

VFP Board Meeting

Pear Tree Hotel

St. Louis, MO

October 9, 2004

Called to order by President Cline at 9:14

Quorum established.

Members present: David Cline, Ellen Barfield, Frank Houde, Wayne Wittman, Gideon Rosenbluth Bob Heberle, Ken Mayers, Woody Powell, Gene Glazer and Sharon Kufeldt.. George Johnson reported he could not make it because of urgent personal concerns and John Kim reported that he could not come due to a conflict in scheduling. Lincoln was reported to be in transit. Arrived at 9:40. Barry arrived at 10:40.

Visitor Michael McPhearson

Cline announced that this was the first fall meeting. Normally only three meetings are held without one in the fall. This was to be a follow up for the convention meeting. Reminded members of our job is to manage business of the VFP.

Secretary's report: Read updates regarding notices: Alerted Executive Director, President, Vice President and Treasure on August 19 that ballots should be mailed out to full membership ("In October, or six (06) weeks after the Annual Convention") Completed July Board meeting minutes sent to Woody Powell with copy sent to President Cline on August 20. On September 13, completed minutes sent to total board with exceptions of Directors Johnson and Rosenbluth. Confirmation of receipt was requested. All but two, besides George and Gideon replied. Request was included to Gabriela and Woody that they send the minutes by U.S. mail to George and Gideon..

Review of action items to be under Board of Directors review.

Moved to accept agenda. Seconded. Approved.

Official email address for VFP is vfped@sbc.glogal.net

Moved to accept as printed. Seconded. Passed.

Michael McPhearson introduced. Michael is Director, National Conference for Justice and was one reason for his attendance at Powell's invitation.

Treasurer's report: Ken Mayers. We're in great shape. Had five times assets than in liabilities. It should be noted that one half of assets are under temporarily accessed accounts. Also - the restricted funds as of year-end amounted to about \$38,000 with roughly \$24,000 in in-active accounts. Most of that is in the IWP. Should get special reports from those who are responsible for the special projects. At January meeting we should have accounting of all special projects. Ken has not heard from the project leaders like Kim's Korean project. If we know who the project coordinators are we could solicit individuals. Woody reported under Operations: ZOC project. Has activity reports in his files.. Discussion followed. Ken followed up about income statement of August 31 we were running a deficit because of the accounting hassles from the convention.

Lee claims we will be covered for the convention. Woody disagrees. Thinks that we'll be a couple of thousand dollars short.

Wayne moved to accept the treasure's report subject to audit. Seconded. Passed.

Gideon asked if membership is about the same of 4000. Affirmed by Woody. Question about if Vietnam vets represent a large percentage. Woody wants database to help to determine.

2004 Convention:

Woody spoke of financial results. Our records \$5000 deficit after granting \$17000 advance from national to convention planners. Poor financial convention but successful. Leslie is working on concluding financial results. . Will get it sorted out. Hope to have a final financial report before the annual financial review way before the January meeting.

Cline thinks it good to review the 2004 convention. Woody met in Crawford, Texas with Texas representatives three weeks ago to discuss 2005 convention in Dallas. Felt there were too many workshops at Boston convention. More emphasis about exchange of information.. New convention committee should use the old convention developers to advise them on what works and what doesn't. Concern is that convention happens. Cline feels it essential to concern that it includes national leadership because it is a national convention. Woody has prepared a report on the Crawford meeting. He read a part of his report. Want to reduce the "ego" factor. Next convention hope to focus on youth and militarism. Report lists names. Need to affirm that conventions reflect a national concern. Come together to express their main concern. Workshops should have focus that develops a resolution that then is submitted to the general assembly. Concerned that sometimes they're too local. McPhearson asked what kind of a national we want to be? Theme can be current. What do we want to achieve nationally? Wayne likes the idea of us staying out of the way of local planners. Ken likes the idea of convention style meeting place with banners etc. Linc reported that he has a man in Michigan who is going through the past resolutions to review and bring up to date.

Convention focus. Conflict with resolutions – too disparate. Guide production of resolutions through prior discussion and newsletter appeal. Concern for people who are not computer literate. Web site can be used to communicate to some but concern with those who don't have the computer available. Amend By-Laws to lengthen deadline interval. Would like a committee meeting during the convention to find direction of the convention to review last convention.

Ken thought the next board meeting should have discussion on resolution procedures. Report on resolutions should be included in the next newsletter to help those who don't have computers. Corporations will distribute board approved resolutions and non-board resolutions.. Article X section 4 of the By laws might need to be amended. Linc reminded group that he has a proposal in the packet for later discussion.

