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Veterans For Peace  
National Board  
Meeting Minutes  
January 25 and 26, 2003

The meeting was convened at 9:15 AM by the VFP National President David Cline in St. Louis, MO. Board members and newly elected: present: Wayne Wittman, Lincoln Grahlf, Gideon Rosenbluth, Frank Houde, Lincoln Grahlf, Gene Glazer, Frank :Houde, Ellen Barfield, Barry Riesch, Bob Heberle, David Cline, Woody Powell. John Kim John Amidon. , and special guest from local chapter 61. Don Connor. Jozef Hand-Boniakowski also attended as a special invitee of Woody Powell. George Johnson and Lee Vander Laan had both announced previously that they could not attend.

Cline suggested that before treasure's report and other orders of business be conducted that election for officers be held, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer positions were offered.

Frank Houde nominated David Cline, Nominations closed , Cline elected by acclimation, VP , Wayne nominated Ellen Barfield, elected by acclimation, Secretary. Frank would not accept reelection. Bob Heberle was nominated by David and elected by acclimation. Elected. Lincoln Grahlf, nominated by Ellen, and he accepted. Voted by acclimation.

Agenda:

Lincoln suggested time limitations: 10 minutes per topic was supported by Amidon. We need spot to add on new items: Wanted the board balanced so that the board terms were balanced and had carry over. Clline felt that that subject would come under board structure and structure balance. We had talked about a trust fund for membership. The definition of executive director. The discussion of the editorial committee. Cline ruled that that would come under the discussions of the board. Wayne mentioned that we have to have a convention committee report. Riesch wanted place to talk about fundraising as a separate point. Cline suggested that fundraising be another point. Riesch wanted special recognition for woman who ran table in DC during Jan 18 rally. Locations of meetings. Frank Houde wanted a resolutions committee. Cline decided that resolutions come under committee.. Issues and plans will include letter to Security Council that Kim wanted.

Minute review and treasures report before Executive Director's report suggested by Cline. Cline wanted Ellen's Iraq report first to flesh out human side.

Ellen found leaving Iraq was hardest even though it was her third trip. She was on Iraq Kathy Kelly's Peace Team. Barfield was able to go to Basra with other delegations and on ground at three hotels. Some attended university classes, including Ellen. Iraq is nervous about too many foreigners. Initial visa is for 10 days but she got one for 30 days. Charles Liteky had to leave and come back because of expired visa. Some government people have mixed feeling about how long visas should be granted. Several other delegations including relatives of 9/11 visited. One delegate was killed by rolling over in their SUV that had Firestone tires. Faith leaders included Roy Bourgeois. Ellen was with Charley and he left with Ellen. Did a lot of action and did get media attention. Presented MLK's speech. Had an Irish person read the excerpt at which no U.S. media showed up. Got lots of media coverage at other events. Sean Penn was there and got attention. Academic conference held at Baghdad U. Ellen was concerned about leaving the people who might later be killed by U.S. attack. She did visit patient who later died in the hospital. Ellen and others were NOT "human shields" but were there to accompany people. She accompanied Canadian woman who was charged with being a "human shield". Most Canadians were very supportive of the visitors. Amidon asked if she got any compensation and she reported that about a third was covered.

Wayne moved and Houde seconded to commend Ellen for her great witness. Motion passed.

Received notice from Lee Vander Laan and George Johnson. George had fallen and hurt his back and couldn't attend. Personal reasons prevented Lee from attending.

Minutes from last meeting presented by Frank. He reported regret at getting behind on email ...Kay Flannery is accountant rather than the reported Kim Gaynor.

Correction: Health insurance for Kim not Kay. Kim reported on KOREAN PROJECT on next to the last page would like to add that produced and presented a brochure about a peace campaign.

Wittman moved acceptance of secretary's minutes and Ellen seconded. Discussion called and vote passed with no abstentions or nays

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Lincoln explained how he's now getting a feel for the job. Financial conditions are good. We are not a lot different than a year ago but the cash flow has expanded remarkably. Hopes that the income exceeds the expenses. Long range would love to be able to save for endowment. John Amidon mentioned how we had touched on Life Membership but in best of times we would be putting that into a sequestered fund. So, without that regular income, and not in a savings that would accrue interest, that it should be in some form of a saving.

