



VETERANS FOR PEACE

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

Veterans For Peace

National` Board Meeting Minutes 8/14&15/2002

This meeting was convened at 8:35AM by VFP National President David Cline in Duluth, MN at the site of the 2002 VFP Annual Convention.

Board members present in addition to David were: Vice President Ellen Barfield, Recording Secretary Frank Houde, Treasurer Lincoln Grahlf, Paul Brailsford, Wayne Wittman, John Kim, John Amidon, Bob Heberle, Lee Vander Laan, Barry Reisch, Gideon Rosenbluth and National Administrator Woody Powell. Board member Fredy Champagne was absent for medical reasons.

Guest observers of this meeting were VFP members: Charlie Atkins, Larry Egbert, Sissy Goodwin, Bert Thompson and Gene Glazer. The motion to formally open the meeting was made by Wayne Wittman and seconded by Bob Heberle.

RECORDING SECRETARY The minutes of the April 2002 meeting were reviewed and accepted as read. Motion to accept was made by John Amidon and seconded by Bob Heberle.

TREASURERS REPORT The Treasurer's report was reviewed and accepted. Treasurer Lincoln Grahlf noted that in the matter of health insurance for Kim Gainor (previously discussed at the April meeting), one of our National Office secretaries. Kim has accepted a compensating raise in pay in lieu of the prohibitively expensive insurance policy.

AGENDA ADDITION Provision was made for Donna Howard, a member of the Nonviolent Peaceforce, to speak to the VFP Board about Veterans For Peace becoming a member organization in this international peace coalition.

NATIONAL OFFICE REPORT VFP National Administrator, Woody Powell reviewed the National Office budget with the board then gave a verbal report on office matters. The budget is on file at the National Office. Kay Flannery is acting as accountant for the National Office. Membership at the time of the report is 1822 and climbing. There was discussion as to how active individual chapters are. Paul Brailsford offered that it might be good to define geographic regions for VFP to facilitate dealing with the chapters. Ellen Barfield suggested that chapters be required to submit annual reports of their activity. The consensus of the Board was that we should move discussions and action on our organizational structure to another level at the next board meeting.

1. John Amidon moved, Bob Heberle seconding, that the Treasurer's Report and the National Office Report and Budget be accepted. Both acceptances passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Barry Reisch reported for the **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**. The committee is working on setting up a donor base outside of the active VFP membership. Lincoln Grahlf reported for the **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**.

reiterating what was already stated re membership in the National Office report. John Amidon recommended disbanding the STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE because of inactivity.

2. Frank Houde moved that the Strategic Planning committee be disbanded for the present. David Cline seconded the motion, noting that the setting of strategy is very important and this did not signify abandonment or desertion of that important function. Passed unanimously.

3. Lincoln Grahfs moved, Ellen Barfield seconding, that there be no ex-officio members of the VFP National Board except those elected or appointed in accord with the Veterans For Peace bylaws. Passed unanimously. Wayne Wittman reported for the CONVENTION COMMITTEE. Paul Cox in San Francisco says they may be willing to hold 2003 VFP Convention there. Wayne noted that we need to have an ongoing group of committee members experienced in setting up our annual convention. He also noted that we need guidelines as to what is necessary to do to have a good convention. Wayne will draft a guidelines checklist. Wayne Wittman reported for the NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE. Nominees for the openings in the VFP Board for 2003 are: Ellen Barfield Paul Brailsford George Johnson Gene Glazer Jozef Hand-Boniakowski Pat Driscoll

4. Wayne Wittman moved, Bob Heberle seconding, that the named nominees be accepted. Passed unanimously. ZONES OF COMMITMENT & STRUGGLE Lee Vander Laan passed out application forms to be used in requesting funds for ZOCS projects and briefed on the excellent results of the Peace Poetry Project being carried out in certain eastern Massachusetts schools. John Amidon briefed on the Peaceful Village project and the Anger Management Groups being held in New York's Capitol District. Board consensus was that the Anger Management Groups should make every effort to target the veteran community. Discussion also arose at this time around the fact that Veterans For Peace is an almost exclusively white organization. The need for energetically recruiting persons of color was noted, but solutions for this lack were vague. UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVE REPORT Ellen Barfield reported on her attendance at United Nations functions for NGOs. Harold Burbank will be her alternate when she can't be present. She was asked about the possibility of obtaining some form of NGO Identification Card. Such an ID from another UN approved NGO, held by a member of a VFP Delegation to Chiapas, Mexico proved very valuable in performing the delegation's business. The meeting broke for lunch at 12:15PM and reconvened at 13:15PM. BOARD BUSINESS BY E-MAIL Frank Houde brought up the difficulty he has in sorting out motions, seconds, discussions and voting from other traffic during day-to-day board business. There was some discussion of how best to deal with this. Consensus was that it would be better if the Board had its own listserve. ANNUAL RESOLUTIONS Drawing up of resolutions for consideration by those attending the annual General Membership Meeting was largely left 'til the last minute this year. Some dedicated Board members burned the midnight oil to assure that they would be ready in time for the membership to amend and ratify or reject them. The finalized and accepted resolutions are now a matter of separate record.

5. Frank Houde moved, Lincoln Grahfs seconding, that a Resolution Committee be established to prepare appropriate resolutions to be submitted to the VFP General Membership at each annual convention. Passed unanimously.

