

**VFP Board Meeting Minutes – Miami, FL
January 17 & 18, 2009**

January 17, 2009

Called to order President Adams 9:09 AM

Present: Michael Uhl, Patrick McCann, Eli PaintedCrow, Sharon Kufeldt, Mike Ferner, John Varone, Bill Collins, Anita Foster, Thomas Brinson, Kenneth Mayers, Elliott Adams, Gary May & Michael McPhearson. New BoD members Leah Bolger, Hart Viges

Statement of purpose—Kufeldt

Introduction of new BoD members

Eli PaintedCrow refuses her office before the oath

Per ByLaws, next high vote getter (Adams) takes refused office

Administration of oath for new BoD members—Adams

Elections BoD officers

Treasurer— Kenneth Mayers
Anita Foster
No other nominations for Treasurer
Nominations closed
Statements from nominees
Kenneth Mayers Elected

Secretary-- Gary May
No other nominations for Secretary
Nominations closed
Gary May Elected

Vice President— Sharon Kufeldt
Leah Bolger
No other nominations for Vice President
Nominations closed
Statements from nominees
Leah Bolger Elected

President-- Mike Ferner
Elliott Adams
Nominations for President closed
Statements from nominees
Mike Ferner Elected

President Ferner Presides

Agenda

Motion to approve agenda-Brinson, 2nd Adams—passed

Approval of minutes of Conference Call December 6, 2008 passed

Approval of minutes (correction-remove Ken Mayers' name from incorrect committee assignment) of October meeting--passed

New BoD member orientation

Presentation by first year BoD—deferred

Buddy system for new BoD members

Pairing new BoD members with BoD in last year of term

Adams & Viges; Kufeldt & Bolger

Manual for new BoD members

Add policy manual

Update BoD contacts list—Michael McPhearson

Committees-re-appoint current committees except as noted

Kufeldt withdraws from Outreach Committee; Bolger added to Outreach Committee

Foster—suggests we reexamine committee structure and select 3 -5 committees to forward the organization's overall missions/goals

McPhearson—ED & BoD representatives to revisit committees with the development of a prioritized list of committees that are related to programmatic initiatives

Brinson—ED & Executive Committee to refine Committee list by end of business today.

Uhl & Viges to work with ED on this prioritization this weekend to differentiate between committees & working groups.

ED Report—

Written report submitted

Discussion—

Foster—staff update

Betsy—webmaster, support of media efforts

Virginia—office manager, bookkeeping, supplies, operations manager, assists

with writing grants

Chrissy—administrative assistant, membership renewals,

Gabriella—membership database

Doug Zachary—solicitation memberships

Woody Powell—chapter development, 990 compliance

Uhl—Case for Support—many editorial suggestions-willing to work with others on refining the document

Newsletter—proposal carry lapsed members for a period of time to encourage them to renew (policy included in EDs Budget and Fundraising Description 1/14/09)

Chapter contacts list—deferred as it's on the agenda

Treasurer's Report (written report filed)

Discussion—

Kufeldt—shift money from Ban Torture project to Bring the Guard Home Now project
(Leah Bolger)

Bolger—very concerned about IVAWs financial status—what have we done to ensure that necessary changes are made?

Foster—total of funds from special projects? (\$69,000)

Recess for lunch

Some BoD members caucused to discuss committee status

Reconvene 1:50

Camillo Mejio-IVAW update

Report on last IVAW meeting

Leadership is aware of concerns

Salaries being reviewed/reduced

Some positions being eliminated

Changes reflected in new budget

Accounting

Committed to hiring an agency to do bookkeeping and issue regular

reports

More aggressive fundraising

Regional fundraising

Decentralize organization with emphasis on members

Engagement of members

Received recent grants

Loan retirement a major commitment

Examining all aspects of the organization's existence

Fiscal policy to shield VFP from IVAW creditors and to establish a minimum cash

reserve

Repayment--4 payments of \$12,500 plus interest

Discussion—VFP policy on administrative fee for managing funds (10% up to \$100 per occurrence)

Collins—accept the Treasurer's report, second Passed

Board & Chapter Communications (Regional Communication Coordinator)

Policy has been proposed (Report Submitted)

Each BoD member to stay in regular communication with several chapters

Foster-why a separate function for the BoD v. the Membership Committee?

