



Veterans For Peace 2015 Board Meeting Minutes

- January (Los Angeles, CA)
- February (Conference Call)
- March (Conference Call)
- April (St. Louis, MO)
- May (Conference Call)
- June (Conference Call)
- July (Conference Call)
- August Board Meeting (San Diego, CA)
- August Business Meeting (San Diego, CA)
- October (Berkeley, CA)
- November (Conference Call)
- December (Conference Call)

Veterans For Peace
 National Board of Directors Meeting
 Friday, January 30 – Sunday, February 1, 2015
 Occupied Gabrielino & Tongva Lands
 Los Angeles, CA U.S.A.
 Kourtney Mitchell, Recording Secretary

Friday, January 30, 2015

All board members in attendance
 Patrick calls meeting to order

War Crimes Times is now Peace In Our Times

- auto-in for board member contributions?
 - Non competition from other contributions
 - editorial board issues for board contributions
 - autonomy for editorial board
- copyright?
 - Funding from national treasury
 - voted to become national project
 - policy issues from board
- motion to designate as national project, seconded
 - unanimous vote
 - motion to end War Crimes Times?

VFP/IVAW concerning August joint convention

- conference call between two orgs
 - venue space, accommodating each other
 - five previous conventions
 - limited venue space, restrictions
 - cost considerations
 - major plenary sessions
 - housing, camping
 - convention theme
- accommodation vs. joint decision-making
 - joint complicates decision-making
 - accommodation but still meeting expectations?

Saturday, January 31, 2015

All board members in attendance

Patrick calls meeting to order

Executive Committee Elections

Barry Ladendorf running for President
 Gerry Condon and Willie Hager running for Vice President
 Mark Foreman running for Treasurer (re-election)
 Kourtney Mitchell running for Recording Secretary

Barry Ladendorf confirmed for President
 Gerry Condon wins election to Vice President
 Mark Foreman reelected for Treasurer
 Kourtney Mitchell confirmed for Recording Secretary

Project RENEW/USAID

- Barry calls meeting to order, opening observations
 - acknowledgment of understanding
 - 20 minutes for presentations
- Mark chaired board committee on RENEW, comment on status
 - 2 issues: MOU general agreement for fiscal sponsorship and to accept if grant from USAID
 - suggestion: vote on MOU and discuss USAID
 - motion to accept MOU, seconded
 - Gerry: discuss in relation to larger discussion, go to executive session
 - Barry: interrelated, prefer to go to executive session
 - presentations first
 - executive session requires recorded vote from board
 - Paul: opposes executive session for RENEW portion
 - not a contract, should be decided in open; political question
 - Chuck: if MOU is denied, no use in going to executive session because no relationship with RENEW
 - Mark: not a vote to support USAID, but just fiscal sponsorship for RENEW; we can vote without executive session
 - Barry: do we want more from Paul and Chuck without executive session? More info?
 - Gerry: more discussion so people are clear; reflect opinion of all members to support RENEW as 501c3
 - Tarak: since we're agreed, vote now?
 - Barry: vote on MOU?
 - Mark: show of hands for exec session, propose vote to approve MOU
 - **Vote on MOU**
 - **vote is unanimous to accept the MOU, none abstained**
- Mark: 2nd motion to approve fiscal sponsorship for RENEW to grant from USAID

Presentation from Paul Cox and Chuck Searcy

- Chuck: agent orange survivors receiving funds channeled through USAID from US government, problematic
 - Senator Leahy
 - VFP partly responsible for funds becoming available
 - decision to accept or not funds from US government/taxpayers
 - consider: how to help those suffering from war legacy is our responsibility
- Paul
 - concept paper; \$620k
 - reworking for entire province over five year period substantially larger
 - no commitment to FVP and USAID
 - limited commitment and approved MOU provides exit strategy or expiration in five years
- Chuck
 - other ways to channel \$ to RENEW
 - important for Vietnam partners to continue strong working relations
 - build confidence, reconciliation
- Tom
 - point of clarity: can chapters operate as separate supporters?
 - Paul: province Vietnam partners asked veterans to support; chapters
- Michael
 - board policy for endorsement locally, how national handles it
 - is it national in scope? Vietnam is national in scope
 - 501c3 sponsorship is point
 - chapters cannot 501c3 that's not theirs, only board can because we are the 501c3
 - amount of money is also the issue
- Barry
 - 501c3 is needed for RENEW to make proposal; Chuck confirms
- Paul
 - mission statement: cost of war, opportunity to discuss; program allows more concrete step towards mission statement
- Barry
 - questions from the board
 - Willie: why can't chapters 501c3?
 - Barry: not relevant
- Gerry
 - USAID dissenters solution to support RENEW but find another 501c3 source
 - another source lined up? What are disadvantages? Administration fee?
- Chuck
 - 2 others are adequate, strictly serve financial portion
- Patrick
 - reiterate how many people expected on ground for Agent Orange support?
- Paul
 - one district in province 563 handicapped; can't tell who are Agent Orange victims
 - not proper for VFP and USAID to speculate