David doesn't want immediate action because it would exclude new members and wants the discussion to be by computer. Hopefully it will be in January. Wants former convention organizers to meet. Wayne would like authority of the board to look at future planning. Woody assured us that the reports of former convention planners were submitted to the Crawford group.

Barry moved that: The national convention committee will meet with the current and future convention organizing committees in conjunction with the national convention. Seconded
Passed

Moved by Barry that: That the current national convention committee meets with the current and future convention organizing committee in conjunction with the national convention.
Seconded. Discussion Passed.

Bob moved that: The board extends its appreciation and congratulations to the Boston convention planners and executors. The board recognizes the great energy and creativity that made the 2004 convention so successful and energizing. Seconded. Passed.

Convention Resolutions discussion that required action. David showed the letter he sent to congress people to oppose the Vietnam Human Acts Right of 2004 proposals.

Also one on PTSD to call on Congress #20 watchdog commission.

Ken offered that he thought that a sample letter be formed and/or the resolution submitter take responsibility for writing and sending it to the intended receiver.

Barry. Moved that we send out a sample resolution to the members. Cline suggest deferred until Linc gives presentation

Barry moved The board should meet to review resolutions immediately before and immediately after the convention. Second. Discussion. Linc felt that we should meet long before. Passed.

Moved that we proceed to Linc's resolutions report. Glazer agreed. Linc's to re-write "Article X Section 4 to extend committee deliberation period and provide for board-directed implementation procedure. He wants as of January to appoint a committee to set out resolutions at least three weeks Bob Krzwinski from Ypsilanti, Michigan prefers a 60 day deadline. No resolutions accepted after the deadline. See #V on page 1.

Match up objectives with tools to achieve. Michael McPhearson.

When resolutions they will remain as presented. #VII Linc claims responsibility for "Minority Suggestions." Glazer wants those resolutions that are deemed "emergency" resolutions as permissible. Ken thinks that a new bylaw development might be considered. How can the last minute introduction be avoided that seems to circumvent normal procedures to help insure approval. #V does require that the resolution be "submitted an officer of the board" Linc's proposals are strictly for discussion that will be acted on later. Wanted Linc's protocol be passed but ruled out of order. Hoped that Linc could develop that document that gets preferred wording for introduction to the next convention. Have a paragraph statement. Explanation should be given for change suggestions. We want discussion but continue with the two-thirds rule. It would be great to have equipment available to assist members in the creating and distribution. Section VI states about claims. By law change could include additional document. Add one sentence of additional comment. Will still have to write a new By-Law. Moved by Wayne that Linc will write the new by law change on submission of resolutions and the protocol and to be acted in January. . Second. Discussion. Seconded. Passed

Recessed at 12:00 for lunch. Reconvened at 12:40 after excellent vegetarian dish provided by skilled chefs.

Cline asked for a brief review of Dallas convention and Seattle. Woody: Dallas University will be site of 2005 convention . 275 dormitory rooms. Lots of caucusing space. Banquet room. Wet bar. Joe McFatter, Jerry Middent could help. Bernie Jezercek, great organizer. Ron Stouthan. Met for four hours with members from Houston, Austin and elsewhere. No dates recalled but it will be mid August. Ray White from College Station is involved. Had 16 people at meeting.

Not much report on Seattle for 2006 convention. Got university site. Hopefully the first or second week of August.

Cline reported on RNC. Good representation of VFP and other veterans' groups of perhaps of 1000. Hard to keep together. Vigil for the Fallen was one of the best. NYC was in revolt against the RNC. Over 300 vets signed on the VFP list. Members showed much emotion and Peter Shaw played the bagpipes. VFP Lifted the level of respect never before reached All materials sold. Had over 600 Bring Them Home Now armbands. Recovered \$1500 from advance to VFP. Ellen got arrested. Dennis Kine was arrested and couldn't perform so bail money was raised. Torch passed to Iraq War Vets. Michael added that his feeling were that VFP added to the emotions. VVAW founders were present. All returnees were really agitated. People were hungry for materials. Notice should be distributed that materials are available for consignment.

Wayne Moved that VFP commends Metro Vets Peace Council and affiliated along with our board members Barry Riesch, David Cline, Ellen Barfield, Gene Glazer, Gideon Rosenbluth for their contributions during the RNC rally in NY September of 2004. Seconded. Passed.

National Organization—purpose and structure

Cline commented on necessity for the board staying more involved because of the growth. Phone calls were suggested as a way to keep up to date. Comments about difficulty in keeping up with emails. "Welcoming home" is a theme to be considered. Woody wants Barry to send news item about that theme. Query sent out from office about "Welcoming home" activities. Ken will do a board meeting preparatory checklist.

