

## Veterans For Peace Board meeting minutes January 26 & 27, 2008 San Francisco, California

Attending: Elliott Adams, Sharon Kufeldt, Gary May, Patrick McCann, Bill Collins, Ken Ferner, Michael McPhearson

Meeting called to order by Pres. Adams at 8:18am

Statement of purpose read by V. Pres. Kufeldt

New board members Varone, May and Brinson sworn in by Pres. Adams

Election of Officers:

Nominations opened by Pres. Adams

For office of President: Elliott Adams nominated. Elected unanimously

For office of V. Pres.: Sharon Kufeldt nominated. Elected unanimously

Secretary: Gary May nominated. Elected unanimously

Treasurer: Ken Mayers nominated. Elected unanimously

Agenda discussed

Foster moved approved as written. Defeated

McCann moved to move strategy session to Sunday morning. Adopted.

Amended agenda adopted.

Minutes from previous meeting approved.

Appoint committees:

Awards Committee - Frank Corcoran, Frank Houde, George McAnanama

Bylaws Committee – Frank Houde, Chair, George Adams, Gary May

Convention Committee Wayne Wittman, Chair, Jim Steinhagen, Barry Reisch and company

Trademark Committee – Woody Powell

Development Committee - Anita Foster, Chair, Mike Ferner, Michael McPhearson

International Liaison committee - Frank Houde, Chair, Patrick Bray, George McAnanama, Ellen Barfield, Peter Bronson

Korean Peace Campaign Committee - John Kim, Chair, Charlie Atkins, Jim Steinhagen, Ellen Barfield, George MacAnanama, Chuck Overby, Peter Bronson, Peter Shaw, Larry Kershner, Virginia Rodino, Patrick Bray, Ted Hughes, Tom Fox, Michael McPhearson, Woody Powell, Frank Houde, Wayne Wittman

Membership and Chapter Development Committee - Sharon Kufeldt, Chair, Doug Zackery, George Johnson

Merchandise Committee –

Newsletter Committee – Michael Uhl, Chair, Michael McPhearson, Elliott Adams, Gabriella Inderwise

Nominations Committee – Doug Zackery, Chair, Wayne Wittman, Patrick McCann

Personnel Committee – Bill Collins, Chair,

Public Relations Committee – Bill Collins, Chair, Mike Ferner

Resolutions Committee –

Speaker Bureau committee – Mike Ferner, Chair, Michael Uhl, Pat McCann, Ann Wright, Michael McPhearson and Bill Collins

UN NGO Delegation – Ellen Barfield, Chair, Al Jaccoma, Elliott Adams

Zones Of Concern and Struggle Committee – Thomas Brinson, Chair, Woody Powell, Paul Cox, Sharon Kufeldt, Frank Ackles

Project official and other wise

Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign - Paul Cox

Dave Cline Memorial – Dan Shea, Hal Muscat, Patrick McCann, Ben Chitty, Virginia Rodino,

Reconciliation Project -

Executive Director report given by McPhearson

Treasurer's Report

Foster requested that an Executive Director compensation review be placed on the agenda for the next meeting and that the ED prepare a report comparing current salary relative to other national orgs in St Louis, of similar staff size and budget size.

Mayers— to get reports form designated responsible individuals for each Special Project

Regional Communicator Director Position (Elliott)

Foster—personnel recommendations should come from ED

Who to report to

Question re title – leave room for upward mobility, maybe facilitator v. director

Job description

Adams—Area Communications Facilitator

Mayers—ED to develop position description including:

Lines of authority

Duties

Uhl—strong support for concept, can be modified as we go along

Foster—IVAW has an effective model for Communication Coordinators

Deploy one coordinator as a pilot project

Varone—directors bear some responsibility for chapter contacts

Foster—motion table 2<sup>nd</sup>

Didn't pass

**Kufeldt—motion ED develop full job description by the next BOD meeting 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Passed**

BOD accepts that position would cost \$

Establish Program Budgets

Adams—suggest establish board committee to develop parameters for the budget categories

Foster—ED and Treasurer should collaborate on this development

Mayers—BOD needs to establish priorities

Brinson—supports Mayer

Ferner—operation budget v. program budget—we need a clear definition of terms

Foster—establish membership and fundraising categories in future budgets

Mayers—too early to establish categories

Collins—break out postage & printing items in budget and report at next BOD meeting

ED—to break out items and report to BOD for feedback

Mayers—need to have program budget details for planning for 2009 budget-supports ED's offer

**Adams—does BOD want Michael to move ahead with presenting a detailed budget?  
Yes**

**Passed**

Board Vacancy

**Motion accept resignation, with regrets—Wayne Wittman Passed**

Brinson—motion made to appoint Eli Painted Crow for BOD vacancy based on previously identified skill sets. **Seconded.** Motion ruled out of order as board appointments are made by president, not board motion.