- AID doc focuses money on where AO was spread, big change; going to RENEW
- proposal will become much larger
- Chuck
 - \$3 million
 - \$600 thousand for 5 years
 - # of disabled, priority, 507
- Barry
 - other agencies to assist? What is fee for other agencies if VFP votes against?
- Chuck
 - other is 7.5 – 8% rate for administrative overhead
 - 15 – 20% acceptable
 - USAID considerable higher rates
 - used to paying large fees
- Barry
 - UXO project?
- Chuck
 - UXO not in plans, but providing disability services and victims assistance
 - beyond UXO victims, to include AO victims
 - USAID does not talk about AO, but just persons with disabilities
 - focus on families affected by AO; if decision is made
- Paul
 - RENEW around for 12 years
 - educational for de-mining
 - Norwegian People's Aid funding for RENEW education on UXO and AO
 - AID money won't affect de-mining project
- Chuck
 - 2nd major funding is from US Department of State
 - RENEW is part of state department
- Tom
 - previous funding from department of state 501c3?
- Chuck
 - Recording Secretary's Note: missing response
- Tarak
 - resistance, 2 possible hypothetical concerns on blow back
 - money used for good purpose
 - concerns:
 - 1. blow back can damage VFP reputation
 - 2. USAID using it to further aims of Pacific Pivot
 - US will proceed with Pacific Pivot
 - will other orgs be as strong opposing USAID activities as VFP will? Who is more likely to denounce USAID publicly?
- Chuck
 - non confrontational position
 - US policy makes our involvement as tacit approval requires that we speak out, most other

- orgs won't speak out
- VFP would be a player because we would stand by principles
- Pacific Pivot is way overblown
- Paul
 - 2012 first VFP tour in Vietnam, Chuck organized meeting with US Embassy
 - however good money is, no mitigating opposition
 - 2 categories: trying to subvert another government we don't like, or undermine movements against governments we don't like
- Barry
 - hands for questions?
- John
 - What is RENEW abbreviation?
 - Chuck: Restoring Environment and Neutralizing Effects of War
 - John: cost of war?
 - Chuck: military intervention in Vietnam – under a trillion
 - we can accurately calculate cost of neutralizing effects
 - Paul: dialogue group says clean up and assistance \$3-6 million
 - legislation 12 pages, involves cleaning; \$5-10 billion over ten years
 - look at who was killed by UXO in Vietnam
- Chuck
 - \$40 million for clean up site
 - \$80 million HIV/AIDS project
 - \$21 million over 5 years for AO is small comparably
- Michael
 - if USAID funding accepted, whatever VFP signs we need to be comfortable for administrative side. How do I work with you at beginning to avoid blocks from board? If decided, another task, how not to make it harder? Could be that we don't reach full comfort.
- Chuck
 - priority to go to review for overhead figures in proposal, administrative costs being covered, have to work it out carefully, only so many adjustments
 - Chuck Palazzo is asset for assisting at admin level
 - need good backup, costs need to be covered
- Mark
 - clarify: fiscal sponsor for USAID money, not part of VFP treasury, special account to hold money, bracket for government auditing?
- Chuck
 - most orgs set up separate category within own accounts to specify this project, no co-mingling of funds or projects
 - USAID waits on money to make sure finances are good
 - as long as money is accounted for, shouldn't be a problem
- Barry
 - member feedback
 - Bill, Chapter 69, San Francisco
 - Vietnamese people confused if we oppose funding

- What relationship between chapters and Vietnamese government if opposed?
- Chuck
 - solid ground, good relations, not severely irreparably damaged, just have to explain; patience, would be disappointed
 - they appreciated the reconciliation project
- Barry
 - appropriate for exec session? Motion?
 - Willie: motion for exec session
 - bylaws clarification on closed meeting; reason must be recorded
 - any discussion for motion?
 - Joey seconds motion for exec session
- Michael
 - how relates to bylaws for closed session
 - Willie: contractual category to bylaws; transparency
 - not a question on contract, but question on discussion, whether or not to do this, political discussion and opposite to bylaw rule
- Mark
 - agrees with Michael; political moral discussion; contract not our concern until we agree with fiscal sponsorship
- Barry
 - broader view; how future relationships politically, bases for bylaw
- Willie
 - discussion framed for board members, our decision
- Patrick
 - Why go into closed session? Because personnel privacy rights; this isn't a personnel matter
- Barry
 - other reasons too
 - motion to call to question seconded
 - board discussion only, unanimous decision for closed session
 - ten minute break proposed
- Ken
 - reason negotiation of contract is because negotiation protects strategy

10 minute break

- Barry
 - start discussion around table
 - express views first, then explain the vote
- Gerry
 - discussion of who USAID is

