

## **VFP Board Meeting Minutes –Los Angeles, CA April 25 & 26, 2009**

Present: Mike Ferner, Elliott Adams, Bill Collins, Sharon Kufeldt, Patrick McCann, Hart Vigés, Anita Foster, Kenneth Mayers, Leah Bolger, Michael McPhearson, Gary May.

Guests: Tina Richards, Lane Anderson, Clay Claiborne, Michael Lindley, Michael Cervantes, Kathleen Hernandez, Elizabeth Colon, Dave Wiley, Will Covert, Al Holtz, David Troy.

Call to order, President Ferner 09:19 AM

Welcome by LA chapter President, Mike Cervantes

Statement of Purpose, Hart Vigés

Agenda, Bill Collins moved approval, second Kenneth Mayers Passed

Minutes of last meeting (January 18 & 19 Miami)—Bill Collins moved approval, seconded Kenneth Mayers Passed

Minutes of last Conference Call (March 30), Anita Foster moved approval, second Sharon Kufeldt, Passed

Treasurer's Report—Kenneth Mayers—report sent to BoD this week. Mayers will add supplement re: IVAW after he assesses latest input.

VFP in good shape financially (Reports on file). There is apparent ambiguity re: standards for designating various categories of "Projects".

McPhearson to compile written descriptions of each Project and distribute to BoD.

Charge to Program Committee: (Adams to send the draft of the charge)

McCann—requests graphic depiction of revenue streams.

Treasurer's report has been heard and is appreciated. BoD encouraged to read the report.

Executive Director's Report

McPhearson—written report distributed to BoD (hard copy). Electronic version to be sent

Endorsements made since last board meeting—to be emailed to BoD.

Collins—feedback from chapter contacts suggests problems with formatting of chapter rosters—Adams says to have Chapter Contacts call him if they are having a problem.

McPhearson will talk with Adams and Woody Powell to solve the problem.

IVAW Report

Signed agreement of loan document between VFP 7 IVAW on file at National. IVAW's new president Alex Bacon has requested a new repayment schedule. Foster—table discussion till next BoD conference call by which time McPhearson will have thoughtfully examined the repayment schedule change request.

#### Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement with IVAW

New proposal sent to new IVAW leadership who is considering the new proposal (our proposal has been sent to VFP Executive Committee)

McPhearson heard guidance from the BoD re: negotiating Sponsorship agreement

McPhearson distributed "The Sword that Heals", Geo. Lakey and CPA report

#### President's Report

Policy Proposal—Kenneth Mayers—handling negative fund balance accounts Proposal sent via email—seconded Adams, passed

Expenditures by Executive Committee—Mayers—authorize Executive Committee to authorize up to \$4,500 without full BoD approval. seconded Collins, passed

#### Filling Vacancies on the BoD

Possible Candidates submitted by BoD and others (20 total) 16 questionnaires sent—9 returned—2 selected Pierre Williams & Nate Goldschlag for nominated by President (Williams replaces Varone; Goldschlag replaces Brinson) seconded Adams, passed.

Compliments to President Ferner, who will send out a summary of the 9 candidates. Will also send a suggested process for filling future BoD vacancies to be placed in Policy Book in the Procedures Section.

"Board Buddy" for Williams & Goldschlag—McCann to be buddy for Williams; Collins to be buddy for Goldschlag.

Preparing for Strategic Planning Meeting in October—Ferner, Foster & May comprise a Search Committee for a new Strategic Planning Facilitator

Ferner & McPhearson to draft baseline of organization as platform for planning. Facilitator candidate (Dave Beckwith) has proposed a framework and outcomes for October meeting.

Kufeldt—historically, VFP had three meetings/year. The October meeting was instituted for the explicit purpose of strategic planning.

#### Five-Minute Soliloquies Re: Organizational Direction

Collins—March 19 & April actions in DC & NYC.—“tried and true” actions for mobilizing have “run out of gas”. We need to review methodology and identify new methods.