2003 CONVENTION Word was received through George Johnson that San Francisco would host the VFP Convention for 2003. It will be held in the Veteran's War Memorial Building if current plans continue. ITEMS OF DISCUSSION A number of items were discussed with no final outcomes. A list of these items follows with little amplification. The intent is to jog memories in case some items need to be handled further. a. VFP response to terrorism re the upcoming first anniversary of 9-11. Ellen spoke about the importance of the National Coalition for Peace and Justice. She also asked that we inform Global Exchange of activities we plan around the 911 anniversary. b. Guidelines on endorsing and being endorsed by other organizations. Web links were also mentioned. c. VFP logo—the discussion went 'round and 'round.

6. John Kim moved, John Amidon seconding, that the logo matter be tabled. The motion was passed with 6 ayes to 4 nays. d. Use of the Executive Committee. This item also received a lot of discussion. Board members noted that the Executive Committee hadn't been needed or used in recent times and they strongly expressed preference for action by the full board. e. Discussion returned to National Office personnel matters and the way office personnel gave of their time and the time they had given to preparing for the convention. In light of this subject matter:

7. Wayne Wittman moved, Ellen Barfield seconding, that the Board approve the personnel actions, taken by Woody Powell since the last Board meeting, as detailed in his current National Office Report. Passed with one abstention. The meeting was adjourned for dinner after which members would return to work on the resolutions. Saturday 8/15/02 The meeting was reconvened at 9:45 AM. The late start was to allow members who had kept late hours working on the resolutions to get enough sleep. Board members present were: David Cline, Ellen Barfield, Frank Houde, Lincoln Grahlf, Paul Brailsford, Wayne Wittman, John Kim, John Amidon, Bob Heberle, Lee Vander Laan, Barry Reisch, Gideon Rosenbluth and Woody Powell. NATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR, PAY RAISE At this time it was noted that the amount of the budget line for the National Administrator coupled with motion/vote #7. gave Woody Powell a pay raise without benefit of discussion. Discussion ensued and after examining availability of funds and the fiscal responsibility of the Board and National Office, the following actions were taken:

8. Wayne Wittman moved, Barry Reisch seconding, that The Board rescind the approval of the National Office budget given yesterday. The motion was passed with 8 ayes and 3 nays.

9. Wayne Wittman moved, Paul Brailsford seconding, that the Board approve the budget as presented with the exception of the National administrators salary. Passed, 7 ayes and 3 abstentions.

10. Frank Houde moved, Barry Reisch seconding, that the National administrator's salary be increased to \$2200.00 monthly and that further increase be considered at the next Board meeting. Passed, 7 ayes, 1 nay and 3 abstentions.

11. Frank Houde moved, Barry Reisch seconding, that the budget line item for the National Administrator's salary be reinstated in the amount of \$ 2200.00 monthly. Passed, 7 ayes, 1 nay and three abstentions.

AWARDS PROGRAM & NEWSLETTER Peter Shaw showed up to give a how-goes-it on the Awards Program and the newsletter.

IRAQ WATER PROJECT Barry Reisch and Tom Sager reported on IWP's accomplishments this year to date. They noted that not only are we helping people in need by what were doing, we're getting a lot of very good publicity too. They also noted that our government is putting some pressure on people doing this kind of thing through travel restrictions, threats of fines etc. There is no particular plan for the next project yet.

12. Barry Reisch moved, Gideon Rosenbluth seconding, that the Iraq Water Project become an ongoing project of Veterans For Peace. Passed unanimously. The meeting broke for lunch at 1220PM and reconvened at 1:20 PM. KOREA PROJECT John Kim reported on his Korea Project. He hopes to create the opportunity to send a delegation to Korea soon. VIDEO DROP Ellen Barfield briefed the Board on the project to have veterans deliver the SOAW's new video, The New Patriots, to our elected representatives and lobby for the closing of the School of the Americas. The event is scheduled to take place on September 23, 24 &25. NONVIOLENT PEACEFORCE Donna Howard spoke to the Board about the Nonviolent Peaceforce. Member comments indicated that the amount of commitment in time and travel funds would be excessive if VFP joined and sent a representative. There was however, consensus that the organization's peace objectives were laudable.

13. Bob Heberle moved, Frank Houde seconding, that Veterans For Peace endorse the Nonviolent Peaceforce. Passed unanimously.

14. Ellen Barfield moved, Bob Heberle seconding, that Wayne Wittman look into the Nonviolent Peaceforce and find out if possible just what they want of us. Passed unanimously. ISREAL—PALESTINE David Cline spoke about the project to ship an ambulance to Palestine. He says all the pieces to make it happen are in place, but nobody is pulling them together. He intends to sit down with interested parties and explore leadership. David also spoke about the Refuseniks, a group of Israeli soldiers, numbering over 300, who refuse to fight against the Palestinians. VVAW—AI VVAW—AI (Vietnam Veterans Against the War—Anti Imperialist) members were in our midst at the Convention. Simply put, they are a group trying to use VVAW's good name to subvert the veteran's peace movement to their own purposes. They are actually an offshoot of the Revolutionary Communist Party. It would be wise to be alert when they are about. The August 2002, Veterans for Peace National Board meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM.

Summary of Motions And Their Disposition

1. John Amidon moved, Bob Heberle seconding, that the Treasurer's Report and the National Office Report and Budget be accepted. Both acceptances passed unanimously.
2. Frank Houde moved that the Strategic Planning committee be disbanded for the present. David Cline seconded the motion, noting that the setting of strategy is very important and this did not signify abandonment or desertion of that important function. Passed unanimously.
3. Lincoln Grahlf's moved, Ellen Barfield seconding, that there be no ex-officio members of the VFP National Board except those elected or appointed in accord with the Veterans For Peace bylaws. Passed unanimously.
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