- agent of covert intervention; torture, civilian partner of military operations
 - currently funding opposition groups in Venezuela and undermine Cuban government
 - reminder of mission statement; major contradiction to involve with USAID
 - no argument about intention of funding
 - VFP may lend them credibility with support
 - membership is divided, respected members split
 - has a particularly strong appeal to Vietnam vets
 - possible show of support for RENEW but separate from USAID
 - VFP not well set up; not humanitarian
 - RENEW has better shot without VFP
- Mike P
 - easy to sympathize
 - support could offer control/oversight
 - USAID not intended to offer genuine aid and support
 - see it as part of military apparatus
 - part of our job to articulate political opposition
 - membership hasn't engaged in as much conversation, discussion
 - opposition doesn't stop it, financial support still available to RENEW
- John
 - 501c3 auditing at any time
 - exit strategy as opportunity for VFP
 - Full Disclosure, Chapter 160 in Vietnam
 - cost of war; springboard environmental damage and destruction caused by recent and current wars
- Michael M
 - if taken, RENEW receives funds? Yes, work goes forward
 - MOU fiscal sponsor for RENEW → what does USAID funds accomplish that MOU doesn't
 - taking money can offer opportunity to criticize RENEW
 - difference worth internal tensions? Not sure it is; money goes to RENEW anyway
 - time as administrator for proposal and doing work right way; board giving direction on my time, statement about spending time with decision
 - not taking, can still fund raise for RENEW and input reasons not to support USAID
 - leaning towards non-support
 - Barry: part of money to fund a position or help for Michael
 - Michael: 8% difference than proposal
 - for fiscal sponsorship with criteria
 - more work than usual: creating budget, hiring process, takes time
 - is effort worth it if RENEW gets money anyway?
 - Tarak: could you delegate responsibilities to supporters?
 - Michael: yes, but still work, bringing to board, can't farm out all of the work

- Willie
 - involved in opposition against USAID, opposed philosophy
 - moral perspective to get involved
 - not concerned with reputation from others
 - 50-50 from core membership
 - constituency Vietnam vets
 - feelings of responsibility, moral, better quality of life, reparations
 - most powerful anti-war vets, have capacity to do it right, healing process
 - logical perception, org think analytically, not speculation
 - act responsibly as board, as management, not as political body
 - VFP strong enough

- Mark
 - respect everyone's opinion
 - money can offer help; perspective as Vietnam vet
 - purpose statement aspects haven't been touched
 - only vets orgs to care about Vietnam people
 - RENEW saves 3 million lives through immunization program; HIV aid
 - not monolithic ally evil, two headed
 - we owe efforts to heal
 - in the end, welfare of VFP is to live by what we say
 - extra work in the beginning
 - can easily place leftover money back to RENEW
 - lean towards healing, more so than fear

- Tom
 - alternative perspective, healing wounds
 - personally took government aid in New Orleans, distributed
 - look at management and contracts
 - consider requirements to denounce terrorism
 - security culture
 - if enabled to do something good, we should

- Tarak
 - still not sure
 - never publicly agree to thank USAID, no pledge to denounce terrorism
 - need to check before vote
 - 2 concerns
 - division in VFP; fallout in any direction, have to articulate decision
 - Vietnam war was horrible, but building roads was appreciated
 - USAID is bad, but can still do good

- other orgs can do it, but not same advantages if VFP does it
- put us in position between two sides with competing interests against Vietnam people
- friends close, enemies closer
- if decide no, commit to fundraiser for RENEW in a real way; big commitment, lots of work
- if decide yes, VFP doesn't profit; cover expenses, articulate to membership that we're not profiting

- Patrick
 - USAID is inherently evil
 - overt, not covert
 - who better to expose?
 - Have to struggle with members
 - strong principled history, won't get us morally

- April
 - experience in Haiti, helped in schools but not there to help
 - cannot see myself taking from one side who's hurting another especially if other means available, doesn't complement our situation
 - not a good decision to corrupt 30 year history

- Joey
 - lots of misinterpretation, doesn't die if voted no
 - money changes people/orgs
 - good can do with dirty money

- Barry
 - oath taken for board to uphold SOP and responsibilities to org
 - no overt/covert in Vietnam country from USAID
 - justice for victims and vets
 - op to statement intentional
 - Vietnam people helped; agent orange, UXO
 - program allows aid to Vietnamese with disabilities
 - VFP best messengers for healing
 - no one except us looked at all info
 - unless you sit in jury, hear all facts, otherwise it's emotional; jury room deals in facts/reality
 - not hostage to others views; make tough decisions, though concerned but can't guide morals and principles
 - best interest of board and VFP
 - war museum of Saigon, people suffering, have seen agent orange effects, but worried about reputation? Not willing to do that, defend decision
 - can live with right decision, can't live with decision if based on reputation

- Kourtney
 - leaning towards yes
 - can't see self denying much needed aid to Vietnamese people
 - never been to war, but hearing the stories of Vietnam compels to support

- Mike P
 - Ramsey Clark visit to Vietnam; most incredible recovery he's ever seen
 - Vietnamese people rebuilt, unparalleled strides
 - USAID \$43 million for agent orange
 - response too little, too late; political move
 - no motive for overt or covert? Then why the 2012 aid? Why sudden change?
 - China policies, line up against Chinese government
 - high profile agent orange clean up is strategic, political dealing to look good

- Gerry
 - not either/or, could support RENEW in material ways and avoid USAID
 - org divided, board divided
 - comfortable with commitment after close vote? Not definitive
 - serious rebellion if going forward, big changes for a close vote

- John
 - conversation with Czech woman
 - change in US military training policy, transforming from lethal to emphasis on restoration and end of war
 - RENEW offers opportunity to do so

- Willie
 - other orgs available isn't the point, Vietnam asked us
 - moral to pass it on? Why is it wrong to support them but not take action?
 - Don't care about rebellion; principled position
 - heart of beast
 - comfortable with close vote, healthy discussion, non-speculative

