



VETERANS FOR PEACE

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

Veterans For Peace Board meeting Boston Massachusetts July 21, 2004 "The Vault"

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

President Cline called the meeting to order at 9:30

Some Guests in attendance were: Fredy Champagne, Gordon Soderberg, Patrick Tate, Jim Gibson, Steve Sensley, Doug Zachary, Basil Dalach, Dennis Kyne, Michael McCarthy, John Sutcliffe. Several of the thirteen Garberville bus people.

#2 Cline presented a fifteen point agenda .Treasurer's report to finish up to #10.. #7 to be removed. #13 may be updated but not much discussion

#13 and #14 to come ahead of other reports.

#2 Moved by Wittman and seconded to adopt agenda. Passed.

#1. Secretary's report introduced by Bob Heberle. Seconded. Discussion. Cline wants

to delay approval until after all the break. Bob will get copies.

#3 Executive Directors report. .Explained printed report. Got results form 89 chapters in survey.

Added staff. One is from Bosnia occupation. Chris Snively, Explained the plans to move the office. 900 sq. ft and storage basement to available at end of August. P 2 of report. Ellen thought celebration could be held regarding the nearing of 5000 members. Wayne wanted recognition for Woody's great contributions. Question about numbers regarding regular and associate.

Answer about two thirds regular and 53 life.
Unanimous vote to move the office was announced.
Will be \$500 a month for rent. We will get a written agreement. Wayne moved to accept Executive Director's report with thanks. Seconded. Passed

#3See Draft report in ED report Strategy and Structure Review.

#4Treasurer's report. Ken Mayers Good buffer. Current liabilities only \$5000. \$1000 over budget expectations. Budget is in good shape. Data is all there. Offers that he will be available for questions. Accountant just checked last week. Gideon moved and seconded. Subject to Exceptions have to be Korean Peace Campaign questions. Discussion Approved.

Budget \$212,000 . Boosted income for ED to foresee the need for funds for those with higher financial demands to meet the needs. Reminded about removing the security charges in the new building. Moved to accept by Bob Heberle. Seconded. Discussion on annual budget. Some additional money is expected from changes in sales of merchandise due to changes in capability of on line purchases. Passed. Wants exec director's report and budget and treasurer's report for plenary. Include chart. Suggestion to use both sides of the paper to save paper.

#5. Fund Raising : Doug Zachary gave written report titled VFP Fundraising; Kay Sprinkel Grace, author. Doug gave short bio about being a CO from Texas. Works for Earthtail? Explained rationale for fundraising requirements. "Language the most powerful innovation." Pride, investment, nonprofit not charity, opportunity, not obligation, results, not needs. Put away the tin cup. We should note that we promote peace and healing. Doug has number of suggestions. Build up automatic donations system. Discussion followed. Zachary promoted sustaining memberships and contributions. 10% of Sierra Club has become sustaining members. Credit cards is the only plastic defensible. Various systems for generating funds were mentioned.

Barry moved that a maximum of \$1000 be allotted to Doug Zachary and his group to call 200 people as a test market for developing a VFP sustainer base. A

final proposal for fundraising will be presented by the fundraising Committee at the October VFP Board meeting. Seconded Discussion Passed.

Doug said he was willing to make a couple of hundred calls.

#6. Board of Directors. Dave explained endorsement problems. Procedures are sluggish. Proposed that Executive Committee deal with it originally. If approved, then present to the whole board. If board has objections, then board can call for a full vote. Ken Moved that the following procedure be followed: If no objection follows in five days, then the motion carries. However, if a board member has objections, the member can call for a vote of the full board." Seconded. Discussion. Passed

b. October 9 & 10 board meeting in St. Louis? Meet in Retreat Center? Consensus seemed to be hotel meets necessities. Asked to check into cost difference.

c. . Wayne reported that Texas is considering. Discussion about interest in attending. Concern about making the convention too big that discourages other groups from offering. Tone it down. Need to announce by January. Wayne will contact the Texas people and try to encourage them. Thinking Fort Worth Could use the challenge. Detroit as a possibility, too? Could be mentioned

at convention. Members encouraged to think further down the lines. Wayne will give report at later meeting.

Nominating committee presented nominees: Get Wayne 12 nominees. Frank Houde, Steve Manley, Dana Briggs, Tim Pluta, Alfred S. Dale, Charles Shehan-Miles, Gordon Soderberg, Arny Stiecher, Patrick McCann, Ben Sherman, Frank Ackles, Bob Heberle. Subject to confirming Michael McPherson's name.

Wayne moved that the list be accepted the list for 2004. Seconded. Discussion. Passed.

d. Balloting procedures. John Kim. Presented a two page sheet that provided discussion. Suggestions made for eliminating certain sentences to shorten.

Discussion about not including the six week proviso after the convention but retain requiring the vote to be held in October. John will edit. (See notes below after reconvening.)