Gen Glazer asked about the dues are from when? Dues are from the fiscal years from September 1 to August 31. Asked what beginning fund instead of "beg" fund under Capital fund. Kim asked about temporary funds, discussion followed that the treasure needs all of the information. Kim wants legal and accounting expenses separated. He found on page two "legal and accounting" and legal are together under EXPENSES.

List included in the bill accounting for the high phone bill is the DSL/broadband charges.

Kay Flannery, at \$200 a month, comes in and monthly audits the books. She does the monthly and another person audits the accounts. The \$2,735 bill that's included in the "Legal and Accounting" category under "EXPENSES."

Kim

pointed out that the accounting bill ran to \$8000. Woody explained that some additional expenses like Lee's wife was included in that expenditure.

Wittman moved that the treasurer's report be accepted and Houde seconded.

Cline summarized that the restricted fund be for the Korean Project.

Discussion. Vote. Passed unanimously.

Amidon brought up life membership and handling. Houde wanted the discussion about the trust fund be considered and a cushion fund. The only timing would be using a smaller portion for a start.

Powell, pointed out savings account, \$28,510.33 holds those funds from the life memberships. Discussion wanted the money put into a restricted account. Jozef suggested putting in paper and then actually transfer later. About 40 life members. Ellen, life member, was not favorable about sequestering funds because it was not generating sufficient funds to justify. Lincoln wanted to express wish for expression of interest to save the funds. Amidon thinks it important to have funds in reserve. Woody mentioned, "Prudent reserve."<sup>2</sup> Suggested that it be considered as Prudent Reserve. Woody suggested six months safety.

John Moved to establish a "prudent reserve fund" of six months operating budget and assign the treasure in consultation with the Exec Director to

report at the next meeting with a plan.. This is approximately \$40,000. Gideon seconded. Discussion followed. Motion passed with one abstention.

Executive Director's/ report:

Woody presented his January 2003 printed report. This month will be a new record of memberships, most of them new. The "Chapter Status" report has been worked on for the last year. It shows 52 active chapters with contact person listed. Deadline for newsletter is February 2, 2003. List shows potential for eight more groups. Ellen pointed out that DC and Baltimore chapters are different entities. The Baltimore group is working to develop a local. Peter is working with Ellen. Woody pointed out that we charge only \$25 to keep membership as cheap as possible. Average membership donation is \$32.60. Renewals are averaging \$36. (See page 3 under "Financials" Wants to invest in a \$500 for an integrated inventory program to facilitate merchandise sales.

John moved and Ellen seconded that \$500 be used to purchase and install an integrated inventory program and at the status report will be given at the next meeting. Questions for clarification followed. Woody explained the uses of the program and how it would facilitate sales. Lincoln pointed out how \$5000 in merchandise was purchased last year. It keeps track of what is selling. Could also save money by saving labor pay. Motion passed unanimously.

Woody suggested that VFP all be limited to ten items. Limiting messages on Chapter contacts. Again members are reminded to limit messages to individuals.

Woody reminded the group of the work of the Speakers' bureau. Lincoln informed group of his efforts to talk to groups. Lincoln volunteered to put together a speakers' bureau group. Wants to know about who can speak on what subject. Woody has a group of 21 names willing to speak. Jozef is listing on web site talking points that can be used for events that are going on right now.

Media. Lincoln will put together a team according to above notes. David hoped people will use links on the web site.

Ellen wanted to know about endorsement processes. Woody seems to be comfortable with what he has done. He uses some research on links.

Discussion developed about Woody's concern about what would happen to the management of the group while he was incapacitated. Problem is what could be a back up. Some thought that a back up plan be unnecessary and that we'll face that when it occurs. Office staff is not capable to run. Gabriela could

handle but because of her uncertain citizenship status can't be designated. Lincoln is willing but suggests that his wife might have different ideas. Possible local person could be able to step in. Discussion seems important. It would help if some locals could start working in.

Discussion about "Duties of Executive Director" as outlined in Woody's report. "Act as an authorized spokesperson" as opposed to "Act as authorized spokesperson".

Frank Houde moved and Lincoln Grahlf's seconded that "the amended version at to include the amended version of "Act as an authorized spokesperson" and "Give assistance to VFP projects and manage funds" in the description duties of Executive Director stipulates the official declaration of his duties..

