

# **VETERANS FOR PEACE**

Veterans Working Together for Peace & Justice Through Non-violence. Wage Peace!

## **VETERANS FOR PEACE**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Saturday – Sunday, April 28 and 29, 2001 – Friends of the Earth Headquarters, Washington D.C.**

#### **CALL TO ORDER – 9:50 AM**

**PRESENT:** Ellen Barfield, Sissy Goodwin, John Kim, Woody Powell, Barry Riesch, Paul Brailsford, David Cline, Lee Vander Laan, Peter Shaw, Wayne Wittman, Edilith Eckart (standing in for Fredy Champagne to report on IWP) and UN Representative , Michael Carley.

**ABSENT:** Fredy Champagne, Keith Boylen, Eric Gustafson

**MOTION:** Wayne Wittman/Sissy Goodwin – To accept **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** and **On-Line Board actions** previously distributed. **PASSED**

**On-Line Action comments:** Do not copy everybody on discussions between individual Board members. Woody create form that allows each Board member to write in his/her comments under their name.

#### **TREASURER’S REPORT**

Lee Vander Laan reported a successful transition of the books from Colombia to DC.

To-date, 2001 membership deposits total \$18,996 – representing 610 new and renewed memberships so-far this year. Down from last year’s 710 members. However, Lee reports that on-line membership applications and dues have just started to take off, having increased from 1 to 14 members per month in the last three months.

**Zones of Concern and Struggle (ZOCS)** deposits exceeded goal of \$18,000 needed to qualify for matching funds by over \$1,000. A major hurdle.

In addition to dues, Lee reported that he is maintaining funds in a category he calls the “whatever” category, that is neither dues nor ZOCS money. That amounts to \$6,860.00.

Current estimate of the monthly cost of maintaining the DC office is \$2,250.00, which means we are running with about a 6-month cushion at this point.

#### **HEADQUARTERS OFFICE**

Our part-time staff member, Jennifer, will be leaving late in May. There are, so-far, six applications for the job.

None of them appear too promising.

Decided to extend search to Washington Post classifieds and to the VFP newsletter to be published mid-May. At present, Ellen comes in one day a week. Jennifer will remain in Washington and will probably be available through a hiring and break-in period for a successor.

There was some discussion of sharing offices with another peace and justice group and/or splitting time with their Office Manager.

**MOTION:** Wayne Wittman/John Kim – That we stay where we are and comply with the terms of the current lease, which is very reasonable. **For:** Ellen Barfield, Sissy Goodwin, John Kim, Woody Powell, Barry Riesch, David Cline, Lee Vander Laan, Peter Shaw, Wayne Wittman. **Against:** Paul Brailsford -- **PASSED**

**ACTION:** President Barry Riesch went on record with a statement of policy concerning the role of National Veterans For Peace: That VFP national exists to support chapter and individual projects, provide a process of approval for endorsement, promote membership and raise funds to keep the central office open.

## PROJECTS

John Kim spoke for the adoption of a National Project to rally the membership around and create interest in VFP generally. He provoked a lively discussion which continued, off and on, throughout the meeting sessions. It was very helpful in forging a general consensus that, since the creative energy behind projects comes from the membership, the role of national should be to encourage, promote and support projects by chapters and individuals.

**MOTION:** Wayne Wittman/Ellen Barfield – Projects presented to National for endorsement should spell out actions of support needed from the membership and the National office to implement. – **PASSED**

## FUNDRAISING

There was a general discussion about fundraising methods. The Board identified available mailing lists, Peter Shaw distributed a document listing several fundraising ideas that chapters as well as national could employ and talked about a more aggressive effort to go after grants.

**MOTION:** Paul Brailsford/Peter Shaw – Accept Vickie Goodwin's offer to work on grant fund applications and assign the Financial Planning and Fundraising Committee to assist her and coordinate her activities with the Board of Directors. – **PASSED**

**ACTION:** It was also decided to make a mailing to the full, 3500-person mailing list, citing current successes with the ZOCS fundraising, thanking those that have given and appealing to those who have not to contribute to the general fund and to help us build the list of possible donors.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Paul Brailsford volunteered to chair this committee. Wayne Wittman volunteered to work with Paul. We decided we needed a new recruiting brochure. Woody Powell offered the one used by Chapter 61 as a model.