**Adams—appoint Eli Painted Crow**

**Collins—approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed (term expires January 2010)**

**May—motion to thank Mike Ferner for his term as secretary Passed Unanimously**

Convention 2009

McCann—met with U of Md. With Ellen Barfield preliminary proposal for August 9 – 13, 2009. (approximately \$100,000 all inclusive)

**Mayers—motion DC metropolitan area for 2009 convention. 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed**

Convention 2010

Postponed till Adams can get additional information to the BOD

Convention 2008 Report

ED—concerns about theme and some speaker selections

Varone—Convention Dates: three days August 27 – 31 committee meeting regularly

Foster—workshops should capitalize on/augment the National agenda

Theme and Workshops at Convention What is the Take Home Message & Skills?

Foster—IVAW will meet concurrently with VFP this year

Discussion regarding IVAW VFP relationship

Suggestions for local (Minneapolis) planning committee

Conference calls—Ellen, Thomas and John representatives of board plus IVAW members (Eli may wish to be involved)

Letter to local planning committee, IVAW leadership—McCann & Foster to clarify relationship

Suggested speakers—Rev. Lennox Yearwood, Eli Paintedcrow, James Yee, Maxine Hong Kingston (Brinson),

Current Committee selections: Keith Olberman, Seymour Hirsch

**Theme—Peace, Liberty, and Justice for All—Mayers-motion 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed**

Access to Membership Rosters (State)

Adams—Chapter rosters will be available for VFP purposes only to Chapter officers and chapter contact persons

**Mayer—when chapters are forming-give the chapter organizer the names of the at-large members who are closest to the forming chapter Moved Barfield 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed**

Privacy Policy/Mailing Services

Need to develop policies in this area

Personnel Committee

See written report

Salaries—ED will prepare presentation to the BOD

Appeals—Varone to get boilerplate language to Collins

Employment Policies—Varone to get boilerplate language to Collins

Collins to report back to BOD at next meeting

**Brinson—Board insurance—we don't have it. We should acquire it. Executive Committee & Personnel Committee to investigate options and report to the board within 30 days 2<sup>nd</sup> (February 25, 2008) Passed**

**Brinson--Have attorney review organization risk assessment. 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed**

Discussion

Board assessment of prominent activities, resource demands and results. Displayed on 12 x 14 table with ratings 0 – 3 (low to high)

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Guest Introduced

Michael Blecker, Exec. Dir, Swords to Plowshares

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Y Axis (Vertical)

War Resisters

Truth in Recruiting

October Regionals

House Parties

15 September

Korea Peace Campaign

MLK Weekend

Arlington West

Veterans Day Activities

Vets Caravan

Walking to NOLA

Iraq Water Project

X Axis (Horizontal)

Initiation (local or national)

Funding

Staff time

Endorsement

Mobilize members

Fund raising

Web site

Media attention

Speakers

Logistics

Organizing

Planning

Networking

Convention attention

Web site

Discussion—

Two categories of effective activities

Activities that involve many people simultaneously

Activities that are more decentralized

Activities that draw resources:

Endorsement

Mobilizing members

Website

Media

Networking

Convention attention

Projects

Korea Peace Campaign

Vets Caravan

Walk to NOLA

Recess

5:03 PM

Sunday

Meeting reconvened by Pres. Adams 1/27/2008 8:23 AM

### Communications

Collins—should we establish a media pr presence in DC, etc.?

Ferner—working on soliciting bids from vendors. Vendors want a RFP. Components: placing op/ed pieces and news stories and getting vfp on national talk shows.

