

**VETERANS FOR PEACE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2005 MEETING**

The meeting was called to order by President David Cline at 9:05 AM, October 8, 2005, at the Fairfield Inn, Bellevue, WA. Members present were Frank Ackles, Ellen Barfield, Dana Briggs, David Cline, Lincoln Grahlf, George Johnson, Sharon Kufeldt, Barry Riesch, and Executive Director Michael McPhearson.

It was agreed that we should obtain, sign and send cards to Frank Houde, who is absent caring for his son who was injured in Iraq, for Ken Mayers, who is absent because of his wife's serious illness and for Gene Glazer, who has resigned from the board because both he and his wife have health problems.

I. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVED VS. DISAPPROVED ABSENCE

Arnold Stieber having requested that he be permitted to participate in the meeting by speaker telephone; the ramifications of this procedure was discussed.

It was moved and seconded that participation by telephone not be permitted.

Motion carried with one abstention.

The chair ruled that this constituted an unexcused absence for Arnold Stieber.

It was moved that John Kim be advised that his failure to attend this meeting be considered unexcused unless and until he provides evidence of an acceptable reason for the absence.

Motion carried with one abstention.

At this point Arnold Stieber called in by telephone and was informed that the decision had been made and that participation by telephone would be denied.

II. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted with minor amendments.

Minutes of the annual membership meeting were accepted as amended.

Motion was made and seconded to table consideration of the treasurer's report to the following morning and that an attempt be made to have the treasurer on the phone at that time.

Motion carried

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director's Report was accepted as presented

IV. FINANCES:

A) Dana Briggs announced that, as a result of the special appeal made at the convention, \$31,000 is now in hand.

B) The finance committee will continue to explore the several avenues which have been suggested for raising funds.

C) We have been offered a donation of a Winnebago vehicle. It is the sense of the board that we are probably better off if we sell it and put the money into our general fund. Michael will inquire regarding the details connected with such a sale.

D) George Johnson and Dana Briggs will get information and prepare a flier on the subject of bequests, contingent annuities, etc.

V. BOARD ELECTIONS

Lincoln Grahlf reported on the board elections. The ballots went out last week, with a deadline for return of November 4. The following candidates are listed on the ballot:

Tim Pluta

Patrick McCann

Bill Collins

Alan Dale
Gordon Soderberg
Ellen Barfield
Elliott Adams
Wayne Wittman
Peter Bronson
W. George Johnson

The ballots will be counted at the national office during the week of November 7-11, by Lincoln Grahlf, Bud Deraps and Reese Forbes.

The president called a recess for lunch at 12:22
Meeting re-convened at 1:20

VI. 2006 CONVENTION

Gerry Haynes was introduced to the board. Gerry has agreed to be the coordinator of planning for the August, 2006 VFP Conference, which will take place August 10-13 on the University of Washington Campus. She reported to us on the status of planning up to this point, and there was an extended exchange of ideas.

A general and preliminary discussion followed concerning possible location for the 2007 convention. Consensus favors a location in the Midwest. The states of Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and Tennessee were mentioned.

President Cline mentioned the possibility of organizing a "post-convention" trip to British Columbia to show solidarity with the war resisters there.

VII. HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF EFFORT.

Background: After the Dallas Convention, three buses began a tour that was to end at Washington, DC in time for the anti-war rally there. When Hurricane Katrina struck Louisiana the bus which was near there was diverted to the area and VFP members, spear-headed by members of chapter 116, participated in relief efforts. Ultimately, a considerable quantity of money was donated to this group. This presented VFP with potential problems because any mishandling of donated funds could put our tax-exempt status in jeopardy. Sandy Kelson, an attorney, and former president of VFP, is in Louisiana on our behalf, to investigate the situation and advise the board. At this point Sandy Kelson called in with his report on the situation.