McCann—attended both rallies, agrees with Collins. Suggestions movement from margin to center, collaborate with other historic “out groups”, i.e., people of color. This should be addressed at the Convention. Chapter development, fundraising and collaboration strategies critical.

Kufeldt—need to give members tools to creating cultures of peace. Culture of peace is a vehicle for building chapters. Commitment to walk the talk is critical.

Foster—changes in BoD functions necessitates care in informing new BoD members about responsibilities and duties. Maybe allow time for committee work

McPhearson—process orientation to functioning. 1.) Integrate functions of chapters with National re: Statement of Purpose. We need better relationships with more and different groups. Flexibility is key. 2.) We must determine the areas that support war and areas that build peace and decide interventions accordingly.

Adams—levels—organizational, monetary, organizing. We are not losing the movement. We are moving ahead. We confuse ourselves in assessing “where we are” without clear benchmarks. Recommend Movement Action Plan. We need to prepare for peace with the same intensity that was used to prepare us for war. We are building the foundation for a movement. We should consider a Spokes Council-type model. (Lateral model, affinity groups send reps to present at a group.)

Mayers—calls to chapters—performance uneven, little connection to the National BoD and/or National Office. We need to promote the National to Chapter relationship better. We are at different stages of a “movement” re: various components of our statement of purpose. How do we address the current involvement in AFPAK? Promote peace or oppose war. Our potential is to be a “trim tab” (nautical device to move the rudder on a ship). Would like to see us move in the direction of the Trim Tab.

Ferner—“War is a force that gives us meaning”. Generally interpreted negatively. It also gives our movement meaning. We must work better with different elements of society. What’s the common denominator? “The Populist Movement”.

May—commitment to networking and avoiding “pillarizing” the effort.

Bolger—what type of organization is VFP? We try to be all things to all people, but we’re not successful in doing that. Our statement of goals is more about macro policy, but not much about personal change/issues. Our organization is not about “personal peace”, but political power. We need to focus on the goal of ending war and like-minded people will come to us and join with us. We need to focus on our vision (who are we? What do we want to accomplish?) and strategies. Exception to “bottom up” characterization of

the organization. We were elected to lead, to provide structure, to give direction for the organization.

Viges—waging peace not substantially different of waging war. We need to see ourselves as a smaller force in the peace-war struggle. We should strive to interrupt the supply line for supporting war. The principal supply lines are money and personnel. (war tax resistance and counter recruitment).

Discussion from Guests—Will Covert—joined VFP because of Name and Statement of Purpose. We must maintain our commitment to Non Violence per our Statement.

Lane Anderson—suggests posing “Where is the rage?” as a strategic guide per our statement of purpose.

Dave Wiley—President of San Diego Chapter—non-violence is not just about the absence of war. The current outrage about economic issues is really a reflection of the cost of war.

Arlington West Presentation—Peter Dudar & Sally Marr

Thanks to Peter & Sally for the excellent presentation

Thanks to Kathleen Hernandez, et al. for their fine work to host this meeting.

## Committees

Updated committee list distributed electronically by President

Convention—Patrick McCann, Chair—Conference call—program:

Wed. after BoD meeting reception. Thursday—plenary & two workshops—90 minute with 30 minute breaks (statement of purpose & regions) 36 total workshops. Thursday night—ballroom with stage—small acts on stage and audience interaction. Friday—4 workshop sessions. Church event 7:30 Plymouth Church Rev. Yearwood—veterans meet the community. Saturday—Plenary. Saturday night banquet. Sunday, 9 AM, passing of flame to Portland, ME. 11:00 Nagasaki Memorial, possibly 3 PM event. VFPConvention.com website for registration (registration by June 1). Housing—July 6 housing registration deadline.

McPhearson—mailing for Convention going out Monday or Tuesday

Membership—Leah Bolger—written report sent via email—

1 chapter ready for charter--Mule Creek Prison in CA. Sacramento Chapter to sponsor. Committee recommends approval, seconded, passed.

Recommendations—acknowledge new members immediately. Handling At-Large members to promote greater involvement—designate up to 1 State At-Large leader.

