3rd Armistice Day Planning Call

April 18, 2018

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Purpose of Call

Report on actions by chapters so far this year. Information on upcoming plans from chapters/members. Sharing ideas for possible actions. Increase number of actions and activities organized around Armistice Day by connecting interested chapter members and chapters.

Update from Santa Cruz Chapter – Claire Joy

* Had weekly meeting the day after the call about inspiring 100th anniversary weekend on Armistice Day
* Still trying to still do something on 11th of each month, this was just an unusual month.

Military Parade

* VFP currently participating in larger peace movement coalition to stop planned Trump military parade - Want to stop it from happening altogether, but it does appear that it will happen, so we want to have a large response - VFP members have joined others (such as MFSO / IVAW / VFP / VVAW OSS) to organize a protest (Veterans Peace March) and alternate vet activities in DC during that time
* Trump has it planned for Armistice Day (Veterans Day) - wants it combined with the Veterans Day parade - plans are very unpopular among vets and active GIs, very little support for it - articles have been going around about how much it’s going to cost and what could be done for homeless vets with that money
* Vets have a special role in all of this, and there are hundreds of vets we have not worked with before that may not have engaged in peace movement or VFP but share the outrage - currently working on messaging that will reach vets more broadly – want to attract as many vets as possible, don’t need them to agree with us about Armistice Day or other VFP stances, just need them to agree that parade shouldn’t be horning
* Parade currently planned to be in DC but if parade is happening elsewhere we will change protest to that location

Plans / Info From Other Chapters

* Chapter 47 not planning anything locally but planning to go to DC – wants to know if there will be any type of coordinating for chapters that are going to DC
* James from Connecticut – trying to get churches to ring bells, one church is doing something special on the 11th
* Jim Ch. 42 – went down to NY for spring action – 500 people showed up, 4 other VFP chapters – talking about going down to DC for the protest march
* Portland chapter – meets at Pioneer square, stand in a big circle (getting bigger every year) - start with introductions, discuss why they’re there here, poetry, sometimes have singing, some members planning on going to DC on Armistice Day
* Nat’l WWI memorial is in KC, MO – have been in talks with them to be an official part of that event to do tabling and possibly more
* Daniel – Medford, Oregon – has been individually been involved –teaching class this month at southern Oregon university with German and French pacifist films of the first World War (one film is Westfront 1918). On Armistice Day there will be a service at Unitarian Universalist fellowship in Medford that morning.

Peace In Our Times

* Idea suggested to have an Armistice Day version of PIOT (similar to Vietnam Full Disclosure issue)
* Please send any ideas, thoughts, or articles / suggested content to samantha@veteransforpeace.org

Tabling Materials / Merchandise

* Currently have buttons, stickers, half page flyers with the VFP Armistice Day statement, 11 things to do on the 11th half sheet, t-shirt design almost complete – will be available for pre-order soon
* Looking into creating a poster
* Searching for educational curriculum about Armistice Day, creating fact sheet about Armistice Day (please send ideas and resources to samantha@veteransforpeace.org)
* [Link to Request Tabling Materials](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdxwZyFQdGQml8rK2arBgRlOjSbgAIIUx7oi1W73oLthWvUZg/viewform)

Next Steps

* We will have another call in approximately 1 months’ time
* Please fill out [Doodle Poll here](https://doodle.com/poll/ffuq5dd569xnf5p6)

If you have any other ideas on how the National Office can be supportive in preparations for Armistice Day, please let us know!

**Other VFP Updates**

International Veterans Peace Conference

* Conference where vets from around world to come together to talk about abolishing nukes, war, climate change - was initially intended to happen this year, but with Armistice Day and the potential for Trump’s military parade there is a lot going on that would prohibit people from being able to attend - in planning meeting they discussed moving the conference to spring 2019

VFP Participating in [**Poor People's Campaign**](https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/)

* Revival of campaign started by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King - assassinated at time that he started to tie together the reason that we have poor people and the reason we were in Vietnam - Rev. Dr. William Barber has picked up torch and revised campaign
* Return to moral revival, taking it out of political arena and putting it into a moral narrative, want to change the national narrative, making long term commitments to educating and direct action, unsettle seats of power, and have a movement around system not personalities
* National campaign - currently have 41 states on board - planning 40 days of sustained direct action in 41 state capitals
	+ Start Mother's Day and go through Summer Solstice
	+ Actions on 6 sequential Mondays
* Want VFP chapters and members to get involved in their states
	+ Each Monday has theme - 3rd Monday (May 28th) theme is based on 3rd principle - “We believe in the dismantling of unjust criminalization systems that exploit poor communities and communities of color and the transformation of the “War Economy” into a “Peace Economy” that values all humanity.” - [Read all 12 principles here](https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/index.php/fundamental-principles/) **This is an important opportunity to confront militarism.**
	+ Even if chapters cannot get involved in whole campaign, want them to at least get involved in that one part
	+ Asking for chapters provide trained peacekeepers to keep order and protect participants engaging in direct actions - want people to be specifically trained for this movement, even though many have been arrested before