

VFP Board Meeting Minutes - University of Maryland, College Park, MD

August 5, 2009

Called to order-Ferner 9:10
Statement of Purpose Kufeldt
Introductions

Present: Ferner, Kufeldt, Mayers, Uhl, Vigas, Williams, Goldshlag, McCann, Bolger, Collins, Foster, Adams, McPhearson, and May. (Staff members: Virginia Duhre, Doug Zachary)

July 20 Conference Call minutes approved

Adams moved to have Secretary & President to confer to ensure that posted minutes are correct and up to date.

Treasurer's Report—Mayers

PowerPoint Slides

Historical perspective (5 years)

Current data are in distributed Treasurer's report

(Full treasurer's report on file)

Foster—kudos to Mayers for his excellent work over the years of his tenure

ED Report

Written report submitted

Williams—what is the average number of bequests? No average—very random. Foster—Planned Giving program is in its infancy.

McCann—report points out need to rationalize the fundraising process

Uhl—re: membership, if peak in membership was 2007, what can we learn from that year to distinguish it from preceding or following years?

Goldshlag--we need to do more fundraising outside our organization, e.g., entertainers, concerts, benefits; within membership, we should consider raising the dues.

McPhearson--we should consider sharing dues with chapters

Kufeldt--should emphasize recruiting new veteran members.

Druhe--we are working our membership well to solicit money. Next phase is moving to large donors, both inside and outside. This can't be successful without the support of the BoD.

Bolger--agree with Druhe re: relying on membership; troubled that just over ½ of members are paid up. Chapters who allow local members to pay local dues only are a disservice to others.

Zachary--most time has been spent regaining lapsed members, in spite of "fundraiser" designation in position description and title
(written support submitted)

Uhl--fundamental misunderstanding about our membership; our members are activists; they seem to be moving away from their "activist" designation and adhering to their "veteran" status, specifically their veteran's peace activist orientation

- McPhearson--most of our members don't attend local/national meetings;
most just pay their dues with occasional involvement
- Adams--re: membership--there are liabilities in sharing dues--unnecessary
competitiveness for members; re: local v. national dues--we learn
about this from our national chapter contacts; re: levels of dues--
charge more for Associate Members than Veteran Members;
- Mayers--we have supporters we don't know who make/arrange for
donations to VFP
- Kufeldt--suggests new membership category, "Supporter of Veterans For
Peace"
- Foster--direct mail usually ineffective @ first occurrence especially--we may
go back to this strategy; re: Hollywood names & fundraisers worth
considering in the context of an overall fundraising strategy; recruiting v. non recurring--
new members have been the most generous, but generosity wanes as time passes.
Opportunities--grants are an opportunity, need to separate IVAW from VFP; National
Office is developing a Chapter Activity Scoring Scale. This will be used to focus outreach
activities involving chapter large donor visit by ED or President; bequests--we should
urge consideration in estate plans--should do more BoD training; thanks--should call
donors to thank them; membership--splitting dues with chapters is appealing, should
learn from others' experience;
- Zachary--core membership has changed since the early days of VFP.

Adams--suggests action on Treasurer's Report items

Disposition of Special Projects funds

Some decisions are not being captured in the minutes

BoD needs to develop more oversight of Special Projects

Ferner--next BoD meeting will be short...

**Adams-- move to constitute a standing finance committee to include Mayers & others with
financial skills to submit reports.**

Motion withdrawn--will come back from lunch with a revised motion

Strategic Planning Preparation—Ferner

Planning subcommittee

Kufeldt—previously such committee included members who are active, represent
diverse constituencies and have knowledge in relevant, but diverse areas

Bolger—BoD was elected to represent the interests of the organization

Viges—inviting too many may be cumbersome

Mayers—BoD elected to use judgment, if outside help is warranted, get it

McCann—include outside persons if proposer can justify the rationale

Williams—Supports Bolger's position

Foster—Strategic Planning typically involves persons outside the
organization's immediate management/staff.