Discussion and vote followed and passed with a unanimous vote in favor of the duties with amendments.

Woody reported a big jump in funds and another life time members. \$86,091 now reported in assets.

Board Size and regional organization structure discussion: Wayne counted that we're 13 members. If we had 15 members with a turnover of 5, 5 and 5, we could have more consistency in board turnover. That way there would always be a turnover of five members with a constant membership of ten. Dave expressed an interest in trying to have regional representation. Open discussion followed. Gideon thought we should consider regional representation.

Wayne moved and Lincoln seconded.

We will elect five candidates for a three year term and the sixth person will be elected for a two year term. The purpose of this is to balance the annual elections to equalize the board. Discussion

The motion carried

Discussion about regional elections followed. Lincoln moved and Gideon seconded that that a committee be established to submit a regional structure for board elections. Gideon, Lincoln, and Jozef volunteered to be on the committee. Kim suggested that directors be designated to represent geographical. No vote. Cline appointed the three to study geographical representation and report back to the next meeting.

The next election will be in October.

Break taken at noon and reconvened at 12:35

Pres. Cline submitted Editorial board proposal to follow the Philip Berrigan report. Kim moves Frank Houde that Philip Berrigan be granted a posthumous honorary membership.

Membership. Motion Passed.

Riesch moved and Lincoln seconded that the board recommend to the San Francisco membership that it strongly consider extending an invitation to Liz MacAlister to be a speaker at the national convention. Motion passed.

Editorial board. Discussion. Woody presented to the board his written proposal.

:

(Establish an editorial committee to facilitate the management of information disseminated through all VFP outlets. The editorial committee will supercede the communications committee, be responsible to the Board of Directors and include at least one member of the VFP board to provide oversight.) Not approved at this point

John Amidon moved and Link seconded that

The editorial committee will manage the content and dissemination of information through VFP outlets. The editorial committee will be responsible to the board and have at least one board member as a committee member. The editorial committee will supercede the communications committee

Long discussion with final approval given by unanimous vote.

Barry moved and Gideon seconded

Committee include, Peter Shaw, Lee Vander Laan, Jozef Hand-Boniakowski, Bob Heberle, Ken Mayer and Woody Powell as ex official..

Motion discussed and voted for unanimously

Convention report. Wayne Wittman reported that Roy Wolff would help and George Johnson mentioned the possibility that the local college in San Francisco be utilized for the paarticipants. Wayne Wittman , Roy Wolff, Andy Anderson, Doug and Sarah Thompson and Jim Steinhagen are on committee.

Would like a ten-year projection for sites for convention. This year's dates set for August 8, 9 and 10. Sunday the 10's day is planned for a

demonstration at the Liverpool Laboratory. (Workplace for Woody's deceased father.) Wayne will work with Roy Cox and George Johnson to facilitate getting information. It would be good to have location, price and other details of the convention in the next newsletter. Wayne will obtain specifics for him to get in the February newsletter including whose on the committee. Barry suggested that Scott Ritter be invited to be a speaker at the 2003 convention.

Discussion followed that seemed to suggest that Scott Ritter would be a welcome addition.

POC Report: Bob Heberle reported that due to the uncertainty of funds, and active POC committee is irrelevant at this time. It was hoped that Bob or someone would develop a personalized campaign to generate funds. POC Committee: Ellen Barfield volunteered to serve on the committee.

Resolution committee

The deadline for submission should be publicized. A resolution committee should process them and the need for dissemination of request and requirements listed.

Wayne moved and Barry seconded that a resolutions committee of the board be appointed to review those resolutions submitted and reviewed. After a brief discussion, motion passed.

Bob moved and Ellen seconded. To be eligible for consideration for POC relief, the applicant must be a member of the VFP at the time of his/her arrest. Discussion and motion passed.

John Amidon moved and Frank Houde seconded that All donations to POC funds be put in a restricted and dedicated. Discussion. Passed.

John Amidon, John Kim, Gene Glazer and Wayne volunteered to work on the (?)committee. Gene Glazer agreed to pull it together for the convention.(Secretary cannot recall what this item was in regards to. Nominations?)