- Mark
 - as a teacher, valuable moments, teaching moments, this is one of those moments
 - educational org 501c3
 - opening a door to educate Vietnam devastation
 - educate about evil side of USAID; expose ourselves and teach

- Tom
 - not about money; part of framework
 - nuanced positions
- Gerry
 - RENEW can't go through with proposal
- Tarak
 - it's in MOU
 - it's true they have motives
 - on the ground in Vietnam but still opposes USAID; Chuck and Paul
 - people helped is good, VFP will be associated with good done, taking money that belongs to us and the Vietnamese people
 - not getting in bed with anyone; all money is dirty, capitalism is dirty
 - trying to destroy the empire; teaching moment
 - more unity, no denouncing publicly, respect each other, unify
- Barry
 - Pope Francis → church field hospital in battle zone, bring in disenfranchised, wounded, poor, hungry, heal them and then talk about other issues
 - Vietnam is still a battlefield; UXO and AO is happening
 - we created it; moral imperative
 - be vanguard of effort

10 minute break

Barry calls to order

- thanks to board for discussion
- proud to be on board
- request to Mark, role call vote
- Mark
 - motion to approve in principle the fiscal policy
 - Willie seconded

ROLL CALL VOTE ON RENEW/USAID

Gerry: no

Kourtney: yes

Mike P: no

John: yes
 Willie: yes
 Mark: yes
 Tom: yes
 Patrick: yes
 Tarak: yes
 April: no
 Joey: no
 Barry: yes

Yes: 8
 No: 4

The board votes to approve fiscal sponsorship for Project RENEW

Lunch Break

Barry calls to order after lunch break

Guest Introductions – chapter and associate members

Agenda Review

- board COC bumped up to top
- Patrick: suggest brainstorming advisory board protocols Sunday
- Mark
 - introduce concepts for VFP giving loans
 - IVAW loan given
 - repayment, accountability
- Barry
 - policy and procedures manual
 - board member expectations review (page 3 of manual)
 - be on time for conference calls, contact beforehand if late or can't make it
 - John: reconsider day of calls
 - Barry: notify of availability for calls, send email
 - Mike P: morning calls as an option
 - Tarak: suggest one announcement and one reminder for calls; more participation on online discussions
 - Gerry: consistently post # info
- Barry
 - joining committees

- Tom: media and communications; rethink how media is applied
- Barry
 - emphasis on engaging membership
 - responsible as reps of VFP to engage with respect, non-dismissive
 - unity of board, respect collective decisions, present to membership as supportive
- Michael
 - pay attention to finances, shouldn't be surprised if issues financially
 - Barry: mindful of resources when proposing projects spending
 - Willie: good business model
- Barry
 - mission gets work done because we work together, support each other
 - Tarak: board members publicly criticizing
 - what is remedy according to bylaws? Accountability?
 - Barry: duty to remediate situations, understand why, talking to each other
 - confidence, address right away before it spreads
 - Tarak: page 2, misconduct applying to board members
- Joey
 - sharing board email
- Gerry
 - fundraising: board hasn't been given tools to proactively participate in fundraising, should talk about it
 - Tom: retreats, trainings, CRC, aspiring towards; some better at fundraising than others
 - Barry: meet early for retreats, trainings
 - April: training during VFP national conventions
 - Barry: webinar training with Matt for fundraising process, major donor work
 - Michael: talk to development committee first
- Michael
 - how to behave with each other, addressing language, room to be ourselves but being sensitive
 - Barry: part of working together
- Barry
 - list-serve is private, requires approval of board to share
 - Joey: forwarding and mass emails as violation; reply all
 - Barry: distinction from informational
 - Tom: media literacy, training, confidentiality focus, webinar on tech
 - Barry: knows contact for training
 - Willie: list-serve doesn't need off-topic info, too much to pour through, need discipline on

- topical issues
 - Joey: send to board only intentionally; no email to multiple serves with board list
- Barry
 - board meetings
 - October meeting; consideration to give chance to get out issues
 - Tarak: meet in same location October as in January, site of host chapter
 - Gerry: multiple meetings in same location, need to move around for chapter
 - Michael: most productive meetings was convention meeting
 - John: advantages to face-to-face; puts names/faces together to make calls more productive
 - Joey: suggestion maybe not same city but a closer city, have done before
 - Barry: actions for missing more than two board meetings
 - Tom: LA is expensive, cognizant of personal budgets, should be transparent, develop policies about expenses
 - Barry: reimbursements
 - Michael: reasonable considerations, make reimbursement clearer; per diem? Need to revamp, how to support needy board members
 - Barry: committee for this issue? Incidental expenses
 - Willie: why not single room? Usually same price
 - Mark: clarify on room reimbursement
 - Michael: one person pays and is reimbursed by VFP; pay for room on own card but can't always do it, develop steps to address
- Barry
 - affiliations? SOAW
 - reports
 - Michael: no reports currently; various affiliations without liaisons or reports
 - Barry: take list of affiliations and determine liaisons
- Barry
 - VFP archives at Swarthmore
 - who's available for info on first ten years of VFP trips to Russia; docs, records, how to use info for current Russia/Ukraine situation? Public dialogue
- Michael
 - updating Policies & Procedures docs sometime
 - April to chair P&P updating, develop committee to do so

