



# Veterans For Peace 2019 Board Meeting Minutes

- January (Tijuana, Mexico)
- February (Conference Call)
- March (Conference Call)
- April/May (St. Louis)
- June (Conference Call)
- July (Conference Call)
- August (Spokane, WA)
- September (Conference Call)
- October (Albuquerque, NM)
- November (Conference Call)
- December (Conference Call)

**Veterans For Peace**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico**  
**January 26-27, 2019**

**Saturday, January 26 (morning session)**

**All present except Maurice Martin and Dave Logsdon**

**9:30 am VFP Statement of Purpose** read by Joey King

**9:35 Welcome** from Board President, Deported Veterans (Robert Vivar, Hector Lopez, a number of others; Gary Mar B&B; (Names of chapters/groups represented?)

**9:50 Introductions** – (New board members Jesse Medvan, Michael Dempsey, Daniel Craig, Gary Butterfield, George Johnson, and Willie Hager introduced themselves and took the “oath”. Gerry Condon, Adrienne Kinne, Patrick McCann, Joey King, Marti Downing,

Among others: Colleen Kelly; Brandee Dudzic; Ann Wright; Jan Ruhlman, Mike Hearington, Chris Smiley (videographer),

Michael McPhearson’s self-introduction followed by President Condon thanking him for his decade plus of service.

**10:20 Review of Agenda** by President Condon

**10:30 Board Member Responsibilities and Expectations** - Michael spoke to the importance of knowing bylaws, specifically pointing out Articles 5 and 6. He then read Board Expectations from Policy Manual.

**10:45 - Code of Conduct** – VFP developed, presented, and approved a Code of Conduct at the VFP convention in Minneapolis, MN in August, 2018. Kudos to VFP-UK for providing positive advanced experience. Adrienne Kinne then read the Code of Conduct. Changes to be reviewed, (and adopted)

**Affirmation** Ruben Robles? - One of the longer-serving deported veterans (21 years), and post-Cold War and Vietnam-era veterans thanked VFP for doing this work.

**11:05 – 11:25 Break**

**11:25 – 11:35 Review of Officer/ExCom Responsibilities** – read by Gerry Condon, board president

**11: 35 – noon Election of Officers** - Nominations for President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer. Nominees were Gerry Condon for President, Adrienne Kinne and Willie Hager for VP, Patrick McCann for Recording Secretary, and Gary Butterfield for Treasurer. Short self-presentations followed. The President, Vice-President, and Recording Secretary, running unopposed, were accepted by acclamation. Adrienne elected as Vice President.

**Saturday afternoon session**

**1:10 pm (Reconvened) Committee Assignments** – Communications, Convention, Development, Finance, Membership/Chapter Development, Newsletter, Nominations, Personnel, Programs and National Projects, Bylaws, Resolutions, and Awards

Discussion arose about:

- whether the Development and Finance Committees should be separate.

- Incorporate Newsletter Committee (Colleen, Becky Luenig; secondarily ED and Board President) into Communications Committee?
- Add Poet Laureate to Awards Committee? Contact Doug Rawlings, John Spitzberg?

**Board members volunteered for the following committees.**

1. Gerry – All committees
2. Joey – Awards, Membership
3. Willie – Communications, Membership, Nominations, Program and National Projects
4. Patrick – Convention, Fund-raising/Development, Nominations
5. Marti – Membership
6. Jesse – Personnel
7. Mike – Communications, Membership
8. Adrienne – Bylaws, Resolutions, Personnel
9. Daniel – Convention, Fund-raising/Development, Resolutions,
10. George – Awards, Communications, Program and National Projects, Resolutions,
11. Dave – Convention
12. Gary – Finance, Fund-raising/Development,
13. Maurice -

**2:10 pm - Executive Director Report** - Focus for the national office these next few months includes:

- Continuing the database transition to SALSA, preparing for the new ED and development and director, and bringing Gail Aquino on full-time.
- Chapter contacts call - February 10<sup>th</sup>
- **Membership numbers? 3,391? 3,046?** (197 paid up Post-9/11 members)
- Financial status – year-to-date expenses by October were \$68K, reduced to \$41K by year end
- Lost \$8K on convention, **staff cut costs by \$24K?, new member income dropped \$6K**
- No money from major donors, did not reach grant goals
- Projected fund-raising fell short by \$30K
- Major health care increase for staff. Affordable Care Act has been (Cost of Living supplement). These costs went from \$20K to \$35K for 2019.
- We expect to pay out \$5K in costs to PIOT editor.
- 3% COLA for staff
- Lifetime membership goal a few thousand dollars less in 2018
- Increased donations?
- Golden Rule, Veterans Travel Budget
- Bequests \$13,333 (not included in revenue)

**Board Approved Executive Director's Budget approved** unanimously at 3:05pm

**Assets** in December 2015 were \$331K; \$548K in 2016 (largely due to Sally Alice Thompsen's donation of \$250,000), \$439K in 2017, \$390K in 2018. \$300+K is in savings, checking and investments. Michael sent "Our Work" to board members. **Went on break at 3:15pm.**

**Saturday afternoon (continued)**

**3:30 pm** (reconvened) **Peace In Our Times** Michael, Marti, Adrienne and Gerry met with Ken Mayers, Ellen Davidson (**and 2 others**) of PIOT's executive board on January \_\_. Issues arose concerning the cost split between PIOT and VFP, PIOT not having an ad or section promoting VFP, and board governance over decision-making (e.g. hiring). The board went into executive session at this point.

The board unanimously supported Tarak Kauff as managing editor of Peace In Our Time and the PIOT proposal to pay the editor \$1K per issue for up to 4 regular issues and an anniversary issue. An additional \$500 per issue will come from PIOT proceeds.

**ED Search** – Michael has submitted his resignation as ED. We have publicized the opening, with a February 15 application deadline. Salary is \$50 - \$60K. Applicant must be a veteran, and available to be at least half-time in the St. Louis office. (We're also looking for a part-time Development Director.) We expect to conduct final interviews at the April 2019 board meeting in St. Louis.

## **Agenda for Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> (all present, except Maurice and Gary)**

### **9:15 (reconvened) Discussion of Conventions –**

- **2020 convention** - Santa Fe and Albuquerque have applied to host 2020 convention, to be held in Albuquerque. 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hiroshima, with ending nukes as a general theme. Dates are August 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>. Board voting unanimously to endorse.
- **2019 convention** – August 16 – 19 in Spokane, WA. There's been one convention committee meeting already. Themes – **Sacred Lands/Sacred Lives, Peace Has No Borders; Peace Has No Borders, All Lands Are Sacred**; Cost of War; Environmental Impact; Indigenous Communities

**9:45 Next Board meetings** - February 21 8pm (EST), March 21 8pm (EST), May 3/4 in St. Louis

### **Specific, detailed discussions**

**10am Deported Veterans** – detailed report from Willie and Jan Ruhlman; request for \$1,200/month for the project. Board postponed decision until an overall budget is submitted. 2<sup>nd</sup> proposal submitted for a veterans advocacy project, though projected costs were high.

