

Minutes from VFP Inc. Board meeting
January 24, 2004
St. Petes Beach, Florida

Those in attendance were: Lincoln Grahlfs, Ellen Barfield, Robert Heberle, Barry Riesch, Gideon Rosenbluth, Sharon Kufeldt, George Johnson, Ken Mayers, John Kim and Wayne Wittman. Guest Bill Warrick from Gainesville and Lee Vander Laan were also present.

President Cline called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.. Cline mentioned that Frank Houde and Gene Glazer were both suffering from health problems and could not attend. Gene had planned to bring his wife but couldn't. A card was circulated for Gene.

First order was to nominate officers. President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary. Cline nominated for president. Acclimation made. Accepted. Ellen nominated VP, willing. Acclimation called by Gideon. Bob Heberle nominated for secretary by Ellen closed. Passed. Lincoln nominated for Treasurer but declined. Ken Mayers was nominated and seconded to treasurer. Seconded. Elected by acclimation

David handed out a 34 item agenda. Several changes and additions were made.

David explained how we should stress the board schedule before proceeding. Try to work four into the schedule

Add after item #22 the need of another meeting be proposed. Need for email list of members is sought. George asked for people to contact him for communications purposes. We have to have a special way to communicate with those with no email facilities. Gideon has not email. There is a need to be able to reply only to the individual rather than the whole group. Lee will set it up so the reply to the Yahoo group can be to the individual. To reply to the whole group you will have to press "reply all." Bob will see if it's possible to take responsibilities of "snail mailing" or faxing to members with no mail but did not commit to responsibility. David and Bob will look at. Each person has to take some responsibility. David will have to rule on acceptability of a motion before its put to a vote. 650-207-6073 is George's cell phone

#19a. Should include on Israel/Palestine issue.

#24 Salvador elections.

#12 a have ZOC committee report.

Moved by Wayne to accept agenda. Seconded. Motion passed.

#4 Executive Directors report.

Membership numbers. 3513 current paid up membership. Woody gave a brief explanation why the system. Read from report presented under Executive Director's report, January 2004. Woody interspersed his concern about meeting the needs of responding to the plethora of communications. Michael Uhl is handling the newsletter with 8-10 pages. The newsletter is almost complete and Gabriela. Will go bulk mail. Over 3500 circulation. It is believed that local chapters can use the national's tax-exempt mailing permit.

Even though dues are only \$25 the average donation is \$34. Woody offered the need for getting a deputy for him to mentor. Concern expressed about members who never got a ballot. Woody thinks the slip was between the office and PO. Discussion ensued regarding Woody's suggestion for a Deputy Director position. Feeling expressed that we have to have several people in authority within the

organization and maybe a development committee be used to explore growth needs. Need to utilize members who are capable of helping out. Skills database for seeking out members with their skills. Might have a growth/development committee to look at future needs. What kind of staff structure? Personnel? Moved by Barry to create a working group to address the growth and development of the National Office staff and structure. Seconded. Motion carried.

Sharon would be happy to work on regional development. Ellen offered to work on it and willing to work but not chair. Tabled to later on day until after the budget. Barry might offer to chair.

Moved to file Executive Director's report. Seconded. Passed.

#5. Treasurer's report: Balance is steady. Cash flow is increased. Supported Phil Butler's suggestion to promote fund raising to a higher level. Linc thought that money and membership should be mentioned at each speak out. Now spending \$5000 a year for accounting expenses. \$250 a month. \$2000 a year for review. Wayne moved to accept financial report. Seconded. Discussion. Mayers offered to get a clarification of Unrestricted/Restricted statements and offer to the next meeting. Seconded. Passed.