Officer/Executive Director Reports

No report from Barry

- Mark, Treasurer

- Angela Hudson not a CPA, but works with a CPA
- Mark caught \$35k error associated with Zinn Fund, listed twice
 - Barry: Dec 2014 gains reflect error?
 - Mark: yes
- Joey: Stephen Colbert donation?
 - Mark and Michael confirm
- separate net cash from total net assets, restricted in spending
- assets above years
- 25% up over last year
- Craigslist \$50k donation
- gains in revenue
- members dues drop 9%, significant
- revenues way up over budget
- expenses less than budgeted
- special projects total donor funds
 - Joey: special projects done nothing in four years, should be moved to general; Dave Cline fund
 - Barry asks Michael to clarify special projects
 - Michael: clarifies Cline Fund actions over three years, fundraising back into fund
- Barry: War Crimes Times?
 - Michael: send to Zinn Fund? Use for Peace Times?
 - Barry: clarify restricted projects?
 - Michael: Restricted are funds for which there's an outstanding contract from funding unit; Temporarily Restricted funds can be used without contract but for specific use from funding unit
 - Zinn Fund temporarily restricted
 - USAID would be totally restricted
- Mark question for Michael: Stop These Wars?
 - Tarak: STW, VFP direct action team project; viable if/when need to raise money thru STW

Michael, Exec Director report

- national office moved to downtown St Louis by Arch and metro stop
- rent \$100 less
- utilities, drop ceilings, etc complicates cost
- rewriting job descriptions
- membership continues downward trend, down 238 from last January; negative impacts in report; down 853 since December 2012; however, since pre-2011 there have been big gains
 - Gerry: declining members due to death; explore possibilities
 - Barry: Craigslist office and source?
 - Michael: not solicited; sent thank you gifts
 - Barry: go to CL office to personally thank them face-to-face; groups appreciate thank yous when not connected to more requests

- Gerry: Chapter 69 connections with CL
- Communications with calendar
 - segmented appeals say basically same thing, just tailored for specific donors
 - Barry: why are appeals so successful?
 - Michael: Matt Ho worked with Michael on letter appeals, working Advisory board for strategy
 - work we did, talked about appeal; Ho's letter on why he's in VFP, authentic voice, war vet in current conflicts
 - end-year did well talking about challenges
 - also send e-blast with pieces messaged from appeal; reinforce idea of donating
 - primarily check donations, by far above online donations
 - Barry: indiegogo?
 - Michael: not yet, use it to revamp website
 - Barry: bridge to next 30 years
 - Michael: indiegogo campaigns are more general, we need to be specific, how to emphasize finishing projects; urgency

Ken Mayers on Development Committee on planned giving

- Raleigh meeting discussion on signing planned giving commitments biggest single thing to do
- every two years
 - Gerry: how many big? How often?
 - 20-30 names of deceased members
 - memorial kits
 - higher visibility to membership for planned giving

Michael continues report

- review of website: layout of big stories needs improving; flexibility
 - Barry: knows Bernie Eisenberg, young vet member expert on sites; redid San Diego site
- voting in associations
 - online voting, do we need it? Feel like we do, need comm to do it right
 - bylaws should reflect
 - Barry: online substitute for written ballots?
 - Michael: younger vets embracing tech, consult with national

More informal discussion on voting, ballots, techniques for mailing

Michael continues report

- associate voter report
 - turnout, online voting
 - get interns to help with calendar
- Joey
 - fundraising for 30th anniversary
 - \$30 for 30 years campaign? What day we incorporated?
- John

- the end-of-year appeal was best in years; ringing endorsement for PAH-PA
- moving address to PO Box? Will it be mail forwarded? How long? Address on website?
- Michael
 - we need street address
 - PO Box if moved, travel to box
 - supposed to build new stadium in St Louis, could be on VFP office location and office could be demolished; report in local newspaper
- Development Plan
 - build stronger relations to membership
 - donation levels; everyone gets something
 - national conversation, no dichotomy
- Joey
 - worldwide?
 - Michael: time differences; office can't necessarily handle international growth; ideas need to be assessed by capacity
 - raising money to keep staff and pay full time membership coordinator
 - script for board to thank members
- Barry
 - bring in Advisory Board to meet; think tank
- Michael
 - Michael: Institute for Political Studies think tank; ex: progressive options
 - peace movement long term thinking; integrate pieces for change
 - store revenue increase, can make more; marketing tool
 - regular people visit store; products that appeal to people
 - April: bead work as an example for store
- Barry
 - assign members to meet with donor prospects
 - Michael: not everyone is best spokesperson; talk to Southmore
- John
 - Jackson Brown on advisory board, declined performance at convention, invited us to concert tour
 - Willie: two Florida chapters table at tour; great exposure for chapters
- Michael
 - balance sheet December 2012, 2013, 2014 end of year trends
- Tarak
 - Jackson Brown tour all over
 - contact person willing to let us table at all locations
 - show coordinator