### **11:20 – 11:45 Break (Joey left for the airport)**

**11:45 Golden Rule Update** – (report sent by Gerry to board at 2:34pm) Primary focus of Golden Rule Project is abolition of nuclear weapons. This overall issue won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017. Supports project of Don't Bank on the Bomb. Back From The Brink working on ending first-strike and IBM alert. Also working on connection between nuclear power and nuclear weapons. There is a 25-minute video on the Golden Rule. Boat docked in San Diego at a cost of \$700 a month. Lots of recent refurbishing on the boat. Scheduled departure is in April; sails need to be bought and fitted. Looking for a captain or captains to head the different legs of the journey. \$15K in bank account; \$15K coming in from the "Against the Wind Festival". Total annual budget for 2019 is \$106K. VFP national has for the last 3 years given the committee \$5K a year. \$11K in budget for 2019. Potential shortfall of \$33K this year. Need motion from the Board of Directors to approve budget and sailing plan. Helen gave particulars. **Proposal to postpone approval until the February board call, with ExCom preparing this discussion.** Leave for Hawaii in early April, then Marshall Islands, arriving in early 2020. Guam is another potential stop, with the final goal to be in Japan by August 2020. Helen looking to concentrate on her project manager role, rather than as a shipmate. There will be a speaking tour of 12 cities in the Northwest by Zoe Byrd (1<sup>st</sup> Golden Bird ambassador). Go to VFP Golden Rule website for further information.

**3:20 Poor Peoples' Campaign** – A number of chapters are doing this work. Can we put together a coordinated effort on this? Michael gave a short synopsis of the campaign. Willie said there is a big communication disconnect in FL between the steering committee and the base. Gerry spoke of a fair amount of work, including VFP, in California. VFP helped solidify the peace part of the PPC. Shawna Foster from About Face, Phyllis Bennis (IPS), Kathleen Hernandez, Pat Alviso, and Vicki Ryder may be people to contact. **Patrick, Gerry, Mike D. and Jesse (and Maurice?) will pull together a call on this**

**3:40 - Save VA Healthcare** – (Report from Colleen) A VFP national campaign, but could be a national project. Buzz Davis and Skip Delano are part of the leadership of the campaign. Multiple chapters have been at the VA, distributing flyers, and involved in legislative efforts, etc. An important campaign, and one where we can build links with other veterans and veteran organizations.

John Valvera (speaker at Berkeley convention) from Tecate introduced himself. Formerly SF Chap.69

**4 pm – Peace Abroad** Gerry proposed a monthly “Peace At Home, Peace Abroad” action (vigil, picket, rally/demo, etc. We already do **January** (MLK), **May** (Memorial Day), **November** (Armistice Day). Some distinguished between actions that VFP leads vs. actions that VFP joins in coalition. Further discussion over the fact that no group other than VFP has the ability to put ‘boots on the ground’ in most states.

**NO to NATO actions in DC, March 30 – April 4** – Expected to be largest anti-war mobilization of spring 2019 (hundreds?); an extension of opposition to Trump’s aborted military parade leading to the Armistice Day march in DC (and the Women’s March on the Pentagon). Many people have no real understanding of the imperialist and interventionist character of NATO.

**4:35 pm - Oppose U.S. Intervention in Latin America (Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Cuba)** – Gerry read statement against US intervention in Venezuela

**4:40 pm - Comments on Zoom** – The importance of face-to-face meetings was raised. While people agreed that this was important, they raised other issues, including:

- saving money on board travel,
- vast majority of meetings and conventions occurring on the West Coast, hence the vast majority of travel being done by Board members on the East Coast.
- participation from those who are not retired, and
- meetings are now on Zoom rather than on the phone. Much better way to hold calls.

## February board minutes – February 21<sup>st</sup>

Attending – Willie, Patrick, Gerry, Marti, Adrienne, Dave, Daniel, Jessie, Gary, Mike  
Absent – Joey, Maurice, George

Meeting began at 5:15 PST/8:15 PST; plan is to go for 75 minutes

1. Deported Veterans – Report from Willie. Action in Tijuana in support of the Venezuelan people. Instituting a meeting to get things organized in a transparent way.
2. Parliamentary question raised around quorum.
3. Venezuela report from Patrick, Gerry, and Dave – Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> is a critical time to be in public in support of Venezuelan sovereignty. Reference to Bolton’s ‘troika of tyranny’ (Nicaragua, Venezuela, Cuba). Lots of unity in the discussion, highlighting ideas of being for peace rather than Maduro.
4. Committees – Need to get them going. Development and Membership committees are key committees to get up and running. The importance of getting both board members and active members, to join these committees. (Gerry on all committees.)
  - Development - Gary to chair; others Gerry, Patrick, Daniel, and Michael.
  - Membership – Willie to chair; others to include Joey, Marti, Mike
  - Personnel – Adrienne and Jessie
  - Awards – Joey and George
  - Bylaws – Adrienne
  - Resolutions – Adrienne, Daniel, George and Bob K.
  - Communications – Mike to chair, others are George, Willie, Colleen, and ED
  - Convention – Gerry to chair; others include Patrick, Dave, Daniel
  - Nominations – Patrick to chair (also Willie)
  - Program and national projects – Willie and George
5. ED report – Narrowed search from 15 to 4 people. 2 of those we are very high on.
6. Chapter contacts – lots of people on the call. Gerry proposed monthly activities.
7. Save the VA – Report from Gerry 15 people on that call? San Diego to do an action with the nurses union.
8. Golden Rule Update – Helen Jaccard’s report sent by Gerry to the board. Budget is yet to be approved. ExCom will discuss it Tuesday.
9. Board Proclamation for Charles Powell (Albuquerque chapter president) – Adrienne raised the need for process and equity. We will share with the chapters that we did this for him, and that they can do the same for people in their chapters.
10. International conventions – Daniel raised that we should call these conventions international. Adrienne suggested that we should first think about how this plays out in each country. Patrick raised the necessity of having international participation in the planning of the convention. Adrienne suggested a meeting of international VFP members at the convention to further this phenomena.
11. Revisited importance of encouraging non-Board members to join these committees.