Dwight Lauden, guest from St. Pete's area, introduced himself. Had spent several months in jail in 1999 as a prisoner of conscience for SOA protest and is a member

#6 Wayne reviewed Expressed wish of Convention committee to continue with goal of getting conventions arranged ahead of time. Lee Vander Laan took over to explain the 2004 convention July 22-25. It will be held right before the DNC convention in Boston. Explained that five separate chapters have been meeting to arrange. Lee is cochair along with Dan Chuhart to put on convention. Emerson College, a media college accepted VFP groups. Downtown Boston. They have excellent video possibilities. Four day convention, from Wednesday to Saturday night. Will provide food \$53 a bed that includes a buffet breakfast. \$12,000 required for down payment. Will accept credit card. Total of \$12,000 to \$20,000. 250 beds will be needed. If only 200 beds are filled, we will have to pay for only the 200. Theme choice being discussed. Are looking at \$114.00 registration fee. A need exists for reservations for three to four nights be made prior.

Wayne moved to commend the 2004 convention planning committee for their work and program development, approve of plan, and advance \$17,700 to reserve facilities. . Seconded. Discussion Approved Martin Ray is the treasurer for the convention. Checks to go to chapter. Lincoln authorized to sign off on this check. Wayne moved. Second. Passed.

Wayne wanted to have plans developed for 2005 and that plan should be presented to the next convention. . Seattle is considering.

Bob moved to hold board meeting on Wednesday preceding convention. Seconded. Much discussion and concern expressed for those who might have to take an additional day of work. Wayne and Ken abstained and David wanted it recorded that he would have voted against. Passed.

#7 Resolutions committee: Last year's committee performed remarkably to effect a collection of resolutions. David and Gene were able to organize the consolidation of them so they did not duplicate. David was hoping for a compromise for dealing with time and number. Ken moved to establish a resolutions committee as a standing committee. Seconded. Discussion. Offer made by cochair of convention to post resolutions on web site. Rules must be submitted at least ten days before the convention. It must be announced in the newsletter. Passed. Barry moved that Lincoln be chair of resolution committee. Seconded. Discussion Passed.

#8. Awards committee: Moved that board approves Cline's appointment of Gene Glazer as chair of awards committee. Passed Frank Corchoran did last year.

Adjourned at 1:05 to reconvene at 2 PM.

Reconvened at 2:05 pm. by President Cline.

Gideon expressed gratitude of group for the great contribution of the hosts, Wayne and Joan Wittman, who offered their daughter Mary Jo's beautiful home for meeting. Applause.

#9. Nominations and election committee: Wayne chaired. David suggested committee to take responsibility for holding and conducting elections. Wayne explained that in the past that we might not have had adequate number to run. Finding candidates no longer appears to be a problem. Need at least five people for the next election. If we can get ten people to endorse a candidate. Wayne suggested Andy Anderson as a consultant to the election committee. John Kim presented a working paper for procedures for conducting elections. The draft is titled "VFP Election Ballot rules" and dated Jan 24, 2004. We are asked to review Kim's suggestions. John Kim will send out and we are asked to respond to his proposals. Wayne will rechair. Moved by Ken to accept. Passed
Bob proposed a procedure for including an extra blank envelope to keep the person's vote secret. Bob also asked for follow-up report on action items. Assurances given.

#10. Telephone solicitation: \$1130.00 generated in telephone solicitation. \$1104.43 listed as expenses. Lee reported a lot of negative responses during the holidays. Lee favors continuing effort. The 40 hours contracted have not been completed. About 700 members left to call. Discussion revolved around complimentary memberships and the fact that the board is authorized to grant that waving of dues. Waving is authorized but active membership is encouraged. Woody is asked to draft a proposal that will allow him to waive membership dues to those who can't afford it. (Ken Mayers volunteered to do it) Ken will distribute it by email to the Board.

Barry suggested a fundraiser solicitation. Members strongly suggested that Chapter #27's solicitation should have a clear stipulation that it carry the chapter's identification. A funding committee is necessary. Barry is willing to serve and coordinate on such a group. George and Woody agreed to work on it but not chair. Ken suggested a vision process for creating a need for additional funds.

Kim moved that there be a development committee for the purpose of raising funds for the national organization. Seconded. Passed

Dave hoped that the group would find the skills of the members and contact them to serve on the development committee, George will contact Phil Butler.

