

Grant and More

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Moorhead just received a grant of \$2,000 from the FM Area Foundation to work on a project called Veterans Still Serving America. Accepting the check is Tim Haugen, treasurer of the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon and Les Forman, Commander of American Legion post 21 in Moorhead. The American Legion will be 100 years old in 2018, the first convention was held in Minneapolis in 1919 and the 100th will be held in Minneapolis in 2018. Our project will collect information on the American Legion posts in Clay County, research Legion members, interview Legion families and produce electronic publications of the history. This research and publication project is a part of a much larger project, coordinated by the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Moorhead. The larger project includes cooperative programs with the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, the Rourke Art Gallery Museum, the Heritage Education Commission, Moorhead Public Library, Moorhead Community Access Media, along with local Veterans organizations including the Legion and VFW. We have started a website - <http://vssa.us> which describes more fully our project, plans and partnerships.

VSSA will promote and highlight the contributions past, present and future of Legion Posts and their member activities. VSSA will be a local part of a national project organized by the American Legion. We will highlight the many contributions the American Legion makes in our community. We are already listed on the National Legion website - <http://centennial.legion.org/minnesota/post21> The American Legion in Moorhead sponsors many community events including Legion Baseball, Boys and Girls State, Color Guard for Funerals and other events, special programs for Memorial Day and Veterans Day, and supporting the WDAY Honor Flight program.

There is no consolidated history of the American Legion Posts in Clay County. Our project will not only collect, consolidate and publish those histories, but will also collect stories of past Legion members and their contributions to our community. Much of the Legion Posts histories are stored in boxes in several locations and have not been compiled. It is our hope that this project will provide the start for those Posts to make it a regular task to update their histories and publish them for our community. Some of our partners in this project are:

Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County will host a WWI exhibit in the Hjemkomst Center in 2018.

Rourke Art Gallery Museum will host exhibits of Art by or about Veterans in 2018.

The Heritage Education Commission's (HEC) annual Family History Workshop will have an emphasis on Military and Veterans history. HEC has interviewed and will continue to interview Veterans in our community and publish those recordings on their website.

Moorhead Public Library will host exhibits related to Veterans and WWI.

Moorhead Community Access Media will broadcast video on Moorhead Community Access cable channels

League of Women Voters of the Red River Valley will offer programs on women in the military