**March 21, 2019 VFP Board of Directors meeting**  
**(All present except Willie Hager and Gary Butterfield)**

1. **Venezuela report**
2. **Anti-NATO actions** – Gerry and Patrick attending; Gerry speaking. Will ask for help from NY-NJ in terms of VFP participation (attendance, security, etc.). Not expecting as many as 1,000, the estimate of ANSWER’s rally last weekend. Looking to do actions around both Venezuela and Ireland while we are in town.
3. **Northern California Regional** – Marti, Mike, Maurice, and Gerry attending. Maurice reported that they are considering similar regional meetings in southern CA, and CO.
4. **Chapter Contacts** – Next call is April 3<sup>rd</sup>. A schedule was sent out, with a monthly meeting in the first week of each month.
5. **ED Report/Office** – Income year-to-date is about \$73K, just shy of the \$76K spent. Still waiting on Craig’s List. Paul Cox will contact Craig’s List if we don’t get it by end of March
  - Veterans Resist Project – formed a group to work on this.
  - Deport vets advocates to be in DC soon. When will be there? 12-13 April?
  - Donor database conversion is still giving serious problems.
6. **Committee Reports** (development, membership, convention)
7. **ED Search** –
  - Interview Garrett, Bahman, Matt again. Develop 2<sup>nd</sup> round of questions.  
“When can you start?”  
“How do you see the part-time ED routine in the office?”  
Scenario questions, etc.
  - Check EEOC language on disabilities and hiring procedures
8. **Convention** –
  - Board to come in on Tuesday for board meeting on Wednesday (possible wrap-up on Thursday morning).
  - Established workshop committee (16 workshop spots; trying to keep a few free for the board to select (e.g. int’l. chapters, fund-raising, communications).
  - 3 mini-plenaries (resistors, others?)
9. **Finances** – Development committee comprised of Gary, Gerry, Patrick, Doug, Daniel. Call for soliciting the general public, throwing house parties, put donation envelopes in with VFP mailings, etc.
10. **Golden Rule Update** – Sail to Hawaii in April? Have \$\$ for the first stages of the trip. Approve the Golden Rule budget plan step-by-step (Hawaii and Marshall Islands, then make further decisions.
11. **Ireland** – Tarak and Ken in jail until at least April 3<sup>rd</sup>? Approached a US (troop?) plane on the Shannon tarmac. They were on Democracy Now yesterday. People should call/visit the embassy and consulates, (including during the anti-NATO actions). Some folks will visit the SF consulate tomorrow. Letter-writing to Tarak and Ken in jail.

**12. Chelsea Manning – Back in jail after refusing to help the government with potential indictments against Assange and others. Board should write a statement in support.**

**Next board meeting in St. Louis May 3 – 6. No meeting scheduled before May.  
Might need to schedule a board meeting after the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of ED interviews.**



## April/May 2019 board minutes (May 4-5)

Location – National Office, St. Louis, MO

Saturday, May 4th

- I. Welcome/introductions – Board convened at 9am. All board members present (Gerry Condon, Adrienne Kinne, Gary Butterfield, Patrick McCann, Daniel Craig, Mike Dempsey, Marti GuyDowning, Willie Hager, George Johnson, Joey King, Dave Logsdon, Maurice Martin and Jessie Medvan). ED Michael McPhearson present. St. Louis host chapter#61 guests included Woody Powell (former Executive Director) and Reese Forbes, Tom Abling, Robert Subing and Barbara.
- II. Reviewed Agenda and Read Statement of Purpose
- III. Approved Previous Board Meeting minutes (December 2018 thru March 2019)
- IV. Executive Session discussion - ED Search
- V. Interview with ED candidate Garrett Reppenhagen
- VI. Executive Session discussion of ED Search (continued)
- VII. Treasurer’s Report - Gary Butterfield presented/shared document of 2016-8 Revenue, and projected budget for 2019. Stressed importance of closing gap in revenue creation.
- VIII. Executive Director’s Report – Michael McPhearson shared documents concerning:
  - history of stabilization of donor database transition,
  - recent financial and development status (membership/organization progress
  - Campaigns (Veterans Challenge Islamophobia, Truth in Recruiting, Vets Resist)
  - Weekly/Monthly Chapter Contact emails
  - Design Work & Branded Imaging for our Actions and Postings
  - Timeline of U.S. Acts of Aggression in Latin America
  - 2019 Convention
  - The impact of the new rule of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA)

Shelly is stabilizing the database and projected reports for committees.
- IX. Deported Veterans Advocacy Report – Willie Hager presented/shared “A Proposal For Expansion of Border Facilities to Accommodate DVAP Veterans Outreach”. Extensive discussion ensued about request to have VFP fund the expansion of operations for deported veterans work. VFP voted unanimously (13-0) to allocate \$5400 to fund the work for the next 4 months. Pending more specifics VFP will consider funding 8 more months at the same funding level.

- X. **Anti-Intervention Activities** (Venezuela, Yemen, Iran, etc.) – Discussed the critical, imminent importance of support for the legal, approved 3-4 week occupation of Venezuelan Embassy in DC, and the recent turn toward violence by right-wing Venezuelans bussed into the immediate vicinity.
- XI. **Convention Updates** –
- 2019** Board meeting Wednesday, August 14 (TH am, if necessary). President’s reception and poetry reading TH evening). F workshops, Sat banquet, Sunday.
- Speakers include Ruth Acuona and Brittany DeBarros.
  - Need to sell ads in convention booklet.
  - Nominees needed for board membership. Nominees give short pitch at convention.
- 2020** Thurs. Aug.6, - Sun, Aug. 9th (75th Anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki) Progress – Daniel. Issues of overflow attendees, coordination with Native Peoples, Pax Christi, Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Albuquerque.
- XII. **Committee Reports**
- Nominations committee** (currently Patrick McCann and Willie Hager, need more diversity). Begin search for 8 nominees to run for 4 open positions to begin in January 2020. Two nominees thus far are Dave Logsdon and Patrick McCann. National office staff to publicize call for nominees.
- Poet Laureate search committee** (Daniel Craig, Patrick McCann, and 1<sup>st</sup> Poet Laureate Doug Rawlings) to replace Jay Wenk), and become VFP’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Poet Laureate. Nominees include Jan Barry, Brittney Chantelle, Sarah Mess, Miles Megaciph, John Spitzberg. No deadline determined as yet. Board to approve committee recommendation.
- Membership committee** – (Willie Hager, chair) presented dearth of retention of post-9/11 veterans. Board discussed proposal to revamp dues structure. Motion failed 7-6. Follow-up discussion scheduled for June board mtg.

**Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>** --- Board re-convened at 9am.

- XIII. **Executive Session** – Personnel Matters (90 minutes) 2<sup>nd</sup> personnel matter unfinished, and will continue at special June meeting.
- XIV. **VFP Delegation Policy** - Board of Directors should/must approve all delegations. President Gerry Condon shared “Criteria and Guideline for VFP Delegations”. Discussion developed about how to organize this on a foundation that stresses the importance of transparency, inclusiveness, and democracy in the selection of tour participants, and breaking the law in other countries. The board approved by unanimous vote (13-0) to establish an **ad hoc committee on delegations**. Ad hoc committee members include: Monique Salhab, Adrienne Kinne, Gerry Condon, Daniel Craig, and Patrick McCann.

- XV. **Delegation Proposal: Nicaragua (July 12 – 21)** Gerry shared and presented “Proposal For A Nicaragua Delegation”. Anyone interested in participating, should contact the national office (application form forthcoming). Details will be shared on website and Friday e-blasts. There are hopes the visit will coincide with chartering a VFP Chapter in Nicaragua. Contacts there: Brian Wilson and Colleen Littlejohn.
- XVI. **Endorsements**
- Domestic Violence Recognition** – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of Oct. (Albuquerque? Santa Fe?) They are asking only for an endorsement. Approved unanimously.
  - Korea Award to VFP** – Request to accept award from Korean organization.
  - Embassy Protection Committee (EPC)** – Patrick proposed the Board direct national office to send \$500 to Popular Resistance to support solidarity with the Venezuelan people, and specifically to support the work of the EPC. Board approved.
- XVII. **Golden Rule Report** – The boat left San Diego at 11:45 on May 1<sup>st</sup>, headed to Hawaii with local TV coverage. There was a problem with the engine (water pump?). It is presently sailing back to San Diego, arriving Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. The board wants an update before the boat sails again. Patrick suggested we let the movement share the cost, and asked to what extent that is happening. Many agreed that the Golden Rule is an expensive project, but a good project. VFP should build the sustainability of such projects.