Each Board member gave a report on his/her efforts to contact chapters and individual members to build interest in VFP. Most active areas continue to be the New England chapters and Minnesota. The Board has

contacted most chapter contacts and plan additional contacts before the Convention. Areas of special mention: Puerto Rico, recruiting in association with the Vieques actions and reviving moribund chapters that were once very vital, such as the Smedly Butler chapter in Massachusetts and the Gainesville, Florida chapter.

**ACTION:** Sissy Goodwin and Woody Powell agreed to work together to develop a new packet for start-up chapters.

## **IRAQ WATER PROJECT**

Edilith Eckart gave a report to the Board on the project, complete with pictures and a financial accounting to-date. Final accounting to be done in June. Bottom line; of a budget of \$113,000 for phases one and two of the project, all but \$1,500 had been raised by mid-April. Expect to exceed budget by final accounting and be working toward the next project. Edilith and Fredy are stepping down as project leaders; however the energy remains and all indications are that other participants will pick up where they leave off. Four plants have now been restored, bringing clean water to more than 60,000 people.

Michael Carley also reported on the project and the transformation of Candy Lovett, a disabled Gulf War vet who underwent a profound transformation as the result of asking for and receiving forgiveness. A good war story.

## **ZONES OF CONCERN AND STRUGGLE (ZOCS)**

We will continue to work with this source of funding.

A letter of completion of the fund-matching obligation was written by Lee Vander Laan and submitted for Board approval to be sent to the foundation administering the ZOCS program. Board approved.

**MOTION:** Wayne Wittman/ Ellen Barfield – Create a committee of no more than seven members to review and recommend for Board approval, project applications for ZOCS funding. Lee Vander Laan, Chairman. **PASSED**

## **KOREA**

Woody Powell gave brief report on his recent trip to Korea as a delegate from VFP on the Korean Truth commission in preparation for the Korea Truth Tribunal to be held in New York City this coming June 23.

John Kim circulated his ideas on programs for Korea War issues.

**MOTION:** John Kim/Sissy Goodwin – Establish a Korea Committee to design future projects to present to the Board for endorsement. John Kim, Chairman.

## **VIEQUES**

David Cline reported on current situation, which is very heated and confrontational. He noted that this represents a ZOCS opportunity in terms of bringing other veteran's groups and Puerto Rican Vets living in the US together with VFP in opposition to the Navy bombing.

**ACTION:** David agreed to look into the production of VFP buttons in Spanish and in English for this purpose, and to come back to the board, on-line, with the costs for approval. He will also compose a letter of VFP support

for the Vieques cause.

## **SHORTWAVE BROADCASTING**

Paul Brailsford introduced the Board to an opportunity to obtain air-time with a short-wave broadcasting station. It would cost VFP \$30.00 per month for 30 minutes of programming. Would allow VFP to broadcast interviews and positions on issues over a 1500-mile radius. Apparently, this method of communication is used with some success by right-wing extremist groups. We would be an appropriate counter-balance.

**MOTION:** Paul Brailsford/Ellen Barfield – The VFP Board of Directors commissions Michael Carley to investigate short-wave broadcasting opportunity. **PASSED**

## **Sunday - April 29, 2001**

**PRESENT:** Ellen Barfield, Sissy Goodwin, John Kim, Woody Powell, Barry Riesch, David Cline, Lee Vander Laan, Peter Shaw, Wayne Wittman, Edilith Eckart (standing in for Fredy Champagne to report on IWP) and UN Representative , Michael Carley.

**ABSENT:** Fredy Champagne, Keith Boylen, Eric Gustafson, Paul Brailsford

## **BOARD MEETING TRAVEL EXPENSE POLICY**

**MOTION:** David Cline/Peter Shaw – Those Board members needing assistance with travel expenses to attend Board meetings are encouraged to petition the board for relief. The Board hereby obligates itself to assist, out of their own pockets, in any way deemed appropriate by the members at the time. **PASSED**

## **EL SALVADOR**

Wayne Wittman gave the Board background on the history of VFP involvement with El Salvador and the ex-combatants there.

