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

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Minutes from VFP Inc. Board meeting April 17, 2004 St. Louis, MO

Those in attendance: David Cline, Ellen Barfield, Bob Heberle, Frank Houde, Gideon Rosenbluth, George Johnson, Gene Glazer, Wayne Wittman, Lincoln Grahlf, John Kim, Sharon Kufeldt, Ken Mayers, Barry Riesch and Woody Powell.

Minutes of last meeting

Executive Director's report: Written report . Spike in numbers. Over 3700 members. Around 73 new members a month. New chapters listed. Suggestion made that all members be alerted to new chapters being formed in their area. Consensus to ad visibility of members be advised of new chapters. Need to be careful about utilizing email too much. VFP Chapter Contacts is too often used. Maybe a protocol could be developed to define VFP Chapter Contacts and VFP All. No apparent report from Chante Wolf or John Grant on NNOMY. Contact by Barry will get their report.

Moved: When VFP Board votes to co-sponsor or affiliate with a movement organization, a VFP member should be designated as liaison person and a formal charge will be issued by the board listing responsibilities including periodic reports to the board. Seconded. Discussion Passed People are reminded that they can view the number of hits on the VFP web site. Woody will check with Jozef about reception.

6.Dues payment: For those who can't afford to pay that local chapters are encouraged to pay their dues and where not possible, the National waive the dues. Suggested that Woody be responsible for writing up a policy statement regarding waving dues and send to board. Ken and Woody do that.

Concern about a member that joins at end of summer and year ends at end of August thereby requiring new membership after less than one year. If join in June, July or August member will be entitled to the next full year's membership. Woody expressed little need for special accommodation. Strong support given to the idea that we join to support work not maintain membership. Renewals come out in end of September when elections are announced.

Treasurer's Report: Ken couldn't meet with accountant because of her unavailability. Good news is a positive balance. Wants to adopt a policy of keeping about \$20 thousand in active checking with surplus put in a savings account. Total assets are \$81 thousand. Felt it not important to switch to a CD because of the low interest rates. Ken will prepare a summary report after having the opportunity to discuss with accountant. John wants to know why the discrepancies exist in the Korean Peace Project and the figure represented in the treasures' report. It lists \$770.55 which does not agree with John's figures. He will check into that along with Woody. Moved to adopt treasurer's report with stipulation that the updates be made.

.Second Passed.

Gabriella's report on workshop in Berkeley: on the Democracy and Major Donor Program. Political Right uses lots of biased terms. Wants to use information in next Newsletter. "Language is a key mechanism of control" Content is good but needs more visuals. Now Newsletter is 16 pages from 8 pages. Michael Uhl agrees with Gabriella that there needs to be sole editor of Newsletter. Doug Rawlings and Mike Ferner as possible editors or copy editors. She took workshop on how to solicit donations and has a power point presentation as how to do it. Email can be used to fund raise. Croftwalk can be used. Next Newsletter will be out in May. There are four per year. May 1 is deadline. Gabriella suggests using color page. It would cost \$183 a page. Not all fundraising has to be done by National. Would like to create a one year development plan. It would be a foundation journal that would keep track of grants and actions that have been done. Office would keep track in journal. Wayne will work with George's fundraising committee to explore foundations to solicit.

Moved: Barry moves that he be empowered to develop a plan for direct mail fundraising and monitoring. Gideon seconds. Passed

Gabriella prepared to write a proposal for funding projects for convention. Political groups that are 527 organizations that are likely to support our organization and could be approached.

Frank Moved: Wayne that Wayne be empowered to develop a plan for major donor fundraising. Gideon seconds. Passed

George, Gabriella and Barry will make Twice yearly fundraising plan. Must be carefully monitored. Must be brought to board before. This provides no funding and that request must be submitted before funding provided. Discussion. Woody suggested that e need someone from board to organize, integrate and close coordination.

George moved that Fundraising committee of Wayne, Barry, Doug Zachary, Gideon to work with Gabriella, Woody. Woody will volunteer to be temporary chair. Seconded. Discussion Passed.

Frank moved: For matters that are not major policy and two any decision can be made by the executive board notify the general board. Seconded.