The board adjourned at 1 pm.

## VFP BOARD AGENDA June 13, 2019

- 1. Welcome/Review Agenda** - Meeting began at 8:03pm. Board members in attendance include Gerry Condon, Adrienne Kinne, Gary Butterfield, Patrick McCann, Daniel Craig, Mike Dempsey, Marti GuyDowning, George Johnson, Joey King, Dave Logsdon, Maurice Medvan, Jessie Medvan. Willie Hager gave prior notice of his absence.
- 2. Approve Minutes of April/May board meeting**  
Add endorsement of Albuquerque October action on Domestic Violence.  
Some discussion of best minute practices. Recording Secretary Patrick sends them immediately upon the completion of board meetings, but it was suggested they get sent again about a week before the next meeting to give board members time to review them. April/May minutes yet to be approved, pending review.
- 3. Executive Director Report**  
ED Michael McPhearson will talk to Barry Lahdendorf about trying to make Craig Newmark (of Craig's List) an advisory board member. If we don't get the usual \$50K grant this year, we'll be under greater pressure to fund-raise. Adrienne opposed "putting a price" on advisory board membership. Treasurer Gary Butterfield agreed. Tabled for now.
- 4. New Executive Director Update**  
Garett Reppenhagen starts June 27 (2 weeks from now). President Gerry Condon suggested we do more to formally announce it on the list-serves as well as the website and Friday e-blasts. Michael suggested we do a press release; will ask Colleen to do it.
- 5. Convention Reports (2019 and 2020)**  
**2019** - Michael reported on the appeal for people to help raise funds for the PCW fund. Hired Miles Megaciph to solicit ads and contributions. Samantha and Patrick will help chapters and individuals raise funds for people who request financial help. Some names are already farmed out to Daniel Craig and Patrick; we want not to have people receiving 2 calls. No one said that they could not help in this endeavor. Camera-ready copy due at publisher on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Website asks for ads by July 8<sup>th</sup>.  
Flying into Seattle instead of Spokane? George Johnson suggested folks look into Southwest, which is not included in the search engines. It's very expensive from London, so Adrienne Kinne may or may not come; others would probably Skype. Convention committee meetings are moving along. Dave Logsdon suggested people need to get their tickets soon and early.  
**2020** – Daniel reported they have narrowed down the venue possibilities to 3 locations. Convention planning meeting the last Saturday of June. Will be a report at next board meeting.
- 6. Fundraising**

We talked about the importance of the ongoing work of selling ads for the convention and getting donations for PCW, women and POC veterans. Board members were asked to select at least one area where they can “support and participate in” fund-raising activities.

## **7. Antiwar Actions Announced**

President Gerry Condon announced some upcoming antiwar actions. No war on Iran, No war on Venezuela, called by UNAC for weekend of July 13<sup>th</sup>, and People’s Mobilization to Stop the War Machine, Sept. 20 – 23. **Both actions endorsed.** SOAW takes place November (Nov. 23-24). It be smaller less than last year’s 750 people, with folks at the gates only Sunday. Attendance has been decreasing for years. Mike Tork is VFP's rep on the SOA Watch Council. Joey, Mike, Colleen, Patrick, and Mike will have a phone meeting on Friday, June 28 to begin preparations for this year’s mobilization.

Gerry reported on VFP’s late, but strong, presence of VFP at Venezuelan embassy, listing names of other organizations involved (Code Pink, Popular Resistance, ANSWER, Black Alliance for Peace, Green Party members, etc.). Board members Gerry Condon, Maurice Martin, and Patrick McCann were there, as well as perhaps a dozen VFP members from around the country. We recruited 3-4 people into VFP from there.

## **8. Deported Veterans Update**

George stated that thanks to the money allocated by the board in May the office is set up better, and have a lawyer connection in deported veteran Daniel Torres. Plan to be moving into the office by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Planning a meeting at the border fence, and every Sunday people assemble at the fence. Talking to folks in Juarez about setting up an office there. Submitting a workshop proposal for the convention. Also working with non-deported veterans. Once the office is set up, there are plans for phone-banking to fund-raise. The project has also made some Congressional connections.

Gerry added that ICE has been recently exposed for violating the rights of veterans and deporting them. George says it's against the law to deport someone with a catastrophic illness and the government is breaking the law regarding some vets. There was a suggestion to do a press release connected to the GAO Report,

## **9. Golden Rule**

Helen Jaccard, the Golden Rule Project Manager joined the call to give us the updates....

The Golden Rule made a remarkable recovery from its recent setback. A brand new engine is in the boat, and a re-designed exhaust system installed to avoid leakage of sea water into the engine. The cost of the replacement was \$16K. \$6K was provided by the insurance company, and \$10K was provided by avid Golden Rule supporters, many of whom, including VFP Chapter 56 in Humboldt Bay and Ann Wright, made \$1,000 donations. The Phoenix of Hiroshima also gave \$11,000 to the Golden Rule.

Former nuclear submarine commander and Tom Rogers will continue to anchor a strong crew, including a very experienced 30-year-old captain from Poland and a

remarkably qualified 19-year-old sailor and sailing instructor from North Carolina. The Golden Rule crew will arrive in San Diego on Sunday and Monday (June 16-17) to begin two weeks of intensive training, including a one-week sea trial taking them 300 nautical miles out to sea. If there are issues with the boat or crew, they will reveal themselves. We will make any necessary adjustments and a final decision about whether to proceed on the voyage to Hawaii.

July is generally an excellent time of year to sail to Hawaii, before hurricane season begins. We will be advised by several ocean weather experts. There will also be nearly 100 sailboats sailing at that time from Long Beach, California to Hawaii in the bi-annual Transpacific Race - an additional safety factor. Gary congratulated Helen and the crew for weathering a tough obstacle, and encouraged an event with San Diego VFP members before setting sail.

**10. Nicaragua Delegation**

15 people for the trip (July 12 – 21) is pretty much the limit for the size of the trip. The itinerary is being constructed now. This will include the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nicaraguan revolution (July 19). Gerry met with the Nicaraguan Ambassador; Colleen Littlejohn is the key contact in Nicaragua.

**11. Nominations Committee** – Willie Hager and Patrick are the Nominations Committee at this time. Adrienne, Patrick, and Dave (all current board members plan to run for board this year. We need at least 5 more nominees. Gerry suggested a larger, more diverse Nominations Committee.

**12. Executive Session** - The board went into another executive session concerning a membership issue. The meeting did not resolve the issue at that time, and will be re-visited directly.