McPhearson—supports inclusiveness with people who have relevant
knowledge & skills & a stake in the organization and mission

Collins—supports involvement by people with particular expertise/illustrative experience

Ferner—summary—sense is to involve outside interests as long as their involvement will be purposeful and helpful

Bylaws Committee Report

Ferner--will entertain motion to reapprove BoD bylaw changes previously approved at August, 2008 BoD meeting (Time did permit action on items at the 2008 business meeting.) None offered.

these

ED Report Continued

IVAW loan status--\$31,277 repaid to date. Remaining balance is unknown. They have been paying more than the agreed-to \$2,000. Goldschlag--we should have a better idea of the status of IVAW's IRS standing.

Engaging Consultant for Planning Meeting

ED has spoken with David Beckwith and agrees to engage him as strategic planning consultant

Ferner--entertain motion to reapprove By-Laws amendments
Moved by Collins, Second Kufeldt to approve the recommendations for **By-Laws from last BoD deliberation. Passed.**

Adams--**By-Laws Committee report**

Resolution 1. Add Associate Member to BoD.

Committee Recommend not pass. **Moved to approve committee recommendation by Mayers, seconded Kufeldt. Passed.**

Recessed for lunch 11:50

Reconvened after lunch 12:50

Moved Adams & Seconded Bolger--Form a standing Finance Committee to support the treasurer primarily by reviewing reports from accountant and look for significant trends and anomalies in the numbers.

Foster--amendment to charge--committee members need not be members of the BoD. Original motion Passed. Motion as amended Passed.

Adams-- Appoint a committee to draft a proposal for more rigorous procedures for oversight of donor designated funds and special projects, to submit a report to BoD by January. Passed.

Adams--recommended changes to the policy re: inappropriate resolutions. (see file for complete resolution) Passed.

Adams--make Treasurer's report, Executive Committee minutes, annual meeting minutes, BoD meetings available to all members if requested. Passed.

Adams-- This motion will be put before the assembly prior to any discussion of proposed amendments:

All proposed bylaws amendments will be voted on as they are submitted, there will be no amendments or changes to proposed amendments. Each speaker will have two minutes to speak. Speakers will be called on alternating between those speaking for the amendment and those speaking against the amendment. A vote will be called on any amendment after 15 minutes even if there are more who want to speak.

Strike the last sentence of the first draft re: if no one opposes the amendment, no one for the amendment will be heard. Passed. Amendment as amended Passed.

Resolutions--Bob Krzewinski, Chair, Resolutions Committee

Procedure--resolutions were logged in in order received.

Committee members considered all proposals

Filters--statement of purpose

Repeat of previous resolution

Legal and not harmful to organization

Resolution 2009-1. Veterans Outreach--Committee recommends pass. Motion & second to accept. **Passed.**

Resolution 2009-2. Colombian Elections Delegation--Committee recommends pass. Motion & second. **Passed.**

Resolution 2009-3. Support National Security Investigations--Committee recommends pass. Motion & second. **Passed.**

Resolution 2009-4. Stop Aid to Israel--Committee recommends pass. Motion & second. **Passed.**

Resolution 2009-5. IAW Funding--Committee recommends no pass. **Move & second to declare the resolution inappropriate as an unfunded resolution and not bring it to the body for a vote. Passed.**

Resolution 2009-6. Youth Promise Act--Committee recommends pass. Motion & second. **Passed.**

Resolution 2009-7. Jobs for Afghans--Committee recommends pass. Motion & second. Didn't pass. Foster & Adams call for hand count--**Didn't pass.**

Resolution 2009-8. Resolution to Sanction Israel--Committee recommends no pass. Motion & second to call the question. Passed. Motion & second. Passed. Adams--divide the house **Committee's recommendation stands.**

Resolution 2009-9. One-State Solution--Committee recommends pass. Motion & second. **Didn't pass.**

Resolution 2009-10. Impeach Obama--Committee recommends pass. Motion & second. **Didn't pass.**

Resolution 2009-11. Agent Orange--maker withdrew the resolution. (Committee kept as a placeholder for formatting expediency)

Resolution 2009-12. Agent Orange-Blue Water Navy--Committee recommends pass. Motion & second. Passed.