Discussion Passed

New Chapters: George moved that we approve of new chapters as approved by President Cline, Chapters #105 Baltimore, #106, North Texas, #108 Northern Arizona. and #109 Olympia, Rachel Corrie Chapter, WA Discussions developed around the need to continue to be diligent in the investigations before approval is granted. Suggestion made that chairs of new groups be interviewed where possible. Seconded by Gideon. Question about a name listed, Clara Carlson, is not listed as being a member of a specific service. She's the widow of now deceased former oldest member. Another full member on #109 was recognized and therefore qualifies as having full ten members. #107 lacks one member. Passed

Recessed at 12:30 to reconvene at 1:00 Reconvened at 1:15.

Future development of National Office, Convention, and Regional developments.

Woody prepared two page report He believes in cross responsibilities so one person can back up in the absence of another. Thinks we can survive without major foundations' contributions. Sees need for two to share equally. Thinks we should develop capable fundraising first in order to explore possibilities of having a co-director. Woody would welcome individual and private consultations with members. Discussion ensued regarding place, structures of management and possible identifying with tasks. See responsibilities for national office. Some felt that the executive directors must be veterans. Sharon, Ken, Wayne and Woody will develop some overview of expectations. Administrative tasks are easy. Outreach is a problem. Where it would create a working document for presentation to the next board in July in Boston. Should have the document before presentation of next year's budget. The point was made by several participants that the co-directors need not both be based in St. Louis, given the power and economy of electronic communication.

9. Regional development. New England, Mid Atlantic. About 60 people from Mid Atlantic up through Rhode Island to D.C. . Philadelphia hosted it. Michael Hoffman from Philadelphia spoke. West Coast, and Mid Continent. Sharon reported on West Coast's regional meeting. Had 70 people attend.

Will meet on May 15. From Garberville to Monterey. 300 on #69 mailing list but few attend. New Mexico chapter will join May 30. Memorial Day meeting with various groups. Chapter 71 in Sonoma County has invited all Northern California Veterans For Peace to join for the May 15th Rose Parade, "Go for the Gold" Olympics. Climbers for Peace. Climbing Mt. Olympus to attach to Peace Pole. About 35,000 spectators usually attend. Chapter #27 will again sponsor their July 10 gathering. It was suggested that locals use mailing lists to identify national members to determine who lives in its district. Suggested that locals work with other locals. Board meeting schedules. Discussion about need for another meeting. Agreed that Board meets October 9-10 for the next meeting.

CONVENTION

1. Ellen presented information about the convention "We the people defeating militarism and the politics of war" Zinn, Chomsky, Ellsberg, Amy Goodman among speakers. Emerson College the site of the convention. John Schouchardt has been inspirational. Decided not to invite Sen. Kerry. Feel we should advocate our issues. \$12,000 has been given to Emerson for down payment and \$5000 for other expenses. Lee, John Shouchardt and Steve Manley are codirectors.

2. Linc moved to reject Lee's proposal. .Seconded. Discussion Appreciation for Lee's efforts in the convention planning expressed. Concern was expressed about paid jobs being allotted to insiders. Budgetary inclusions must be included in preceding budget. Passed unanimously

3. Awards. Frank Corcoran worked on. Three awards, Local, National and International. Frank Houde tried to reach him to consult regarding awards to be granted. Frank H. will bring to committee meeting the questions from board.

4. Resolutions: Linc presented a written policy for publication in Newsletter. He proposed notification to comply with Article X Section 4 that details requirements for submission. Linc wants enough lead time. It will be the chair's responsibility to display the resolutions on the VFP web site prior to the convention. He will check last year's resolutions to see what he can recommend about having duplicated resolutions already approved in previous conventions. Reaffirmation section might be included. President could present without debate.

5. Seattle decided to take responsibility for convention in 2006. Need a place for convention in 2005. Woody will solicit site. Wayne was asked to prepare article for May newsletter. Wayne moved "that we thank Seattle for their offer of holding the convention in 2006 instead of their original offer of 2005." Seconded. Passed.