#11. Communications: Michael Uhl is editor with a committee of others. Names? Four issues a year? Yes. Deadlines. George Moved that if a decision of a particular magnitude such as appointing an editor is to be made before the next board meeting, that the President will contact the executive committee and they will collectively make a decision. Seconded. Discussion Passed

George offered his suggestions for future formats of the newsletter. Ken suggested that the pdf file be electronically sent. 3500 are mailed. 1000 extra are printed up for additional handouts.

Web site: Has been revised and is being set up as a trial. Ken offered that maybe the web site should have a search site built in.. This was offered to avoid extra communications from being sent.

#12. Newly chartered chapters: Discrepancy in charters since move to St. Louis have been noted.

Chapter 25 shouldn't be listed as one of the newly formed and chartered. Woody updated Board on chapters. Santa Fe, assigned chapter 55. Moved to recharter chapters 87, 88, 89, to 94 and 100 and 102. Seconded. Passed.

Concern expressed over the need for DD 214 for membership is being refused by some. Board has authority to grant membership. Other proof is permissible. George will follow up for the next Board meeting on proof for membership for Chapter 105. David will investigate the official membership. David recommends that a number for a local chapter not be assigned until admitted. Consensus approved. The Board will vote on acceptance after the assignment.

George moved any chapter in formation is designated a VFP chapter organizing. Seconded. Discussion. Passed

Regional Organizational plan: Cline explained need. 13 Board members, 70 active chapters. Need better distribution. Helps give support to smaller chapters. Texan Dick Underhill and Don Keating from Wisconsin wrote about having a coordinator. We don't have a defined set of regions. Bottom up model, according to Ken, is a better route. Regions should develop their own area and the Board could encourage their efforts. Maybe California and two east coast areas could work on their areas. Locals need information like handouts to help locals coordinate. Need and information packet. Extra copies of the newsletter, IWP etc. We do have a start up kit. What it takes to start up a chapter. Barry Moved that we establish a membership and chapter committee. Second. Passed Sharon Kufeldt will chair, Ken Mayers, Barry Reisch, Gideon will serve and George will be willing to help. Bill Warrick wants members from Georgia, So Carolina, Florida and Alabama. Peter Shaw is putting together some idea for it.

Board encourages chapters and members to establish and develop structures to coordinate activities. Establish regional structure to better coordinate

Moved by Ken Board encourages chapters to collaborate for the purpose of region based activities
Seconded. Passed.

#24. Lee reported on ZOC funds to Southern Vermont chapter was helped with \$500 to buy craft tent and \$500 to St. Louis chapter to bring in Doug Rokke. They were to repay the loan. St. Louis was short about \$200. Kim requested money for crisis campaign. Western Washington requested \$785 for a craft canopy to table in the rain. Lee has not presented this to the committee. Wayne moved a motion to continue Lee Vander Laan as ZOC committee's chair. Seconded. Passed.

#20. Wayne Moved Seconded. Restricted Funds policy: Veterans For Peace will retain funds raised for Board Authorized projects in separate accounts known as "Restricted Fund Accounts", until dispersal is requested by the project manager (VFP Chapter, Individual, Committee). A 10% fund management fee will be imposed at the time of dispersal. Ken moved to amend to read after the word donors in the second paragraph, Seconded

In the case of a fund that does not show promise of meeting its objectives over a specified period or after a period agreed upon by the Executive Committee and the project managers, VFP reserves the right to discontinue maintaining the account as restricted. At that point, the funds accumulated may either be incorporated with unrestricted funds or disbursed back to the respective donors at their request on a pro rata basis. In the case of the latter there will be a 10% fee for fund management deducted.

Passed

Membership lists. Discussion.

Present policy: Membership lists will not be sold, traded or given to other organizations. They may only be used internally within the VFP organization.

#21. Reimbursement for board travel. Lincoln moved Seconded Board members will be refunded for travel expenses that exceed \$200 if they request it. Discussions Failed

For the record, if someone needs assistance, they can request help from the officers.

Moved by Ken; Seconded Proposed that the full membership roster will be available upon request to members for specific, board-approved projects.

Ken moved seconded. Chapter rosters are available to chapter members upon request from chapter officers. Removed

Ken moved. Seconded State rosters are available to members residing within the state or region requested Passed

#23 Scheduled April 17-18 for Board meeting at a location to be decided. David and Ellen suggested that a fourth meeting be held between the July and January meeting, July 21 will be the summer Board meeting preceding the annual convention.