**13. Meeting ended at 10:45 EST (total time 2 hours, 45 minutes)**

**14. Next meeting – Tentative, Tuesday, July 9, 2019**

## Board meeting agenda and notes for July 16, 2019

**Present (11)**– Gary Butterfield, Daniel Craig, Mike Dempsey, Marti GuyDowning, Willie Hager, George Johnson, Joey King, Adrienne Kinne, Dave Logsdon, Patrick McCann, Jessie Medvan

**Absent (1)** – Jerry Condon (in Nicaragua)

### Agenda

- ED Update/Transition
- VFP US Convention
- VFP US Poet Laureate
- VFP US Delegations updates
- Executive Session regarding member misconduct
- Other Business

### Notes

#### **1. ED Update/Transition (after 19 days on the job)**

- In response to Garrett’s question, the board decided that we should neither have a blackout on developments in Ireland, nor promote the issue.
- VFP needs to streamline the convention process. There is too much time wasting with a myriad of meetings, and not enough getting done between meetings.
- Advisory Board members – how can we utilize them?

**2. VFP US Convention –** Doesn’t appear that there will be that much savings from reducing the convention by one day, though we will review this post-convention. Ads are due to Becky ASAP at [convention\\_advertising@veteransforpeace.org](mailto:convention_advertising@veteransforpeace.org) . Questions about the handbook s/b directed toward her.

**3. VFP US Poet Laureate –** Jan Barry’s nomination for VFP’s 3<sup>rd</sup> poet laureate was approved unanimously by the board. Jan is a fantastic choice for this award, with glowing references from Doug Rawlings (our 1<sup>st</sup> poet laureate), and board members Willie Hager and George Johnson. Jan has a decades-long history of delivering amazing poetry. The committee forwarding the nomination included Doug Rawlings, Patrick McCann, and Daniel Craig. Jan has a family event conflicting with the convention, so is unable to attend. We should get a notice in the convention handbook and have someone present some of his poems at the convention’s Thursday night poetry event.

**4. VFP US Delegations updates –** At the May board meeting in St. Louis, an ad hoc committee was formed. Members of the committee include Gerry Condon, Adrienne Kinne, Gary Butterfield, Patrick McCann, and Daniel Craig. The committee has yet to meet, and the Nicaraguan delegation happened without the protocol guidelines that were to be followed. Patrick agreed to get a first meeting scheduled to discuss parameters for future delegations. Until such time, no VFP delegations will be organized. Additionally, those board members

going on delegations sponsored by other groups are directed to inform the board prior to departing on that delegation.

5. Member Misconduct (Executive Session) Board voted to take action against member.

6. Other Business – (Executive Session) Board voted to take action against board officer.

## **Appendix #1 - Executive Director Board Report July 16, 2019 (19 days on the job)**

### **Managing Staff**

- Conducting daily staff meetings by phone or in person
- Conducting monthly individual meetings with each staff member
- Each staff member including ED prepares a weekly goal sheet
  - X – Likely need an outreach/program organizer
  - X – Would be valuable to have a Resource Development Director

### **Budget**

- Reviewing the budget income and expenses
- Assess money saved from shorter convention
  - Will look at convention numbers in September

### **Board Support**

- Assist in member investigation process
- Reviewed Policies and Procedures
- Policy Procedures now on website under > governance
- Getting the word out on nominations to board of directors
  - Question about Ireland activity in VFP media and website: Should we remove all Tarak and Ireland material from sites?

### **Chapter/Member support**

- Chapter contact emails continue to go out
- ED helped facilitate Chapter call
- Assisting convention planning with over 16 hours of conference calls
- Encouraged July 4<sup>th</sup> Peace is Patriotic and Lights of Liberty #CloseTheCamps activity
- Deployed Veterans Website launched
  - Member Database will be fully updated by the end of OCTOBER
  - We gotta organize this convention in a more effective and less stressful way
    - Use more technology for idea sharing and living documents
    - Reduce conference calls by having more production between calls



- Delegate more decision making to individuals that can just report back

### **Communications**

- ED was interviewed by Nashville VFP radio show and Don Kimball's Friendly Fire radio show
- ENews is going out in regular intervals
- Peace and Planet News (POIT) special edition was produced and in the store
- Physical newsletter is prepared and going to printer
- Social Media tempo is increased
- Wounded Knee Medal of Honor resin ion oped is near complete and will look for national newspaper for publishing

### **Fundraising**

- Evaluating grants and donor strategy
- Renewal membership forms are working in place of Doug Zachery system
- Supporting for chapter 100 AK Youth Congress for Alaska Fellows Program grant applications
- Appeal Letter prepared and going to printer
- Preparing Kellogg-Briand free sticker day to grow list
  - Evaluating advisory board build up to help with resource development
  - The Wilderness Society National Desert Wildlife Refuge Nellis Dunes AFB proposal needs approval

### **Program**

- Taking over Golden Rule store
- Evaluating GoldenRule MOU restructure
- Working with Deported Veterans proposal
- Veterans Resist
  - Not Chapter focused
  - QRF (Quick Reaction Force) on current issues
  - Build out a long term external strategy and goals
  - Support internal growth strategy
  - Draw up 22<sup>nd</sup> Century Peace Plan (model after the Green New Deal)

**VFP US Board of Directors  
August Board Meeting Minutes  
Spokane, WA**

**APPROVED: YES**

**POSTED TO THE WEBSITE: YES**

Present – Gerry Condon, Gary Butterfield, Patrick McCann, Willie Hager,  
Dave Logsdon, Marti GuyDowning, Daniel Craig, George Johnson

Present on Zoom – Adrienne Kinne, Michael Dempsey, Jessie Medvan

Absent – Joey King

Agenda

8:15 am - Daniel Craig read the VFP Statement of Purpose

Exec Session on Discipline of Member (not to be posted externally)

Identifying the key issues – Closed Session

Exec session ended at 9:50. Resume board meeting

Members and staffers – Elliott Adams, Paul Cox, John Spitzberg Colleen Kelly

Agenda Review (started 10:10am)

Review resolutions except two, on Venezuela and Hawaii - postponed until later in agenda

- Resolutions 1 through 4 basically approved unanimously.
- Resolution 5 – Disapproved “Impeach President Trump for Illegal Wars & Torture”  
12-1
- Resolution 6 – Modification of Name (not going forward)
- Resolution 7 – “Stop Military Encroachment on the Environment” contacted Maryon.  
Distill efforts in WA into her resolution.
- Resolution 8 – VZ resolution (Gerry re-wrote) Call Buzz Davis today/tonight
- Resolution 9 – “Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons” contacted Shelby  
(endorsement w/ change) – See email from Shelby
- Resolution 10 – “Protect Mauna Kea and Her Protectors in Hawai`I) Tabled; Gerry to  
contact folks from Hawaii
- Resolution 11 – “Stop Military Sexual Assault” talk with SWAN, Sharon K., Monisha,  
tabled

Discussion of resolution 11 morphed into sexual harassment issues and incidents, and the need to impress this conscious cultural change consistently throughout the convention. Code of Conduct and Statement of Purpose to be read.

Discussion of safe spaces – Shelly’s notes say ‘2 rooms for women’. What about a peer counselor in one room that is open to all? BASE (neo-Nazi) meeting out in the boonies. Discussion of whether to talk to the FBI (potentially alerting one of BASE’s people who are in the FBI (or police force)).

Approved minutes of July 16 board call.