We should use Chapter Contacts Woody wants people to call to get a sense of reality. Wants them to be concerned beyond their local community. Want more two-way communications. What do we need to know and what do we have to do?

After a long discussion about David's need for some reimbursement for telephone charges that he incurs on business, Ken moved that: The VFP pay president \$100.00 for communications allowance. Second. Passed.

Maybe we should have a board-meeting checklist. Chapter reporting form. Kufeldt said she would prepare an incoming board manual.

The packet will include the minutes, agenda and be prepared before the meeting. we need to insure more regional representation?" Regionalization of board was discussed.

Representation on gender and racial. Nomination committee should make greater effort to recruit nominees. By law change might be necessary to include change for racial diversity? Convention resolution agreed. McPherson explained how he has to struggle to explain at meetings where he's the sole person of color to express why there isn't greater representation of color. There are other diversity issues.

Glazer moved that: Members of the board be given a stipend of \$200 to attend the board meetings. Seconded. Discussion. Failed. It was suggested that Barry will include in his expectations that he might include that costs of attending board meeting might be expected. Discussion.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO UN, SOA UFPJ

Barfield reported on the representation status of her position on the UN and the SOA. Might poll chapter contacts to seek out candidates for these delegate posts. Some think elections

are a big mistake. UN, SOAWatch, UFPJ groups representation. Select from chapters, put under Board control. Report to board – through special committee?.

Recess called at 2:45 Convened at 3:02

Powell spoke to the possible need of a political leadership council. Need has arisen for a committee that can sort out endorsement needs for books, videos and other merchandise. Ken thought that maybe a form could be developed to submit to the requesting group. The form could request some basic answers such as if 501C3 group, member of our group, web site/email. Ken to develop endorsement reply form? Tool for reporting by chapters. Ken.

Riesch Moved that the VFP create a political advisory committee and develop a form to check credibility of group requesting endorsement. Second. Lacks a defined mission. Maybe Woody could categorize some of the requests and submit them. He'll check his file and send it out to the board. Woody will create a means to evaluate for the executive . Barry withdrew and seconder accepted withdrawal. Political Advisory

Committee to review organizations, events and products requesting our endorsement. Investigate and promote. Characterize endorsement requests and write up a recommendation for how to form and run an advisory committee.

Board Elections and January meeting

Wittman's Nominating committee presented nominees. Frank Houde, Steve Manley, Dana Briggs, Tim Pluta, Alfred S. Dale, Charles Sheehan-Miles, Gordon Soderberg, Arny Stiecher, Patrick McCann, Ben Sherman, Frank Ackles, Bob Heberle.

Consensus agreed that photos to be on ballot.

McPhearon will help with researching organizations for structure. I discuss January meeting at end of agenda.

Review of Action Items

1. Defer 2. Done 3. Will come up 4. Awarded 5. Done 6. Not done. Frank took on but unable to do. Will do British group. 7. No apology made yet. 8. Linc wrote and presented document. 9. Reported on.

National Office

Woody quitting report. Wants to continue to work but not lead. Two and one half staff do a lot. Would like to cherry pick. Wants some relief. Discussion of need to secure replacement for Woody.

Bob moved that after Woody puts together a job description the president appoint a personnel committee to solicit applications for ED .Seconded. Discussion Function needs to drive the decision statement made. Location gives added incentive for considering. Passed. Barry, Sharon, Bob, Gene and Linc agreed to serve and chair search committee. Position should be filled by a veteran. A report from the search committee should be ready for January meeting. Next newsletter will be in January and it will announce the results of the election. Each board member should have solicited people to apply. A postcard could be used to notify election results.

Lincoln will convene the search/personnel committee. Could be dual tasked to use other examples of search. Michael McPherson can forward some recommendations about ED

search. Look to traditional veterans groups such as VVAW.

Wayne Moved that the ED is authorized to hire an office staff member. Passed.

Recessed at 4:45 Reconvened at 4:55

Website and Database Development

Proceed with investigation and tell Lee to wait for new criteria.

Written three-page report of a dialogue with Gordon Soderberg. Wants to set up a web access that gives every chapter. Essentially data in the database. Woody all the information in the office is protected by back up. Speed hosting for free. Microsoft product provides all of the services cheaply for non-profits. Would be a long time before we exceed the small business. Wants a free hand to investigate. Rich Landis, his son and Gordon Soderberg along with McPhearson are the sources he wants to check with. A database driven web site.