Advantages—conduit for communication, encouragement to develop own chapter, greater involvement.

Updating list serve database. We need to get the current chapter leaders to Woody Powell to complete the shift to the new list serve. We need to delegate the responsibilities for the chapter calls of Varone & Brinson to the two new BoD members.

Resolutions Committee—Bob Krzewinski.

Accept recommendations of the Resolutions Committee, moved, seconded, passed.

Modified Document (to be added to Policy Manual—submitted by Bob through President Ferner)

“V. Resolutions received by the committee by 30 days prior to the convention business meeting will be either

a) Accepted as written and promptly acknowledged.

b) Returned to sender with suggestions for rewriting.

c) Returned to sender with an explanation of why they are inappropriate.

“VI. Resolutions received by the committee after 25 days prior to the convention but prior to ten days prior to the convention will be handled as above insofar as time constraints and the volume of work permit. Otherwise, committee members will simply acknowledge receipt and do appropriate editing and screening.

“VII. No resolutions will be accepted by the committee after the deadline. If, and only if, events occur after this deadline, of sufficient impact to require a resolution, no fewer than fifty (50) copies of any relevant and appropriate resolution(s) should be submitted to an officer of the board before the convening of the plenary session at which resolutions are to be considered. The Board of Directors has the final authority with regard to this exception to the rules.

“VIII. All resolutions received by the deadline will be assigned numbers and forwarded to the board of directors for consideration prior to the opening of the convention. The committee will also provide the board with its rationale for rejecting any of the resolutions which have been submitted. (adopted”

Can Associate Members submit resolutions? Action—No. Have such Associate Members partner with a Full Member.

Nominations—Sharon Kufeldt to join Committee

Personnel—Collins--report has been emailed to BoD.

At last Executive Committee phone call before the October meeting, the Committee will discuss the Executive Director's evaluation, finalize it prior to the October meeting, discuss with the Executive Director and report to the BoD for action at the October meeting.

Treasurer's Recommendation--Mayers

Reimbursement for BoD member travel to BoD meetings—has been email to BoD. Proposal to reverse the default to VFP paying for travel. Members may pay, but should submit invoice to VFP for the historic record. Moved, seconded by Adams, Passed.

Development Committee—Foster (content covered in E.D. report)

Diversity and Outreach—McCann

At least two members who volunteered from Miami BoD meeting have resigned the BoD. Current members: Kufeldt, May, Williams, McCann, chair.

Program Committee—Adams

Reported on deliberations of the Committee—discussion included who/how charges to committee should be created. Conclusion—Ferner and/or E.D. will work with Committee chairs to clarify the charges by the next BoD conference call.

ZOCS—Written report submitted

Updates

Bring the Guard Home—Leah Bolger

“10 Excellent Reasons to not Join the Military” recommended (\$1/copy) move by Adams to buy all remaining copies, up to 1000, of this booklet, second McCann; amended by Adams to make available to the chapters for purchase from National at cost. Passed.

National campaign 22 States have a campaign, 12 States have introduced legislation/resolutions. California is the next preferred to State to initiate legislation. Help needed. Encourages VFPers to become involved.

Depleted Uranium—Lane Anderson on behalf of Dr. Albert Holtz (has a website)

Nominated for VFP BoD at S.F.—extensive military & VA experience, VFP member. Looking for a veteran who can be taken through the adjudication process to prove health affects of depleted uranium. His attorney son will represent vet pro bono. Ideal profile, exposure to radiation and with lymphoma or leukemia.

Dr. Holtz arrives to answer questions—seeking vets exposed to DU with cancers and/or PTSD. A NY study seems to demonstrate the presence of DU in the urine 20+ years after exposure.

Nonviolence Training--Adams

Next BoD conference call Monday, June 1 @ 7:00 PM ET

Tonight Workman's Circle 6:00 PM for dinner

Tomorrow 9 – 1:30 this location (auditorium) for Pachamama training. After training BoD is invited to come to Arlington West.

Adjourned 3:46 PM