Discussion of whether we should record the meeting.

### **Wednesday afternoon**

EDs Garrett Reppenhagen and Michael McPherson, all members available, except Joey King. Guests include Elliott Paul Cox, Skip Delano, Colleen Kelly, Barry Reisch, John Spitzberg,

- Patrick moved and Gerry seconded, the board allocate \$10,800 to the Deported Veterans Project for a year-long commitment of \$1350 a month. Approved 12-0.
- Treasurers’ Report and Fund-raising – Revenue is 86% of budget. Have \$330K in assets.
- Bequests/planned giving should increase and is now a one-click process, although they do have to mail us.
- Grants should be an increased priority for the immediate future (with the help of the advisory board). This committee should be staff, board members, advisory board AND members.
- Membership Dues
- Recurring Donations
- Major donors
- What’s expected in the Treasurer's Report? A list, detailing all assets and expenditures. Figures must match.
- Report harassment issues to Adrienne, Marti, Jerry, and Daniel.
- Two rooms, one for a women’s caucus? Peer counselor?

### **DELEGATIONS:**

- Adrienne gave report on how to ‘decolonize our work’
- There is currently a moratorium on delegations. To go and witness, and be respectful of what people are doing in their own communities.
- Delegation Code of Conduct
- Information Sheet – Logistics, housing, itinerary, costs involved, changes in those
- Whether VFP is being asked to contribute to the trip.
- Application forms
- Open and democratic
- Developing relations between people before the trip

- The Ad Hoc Committee should become a full board committee. Approved 12 – 0.
- Delegation to be selected before it schedules.
- ‘Rapid response’ scenarios could be an exception. Franticness takes over the process.
- Meta Peace teams (Elliott Adams) willing to aid (join) the committee. Invited Paul Cox to share their experiences around the Chapter 160 trips to Vietnam. Nadya Williams?

### **Sunday 25 August, 4pm MT.**

#### Membership committee:

- Focus on retention after the convention. Dave Logsdon joined the committee. Recruitment activities- establishing relationships with vets groups at colleges, perhaps pairing that with ads, too. Developing activities that folks want to join, rather than inviting folks to a VFP meeting (e.g. working with the environmental movement).
- National campaign to connect with isolated or members who may be on the outs with their own chapter.

#### Chapter Development and Outreach:

- Discussion developed around the issue of the recruitment of associate members, and activities that help to recruit veterans (lit tables, attending vets groups on campuses, etc.). Minneapolis chapter has a form they go over with new recruits that asks about what their issues, strengths, weaknesses, etc.). Daniel reminded people that retention is affected by our culture.

### **Thursday morning session**

Present: Michael McPhearson, Garrett Reppenhagen, Gary Butterfield, Gerry Condon, Daniel Craig, Marti GuyDowning, Willie Hager, George Johnson, Adrienne Kinne (Zoom), Dave Logsdon, Jessie Medvan

Absent: Joey King 8-1-2

Member observers – Elliott Adams, Alice Ritter, Cara Bissell, Billy Bartee, John Spitzberg

Executive Session - notes not to be posted publicly

End of Executive Session

Golden Rule – Helen Jaccard reported (sending package reflecting her report to be inserted here). Need to cap a fund-raising drive by November, Golden Rule is primarily self-sufficient financially, with the exception of Helen’s paid staff position.

Communications report – Gerry and Danny S. to be on NPR today, we were in the paper today, and Ron Carver was (?). Another radio interview with Brittany DeBarros and Ruth Aloua.

Resolutions – Patrick gave report of 11 resolutions and our decisions, including unfinished tasks concerning them.

Board concluded business.

**VFP US Board of Directors**  
**September Ex-Comm Call Minutes**  
**September 26, 2020**

**APPROVED: YES**

**POSTED TO THE WEBSITE: YES**

1. Resolutions – Resolutions, with board and convention business meeting votes, are to be mailed out in October. Article VII, Section 2 of the Bylaws states “...In October, or 6 weeks after the Annual Convention, the Secretary shall send by mail or electronically to all full members (as of the prior Annual Convention) a paper or electronic ballot with the names of all the nominees. The message will contain a brief biographical statement on each candidate. Members will retain the option to receive a mailed paper ballot or electronic ballot, with the preference retained on file with the Secretary.” Patrick submitted email to VFP board earlier today (Thursday) with all information except changes made to Resolutions 2019-10 and 2019 – 12. Need to make changes ASAP (prior to Oct. 18), to give staff enough time to format ballot.
2. Communications - Suggestion for email available for comments, etc. (ombudsman idea?) – Vice-President to monitor these communications from membership?
  - Board members must respect board e-mail security, (e.g. not b-ccing or forwarding emails, including board members’ private opinions, etc. Need full protocol here.
  - Members email privacy needs also must be respected
  - Update on Code of Conduct
3. Delegations – Committee meeting upcoming. Some debate occurred on the various criticisms of the delegation to Nicaragua.
4. Board President - Who should fulfill Presidential duties through 2019? Discussed current leadership style. Friday am ExCom breakfast in Albuquerque to discuss transition of president duties. How can we work with current president to transition and mentor acting president? Gary, Patrick, and Garrett to take on this communication.
5. ABQ Meeting Agenda – Garrett and Adrienne to prepare the agenda.

Closed Session

**VFP US Board of Directors**  
**September Board Call Minutes**  
**September 17, 2019**

**APPROVED: YES**

**POSTED TO THE WEBSITE:**

Attending: Garrett Reppenhagen, Marti Downing, Dave Logsdon, Patrick McCann, Adrienne Kinne, Daniel Craig, Gary Butterfield, George Johnson, Michael Dempsey, Jessie Medvan, Joey King

Absent: Willie Hager, Gerry Condon

1. Convention – Daniel wants to speak with folks with convention experience. Garrett expects financial numbers for 2019 convention at end of September. Hotel is Crowne Plaza in Albuquerque. Discussion centered on negotiations with hotel. Have yet to review contract. Requesting deadline extension to October 26. Plan to return to 4-day convention (August 5 – 9), and perhaps a trip to Los Alamos. Adrienne suggested convention committee call. Not able to stay at Crowne Plaza October 25-27, but will stay at nearby hotel and tour Crowne Plaza Saturday, October 27.
2. Report of Development Committee Call - 9 people were on a September call (with a very productive, detailed follow-up call occurring October 16 (8 people on call).
3. SOAW – Friday night event, Saturday forums, Saturday night vets meeting. 20 rooms booked at Candlewood Suites; working on transportation from Atlanta airport. ICE presence at Ft. Benning (building Warfare Center?). See VFP website for further info. Last call occurred October 1<sup>st</sup>; Mike Tork (VFP liaison to SOAW) leading the effort.
4. Delegations Committee held initial meeting with 6 members on the call. Follow up call occurred Wednesday, October 9.
5. Election – Per Bylaws, bios, resolutions, and by-law amendments must be mailed to members no later than the end of October. There were no by-law amendments at this year's convention. (Successfully submitted to national staff by October 16<sup>th</sup> for formatting; hope to have in mail prior to October 25<sup>th</sup> board meeting in Albuquerque.
6. Adrienne explained history of the Code of Conduct coming into being. We should consider it a living document, especially in the early period of its existence.