Ken moved and seconded We make a formal date for the spring meeting and for the fall meeting. Passed

Moved to adjourn at 7 pm.

Meeting called to order Sunday, 9:30 am.

#33 Chapter #92 submitted a request to honor Ralph Carlson, 101 years old of Port Angelus, Washington. Ralph was in the cavalry, and later Korean War letter up to \$100 to share with Chapter #92. Moved by George and it was seconded that: A VFP flag should be awarded. Seconded. Passed. Should we create an oldest veteran program in the future?

Any position is subject to removal. Ken moved to confirm Michael Uhl as editor of the VFP newsletter. . Seconded. Passed.

#13 UN-NGO report by Ellen. Some members attended in September. They suggested a group of international veterans groups to address the actions of them to work for peace, Like the Israel refuseniks. Ellen wanted international connection email addresses to reach them Lee is to forward the addresses to Ellen. Dave proposed that we get John Kim as the official representative of VFP to the UN. He could be the third person to be credentialed. Dave would like that Kim be transitioned into Ellen's position as our representative. She would hope that Kim should not continue as the representative of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) group. John is not willing to withdraw from that position. David thinks that there should be a compromise. George opposed having a person represent two organizations. David would like John to represent us in the absence of our two representatives. Harold Burbank should be approached to see if he is willing to continue or would like to step down. Bob move that John Kim be empowered to speak for the VFP as the UN representative in the absence of one of the official representatives. Second Discussion. Passed

#14 Iraq Water Project (IWP). Barry gave update on the current situation of IWP. The last Board took no action to continue the project. Since May a debate has continued over whether to continue the project in regards to the attack. To avoid privatization, the committee felt that it is important to keep the project going. A new brochure was prepared. Grandmothers for Peace support it. Order # 45 is an order that puts restrictions on humanitarian aid to Iraq by NGO's. Because of the uncertainty of the legal situation, it still is iffy. No action required by Barry. There is some internal dissension as to whether the project should continue because of its nature. Checks in the office donated are not being opened. Comment made as to the inappropriateness of holding checks. Bad business procedure. Life for Relief and Development will continue work. All money raised is going to the maintenance of the water plants but does include some for educational and promotional purposes

Ken Moved that we encourage the IWP committee to use this period of indeterminate action to continue to explore ways to advance the project's original purpose to providing clean drinking water to Iraqis and to educate the public to the injustice of privatization. Methods for developing educational programs around the project. George moved to amend as above. Wayne and Ken accepted. Passed

#15. Iraq report. Printed and distributed. Barry reported that he would like to see VFP create a trip. Barry was asked to take the lead in trying to put it together but Barry preferred that David do it. He would like to go on May 1, "Mission Accomplished" day. Woody wants help developing newsletter article about possible future delegations. Names offered that can help put it together. Occupation Watch set up the last delegation. They have two people in Iraq. Ellen will work on committee. LIFE suggested as resource, Sharon, Ellen, David and Barry will put together the logistics for putting together the delegation. Size should be seriously considered. Possibility of two delegations might be explored.

#24. Wayne announced a VFP El Salvador delegation for the March 21 election and group will be there from 15 to 23 March. Trip to cost about \$1000. About twenty will go.

#16. Korean Peace Campaign (KPC). John Kim explained and gave brochure and information on funding description, large audience and proposed. John showed a balance of \$986 plus a \$100 check. Concerned about his getting information about who contributes to the office to get that information. John plans to advertise in the "Nation" magazine. John asked a grant from the ZOCs committee to cover expenses associated with this year's KPC program. George volunteered to serve on John Kim's KPC Committee. John will keep in contact. George Johnson will contact Brian Willson and Paul Cox. John Kim will contact George to put together a committee to work on this project. Ken wants to be reminded of the committee because he has a local member who might be interested.