5 companies have been investigated

Recommend engage a consultant first, then re evaluate

Discussion—dc or other? Rfp must reflect nuances of our group and our work. More discussion needed.

Kufeldt—local chapters need training in writing/using press releases effectively (addressed in committee report)

**Consensus—we'll spend money on developing media/pr capacity**

**Committee will continue to develop information**

Mayers—committee should submit a proposal for a pilot project for EDs direction. Break in effectiveness between local and national coverage. Relationships important but not easily transferable.

Adams—Motion requested—committee to do a proposal for a pilot project—none offered

Committee will continue to work on develop information for the pr

### Reports on Projects

(Jeff Mackler) National Antiwar Conference to Stop the War in Iraq! Bring the Troops Home Now!

Request—VFP endorsement, VFP keynote speaker, VFP members (2 – 3) to serve on national planning committee. Conference in Cleveland June 28 -29.

(Robert Manning) request VFP outreach to members via flash email, display on VFP on front page of web, ask other partners to publicize Molly Ivins Memorial, January 31 in San Francisco, ask allies to have their members to join the blog (Blog Fest)

Strategy Discussion (continuation from last night) how to proceed...we spent several minutes talking about what to talk about!!

### Trout Lake Retreat Follow-up

No additional contact/services from the Trout Lake facilitators (Michael hasn't been clear enough about the intent/direction from Trout Lake.)

Collins—pushes Tool Kit for use ASAP

Mayers—Tool Kit work hasn't moved forward. Will work to disseminate the information to the Tool Kit Committee

Foster—Tool Kit, Message Formulation & Regional Coordination—high priority for follow-up and to develop at the National Convention.

Mayers—wants to have Tool Kit v.1 on CD for National Convention

Brinson—establish three caucuses that focus on three high priority items for National Convention

Tool Kit Creation (Convention)

Mayers—Tool Kit Committee to make monthly reports to Executive Committee.  
**Commitment to be done by March 30.** Publicize in newsletter, on web, invite feedback. Launch as a beta. Solicit feedback for specific elements of Tool Kits from convention attendees.

Foster—present Tool Kit in 30 minutes or less then entertain discussion for 60 minutes: repeat x3 (1 for each of the three priority areas).

Kufeldt--Introduction to tool kit in plenary then have workshops delve into the details and debrief at a second plenary (BOD to develop workshops)

Brinson—Message Formulation & Tool Kits warrant threads throughout the convention. Regional Coordination warrants more focused, discreet discussion involving the six administrative sectors of VFP.

Regional Coordination (Convention)

Launch current regional areas as a beta and develop in workshops—invite participants to select their own “regional group” (Model—plenary (30” + invite participant division + invite report back = refinement of Regional Coordination model)

Message Formulation (Convention)

Brinson—will work with Eli Painted Crow and Will Covert to develop the message

Foster—may be wise to defer message formulation—too broad, may dilute the overall effectiveness of the convention

Adams—will contact Trout Lake facilitators for follow up involving ED, Foster, Varner

### **Next Meeting**

**Minneapolis April 19 & 20 to coincide with IVAW meeting there at this time**

Sick of It Day

**Ferner—Motion & 2<sup>nd</sup> VFP sponsor and contribute not to exceed \$3,100. Passed**

RNC

Varone—VFP endorsement requested for a “Huge March” Three MN VFP Chapters have committed to the Huge March.

Varone—David Harris, VFP Chapter 115, Red Wing, MN requests VFP endorsement for “A Proposal for Nonviolent Action with Civil Disobedience Options” in conjunction with the RNC in Minneapolis.

**Brinson—motion 2<sup>nd</sup> reject proposal of David Harris, VFP Chapter 115 Passed**

Credit Card

**ED—to procure a VFP credit card**

**ED—bequests—grant ED authority to sign**

**Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> (both) Passed**

Vietnam Chapter

Barfield—should draft a policy to establish chapters in countries of American expatriates’ residence.

Fifth Anniversary of Iraq Invasion

Brinson—March 10 – 19 “Stop Loss Congress” (10 – 12), Civil Disobedience, want vets to be part of action. Organizers want VFP endorsement of action.

Brinson—Organizer’s taking Winter Soldier testimony to Congress March 17 – 19.

Adjourned 12:34 PM

Submitted by

Gary E. May, Secretary

February 11, 2008