Executive session

Future board meetings - 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of November and December 7:30 pm EST? Ended at 10:13pm



**VFP US Board of Directors  
October Board Meeting Minutes  
October 25-26, 2019  
Albuquerque NM**

**APPROVED: YES**

**POSTED TO THE WEBSITE: YES**

FRIDAY OCT 25th

All members in attendance (Jessie Medvan on Zoom). Meeting began at 9:00 a.m.

9:00am Statement of Purpose read by Joey King. Code of Conduct read by Patrick McCann. Meeting Ground Rules read by Adrienne Kinney. Willie Hager suggested that these be posted online. Motion approved to place in the Policy Handbook.

9:10am Approve Agenda. Patrick suggested we have some idea of what we want to take away from the weekend. He suggested fund-raising and transition to the new board, including discussion of ExCom elections in January.

9:15am September meeting minutes approved, followed by discussion of best practice for approving minutes (referred to By-laws committee).

9:20am ExCom Report (closed session)

9:50am 2019 Election Update – ballots were sent out. There are 10 candidates for 5 positions. Ballots must be returned with a postmark nlt 12/3.

10:10am 2020 Convention Update – Main priority is to sign contract, or begin a new hotel search. Trip to Los Alamos (TH aft.) with Pace Bene to commemorate Hiroshima bombing (with alternate program for those staying in Albuquerque. Board of Directors and Statement of Purpose on inside of booklet (contact Becky on this). Garrett posed the question of why we have conventions. Take care of business? Gathering of the tribe? Fund-raising? Have conventions every 2 years?

10:45am Delegation Committee Report (Outreach Travel Fund)/  
De-colonizing our work in VFP

Adrienne gave report – Need chair for the Delegation Committee, subsume OTF in to it? Permission to meet with foreign dignitaries vs. meet with whoever you can (public/private distinction). George raised the expense to VFP. Dave advocated collective preparation for delegations. Adrienne brought it back to Tarak, agendas. Purpose should be thoughtful, fair vetting of who goes, sharing summation. Organization (including finances), political involvement, and disrespecting participants and un-democratic decision-making. People generally felt good about the discussion and the formation of the committee. Dave shared input from indigenous people in MN. Gary defined it loosely as an awareness of white male privilege and its effects on our thinking and behavior.

Adjourned for lunch at 12:06. Returned from lunch at 1pm.

Introduced Charles Powell, long-time past president of the Albuquerque chapter.

1:00pm      ED Report from Garrett Reppenhagen (3 months on the job)

#### Managing Staff

- Temporary hire of Casey Stinemetz (20 hours a week) to assist administrative processes, chapter contact updates, member renewal etc.
- Sam Fergusson joined Creech and Nellis NV trip and would like to get staff into the field more frequently. Sam is set up to travel to SOAW in Nov.
- Decreased St Louis travel (still two trips a month)
- Increase Becky Luening's compensation (newsletters, convention program book)
- PIOT team replacement
- Likely need outreach/program organizer
- Would be valuable to have Resource Development Director
- Budget
- 2018 Financials complete, we will start 2019 financial much earlier
- Moving to quick books beginning 2020
- Convention lost more money than expected

#### Board Support

Assist in member action, impact statements, letter to Tarak, interviewing facilitators for Transformative/Restorative Justice

Board meetings: Manage board zoom scheduling and assist with board meetings

Assisting with board communication to members

#### Chapter/Member support

- Chapter contact emails continue to go out
- Helped facilitate Chapter call

- Completed annual convention and planning for the 2020
- Encouraged Climate Actions, Peace Day, Armistice Day, Kellogg-Briand day activity
- Member database converted (reports pending), chapter contact list being updated

### Communications

- ED continues to be interviewed for press and radio interviews and public speaking
- ENews is going out in regular intervals
- Peace and Planet News (POIT) suspended until 2020: new managing editor and editorial team being recruited
- Physical newsletter went to printer Oct 8 and should have been received.
- Social Media tempo continues

### Fundraising

- Fundraising team assembled and meeting
- Renewal membership forms are working in place of previous system
- Craigslist grant (\$25k) received
- TWS \$15 comes in monthly (just over 1k a month)
- Not applying for Humanities grant to support Truth in Recruiting this year
- Lifetime memberships will be followed up on from convention
- Appeal Letter for winter will include various versions to target nonmembers, members, large donors
- Advisory Board will be updated and asked to support end of year appeal
- Met with Edward Jones on Procter Gamble investment at \$11k
- Chapter support letter request for locating major donors sent out
- Leslie Cushman to help raise money to support DVAP campaign and project
- Prepare for re-occurring donor push and thanking big donors

### Program

- Stop the Nellis Expansion is active; had 25 people protest at gate of Nellis AFB in OCT. Las Vegas Sun covered story. ED completed lobby day for 8 offices in DC in September. Talked to Buttigeg campaign to publicly oppose expansion.
- Looking at including Golden Rule in larger campaign to end nuclear proliferation.
- Working with Deported Veterans campaign to grow grassroots policy impacts.
- Veterans Resist retreat planned for Jan. 16-29 Las Vegas
- Cultural Inclusion page to appear on VFP website to include education resources and links on how to get involved in discussions and solutions to help transform VFP culture.
- Helping to organize SOVA and prepare it to be a National Project

- Climate Action support growing in VFP and will look at how to build greater national office support. Building on Fire Drill Fridays w/ Jane Fonda.
- Iran Peace Project to replace Iran Working Group on call with Bernie Sanders campaign with Cornell West. Will edit language to fit VFP mission.
- Collaborating with #PeaceOverPentagon to target reductions in DoD budget through specific cuts based on Project of Government Oversight. \$200 billion. Was on phone with Harris campaign. May organize a town hall w/ candidates

1:45pm Treasurer's Report and Board Fund-Raising from Gary Butterfield – Convention lost much more than we expected. In terms of income, our biggest drops were in monies received from outside VFP (grants, foundations, non-member donations, etc.). Opportunities for Revenue Growth included...

- Monthly Planned Giving
- Bequests
- Grants
- Major Donors
- Non-member Gifts
- Advisory Board Development
- Organizing "Giving Day" on Tuesday, December 2nd

3:15pm SOAW (November 15-17 in Columbus, GA) Colleen, Dave, Joey, and Patrick shared their knowledge of events to this point.

3:25pm Membership Committee:

- (Report by Willie) Committee's been meeting regularly and there are approximately 10 people on those calls.
- Developing tool kit (to include VFP flag and other memorabilia). Colleen offered that the membership brochure is being re-written.
- Raised question of what documentation is necessary for members of VFP chapters other than VFP-US. Adrienne suggested we allow members of international chapters to determine necessary documentation of veteran status.
- Committee discussed counter-complaints and resolved in a positive manner a potential issue of 'stolen valor'. Membership committee will review and update protocol for making a member complaint.

3:45pm Environmental Impacts of War/Climate Change actions:

- Discussion of who's going to DC for Fire Drill Fridays with Jane Fonda. Have 6-8 people
- Talked about need to prepare a mass flyer connecting war and climate change for distribution on Friday, November 8th.