Nominating Committee Wayne volunteered to be part of nominating committee and all the members of the board are asked to contribute. Frank Houde agreed to serve and it was suggested that George Johnson be asked to serve. There are five candidates so far and the committee needs twelve. John Kim Jozef Hand, Lincoln Grahlf, John Grant, David Cline, Jozef Hand-Boniakowski, Frank suggested Igor Bobrowski

Chaplain Program: Woody explained a proposal that was submitted regarding a Chaplaincy program. Woody is not recommending it at this time but suggests that if it wants, the membership review and report back about reactions. The group felt we are an advocacy and information group and not a service group. No action taken.

Travel Compensation About \$1200 is budgeted for helping board members as reported by Woody. Several suggestions were made to help out privately and individually. A fund was suggested to help defray costs. Cline suggested a \$3000 fund.

Barry moved and Frank seconded a motion to expand the travel fund from \$1200 to \$3000.. The following was suggested as a friendly amendment and was accepted: A committee of Exec Director, Pres and Treasure be responsible for allocation of this fund. Discussion followed. Passed. Gideon abstained.

Barry moved and Ellen seconded that travel expenses be voluntarily split by attending members. Discussion followed. Motion Lost

Iraq Water Project Tom Sager presented a three page written report. Six water treatment facilities were checked. One has administrative rather than physical problems. Sager feels that continuing the project is extremely important. Hopes that we can continue project. He has a two-hour video. For complete information contact Tom at [tomsager@yahoo.com](mailto:tomsager@yahoo.com) Woody reported that the project owes VFP \$1300 after a total of over \$58,000 in expenses.

Barry Moved and Ellen seconded that the board approve of solicitation for further funds to continue the Iraq Water Project. Discussion followed and motion approved.

Fund raising Barry gave a follow-up by informing the group of Chapter 27's donor base. Barry wanted to get magazines that rent lists. He will check into the cost of a mailing list from one of the magazines. Woody explained how a walk in Vietnam vet who has raised money in the past offered his services. Barry will work with Woody to develop the fund raising effort. Frank offered that .79 cents apiece is a normal charge. Contacting matching fund companies was suggested.

Web Site 1.. Issues with credit card sales 2. Fund appeals Wondered if fund appeals should be streamlined. Cline feels there is a consensus that the editorial committee should review fund appeals on web site. Kim to present proposal for Korean fund appeal proposal. Cline explained his reaction to a suggested that a song that appears on the web site is offensive. He suggested other songs to substitute for the existing song "Universal

Soldier<sup>2</sup>. Further discussion suggested. Maybe the editorial committee could review and suggest along with Woody's praise for all of the good comments he gets from the web site. Jozef would like to see that each local put up its own web site information and not expect the national to include

Alliances with other coalitions. Cline likes walking on two legs: To walk alone as veterans and in coalition with other groups, not just radical ones. Round table discussion followed about specific instances of coalition. Concern was made about connecting with ANSWER, Move On, etc. Those that make appeal for our sponsorship, could be contacted. Some scientism with ANSWER or MoveOn but should announce their actions was offered. AFSC, Peaceful Tomorrows, and we should not be linked with every group. Link only with anti-war, peace organizations. Agree with United for Peace and Justice. Some support ANSWER because we get good publicity for the association. Be careful of Move On because they came out and supported questionable candidates. No absolute consensus was reached. A sense that the VF should use the veterans' card. Stay with groups that are consistent with its statements of purpose. Locals can stay. Cline likes to stick close to United for Peace and Justice. We are linked to United for Peace. Veterans Against the Iraq War(VAIW) is a good group and Cline is pushing for a veterans' demonstration.

Paul Sullivan wants to organize several hundreds of veterans for sitting in a congress person's offices in protest.

John Kim Moved and Gene Glazer seconded a motion that The VF participate in the organization of a veterans' coalition demonstration in Washington DC. As soon as practicable. Discussion Motion passed

Meeting called to reassemble at 9 am Sunday.

Motion to adjourn at 5:15.

January 26, 2003

Meeting called to order by President Cline at 9:10

Cline introduced subject of Woody's salary. David talked to Woody last night and Woody thought that he wasn't pushing for an immediate raise and like to have a one and one-half staff and we are currently paying him \$22,000. David would like to see it go to \$25,000. Cline thinks we can postpone the salary issue until the next meeting in April or May. Powell had pointed out to David that he will not be here forever. We should be preparing for a more adequate salary for a future employee.. Further discussion revolved around future issues and employee issues. Action postponed.