Questions about reliability. Woody would like to have an independence from obligations to others. David explained the need to redevelop the web site. Sharon explained how she had done web site development said that the data would allow locals to plug in and develop their own web site. Gives ways to organize, communicate, etc. It's really a time saver because it is easy to use. The need for competitive bidding was reported. Lee should be notified that contractual services would cease when the new system is initiated.

Wayne moved that VFP pursue the website location and architecture issues with Bill Nichols of Speedhost.net and Rich Landis. Seconded. Passed.

Woody is uncertain what the cost would be to maintain the web site.

Fundraising

Doug Zachary took info off database on random bases. Originally was going to do 333 cold calls. About \$6000 has resulted from his calls. Woody thinks that his system could become institutionalized. Will want \$3.00 a call. Won't take the \$1000. Projections from call are \$140,000.00 if he continued the calls. A contract will probably be forthcoming. Stop at 87 calls. Turn Doug on to submit proposal. Build in revenue sharing and tell chapters. Select list vs. random list and opportunity to evaluate in terms of geography, lapsed vs. paid –up. Etc. Discuss with Doug.

Barry Riesch, fund raising chair, would like to be included in future developments of Zachary's work.

Woody wants the chapters to know that we are involved in a fund raising project on a national level. It may be possible that the locals could get a percentage of the amount gathered. Maybe 10%, for example. Concern was expressed that the locals be apprised of the fundraising project and that they will benefit from the project development. Revenue sharing will be considered from dues. Dues revenue sharing considered.

McPhearson offered to look at how the locals do their fundraising. Ken Moved that we accept Doug Zachary's proposal of stopping the test at the 87 call levels and develop the proposal on that basis. Seconded. Passed.

Moved to recess until the morning. Passed.

Reconvened, Sunday October 10 at

Called to order at 8:30 Cline spoke of the need that Woody would be facing an operation and that Sharon would be taking over in the interim. Woody thought every one knew. He's getting a new knee in mid October and will be incapacitated for several weeks. Sharon will get Woody's salary.

Committees have to be involved and not be circumvented. Gene Glazer agreed to work on the search committee. STATUS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Policy: ZOCS –Re-form committee. Chair of any standing committee having the authority to disburse VFP funds (Under VFP control) must be a board member. Regular committee reports will not be given but that info on the ZOC committee will give some info. No review of Convention report, Nominations & elections, communications-newsletter/website, international Liaison, and fundraising.

(Add ZOCS to standing committee list.) Standing committees Will be reconstituted at the January meeting. Lee, Paul, Amidon, Glazer. Dave-e-mailing board action correcting oversight. Examine ZOCS restrictions and performance.

Sharon would like some update about what is going on for committee reports.

ZOC report. Lee Vander Laan , John Amidon, Gene Glazer, Paul Cox, Sharon Kufeldt serve. Can put in a request for up to \$500. Woody gave example of how money was requested for Rock. No later report from Lee. David thinks chairman of committees should be on the board. Feels that the ZOCs committee needs change in chairmanship to board meeting.

Lincoln Moved that the chair of any standing committee that has authority to disperse VFP specific funds be an active member of the board. Seconded Discussion Passed

That motion would require that the ZOCs committee have a board member chair.

Web site and stationary lists the standing committees. Who would be assigned to chair the ZOC committee? Sharon agreed to immediately be chair that committee at the request of President Cline. Cline will forward to past chair, Lee Vander Laan, asking for documents. Balance sheet shows \$13158.74 in ZOCs account. Money is there to be a stimulant to further projects of \$500 grants. Never an expectation of pay back but that repeated requests should not be granted. Would like a review of the procedures. Sharon will do a brief review for the January meeting.

REGIONAL AND CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT

Five chapters have passed the requirements

Sheboygan, WI, Chapter 114, Red Wing, MN, Chapter 115 , Mendocino County, CA Chapter 116, Boise, ID, Chapter 117.

Baltimore MD Chapter 105 has corrections

Gideon spoke eloquently in praise of Chapter 80, Duluth/Superior for its activism. He expressed hope that they get special recognition for its activities.

Wayne moved to accept the above five, excluding Baltimore that has already been approved, as official charters. Seconded. Passed.

Sharon has been rearranging chapter contacts.

Discussion on progress of regional development. No regions have been established. It would

be expected to emerge organically without official sanction. Sharon says that California is morphing into three regions. Southern, like in Santa Barbara, Bay; about seven chapters; northern, Humboldt Bay and Garberville and Mendicino. Washington is starting to coordinate so that makes west coast has four regions. California regional meetings are irregular depending on need. Communicating is continuing among them. Current electronic communication has voided the necessity of physical contacts. As board member, Sharon has been physically visiting some of the 14 chapters in California.