Ken Mayers Moved to invite all presidential candidates to attend our convention to listen to us. Second. Discussion. Passed Point was made that we should generate publicity about the invitation to candidates to listen. Motion passed.

Nominations: Eight people have forwarded their names. Wayne read their names and mentioned that he would respond to them asking that they send their short bio and be prepared to address the convention. They are the following: Charles Sheehan-Miles, Washington D.C., Tim Pluta, Western North Carolina Chapter 099, Dana Briggs, Western Washington Chapter 92, Gordon Soderberg, Alfred Dale, Bellingham, WA, Arny Stieber, Michigan, Chapter 93, Austin Moran, Albany, NY, Joanne Tortorici Luna, Steve Manley. John Kim, Sally Thompson and Jim Steinhagen are members of the Nominations Committee. Election ballot rules. David suggested that the ballot rules postponed. Kim pointed out that the constitution requires consideration now. Motion to table until Sunday session. Passed.

PROJECTS.

Ellen introduced U.N report. Wayne, Frank, Gene and Bob volunteered to attend the UN-NGO Conference September 8,9, and 10. Ellen reported on the last year's suggestion that a panel of veterans give a presentation was accepted by the U.N. committee. She would like to know if John Kim knows of any Asian members that would be willing to be on the panel. The Vietnam Veterans of Vietnam was suggested by David and he will check it out. Minutes of past meeting were read. Bob moved 'That John Kim be empowered to speak for the VFP as the UN representative in the absence of one of the official representatives.'" Ken Mayers said that John Evans might be interested in attending the UN-NGO Conference.

Wayne moved that Ellen be commended for her work at the U.N. Voted by applause.

1. El Salvador report. Wayne said how successful the last delegation was. Wayne moved that VFP authorizes a delegation to El Salvador to officially participate in the commemorations of the contributions of Archbishop Romero with the people of El Salvador on March 24, 2005. Discussion. Passed.

2. IWP report from Barry. Gave positive report. Ken thought Charlie Clements would be a good person to keep in contact. Spoken to Global Exchange people and "Occupation Watch" site is a good contact. Danger exists for members that it could contribute to negative publicity. Art Dorland thought that a few members who would go at the time of the turnover could

return to the convention with an update report. Doesn't appear that a host exists to accommodate the group.

3. Kim presented the Korean Peace Campaign Ad.\$3000 expenses for ad. Check out web site at: KoPeaceC@aol.com John listed members of his committee. July 27, 1953 was the time the peace accords were signed. This year represents the 51st year. John wants the board to approve.

Moved to adjourn at 6:45.

Reconvened Sunday, April 18, 2004 at the Hampton Inn in St. Louis at 9:10 A.M,

Minutes corrected spelling of John Schuchardt page 2 Motion made to accept minutes as corrected. Passed Also, David requested secretary to delete "and coordinate" from discussion points on page four of last meeting's minutes.

Change Barry's email address: bwrvfp@earthlink.net on committee sheet.

1.Kim introduced and explained his written suggestions for "VFP Election Ballot Rules." . Point one about Candidates Names. Discussion. Have to be careful of being charged with handpicking candidates. Some felt that the process should be kept simple. The designation (B) for Board or (P) for petition to follow the person's name at the top of the biographical statement. The designation would NOT be printed on the ballot itself. Agreement that John will rewrite it to include that designation not be included on the ballot. And that the names on the ballot will be positioned randomly.

2. The ballot mailing will include two envelopes. The outer envelope will be addressed to VFP National. The voting member is to sign and print his or her name on the inner envelope so eligibility can be checked. Rules about storing and opening the envelopes are included in John Kim's document. It should include the statement that you "can vote for up to and no more than the number of open positions (e.g. six in 2004)..". Deadline should be arrival at the national office preferred by the majority.

3. Want bio to include some experiences for peace activism along with academic and service. Delete the sentence about "The biography shall contain..." A person who joins is considered a member in good standing pending submission of DD214. by October 15.

4. No problem but communication will be immediate and the board will be notified of the total number of votes.

5. No problem and most likely not to occur an extra expense would involve local member or outside judges.

6. Should strike "among others." Any member has the right to observe the counting.

7. Post mark date should be deleted "the postmark date on the envelopes"
Also read the sentence: "judges shall verify the postmark on the envelope."