John Amidon moved that Global Peace Campaign and Yumi Kikuchi be forwarded money (website donations and mailed donations) for the January, 2003 ad in the New York Times that has been received by Veterans for Peace specifically for that purpose. Seconded by: Bob Heberle. No discussion and vote held. Motion passed. Discussion about keeping button on web site and feeling expressed to remove the current appeal. We have to make it clear to Yumi that we can't continue soliciting funds.

John A. moved that the policy for web site buttons to causes that the VFP finds in the interest for peace and the citizens of the US be on a case-by-case basis and with time limits. Seconded by Ellen. Discussion: Feeling that the campaign can't be on a continuing basis because of the plethora of requests and our ability to help. Vote held and passed. Appropriate for Woody or David to notify Yumi of our limits.

Wayne moved that a note of appreciation from the board to Yumi for her and her group's efforts for promoting our objectives. John Kim seconded. Discussion followed with a vote that was passed unanimously.

Impeachment requests. Uncertain of ramifications. Uncertain of value. Disagreement of that point. One person spoke of lawyer who was willing to help. He didn't worry about implications of complications. W. Bush has violated the Constitution.

Gene moved that we call for the impeachment of the President Bush. Gideon seconded. Maker spoke on behalf of his reasons expressing the reasons for an impeachment call a person-expressed desire to wait for person in congress introduce the resolution. Concerns are for a well-developed resolution with well-developed reasons and in support. Someone else was in favor of sending out other groups and people to sense their feelings thus would rather see that we should put out feelers. Cline read some of those arguments listed. Timing is important and maybe we should wait until Bush does something before passing an immediate call.

Bob moved to amend the motion to include that "Should President Bush unilaterally order an attack on Iraq,<sup>2</sup> Seconded by John Kim. Therefore the motion would read: "Should President Bush order an attack on Iraq without Security Council approval, the Board of Directors of VFP calls for his impeachment.<sup>2</sup> Discussion followed. Argument made to make the issue more public. Bush has eliminated some of the Rights under the Bill of Rights. AS veterans, we feel that our service to our country has been ignored by the sacrifices of veterans. It was suggested that Lincoln contact Lane Rowland who. Vote held and motion passed with two votes in opposition.

Ellen wants authority to seek out other offices to get further updates on impeachment efforts. Members encouraged her to secure all of the sources she can secure and pass along the information to the board.

Lincoln moved and Frank Houde called for reconsideration of the Impeachment resolution. Discussion. Passed We should be in touch.

The Board of Directors of VFP views the Attack on Iraq without U.N. Security Council's authorization as a violation of the UN Charter. The Charter is the law of the land and the attack would be a violation of the US Constitution. and grounds for impeachment. The VFP will take whatever action is then determined.

Lincoln moved and seconded by Riesh to rescind the original motion for impeachment. Vote passed with one in opposition.

Barry moved The VFP will take whatever action is then determined.<sup>2</sup> Kim seconded. Discussion Vote on amendment above. Amendment passed with one vote in opposition.

Vote on entire impeachment vote held. Motion passed .

Cline was interested in keeping up to date on congressional action. Ellen has offered to keep the group informed. Bob Vandiveer's name was suggested.

Gideon moved and seconded by Frank to create a legislative monitoring committee . Discussion passed Ellen will serve.

U.N. Committee report: Ellen and her colleague Harold Burbank are willing to continue as her position as the liaison to the U.N. Lincoln moved and Frank moved a "motion to have them continue as the U.N. reps<sup>2</sup>. Vote. Motion passed.

International Criminal Court report. 87 countries are now signed up without the U.S.

SOA Report. Trial for those charged will be in March. They've charge people without a ban and bar letters and have increased

Wayne moved and Barry seconded "to have a VFP meeting on November 22, 2003 at t the Howard Johnson Hotel in Columbus GA<sup>2</sup>. Discussion. Approved. Ellen will be representative in late February in DC as VFP's rep on the SOA meeting.