- Patrick asked people to send their information
- People are wearing red for Fire Drill Fridays. Should we wear red (sweatshirts)?  
“Ain’t no pollution like a military solution” on the back of t-shirts.

4:25pm Discussion re. Syria / Kurdistan:

- Group needs to do more study on this. Joey King gave a report on the history of the Kurds, dating back to the British mandate (after WWI?). Kurd minorities exist in Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Turkey. Are Kurds an ethnic minority or a nation? Colleen suggested that we should explain our position on Syria in terms of why we support taking our troops out of Iraq (international norms of who is and who isn’t in violation of sovereign territory, don’t trust Al Capone to keep the peace, etc.)

4:45pm Review, plan for tomorrow

SATURDAY OCT 26th

9:00am SOVA proposal (zoom conference w/ Skip Delano):

- Asking for financial support for a February conference (possible attendance of 60).
- Adrienne suggested using Zoom;
- Joey raised our current bleak economic outlook;
- Dave talked about the expenditure of effort for the project.
- Willie shared experience from the deported veterans work around asking for money from VFP national.
- People are supportive of the project, but the request for \$10,000 from national was more than we could meet.
- Adrienne raised the VA’s treatment for women not meeting the same quality of its health care for men, and proposed a bullet point addressing this issue in the work.
- Patrick moved, and Daniel seconded that we make SOVA a national project, and accepted a friendly amendment speaking up for equal treatment for women (with our women veterans having veto power).

10:00am Break

10:15am Thom Allena (Transformative/Restorative Justice) Peace and Justice Studies professor since 2010 at UNM:

- Thom asked people to introduce themselves. He spoke of the ‘tensions of opposites’
- Capacity to see that we are in a web of inter-relationships (embrace complexity),
- social courage to bring forward creative acts (stepping into a place of unknowing),
- Ambiguity,
- and willing to take risks.

- Harmed parties, not 'victims'.
- Justice usually about punishment or rehabilitation.
- Transformative justice focuses on repairing harm and having a 'harmed-person' focus, restoring harmony back in the community, and 'persons of concern' (who must take responsibility for their actions).
- Have to create/ensure safety. Importance of ground rules, listening, and creating win-win situations.
- How to use power to ensure accountability.
- Summary - Healing needs to happen, in addition to adjudication. Internal board trust needs to be re-engendered.

11:00am Closed Session:

12:00pm Lunch

1:00pm Resumed Closed Session discussion about member issue.

2:00pm Consensus-decision Making Presentation – Daniel Borrero, pediatric dentist in Santa Fe. "Community Assemblies - Using deliberative democracy to harness collective wisdom". Concepts of Dynamic Mediation and Creative Facilitation.

3:00pm Working Group/National Projects – postponed Golden Rule presentation. Helen Jaccard will send reports. Adrienne suggested that we postpone this discussion, along with the SOVA issue to the November meeting. Formed a committee (Willie, Gary, Gerry, Marti, Adrienne)

3:15pm Summary: Review Items/tasks; schedule next meeting January 25 – 26 in Las Vegas, Patrick suggested that all board members become recurring credit card donations. Shared one-page report of convention finances. Need to make a few copies of Spokane report and Crowne Plaza contract. December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting at 9am PST.

4:00 pm Inspect Crowne Plaza Convention Space

**VFP US Board of Directors  
November Board Call Minutes  
November 26, 2019**

**APPROVED: YES**

**POSTED TO THE WEBSITE: YES**

Meeting began at 7:10pm.

Present – Gerry Condon, Adrienne Kinne, Gary Butterfield, Patrick McCann, Daniel Craig, Michael Dempsey, Marti Downing, Willie Hager, George Johnson, Jesse Medvan, Dave Logsdon, Garrett Reppenhagen

Absent – Joey King

Approve Agenda – Approved

Approve Prior Meeting Minutes – Approved with some discussion about the importance of people reading the minutes in advance of the meeting.

ED report on Fire Drill Friday, other updates – Very positive summation, also thanking those involved in weeks prior. Jane Fonda accepted invitation to the advisory board, and will be a future donor. Garrett and Emily Yates arrested. Fire Drill Fridays to end in January, possibly going on road to 10 cities. Met with Greenpeace, Extinction Rebellion folks, Jim Driscoll, and others. End of year appeal going soon to be mailed. Giving Tuesday is December 3<sup>rd</sup>, focused on re-occurring credit card donors.

Committees Assignments/Tasks - Adrienne to organize delegation committee meeting, program committee (committees and national projects) to expand from George and Willie, to include Adrienne, Gary, Gerry, Marti, and Garrett. ExCom to take responsibility for organizing committees? VFP President will collect committee reports for ExCom and board.

Fundraising – October report reflects \$25K from Craig’s List. ED report above referred to future donor and end of year appeal (focused on recurring credit-card donations). Discussed the grant database program VFP purchased 4-5 years ago, which could help in the long-term. Based on usage, we could extend its availability. Asking advisory board members for donations and other collaboration. Garrett suggested we encourage donors to encourage others to become donors.

Convention 2020 – Contract ready to be signed. Made improvements in the contract (decreasing responsibilities, receiving improvements from the hotel). Local report – Coordination with Pace Bene is under negotiation on buses. We’re committed on transpo for 1 of 2 days (Saturday). Looking for acceptable estimate for buses to Los Alamos. Speakers from Pace Bene event may be available to speak at our convention, with some recompense. Dahr Jamail to speak at banquet (honorarium, flight, and lodging)? Should he

weave in some disarmament knowledge in his presentation? Daniel concerned about the risk of convention being overwhelmed by a singular focus on disarmament. Post-Cold War veterans to pay some convention costs this year. Suggestion that folks could earn 'sweat equity' for some convention costs (e.g. phone calling, volunteering at convention). Full price increase to \$140/\$240, 2 days for \$65/\$125, \$55 banquet, solidarity pledges.

Golden Rule – need short written report from Helen Jaccard. ExCom to meet with Helen in near future.

Delegation update – Daniel raised that delegations shouldn't only be observing, but supporting projects in place. To be discussed more fully. Delegations committee meeting in December.

VFP Response to Trump Pardon for War Crimes – Write letter to oppose the presidential authority to pardon war criminals (e.g. Eddie Gallagher). Gerry, Garrett, and George to develop that.

SOAW – Dave Logsdon reported that the gathering went well this year, and was timely, given that the Bolivian coup instigators were trained there. Need to re-generate the involvement of VFP members nationally in this project.

Next meeting – Noon EST, Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. New board members to be invited. January 25 and 26 in Las Vegas.

Meeting ended at 9:20pm.



**VFP US Board of Directors  
December 2019 Board Call Minutes**

**APPROVED: YES**

**POSTED TO THE WEBSITE: YES**

December Board Call: All present except for George Johnson and Gary Butterfield

Also present: Ben Schrader (newly-elected board member present)

Approval of last month's minutes – Postponed. Will resend minutes for approval in January board meeting.

Closed Session: The board spent its monthly meeting reading (aloud) and sharing approximately a dozen impact statements concerning member misconduct.