



4th of July – Thanks to MSUM and MBA

We, Veterans love the 4th of July, we love it almost as much as the kids do.

Recently MSUM announced that the campus will no longer host the 4th of July celebration. The celebration started in 1973 as a four year lead-in to our nation's bicentennial celebration. President Roland Dille made it happen. As an Information Technology Director Emeritus which is fancy academia language for a retired faculty member, I am both sad and proud of the role MSUM played for all those years. I am proud that I was able to work as a volunteer at the annual celebration for 31 of the 36 years I was employed at MSUM. I played the role of Uncle Sam for a few years, I worked the Alumni picnic for many years, I served hot dogs for many years, I drove the tractor for the barrel train ride. It was a fun day and I enjoyed every year. I am proud that MSUM provided this community service to Moorhead and our region since 1973. To put it in perspective, that's about 10 years longer than We Fest has been held in DL. I am sad that MSUM can no longer sponsor the event. I received an e-mail from President Anne Blackhurst outlining the process and reasons for no longer sponsoring the event. MSUM has three strategic anchors to guide decision making and funding. They are focusing on student achievement; embedding and supporting diversity; and being indispensable to the communities we serve. I've met with President Blackhurst a couple times to discuss MSUM's role in our community and I know of no one more dedicated to that goal than Anne. I am very proud that Anne and her executive team had the courage to analyze all activities and determine those that met the anchors and discontinue those that do not. Thank you, MSUM for hosting our 4th of July celebration since 1973.

As a member of the Moorhead Business Association (MBA), I am very proud that our organization saw a need, took the initiative and raised the funds to continue the 4th of July celebration. What a great group of Moorhead individuals. Thank you, MBA for continuing a great event.