Michael concludes report

Jason Cardenas nomination to Board

- Barry
 - prepare for approval, invite Jason in
 - active, recovered a long way
 - volunteered to head up plenary at convention
 - motion to approve nomination, seconded
 - **unanimous vote to approve Jason Cardenas for the board**
- Michael
 - concerns: male fills board seat; 12 men on board, one woman
 - should be a process to look for female members
 - says something about the board
 - when opportunity to make a difference, we should
- Tarak
 - had 3 criteria: youth, POC, female
 - had someone previously, Barry suggested Jason
 - has great qualities, filled 2 criteria
- April
 - when took Doug's place, nomination to fill spot?
- Tom
 - identify at beginning of meetings
 - Barry: early in process, cultivating talent
 - Willie: stick together, will get to process so it's not disappointing situation
 - Barry: one year position
 - John: reconstitute nomination committee for future vacancies, diversification
 - will head up comm, April joins comm, Mike P joins comm
 - Gerry: most women aren't eligible because they are not vets; look at bylaw changes, amendments to allow associate members to join the board
 - Joey: add Doug Zachary to nominations comm; Michael will ask Doug

Guest Intros to the board

Barry

- Development Committee report
 - publicize donor names, bring in strategy in newsletter, website, etc
 - levels of donors
 - publish names, recognition at convention, interviews on website
 - matching donors

- big donor recognition encourages others to donate big
 - include in grant proposals
- Mike P
 - donations numbers online tend to be low on average
 - options can increase participation
 - updated web options, designed for political campaigns, connects easily
 - site is organizational
 - sections, tabs, increases sharing, social media presence
 - recommend nation builder site hosting, relatively inexpensive, charges by how many emails are on list

Tarak - Membership

- motion to approve Ireland chapter with six members as official chapter, paperwork filed with Casey
 - motion is seconded, approved with one not present
- learning from younger vets
 - last convention fundraising to bring in younger vets, should repeat this year
 - issues with joint convention with IVAW
 - renaming from Post 911 to Post Cold War
 - Peace At Home, Peace Abroad solidifying connects with other movement elements
- New recruitment brochure now has new addressing available, get them from Virginia, optional donation
- two new chapters
- recruitment
- membership decline
- chapter contact calls, information with Casey
- Tom
 - working committee for international presence? Coordination? In light of Pacific pivot
 - Tarak: VFP UK chapter doing great work with the press
 - Barry: contact with Germany group, Ben (UK) has connection
- John: policy lists 12 committees
 - communication with Greenville chapter?
 - Casey finding new chapter contact

Michael

- what can we do in international relationships
 - form vs function: what can we do together?
- Casey increased facebook push by thousands, handles social media coordination

Barry

- 2016 Convention Bids
 - San Francisco?
 - Willie: put out feelers, encourage discussion

- Michael: calls, e-newsletter to chapters for discussion on hosting
- Gerry: reminder that SF has already put in bid and no one else has
- Barry: chapters have offered for 2017 and 2018; let chapters know there's been a bid for 2016
 - Michael: Minneapolis has put in bid for 2016
- Willie: develop a pool of capacity
- suggest to use chapter contact list to notify of bids

Barry

- Sunday agenda
 - advisory board protocols, calendar discussion, Peace At Home, Peace Abroad

Barry ends meeting

Sunday, February 1, 2015

Barry calls to order

- LA chapter dinner recap last night
 - several chapters offering help for national convention
- Agenda review
- April meeting dates, board availability
 - boards decides on April 24-26, 2015
- Conference calls availability
 - board decides upon February 15, 5pm eastern, 2pm pacific

John

- standing committees, functionality
 - 12 committees, identify chairs
 - Barry: excomm meeting to make recommendations on standing committees

Michael

- Calendar
 - Patrick: Ken Mayers event, sexual assault in the military; board should address work on women's issues in the military
- February 15 is anniversary of largest protest against Iraq War 2003
- March: Creech convergence
 - should have meeting on resources to Creech action
 - Tarak: travel assistance to Creech action
 - Barry plans to attend Creech action
- Gerry visiting chapters
 - caravan to Creech, VFP caucus at event

- Las Vegas, March 2 REMAX Convention
 - REMAX selling Palestinian land
 - Code Pink actions planned
- Boston St Pats peace parade
 - Board member should attend, maybe Michael or Barry
- Spring Rising
 - VFP participation?
 - Barry discussing with Gerry, Leah and David Swanson on participation
 - Michael: what degree of organizing?
 - Peace Action, ANSWER, other orgs will be present, collaboration?
 - What are the numbers expected?
 - Willie: internet organizing issues, effects numbers at event
 - Mike P: ANSWER supporting Spring Rising; though likely not a huge event
 - Patrick: where can we fit in? Also consider international work while there
 - Barry: an opportunity for a forum, educational panel, discussion
 - don't need a lot of people, do need the press to be present
 - Advisory board can get a spot
 - Michael: specific events at Spring Rising, like a panel
 - MFSO attending
- Patrick: February Women's History Month
- Willie: interested in Netanyahu visit March 3?
 - facebook post discussing importance
- Patrick: APAC convention, Washington DC
- Michael: GDAMS – Global Day of Action on Military Spending, April 14
 - press release? Cost of war angle
- Joey: NRA protest
- Michael: Kent State, Jackson St memorial recognition dates
- Willie: VVAW/OSS May 4th at Kent State
 - get people excited for event
- Barry: GI resistance needs to be a priority
 - Gerry: GI resistance not visible currently
 - commitment should be stronger; outreach to GIs
 - Canadian deportations – need political, moral and financial support
 - VFP should be an active partner with Courage To Resist
 - Willie going to Mexico for veterans outreach; Canadian resisters are challenging government
 - Michael: UNAC conference May 8-10, New Jersey, 300-500 participants
 - Sam's Ride national promotions
 - May 16-18 arriving at Congress in DC
 - Michael: possible on the ground support for the ride in DC from national
 - leading into Full Disclosure
 - April: lobbying Congress as part of event
 - Other calendar events:
 - Mike P: May Day minimum wage event in LA