8. Seems OOK.

9. Preserving the ballots. The word "secretary" should be replaced with Executive Director or any other director. The report shall be edited and changed by John and sent out to the board and ready for the convention. Be part of the convention.

Projects, etc.

4. Citizens for Democratic change/impeachment-jeopardizing. We are attempting to educate and not participating in partisan issues. Should standby our resolution. Calling for impeachment is standing up for the constitution in fighting to protect and defend our country.. Consensus in favor to continue promoting impeachment education. Ellen gave Woody a lawyer reference. Also we are not to spend a great amount of resources.
5 GI Rights Hotline. Passed at the last board meeting. Dave presented a GI Rights Hotline CCCO stating history and goals. It proposes a working relationship with VFP. It asks for considerable input of labor and ideas at a local level. It provides an opportunity for some locals to be involved. George moved that we accept the CCCO's GI Rights Hot Line request for VFP's participation. Seconded. Discussion. No financial obligations. It gives VFP access to their policy making structure and empowers us. VFP should notify its memberships. George will contact GI Rights hot line member to write article for Newsletter. Motion Passed

5. Waging Peace. Skipped

6. Strike

7. Agent Orange lawsuit. Woody gave info on vets not covered by 1986 settlement. Wants to alert members of issue and work with VA Center. Todd wants action taken locally. Missouri judge ruled that those who were affected later are entitled to compensation. Kim will keep in touch on issue and inform the board of up-to-date info.

8. Garberville Bus to Convention. George moved that \$500 be allocated to

the Garberville for purchasing T-shirts . providing that ZOC money is not granted. Second. Recommended that ZOC funds be solicited. It's considered seed money. Gene will work with George to get ZOC funds. Passed. George moved that \$1500 be given to VFP road trip California-to-Boston for the West Coast chapters to fund the "In The spirit Of Peace Road Trip" to the national convention in July of 2004. Seconded. Discussion. The route will include stops that will promote the VFP. It will also include a journalist. Twelve passengers will travel. Motion that \$1500 from the convention surplus to repay the general fund. Seconded. Further discussion and passed as amended.

Ken offered info on video "My Country Right or Wrong?" will be shown April

29. It is a documentary produced by film students at the College of Santa Fe. The film features the Santa Fe Chapter of Veterans For Peace. It will be shown as part of the New York International Independent Film Festival.

9. Vieques Report by David. Announcing the DC May 14-18 conference. May 15 &

16 is conference. He wants our continued support and participation. Ellen agreed to participate . Gene would check on his schedule. Frank will look into. David will forward Vieques info.

10. Arlington West. Sharon reported that Santa Barbara picked the site. It takes from 9 am to 12 pm every Sunday to put up the now 700 crosses. Received great public response. Frank mentioned how John Amidon and his Albany group has picked up on the idea and might try it. Some discussion about the crosses representing a Christian motif and provoked some criticism but Sharon explained that there are other visuals representing other religions that are used. Arlington West project was started by VFP in Santa Barbara. Originator is a VFP member, Steve Sharell(Sp?). Sharon spoke very enthusiastically about the project. David expressed strong support and expressions of gratefulness. Ken and Barry mentioned their local services. Endorsements:. May 1 Iraq International Tribunal NY Chapter Wayne moved to endorse the New York affair. seconded. Passed See: www.1may04.org Also can check office@pepeace.org

Halliburton. Andrea from Global Exchange requested VFP to sponsor demonstration at Halliburton on May 18 in Houston. Moved Riesch to support movement. Second. Passed.

2. Veterans Call for Nuclear Disarmament-NPRI Sheehan -Miles requested. Executive committee approved.

3. This coming week is Women's March April 25 David Wants group to express support for women's causes.

4. Veterans Walk across US. Woody read about the walk. Board encourage members to support.

5. International Peace Bureau billing of \$360.00 to renew membership. No real knowledge about the group. Wayne moved to file, seconded and passed.