Chapter development list could be developed. Sharon agreed to assume some responsibilities. David would prefer to see Chapter Contacts be reestablished to conform to what is currently happening. Concern about monitoring of VFP list is being done by someone unidentified. Michelle Kucinik? Concern over VFP identified on Chapter Contacts. Woody would like to see more participation by board members into active participation in organizing.

United For Peace and Justice Report

Michel reported on United for Peace and Justice. Met on Oct. 9. Explained actions and explained what it is. It includes organizations and individuals. Intends to continue even after elections. Continue anti war demonstrations. Concerned with honeymoon period by press for whoever wins. Promote blue ribbons to express objections to war. Use inauguration day, Jan 20, to mobilize. Would like us to network with even non-political groups such as Rotarians, etc. Supports VFP/UFPJ continuing its association. McPhearson thinks that if possible, VFP would want to contribute financially to UFPJ.

Wayne Moved that VFP acknowledges our appreciation to UFPJ and Michael for their work. Seconded. Passed.

Barry Moved that VFP contribute \$200 as earnest money to UFPJ to express its support and encouragement for its work. Seconded Discussion. Passed.

Question about relationship between ANSWER and UFPJ. Workers World party had leadership role in ANSWER. But a split within the group became public and has gone into a certain demise. Ramsey Clark is a founder of IAC but they pulled out of his office. UFPJ has emerged as a prominent force. At February meeting discussion will be vigorous about different factions within UFPJ. Some dissension over the Palestinian/Israel debate. UFPJ has taken a very strong lead in our military issues. Concern over lack of medical coverage for UFPJ staff. Possibility of checking out the organizing by non-profits to develop a group for better health benefits. Ken has offered to secure information in hopes of making health insurance coverage available.

Cline wants to drop discussion on Where do we go from here?

Set the next meeting for January 22, 23, 2005 agreed to. Dallas, Texas seems preferred. Will arrange. Convention committee should be on agenda.

Frank expressed his appreciation for his time on the board.

Million-member march. October 17 in Lincoln Memorial in DC. Report. Earl Silbar, Midwest coordinator, David explained. Best is 10,000 hoped. Short march. Had not received an official notice that we endorse. David wrote email. Do we want to set up a table in anti-war tent? David will send out notice to Chapter Contact about Million-Member March. AFL/CIO is talking against march because it is taking away involvement in political activity like the Kerry rally the same day in Washington Park.

Agent Orange. Basic idea is to raise the issue to keep awareness about a petition and lawsuit against companies. Myral Rattner is active in issue. Ken suggested that Joan Duffy would serve on board.

Mayers moved that VFP assume financial sponsorship of Vietnam Agent Orange Relief & Responsibility Campaign—Santa Fe actively support. Seconded. Discussion Passed.

Solidarity Resolution submitted by John Amidon. was discussed. Ken will write memo to the board about explanation for the existing special funds such as emissary and POC and perhaps seek a time limit for existence of fund. If restrictive funds are developed, that a board member be responsible for shepherding and promoting. Thoughts will be considered in Ken's memo.

George from North Carolina who works with LIFE wants to raise money to support and orphanage in Afghanistan. Frank offered some background.

Linc. Moved that we disapprove of John Amidon's request for a special fund to cover special expense needs. Seconded. Discussion Passed.

Sharon moved that Wayne Wittman be a VFP representative at the Tampa meeting of Corpsman United seconded. Discussed. Passed. Sharon moved that Wayne Wittman be appointed a VFP representative in Venezuela. In January of 2005. Seconded. Passed.

Ellen explained her SOA Watch event in November.

Welcome home approach report from Woody. Explained how vets are returning and feel we should be better prepared. Wants to know what resources are out there. David feels the need to coalesce with other groups.

Gideon expressed his appreciation for his time on the board. Bob expressed his appreciation, too.

October 2 event VFP was a sponsoring was a meeting at Pentagon at 9 am. Then went to Arlington to Women's memorial. Ellen and John Grant both spoke at memorial about being proud to speak. 28 arrested including Ellen.

Women's caucus. 25 members now on the list. Offer for a page in the Newsletter. Still figuring out what to do. Getting members every day. VFP women/subscribe. Click on VFP web site. Response at convention was favorable.

UFPJ meeting is at the same time at the October 2 meeting. Was a powerful meeting.

Cline hopes we become proactive.

Move to adjourn at 12:27

Respectfully submitte,

Bob Heberle, Secretary