#17. Ellen reported on the "Bring Them Home Now" campaign. Dover to Delaware convoy before the 20th of March. It will include civil disobedience at the White House. Dover is the location of the return of bodies from Iraq. Want rallies in big cities. David distributed a brochure by Stan Goff titled "Hold on to your Humanity: An open letter to GI's in Iraq." It is his statement intended for distribution to possible military enlistees. George wants information out to the chapters.

Palestine issue. Ken has mailing list for those VFP members who had wanted to go to Palestine. Wanted information to know if interest still exists to rebuilding homes instead of trying to bring ambulance. Rebuilding homes is an Israeli project. Rejected the idea on December 16. Ken will contact if they're

interested. George would like to be included in going. Idea submitted to use an ambulance in US to travel around collecting money and purchase an ambulance over in Jordan.

George moved: We empower Ken to do establish a working group to develop a VFP/Palestine project group. Second. Discussion. Passed. Ellen offered to help.

#19. VA Hospital: Chapter 25 in Madison, Wisconsin wanted VFP members to go to work as volunteers in VA hospitals. The hospital rejected the group because they felt there were too many volunteers. David wrote to Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin. After a series of communications, Madison VA said that it is not for organizations to volunteer, they can work as individuals. We should encourage volunteerism at the hospitals. George would like to draft a letter that he could send to members supporting efforts. George moves that the National Board of VFP encourages chapters to do volunteer work in their VA facilities and that people currently involved report that information. Further, the Board salutes VFP Clarence Chapter 25 in Madison, Wisconsin for their initiative in their work. Seconded discussion Passed.

Gideon advised that Congress passed a bill that VA hospitals can close without congressional approval. We should have chapters involved in work to discourage the closings. The members are further asked to send the national office information about the proposed closings. VA's in the South are being enlarged.

VFP chapters be encouraged to join with other veterans to stop the local VA facilities and to contact their congressional representatives to prohibit any closing of without congressional approval. Seconded. Passed.

Barry moved that all resolutions be submitted in writing. Seconded. Discussed Failed

Sharon suggested that VFP get a digital recorder to record motions. Seconded. Passed. Bob is requested to purchase the recorder.

#29. Barry moved, seeing no financial obligation indicated, the VFP becomes a sponsoring organization of the National Network for Opposing the Militarization of Youth (NNOMY). Seconded Discussed. Passed.

Moved that #27's Chante Wolf and John Grant be contacted to work on it. Seconded. Passed.

Wayne moved that we solicit Working Assets for funding. Board refers back to chapter #27's Tom Dooley and Ellen will contact him by Email to inform him of past experiences with that group.

#30. GI rights hotline. Ken We request that VFP become a sponsor of the GI Rights Hotline. . Seconded Discussion. Passed

Suggested that that information about the GI Rights hotline be part of the next newsletters.

#23. March 20 Global Day of Action Against War and Occupation. United For Peace and Justice (UFPJ) wanted the demonstration to be in various places. ANSWER wanted it in DC. UFPJ wanted it originally in NY. Michael McPhearson is willing to serve as our representative. Fayetteville is also considered. SF has had ANSWER request VFP to lead the march. Gainesville is planning on a march. John thinks that locals can support any of the local March 20 demonstrations. Occupation is of major concern in both Iraq and Palestine. (Opposition to the invasion and occupation of Iraq should be one of our major focuses and that we support the United For Peace and Justice efforts.)

Ken moved that 1). That chapters be encouraged to respond positively to UFPJ's call for a national day of action on the anniversary of the illegal invasion of Iraq, and 2). That while VFP opposes occupation everywhere we urge the focus on this occasion be on Iraq, 3). That we respect the right of other protesting organization to add a focus on other areas. Seconded. Debated. Passed.

Ken moved: We continue to support the peace actions. Seconded. Passed

Ken moved. To link up web site Citizens for Democratic Change to promote the efforts to impeach Bush and our web site and that We write a letter supporting their efforts. Seconded debated. Passed.

Sharon moved that National VFP produce and distribute a pamphlet on Bush's military/AWOL history. George and Maureen Griswald will produce and prepare a piece of literature to be reviewed online by the Board and distributed to the VFP. Seconded Debated and passed

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Bob Heberle