The main thrust of Sandy Kelson's report was that he had negotiated an agreement with the people in the field to the effect that they had the power to decide how the available money would be spent, but the national organization (ultimately, the board of directors) had both the authority and the responsibility to review any such decisions to make sure that all legal and fiduciary responsibilities were met.

It was agreed that we would discuss the matter further, giving full consideration to the agreement negotiated by Sandy Kelson and that we would call him the next morning with our response. Following this there was an extended discussion regarding the rights and responsibilities of all parties involved in the situation.

At this point it was moved that all proposals for funding involving the Katrina Relief funds will come from either the Executive Director of VFP or from the Chapter 116 Team "on the ground." If either of these entities rejects a proposal it is to be appealed to the Executive Committee for final resolution. In addition, a target date for final dispersal of these funds is November 11, 2005. In the event that funds remain after the target date, the issue will be revisited by all concerned parties.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting recessed at 5:50 PM

Meeting re-convened at 9:05 AM October 9 Members present were Ellen Barfield, Dana Briggs, David Cline, Lincoln Grahlf, George Johnson, Sharon Kufeldt, Barry Riesch. And Executive Director Michael McPhearson.

Motion was made that the Executive Committee be empowered to decide who will be included as signatories on

the Katrina Relief Account.

Motion passed unanimously.

The board also agreed that the Executive Director be empowered to make small expenditure decisions in extraordinary circumstances.

VIII. MINUTES OF THE APRIL BOARD MEETING

Consideration of the April minutes was deferred, board members not having had adequate time to review them. Final approval of this document will be negotiated via telephone.

IX. CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT AND TOM LASH FOLLOW-UP

Since our action restricting Tom Lash from membership in this organization he has been making damaging allegations about VFP. As a necessary response to this situation, Lincoln Grahlf and Sharon Kufeldt were directed to draft a public statement disavowing any continuing relationship between Mr. Lash and VFP.

X. TAX-EXEMPT STATUS

Dana Briggs will develop a general policy regarding tax-exempt status. Chapters will be informed that they should provide tax-exemption only for projects in which they are directly involved.

XI. POLICY REGARDING BUS TRIPS AND SIMILAR PROJECTS

George Johnson asserted that protocols for bus trips and similar projects should be developed. Ideas for this should be submitted to George who will put them together.

XII. TREASURER'S REPORT

Telephone contact was established with Treasurer Ken Mayers, who mentioned the following items:

A. A "rolling dues" system has been implemented.

B. The hiring of a new accounting firm is being considered.

C. A proposal to change the fiscal year will be presented in the near future.

D. Serious consideration should be given to "farming out" the merchandising operation, as it constitutes an unnecessary drain on the time of the national office staff. This function could easily be done by volunteers.

The treasurer's report was accepted as submitted.

At this point telephone contact was once again established with Sandy Kelson who reported that there is apparent agreement between the board and the contingent in Louisiana.

XIII. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL FROM ARNOLD STIEBER TO INSTITUTE A POLICY OF ALLOWING MEMBERS TO LISTEN IN TO BOARD MEETINGS VIA CONFERENCE CALL-IN

It was moved that Mr. Stieber's proposal be rejected.

Motion passed with one abstention.

It was moved to require that board members be physically present at any regular meeting. Absence will be excused if an acceptable reason is reported to the president of the board prior to the meeting. Failure to do so will result in the absence being considered unexcused.

Motion passed unanimously.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THIS BOARD WAS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 28-29, 2006 IN ST LOUIS, MO

It was announced that SOA Watch will take place on November 19-20

Three people have expressed interest in replacing Ellen Barfield on the SOA Watch Council

Motion was made that VFP purchase a \$600 ad in the SOA Watch Newsletter.

Motion passed unanimously.

Sharon will create the copy.

Ellen announced that Harold Burbank suffers from an immune deficiency problem and therefore needs to be replaced as our alternate representative to the United Nations. Ellen will put out the call.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm

Respectfully submitted
F Lincoln Grahfs, secretary