Resolution 2009-13. Agent Orange-Parkinson's Disease--Committee recommend pass. Motion & second. Passed.

Resolution 2990-14. Malfeasance--Committee recommends no pass. Motion & second. Didn't pass.

Resolution 2990-15. Medical Marijuana Awareness Week--Committee recommends pass. Motion & second. Didn't pass.

Resolution 2009-16. Piñon Canyon--Committee recommends pass. Motion & second. Passed.

Resolution 2009-17. Cease Fire--Committee recommends no pass. Motion & second. Didn't pass.

May--Kudos to Chair & his Resolutions Committee. BoD applause.

Foster--move & second to return to agenda. Passed.

Calls to Chapter--Key Contacts & Leadership List

Bolger--what's the status of this activity? Suggests staff continue contacts if many remain to be completed.

Foster--poll BoD members now to learn who's completed their calls. Seconded Adams. Passed.

Reports

Foster--made no calls, will call ½ of list and give balance to Membership Committee.

Collins--made all calls, found diversity among chapters

Bolger--made all the calls, learned a lot

Goldshlag--called 4 of 6, varied results

Williams--sent emails to all, responses from 10 of 25

Viges--called 8, discouraging lack of responses

Uhl--no calls

Mayers--emailed and called, reached 2/3 of list

Kufeldt--called/emailed all but 3 of 23, some chapters inactive

Ferner--assigned 6, reached 5, mixed results

May--reached most of list, disbanded chapters, one member chapters

Adams--reached most of contacts, spotty results, wide variety

Annual Meeting--Ferner

Needs for Meeting

Vote Counter--Collins volunteered

Timer--Adams volunteered

Security--Viges volunteered

Endorsement of National Action on October 17.

Move & second to endorse National Action on October 17.

Funding of Projects

Bolger--Bring the Guard Home (BTGH)--endorsed by VFP BoD at January BoD meeting. Financial support needed for an upcoming conference for Bolger to attend. Requests \$500.

McPhearson--at vote at endorsement, BoD allocated funds for VFP's Involvement in BTGH.

Ferner--we need a process for considering & evaluating requests for activities in pursuit of our endorsements, etc.

New Business

Annual Convention

Adams--**Breakout sessions** organized to build community, gather information and prepare for strategic planning. Each group will focus on one component of statement of purpose.

Debriefing and information will be harvested.

BoD briefing/training to be held tomorrow.

Mayers--move to ask Woody Powell to submit report of results of chapter contacts/key contacts to BoD 30 in days (September 5, 2009). Passed.

October Meeting 16, 17 & 18 Portland, ME.

4:13 PM Recessed until Thursday, August 6 @ 9:00 AM.



August 6, 2009

University of Maryland
College Park, MD

Reconvened by President Ferner 9:00 AM

Present: Goldshlag, Ferner, Adams, Kufeldt, Uhl, Williams, Bolger, Collins, Foster, Mayers, May (Non BoD Facilitators: Doug Zachary, Will Covert, David Wiley, Mike Wong)

New BoD members (Williams & Goldshlag) sworn in.

Training for breakout group facilitation--Adams & Kufeldt

Membership Committee--Kufeldt

Current profile 69% veteran 31% non veteran

Concerned about slippage of veteran members

Suggestions--allow chapters to nominate an associate for membership due to exemplary service to organization (e.g., Proud Supporter Designation)

Discussion--balancing credibility with membership demands; concerns about alienating current valued Associate Members; focus on organizational standing as a *veteran's* organization;

Conclusion: put topic on agenda for next meeting.

Adjourned 10:42 AM

Draft Respectfully Submitted by
Gary E. May, Secretary
August 10, 2009

Draft submitted after BoD comment period by
Gary E. May, Secretary
August 17, 2009

(BoD comment-Collins. Change "infantile" to "in its infancy". P. 1, ED Report, line 3.)