Miscellaneous

1. Michael Hoffman has written about forming vets who had been in Iraq. Military voices to speak out against war in Iraq. Hoffman is a member from Philadelphia. David has been trying to help him promote group. Board expressed support and encourages him. Knows John Grant and Mario. Should be approached for an article for the newsletter. David will accumulate his info and forward it. Hoffman will be coming to the convention.

2. Memorial Day plan with . Michael McPherson would like us to partner with other church bodies and put out call to churches for Sunday to highlight the costs of war. Try to get the vets to be able to speak out on that day. Bell ringing encouraged etc, about the real cost of war. Hoped to have info from national to put out a call for attention to the meaning of Memorial Day. To remember the war dead. Ellen mentioned that Rangel's HR 384 is to allow members of those families of killed to participate in the return of those killed.

3. Veterans Political Action Committee-VVAF plan Bobby Mueller. Dire Distress, behind the landmine campaign, started. Wants it to be a politically involved group. Linc and David will appear April 28. David will forward their program. David will work to support Kerry.

4. Veterans march on Washington. Questions about interest in supporting some date. 40% of homeless are combat veterans homeless.org. Should be about the way administration mistreats veterans should be the focus. Good time to join with other vet groups.

Ken Mayers continued notes. At that point we were discussing the suggestion from Paul Cox and others from Northern California that there be a Veterans march on Washington. David Cline had already observed that the idea is appealing but much work will be needed to develop it into a plan with defined objectives.) George "A teach-in like the ODD teach in would be a natural. Like a teach in on what might be expected in small towns all over America when vets come back from Iraq with injuries, PTSD, etc. How are these small towns going to handle it?

Dave " My sense is that people are interested in doing this and exploring what is feasible. Let's convey that message back to California Frank "An FYI: Albany has done annual event at Kateri shrine. Kateri was a native American saint. This year Bishop Gumbleton will be the main speaker. We will attract kinds of people we haven't reached before. The event is being co-sponsored by the Capital District Interfaith Alliance at the end of August. We're still in the early stages of planning, but I wanted to give a heads up that we may come back requesting an endorsement.

Ellen "And the Baltimore chapter 19 May will be celebrating the anniversary of the Catonsville MD ploughshares event where draft records were destroyed. This will also be just after the CO conference. The chapter will go out to Catonsville, talk to recruiters, etc.

David "We have a Barbara Trent documentary: "Waging Peace". This is not some dude with a video camera; she is a first rate documentary maker, as in "Panama Deception": [Check this out on the cover of our copy.]"Waging Peace" opens with the Feb 15 rally and goes on to discuss its significance.. Jaime Vasquez is a major figure. Michael McPherson is also shown. There are several shots of VFP banners and signs. Chapters can buy in quantity for \$15 and sell them for \$20. In addition, the website empowermentproject.org sells it on line. They are willing to put a button on the website labeled "Waging Peace/VFP." When people click on that button to buy, we get two bucks. The board then viewed "".

Barry moved: That VFP support the "Waging Peace" tape both for chapter level sales, button on their website for national distribution and promote to chapters for motivational and educational use. Ellen Seconds Passed. John Kim moved that minutes be removed from website. Sharon seconds. Discussion about "we are a public organization. I champion the fact that we are open. And another, " I value transparency, but the website is crowded. We don't need to show minutes in order to be open. Members can ask for copies of the minutes. George "I don't like to make political decisions for mechanical reasons. Another, "I agree that the website is crowded but that's another issue. Publishing on the website is consistent with our openness.

"I agree we should be open. But minutes can be requested, and some of our internal discussion may not look good to the outside world. An example would be our discussion of Lee's proposal. It was suggest that a summary of resolutions, discussion, and outcomes. This conveys the direction of the board with out going into gossip. It was pointed out that, "At one point we recorded everyone's vote. We would do better to write concise summaries of minutes. Documents should be open to members. Thevexample of Lee's proposal is an appropriate example.

George moved:: That a summary of minutes be published, not full minutes.
Full minutes would remain Vote: 9 in favor, one opposed, 2 absent.

Adjourned: 1:26pm

Respectfully submitted. With thanks to Ken for filling in.

Bob Heberle,

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Updated E.S.T