#7. Gordon Soderberg offered to take over for Jozef Hand-Boniakowski on the

web site. He explained his background as having spent some time for Macintosh Company and

others. Proposes that we look at site in terms of data base driven. Chapters can look as part so they are not developing every chapter's individual sites. Be template given without any HTML requirements. Look at web site that is data base driven as good. What are the budget considerations? Less than \$10,000 to develop the template. Can be done by touchstones. Thinks

chapters should be surveyed and meeting with executive committee to discuss. Has successfully written and submitted grants to get grant. Question about competitive bid. Woody reminded that announcement for web site manager was solicited and Gordon was only one who took up the offer. Ken asked that Gordon be asked to submit some details before the October meeting. He

agreed.. Ken said that Gordon could deliver to BD's before October for quicker action.

Barry Moved that Soderberg present the National VFP Board via the computer, a proposal for developing and maintaining the VFP web site. The proposal is to be voted on the National Board in a timely fashion. Discussion, Passed

Ken moved that Gordon replace Jozef as they can work it out. Seconded. Passed.

Kim moved Recognize the work of Jozef and that he be appropriately awarded for his long and faithful contributions. Seconded. Passed unanimously.

Cline adjourned the group until 12:25

Reconvened at 12:30

Minutes from last meeting distributed. Balloting

Procedures proposal.

#2.***See Woody's statement. Each candidate shall submit a form that includes a statement of about 150 words.

#3. Post mark or office date stamped.

#4.Delete all in parenthesis that says six weeks. Because the by-laws specify October.

****Suggested to include a statement of about 100 words. Use Kim's document

that uses his statement Ken will make. Seconded Discussion Passed. Will

consider later.

Action points out should be included later and be sent to board.

Corrections made to Secretary's report: Ellen corrected Schouchardt to Schuchardt on page 3 on top of page. Also, delete the clause, "was accepted by the U.N. committee." In her report on

page 3.

** A week before the meeting the Secretary should mail the last meeting's minutes to the board. Snail mailed to those w/o computers.

Gideon . Moved to adopt the corrected minutes. Seconded passed.

8. Cline mentioned that Members are invited to attend the World Veterans Federation to be held in Zagreb Oct 19-24 Frank read the letter to O'Kelly McClosky about Soldiers of Mothers denying endorsement Peace Vets Without Borders. He denied endorsement . Cline would be interested in having a committee to investigate how to link up with international/national

groups. Question of who would serve on committee. Board or others with a board member rep.

Wayne Moved that the board authorizes the president

to appoint a committee to continue to explore and develop international liaisons with veterans and related organizations in other countries. Cline is in hopes that we get "get a regular report. Seconded. Discussion Possible to get O'Kelly McClosky to help secure participation. Passed

9. Frank gave update on intended recipients of awards and protocol to be followed Saturday. Five members are: Mike Felker, Billy Kelly, John Amidon, Jozef Hand-Boniakowski, Ken Mayers, and Scott Ritter

Moved that we approve the listed recommended by Awards committee, Second. Discussed. Passed.

Cline wants some to look at the awards committee procedure. Kim was suggested. An apology should be extended to that person/persons who failed to get their requests honored this year. Fredy Champagne mentioned someone who inadvertently was omitted from this year's list.

10. Resolutions review: What we approve, can just be voted up and down at convention. Linc cross referenced past resolutions and cut down on some resolutions. About 32 resolutions.

Ken moved that all those motions that reaffirm be accepted as conforming with "Standing Resolutions. " Second. Discussion. Passed. Hopefully people will view the web site

#1 Consistent with . Standing Resolutions.

#2 Consistent with passed resolution.

That the Resolutions Committee be empowered to determine if newly submitted resolutions are the same as previously held positions and these resolutions

3. Flag desecration: Passed

#4 Conform to Standing resolutions

#5 Conforms to Standing Resolutions

#6 El Salvador Passed Because it is to honor Msgr. Oscar Romero

#7 Iraqi Oil. Wayne moved that we disapproved . seconded. Passed.

#8. Pledge of Allegiance. Moved to reject. Second. Approved .

#9 Preemptive War Passed.

*****#10 Merchant Marine Ken moved to Send back to maker about whether the

\$1000 is part of the bill ,Seconded. Passed. Want clarification Ken will

check out with maker. Strike the last part.

#11. Prisoner torture. Amended to read "all parties who bear responsibility

for the torture." Moved by Ken and seconded Passed.

#12. Uranium Munitions. Personal pledge. Seconded . Passed

#13. Establishing normal relationships with Cuba. Added that "we condemn

the current administration's new policy" . Passed

#14 Weapons with toxic Effects. Failed Conforms to Standing Resolutions

#15. Stop Gun Violence. Moved to accept. Second. Passed

#16 Korean resolution. Moved to accept. Second. Passed

#17. Teen age recruits Rejected

#21. Military recruitment and end paragraph 1 with "and all children

included in the All Children left behind.

#18. Cessation of Involuntary extension. George

moved seconded . Passed.

#19 Draft of targeted occupations. Moved to reject seconded. Passed

#20. Honoring of Treaties. Moved to approve. Seconded Passed After deleting

“into domestic law.”