- Barry: Mother's Day cards on real history of day, sell on website
 - Joey has a contact for project
 - Willie: we should find other allied orgs to organize events
- July 4
 - Michael: opportunity to make a statement on war
 - Patrick and Gerry to work on an article on July 4
- Atomic Bomb 70th anniversary July 25
- Patrick: 2 Latin American events a week apart July 19 and 26
- Juneteenth celebrations
- Michael to research VFP founding dates
- August 5-9 national convention
- Ghost of Tonkin play at San Diego theater
- UN Peace Day
 - April: UN call out to American people on sustainability, will research information to use for Peace Day
 - Willie: associations with UN opens doors; involve Ireland and UK chapters
 - April and Mike P to lead international outreach efforts
- Gandhi birthday
- Indigenous People's Day
 - April to lead ad hoc committee

End Calendar review

Barry conducts the oath with Jason

Barry ends the meeting

Veterans For Peace
National Board of Directors
Conference call
Occupied Turtle Island
Sunday, February 15, 2015

Board members in attendance:

Joey, Gerry, Tarak, Tom, Kourtney, Mark, Jason, John, Michael, Mike P, Barry, Patrick

Barry calls to order

- agenda review
- review of excomm meeting
 - Mark – important to connect with staff, boosted their morale
 - Gerry – good experience; suggestion to do agenda review; suggestion to brief update on Project Renew

Barry

- 2016 convention bids, host site discussion
 - Patrick: push this to happen, would withdraw motion to vote on bid

Spring Rising

- Gerry: overview of origins, plans, expectations of event in DC
 - IVAW, MFSO join with VFP for thursday and friday events
 - overview of planned speakers and topics
 - emphasis on drones, Iraq, Syria, ISIL, Ukraine, Russia, etc
- Tom: costs for speakers, expenses
 - Barry: Marjorie Cohn requested air fare assistance
 - Tom: travel assistance should have been run by board
 - Patrick: Michael has executive privilege to spend it
 - Barry: excomm has allotted amount to spend without board approval, flight won't come near the specified amount
 - Patrick: get Barry or Michael to speak at the rally Saturday at White House; March 6 Friday 3pm meeting for the rally, Patrick will try to make it
 - Kourtney: will try to make it via megabus

Advisory Board Protocols

- Barry: several months ago VFP member requested contact info for adboard; Barry said we won't do that, will control access through the board of directors; will send letter to them welcoming them to board and asking for support for org efforts throughout year
- Barry: Full Disclosure event in DC May 25; having a dinner at event for adboard for fundraising and greater involvement of adboard in events
 - set up ad hoc committee of VFP members to organize dinner
- Barry: letter writing action at the memorial
- Patrick: also encourage folks to send those letters to the media

Deported Vets

- Barry: Willie has agreed to take up task force to work on issue of deported veterans; establish chapter in Tijuana, Mexico

Sam's Ride

- John: had chapter meeting last Saturday; discussed plans; big send-off from Raleigh; local fundraiser tentatively March 28
- Gerry: Sam and friends lobbying on Monday; visiting offices to reduce military budget and put it to human needs; invite VFP members to join in lobbying effort; what is relationship between Sam's ride and VFP
- John; invitations to VFP chapters to lobby congressional offices or districts; coordinating with Peace Action's Move the Money campaign to reduce military budget; reaching to chapters up and down east coast; want at least a hundred riders on last day
- Patrick: how can we have it so that Sam's ride and Full Disclosure convince people to stay late for first and come early for second, activities to encourage people to come thru; don't think we'll bring big numbers to Sam's Ride; importance of propaganda on email, website, companion events on West coast with April
- Gerry: possible other VFP actions between Sam's Ride and Full Disclosure; excomm meeting we thought it would be too much going on, share the work that's already going on as much as possible

Fundraising 30th anniversary themes

- Barry: focus point of snail mail/email fundraising pushes; how to get members and others to participate in fullest extent possible
 - examples: call donors and thank them; matching funding for campaigns
 - first letter in March maybe from some of the founders of VFP
 - Michael: short update on who to talk to for letter-writing campaign
 - Joey: 30 for 30 idea?
 - Barry: not a good idea to ask for a specified limited number, but instead focus on range of donations, multiples of 30

Golden Rule christening

- Barry: planning on attending the event for christening and sea trials; suggests coast guard inspection of vessel

Jerry Genesisio request for investigation of Michael McPherson and Margaret Stevens