McPhearson—topic has been in play for months. The policy will make BoD more accessible and engaged with the membership

Kufeldt—supports BoD engagement with other chapters besides their "own"

Adams—move to accept Regional Communication Facilitator policy proposal to be included in the policy book. Second Mayers passed

Foster-motion to divide the house seconded Brinson—didn't pass

ED Succession

Collins—proposed succession plan was sent to BoD for feedback, amended and moved for adoption-Seconded Brinson—Passed

Evaluation of ED

Collins—evaluation format for ED—issue is role for BoD in evaluation. Succession plan includes evaluation standards. Foster will develop specific indices for ED evaluation to report to BoD by February 1.

Employee Grievance Procedure—(Report Submitted by Personnel Committee)

Collins—move adoption of grievance procedure. Second Brinson. Passed

Convention Committee Process

Adams—process for alleviating the burden on local chapters to host/organize conventions. Suggestion to empanel national committee to help develop and oversee specific convention topics and activities. E.g., workshops, speakers, motion

Uhl—national committees unnecessary, history doesn't support need.

Viges—agrees with Uhl—previous year's committee communicate with next convention committee

McCann—agrees with Viges

Adams—feedback is that recent local committees are “burned out”

Varone—local committees need more guidance on what they are authorized to decide re: conventions

McPhearson—if the goal is to lighten the burden on local chapters, coordination is the essential element—include BoD members

Foster—convention committee is a viable BoD-level committee, coordination needed

Mayers—identify topical area resource persons on the BoD

Convention Committee Appointments by President Ferner

Michael Uhl

Patrick McCann

John Varone

Michael McPhearson

Leah Bolger

Passed

Luncheon Caucus Committee Categorization Report

Board Business Committees

Convention Committee (See above)

Awards

Resolutions

Membership Committee--Bolger, McCann, Kufeldt, Adams

Development Committee--(\$) Mike, Foster, Mayers

PR/Communication Committee--Ferner, Collins, Uhl

Nominations, Adams, Viges

Personnel, Collins, Varone

Grievances

Evaluations

Bylaws (same as last year)

Program, Brinson, Viges, Adams

International liaison

ZOCs

UN/NGO

Korea Peace Campaign

SOAW

Speakers Bureau

ED (Michael)

Trademark

Merchandise

Support/Oversight

Adams—Move to accept committee categorization as proposed, seconded Mayers Passed

(Names of members not part of the motion. They are Presidential appointments.)

2011 Convention Call

Adams—convention call to include one page host responsibility

Easy transportation access

Geographic representation

Mayers—move to refer to Convention Committee—call to be ready by next conference call,

Second Viges—passed Committee will issue the call before the next BoD conference call Passed

Adams—proposal for Special Project (Report submitted)

To award funds to organizers of non violence training

Move to approve the Special Project Second Passed

Break 4:18 PM

Reconvene 4:30

Adams—Budgets (Report submitted)

Planning budget

Adams--Move to have ED produce a planning budget for BoD by next BoD Meeting. Seconded Collins Passed

Foster—why do we need a motion v. asking ED to submit the desired report?

Mayers—it helps clarify what's requested

VFP Presidential Budget Expenses

Adams—submitted \$6,000 receipts for travel as President last year. Total travel expenditure was much higher What does BoD want president to do? Do we/how do we support it? \$8,000 - \$10,000 minimum required. BoD recognizes importance of President's travel.

Foster—25% of Leadership Travel for ED, 25% for President

Membership Committee/Organizing Committee Report (Submitted)

Organizing Committee roles, responsibilities and guidelines

Adams—approve the policy. Seconded Mayers. Passed

Chapter Contacts

McCann—who can serve?

Kufeldt—what should they do?