#22. Rachel Corrie investigation Seconded. Passed.

#23. Condemnation of recent humanitarian crisis in Rafah, Palestine, by Israel during May 2004 Moved to reject because it speaks to specific investigation.

#24. Cost of War to the infrastructure. George will work. Moved to table to rewrite. .

#25. Establishment of the United States Department of Peace. Moved to

reject. Second. Passed.

#26 B. Genetic Screening. Moved to accept. Second. Passed

#27. Support for endangered Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution. Moved

to accept. Second. Passed.

#28. Confessions, Pretrial Agreements and Pleas while in US. Military Custody. Moved out of order.

#29 Against Militarism. Moved to reject. Seconded. Passed. Would accept rewrite.

#30. Palestine-Israel Conflict. New wall is included in this resolution. Remove “Israeli “ Passed.

#31 Vietnam plus agent orange. Substituted “endorse” for support. Move

second. Passes.

#32. Vieques. Moved to accept. Second. Passed.

#33. Joseph Darby medal Change to an award of

meritorious service for

exposing revelations of the torture at Abu Ghraib prison

15 minute break. 4:15 Reconvened at 4:30

Continuation of Resolutions: Key resolutions are missing. David feels we need a statement about being stuck in Iraq.

Frank feels hot button issue is sexual abuse in military. Frank will get some info on it for introduction.

Wants us to write down items on resolutions like sexual assault, and Mejilla, Administration's intent to cancel elections, or other issues need addressing and bring it to David's writing team.

Ken mentioned about the old guy who got called up.

Frank Wants examination of the contractor issues. Roland James is willing to help write on the contractor issues. Ellen seems to think that the handling of resolutions needs refinement. Dave would like Lincoln to prepare a document that helps facilitate the writing of resolutions. Maybe require a two-thirds vote to get through the committee if not submitted in time.

The following subjects were introduced but will require write ups and be introduced and two-thirds vote from the floor.

#34, Discussion on battlefield Toxics. To examine and make public Moved. We insist that the government stop using toxic materials in their weaponry. Seconded. Passed.

#35. PTSD Treatment should be provided to who return from combat and suffer from military introduced PTSD and must be relieved of future combat until properly diagnosed as healed. Second. Like, "What Price Valor" issue in New Yorker. Tabled to further rewrite with Michael Hoffman to help.

David wants to cover charter approval and #12 cover National Republican Committee.

Chapter Charter approvals: Chapter 95 Wally Nelson
Chapter,

Chapter 102 Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Chapter 110 Orange County, California

Chapter 111 Bellingham, Washington

Chapter 113 Hawaii

Moved approval Lincoln Seconded . Passed.

Barry moved permission from the board to explore the possible charter of a Homeless group. Seconded. Discussion. Explanation. Board can waive the 25 mile restriction. Passed

12 a. Mike Hoffman on behalf of Iraq war veterans, especially Iraqi Freedom. Has now about twelve members. Press conference on Thursday at City Hall to present their case. Has web site. IVAW.net. Wants VFP to help establish the IVAW for tax exemption, etc. They have their goals on their web site. May request some ZOC funds.

Ken moved that we make the IVAW project of VFP. Seconded. Discussion. Objections raised about IVAW being too exclusive. Passed

b. Operation Truth

Cline moved the agenda to the Republican Convention. Plans call for day before Sunday August 29 is the UFPJ Say No To The Bush Agenda. Police are trying to marginalize the demonstrators. UFPJ is organizing and includes the VFP. Trying to come up with plan to use in NY and been approved. From 9 am to 10 pm. Thursday, Sept. 2, day that Bush gives his acceptance speech, Conduct rally for the Fallen. 9/11 families will take part in walk from Stonewalk on. Non-violent and peaceful. March in NY is on a Sunday and this is on Tuesday. Gideon reported that Three unions such as teachers will picket the lack of contracts at the same time. Cline wants the info to get out.

George moved to endorse the September 2 vigil in New York, Second passed.

Ellen moved wanted to explain Stonewalk should not

include political stuff. It does allow VFP shirt but no Kerry apparel.

Sept. 25 Vandenberg Air Force Beach, Helen Caldicott is guest speaker. Keep Space for Peace group organizing. Frank endorsed. Second. Passed

Keep Space for Peace Week: International Days of Protest to Stop the Militarization of Space

Sept. 25 - Oct. 2, 2004

October 2 peace action network from Arlington to White House to mourn all the dead. Moved to endorse. Passed

An updater. Wheels of Justice Tour. Iraq to Palestine group October 8 will be in St. Louis for presidential debate.

Barry announced that Michael Orange who has written "Fire from the hole" from Chapter #27 from Minneapolis to Duluth march to call attention to the war. Will walk through towns. Chapter #27's Tom Dooley had stroke Barry handed out the paper that publishes Tom's column.

Nader's people have put out report that he will be speaking during the convention.

Moved to adjourn. 6:20 PM.

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