**RESOLUTION:** Be it resolved that VFP authorize Wayne Wittman to develop a delegation to El Salvador, to go there, at their own expense, in January 2002 to re-connect with the ex combatants, investigate the role of the US Military in El Salvador at present and make preparations for election observations in 2003 and 2004. **PASSED.**

**MOTION:** The Board authorizes Wayne Wittman to sponsor the creation of a delegation of VFP members to join the Center of Global Education as election observers, at their own expense, in Nicaragua from November 1 to November 8, 2001 – and to report to VFP and to their communities their observations concerning the Free and Fair components of the election.

## **SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS ACTION**

**MOTION:** Wayne Wittman/ David Cline – Authorize a meeting of VFP members November 17, 2001 in

Columbus, Georgia to be organized and announced by Wayne Wittman. **PASSED**

Discussed fast being conducted by veteran Joe Moebus outside the gate at Fort Benning (The School of the Americas).

**MOTION:** David Cline/Peter Shaw – David Cline and Peter Shaw to prepare a letter of solidarity supporting Joe Moebus' fast at the SOA and offering a paid membership in Veterans For Peace. **PASSED.**

## **BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF CHAPTER AND INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS**

Discussion about need for some sort of guiding policy for earning the endorsement of the Board for projects.

**MOTION:** Woody Powell/Ellen Barfield – Develop a policy for soliciting Board endorsement of Chapter and/or individual projects. **PASSED.** Woody will put together a draft for Board consideration.

## **NATIONAL CONVENTION**

The Convention will be held at the Mountain Home Holiday Inn in Albuquerque. The dates have been set for August 24 –26. The Board will meet on Thursday the 23<sup>rd</sup>, prior to the Convention.

The Board reviewed Don Thompson's letter of progress on the convention. A full range of topics have been identified and workshops assigned. Among them, Energy and the Military in New Mexico, Western Hemisphere Panel discussion, Weapons in Space, Vieques, Indigenous Homelands Under Siege (one speaker will be Ward Churchill, who will explore that topic fully) Globalization and World Peace, Peace and Alternative Broadcasting, Militarization of Youth. Also speaking will be Father Roy Bourgeois on the SOA, Bill Sullivan on Wen Ho Lee and, possibly, Pete Seeger.

Discussed the process of receiving and processing resolutions for the membership to vote on. We will try to keep the incidents of so-called frivolous, last-minute resolutions to a minimum.

## **UP-DATED BY-LAWS**

Woody Powell will re-issue the By-laws to reflect last year's amendments.

## **NOMINATIONS**

Wayne Wittman, Keith Boylan, John Kim are present committee members. Wayne will name more. We need at least eight candidates for four vacancies this coming year.

Once the ballot has been put together, it will be mailed out to the membership for voting six weeks after the Convention.

## **AWARDS COMMITTEE**

Sissy Goodwin, Chair, and Bob Heberle, David Cline, John Kim and Michael Carley will put together an awards policy package.

**MOTION:** Sissy Goodwin/Dave Cline – The Board approved a special award from Veterans For Peace initiated by the Garberville Chapter to recognize the contributions of the twenty-nine IWP participants. **PASSED.**

**MOTION:** John Kim/Ellen Barfield – That VFP recognize the efforts of the IWP co-chairs, Fredy Champagne and Edilith Eckart, with special plaques. **PASSED.**

### **SENATOR BOB KERRY**

The Board discussed the implications of Senator Kerry's revelations concerning the killing of civilian during an action in Vietnam. We generally agreed that the major implication is that this is the kind of thing that one can expect from the policies governing that war and others; that the policies need to be identified, examined and criticized ahead of the individual soldiers responding to them.

**MOTION:** Wayne Wittman/Peter Shaw – David Cline is directed to formulate a position statement for VFP on the Bob Kerry revelation. **PASSED.**

### **NAGASAKI/HIROSHIMA 2001**

**MOTION:** John Kim/ Ellen Barfield – John Kim will prepare a draft statement in response to a Japanese request for a Veterans For Peace statement on the Nagasaki/Hiroshima Day of International Joint Action. **PASSED.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:15 pm.**