Refer to membership committee to submit recommendations to BoD

Chapter Contacts Listserv Improvements (Report submitted)

Adams—move to accept committee's recommendation

Adams—accept recommendation of committee, but to change the name to exclude references to VFP &/or leadership

Tabled

Membership Tracking Committee (Report Submitted)

Adams—Membership Committee Chair provide Membership Trend Reports based on monthly data on a quarterly basis. Seconded Kufeldt. Passed

Revocation of Organizing Committee Status Eugene Oregon (Report Submitted)

Adams—accept committee report, seconded Mayers passed.

Appeal for reinstatement for expelled members-motion Mayers, refer to Membership Committee, Brinson Seconded Passed

Iran Trip

Past president to make trip to Iran (had planned to go as Prexy). Brinson motion to endorse Adams' trip Vigas second. Passed.

Next Quarterly BoD Meeting April 25 & 26, Atlanta

Recess until 8:00 AM Tomorrow Morning

January 18, 2009 8:21 AM

Reconvened by President Ferner

Meeting Schedule

McCann—suggests Los Angeles for April meeting passed

Ferner—October 17 & 18 Portland, ME passed

Legal Issues

Organization implications for civil disobedience--Mayers will acquire legal opinions re: liability;
ED to contact Sandy Kelson (VFP member)

Resolutions Committee Proposal (Report Submitted)

Thank committee for its work

Mayers—Charge Convention Committee with developing screening process for proposals to ensure they're tied to statement of purpose, limit time for considering resolutions @ business meeting. Report due to BoD by next BoD conference call

Fundraising Consultant—Mayers—recommends acquiring services of fundraising consultant to assist with funding source development.

Question as to the paid fundraiser goes to development committee

Bring the Guard Home Campaign

Bolger—wants VFP involvement—higher visibility on website...etc.

May—move to submit to Program Committee to make recommendations to BoD by next BoD conference call. Seconded—Passed

No Bases Campaign Report

Uhl—conference American Univ. February 27 – March 2—VFP co-sponsor

2009 Convention Report—McCann

character of convention (e.g. involvement of IVAW)—refer to Convention Committee

2010 Convention Report—Uhl

Outreach Policy (Report Submitted)

Plan ready by end of February (Outreach to organizations of diverse constituencies)

Form ad hoc committee by end of February

Establish 2 chapter pilot programs with reports back to BoD

Refer to Program Committee

Foster—establish a robust, lively Outreach Committee as a freestanding committee of the BoD. Seconded Brinson. Brinson—change name to Diversity Committee accepted by Foster. Foster proposes Diversity and Outreach Committee
Passed.

Advertising Policy (Report Submitted)

Move to pass advertising policy. Seconded. Passed

Ferner—Appoint Diversity & Outreach Committee

McCann, Kufeldt, PaintedCrow, Brinson & May—McCann to be group convener

Eli PaintedCrow Addresses BoD

Pachamama—organize indigenous peoples in Rain Forest. Founded Awakening the Dreamer (AtD)—Global Program—facilitate discussion re: peace, justice, ecological responsibility. AtD wants veterans involvement. (Can post veterans narratives on their website.)

Proposal—BoD undergo training for AtD facilitation (4 hour), then consider making it available to the chapters. Pachamama alliance

Brinson support BoD favorable consideration

Foster—proposes streamline BoD meeting process to conclude business in one day and devote the other day to BoD training

Brinson—devote 4 hours @ Los Angeles BoD meeting Sunday morning to AtD training. Second Viges. Passed. (Added efficiencies of committee structure expected to free time for this.)

Note taking duties assumed by Viges

Feb 23rd @ 7:30 eastern conference call set by board

Change of policy regards to officers to remain on listserv till new officers are sworn in

October board meeting Sunday the 18th facilitators of strategic planning be sent to executive committee

Motion - President will compose letter to the institutional offices to introduce VFP - focus - homelessness and torture – PASSED

Respectfully submitted for BoD review,

Gary E. May, Secretary

Hart Viges, Secretary pro tem

January 21, 2009

Edited reflecting changes suggested by Ferner & Adams

January 28, 2009