just Paws
- Mobile Pro Systems
- MSP Plumbing Heating and Air
- Navy Island Plywood
- Oxendale's Market
- Pace's Tire and Service Center
- Pate Bonding
- Solid Construction
- Soldier Delivery
- South Robert Street Business Association
- Southview Animal Hospital
- Tapemark
- The Framing Place
- Veteran's Employment First Aid of MN
- West St. Paul/ Mendota Heights Rotary Club



(Left) Soldier Delivery Community Partners receiving a recognition plaque from NDC BTYR Chair Neil Garlock. (Right) Community Partner Dave Meisinger receiving a recognition plaque from Chair Neil Garlock.

In addition to this list, there are several other businesses and private citizens that wish to remain anonymous with regards to their donations and contributions. If your business would like to get involved in supporting BTYR, please contact Ed Iago, Business Liaison Officer, at 651-259-2614

Volunteers Needed!

NDC Beyond the Yellow Ribbon has need for volunteers to help with the needs of military-connected individuals and families in our surrounding region (Lilydale, Mendota, Mendota Heights, and West St. Paul).

Opportunities include (but are not limited to):

- Light housework and seasonal yardwork; including raking, shoveling, and snow blowing
- Rides to and from VA appointments and other errands
- Special event assistance

For more information, please contact our NDC Yellow Ribbon volunteer coordinators Neil and Ed; **651-259-2614**

Helpline and Contact Info

If you are a veteran or know of a veteran in need of assistance or support, please contact us by calling our Helpline or emailing us. We're here to serve those who serve.

Helpline: 651-259-2614

Email: yellowribbon@wspmn.gov

Website: <https://wspmn.gov/832/Beyond-the-Yellow-Ribbon>