KOREAN PEACE/NUCLEAR CRISIS John Kim introduced a written report

titled,

“The Korea Peace Campaign(KPC).<sup>2</sup>John explained about changing the name to “Peace Campaign.<sup>2</sup> Concern about the crisis with N/S Korea. Crisis makes the campaign more important at this time. John described the six parts of the KPC. Wants to have a speaker at the national convention as outlined on page two under the 2003 KPC Program report.

John expects a need of \$30,000 to complete the project. He would hope to secure ZOC funds. John feels the IWP would be a proper model to use for the securing of funds and relationship with the VFP. Cline suggested that more members are required to make the committee and its work viable. It was suggested that John approach Congressman Rangel and others to implement.

John Kim moved that “The board approve the objectives of the Korean Peace Campaign(CPC) and the proposed 2003 activities.<sup>2</sup>: Barry seconded. Discussion It was explained that the committee of Chuck Overby ,Tom Sturdivan and Ed Edvers,Michael Schicrr and John Kim be willing to serve on the committee. And do the work. Arguments opposed said that; It was hoped that the topic is mentioned in the Newsletter that is planned for mid February. It was suggested that John write the genesis of the Korean problem and lay it out in the article to include the request for volunteers. Motion failed.

A substitute motion was made. Wayne moved: VFP Board promotes a peace agreement and normal relationship with Korea(N/S Korea.) and the United States. The V FP Board appreciates and encourages the VFP Korea Peace Campaign to act in this pursuit. Frank Houde seconded. Discussion. Motion passed

John read letter to UN about the deep concern about U.S.’s considered attack on Iraq. Frank moved and Gideon seconded. The Board approves the letter and send to the UN. Discussion. Passed.

World Vets Federation Woody explained that we got \$1000 from Sandy Kelson but was unclear about the group. Ellen was consulted. It appears that we are behind in some dues. We are a member about which we don’t know much about. Sandy had arranged for a membership at a past convention. We were accepted but Cline explained that the group is not involved in cutting edge political issues. We had joined in 1999. Much confusion and lack of understanding of what the World Vets Federation is. We have already paid \$400 for it. David will research the group and forward his findings to the board. Frank will help David identify the group and its function.

Palestinian Delegation: Barry explained that Liteky wanted to go but the Group fell apart. Iraq issues interfered with the focus.

Vietnam-VAVN Agent Orange Cline explained about the receipt of the flag and that we couldn't do anything because of the intrusion of the Iraq issue. It was agreed that we would continue conveying information on the issue.

Vieques The navy is scheduled to vacate about May 1 and a group of veterans will be present. Any one interested in going to a demonstration in Vieques should contact David.

Incarcerated Veterans Program Woody explained how with Ed Hart, Charlie Atkins and others, put together a program in the prison. Woody thinks it could be valuable for VFP to continue its involvement with youth outside the walls. Ed Hart presented a report and is involved and a major mover in the project. The idea is to work with the people with their internal problems and with the incarcerated.

Military Draft Cline thought we should skip the issue for this meeting. Short discussion followed. Some went from "citizen soldier<sup>2</sup> to "professional soldier.<sup>2</sup> Maybe get a workshop. Wayne should mention to the convention committee on the possibility o

El Salvador Delegation Wayne mentioned that 9 members of VFP will be a delegation to El Salvador of March 10-18 to monitor the 2004 elections

Foreign Vets Question: Do we want to allow veterans of foreign countries that don't have an organization in their country to join our group?

Constitutional revision A plank possibility stating a position on consideration of memberships for veterans of foreign nations.

A plank for Justice for veterans and victims of war' Cline thought that Genesio's book could offer some insights into the Justice for veterans and victims of war plank.

Location and time of next meeting. Some thought in the East. Boston? Put it out for bid. John Amidon. David wants to be able to call a location and ask if they are interested Frank Houde offered to be a fall back for the next board meeting. Ellen suggested Boston with a deadline for decision. Thinking of weekend of May 10 Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore.

Barry thought we should commend Maxine MacNamara for her efforts for our group during the DC demonstration. Cline offered to send a letter if Barry writes the letter. A special salute to Maxine MacNamara for her outstanding contribution for her help during the DC demonstration on January 18. Barry moved and Wayne seconded. Passed.

Meeting adjourned by acclamation at 1:47\

Respectfully submitted.

Bob Heberle  
Secretary