- Barry: will respond to Jerry in order to not create greater problems; won't say much; will confirm with Jerry that Margaret Stevens is a veteran, but won't send confirmation documents; will say we're happy with Michael on board; beyond that there's nothing else to tell him
 - If we don't respond, he'll take other kinds of actions; want to prevent him from doing that
- Joey: clarify the two different parts of Jerry's concerns about Margaret
 - Patrick: check with virginia; Margaret wasn't member when Patrick nominated him

- Barry: we found out she wasn't current in dues after July; big responsibility to make sure our dues are paid as board members
- Joey: is that something Casey or Doug can do on a monthly checklist basis – to check who's current on dues
 - Michael: we're going to put in place some kind of protocol; will get it together within the office and present it to the board
 - Tom: extend it to membership as a whole
 - Michael: we do already, we send out reminders
 - Patrick: talking only about board members who aren't lifetime member
- Mike P: we're not going to give Genesisio this information, right? Playing into what he's doing? Are we giving him the docs and info he wants?
 - Barry: surely we'll tell him that Margaret is a veteran; with respect to dues, some part of me says yes, but other side says it's not his business, but will it cause more trouble than worth to not give him info?
 - Mike P: can any member request that info?
 - Michael: I don't remember seeing a specific policy about that; the only people who are supposed to see rosters are chapter contacts or president or president's designated person; anyone outside a chapter shouldn't see that info; personal info, records; if a member is asking about a board member – we are held at higher responsibility and transparency; since you do have to be a member in order to sit on board, it's a fair question; what are you trying to achieve by asking
 - Patrick: Margaret hadn't asked for reimbursement to attend convention in Asheville
 - Willie: membership rolls are public record; not sure what process is; don't think we should not respond
 - Mike P: I don't think that a member should be able to call into question the dues or membership of another member; the precedent its creating is that if you're black in this organization you can have your membership questioned
 - Tarak: agree with Mike P; Genesisio isn't trying to further VFP in the way we are; we have a distinct difference; we don't have to placate him; the guy is a racist; has been working with Ken Dalton
 - Joey: how did he get that info, and why is he only concerned about these two members;
 - Jason: his question about funding, to protect our end and prevent these issues from arising in future, is there a way to track money and craete a way for concerned members to look up records; how to prevent these sorts of inquiries from happening again
 - Michael: we have a bookkeeper, and we have a review rep who was in office on Friday; reviews are public to our members; not sure if membership info is public radio; not sure if Willie is right about any member being able to look up member info; if a member wants to see treasurer's report or ED report, then we have plenty of ways for members to track spending; even if we made it more transparent, it would become more burdensome and people start asking about picky things; motivation is what gets people asking questions; at some level we do have to answer the questions; we have to be business-like and do it the way it's supposed to be done and let him reveal his racism; the questions he's asking if taken in a general way he is assuming that I'm doing things without telling the board, when clearly that's not the case
 - Barry: that's exactly my response, is that he's doing what we want him to do and that's why we asked Michael to stay on permanent ED; not totally sure I want to spend energy on finding out that information (regarding dues and membership)

- Tom: her dues were ten dollars because she's Post-911
- Barry: depends on when you paid your dues; new policy in place

Patrick: April 30 and May 1 is anniversary of vietnam war and leading into Full Disclosure

Barry: anniversary of troops landing in Dnang

Project Renew

- Gerry: keep track of what's happening regarding board's decision; appropriate ways to respond as board; several adboard members threatening to resign
- Tarak: three adboard members who threatened to resign actually only saw Margaret Flower's letter regarding this, but didn't see any other rationale on the other side; haven't received any other info; I think we should give the adboard the director's board perspective so they know why we voted the way we did, so they have that perspective
- Barry: we should have a position paper?
- Tarak: doesn't have to be official position paper, but something like that; we should be able to speak about that
- Barry: Tarak willing to draft the majority view, final explanation?
 - Tarak: will consider, probably yes
- Willie: way I would deal with Margaret's influencing the other adboard members is to remove her from the adboard
- Michael: a minority of people threatening to resign and upset, it's an important minority though and take it seriously
- Tarak: very short letter that Chris Hedges and Margaret wrote; reads letter on call; they mention that we're taking money from USAID, but we're not, rather we're just being a fiscal sponsor; that letter is terrible
- Michael: the contradiction isn't that we're receiving money because we haven't; we put in proposal to be fiscal sponsor; if they are talking about resigning because we're sending money then we should talk to them and clarify; part of our operating costs for overseeing this project is in the grant, and we would be receiving that money if RENEW does get the grant, the money will originate from there

Barry ends discussion

Barry makes motion to adjourn

Patrick seconds

Barry adjourns meeting

Veterans For Peace
National Board of Directors
Conference Call Meeting Notes
Occupied Turtle Island
Sunday, March 1, 2015
Kourtney Mitchell, Recording Secretary

Present on the call:

Barry, Gerry, Tom, Mark, Patrick, John, Tarak, Willie, Joey, Kourtney, Michael, Mike P., Jason

Agenda

- RENEW
- Events
- Ireland
 - Barry: draft more formal letter drafting a welcome message to Ireland chapter, newly approved
 - prepared a vinyl banner for UK chapter; do something like this for Ireland chapter
 - Tarak: great idea, cloth banner would be better
 - Barry: draft a letter, Barry and Tarak can sign, print on stationery, send ahead of time and notify of banner
 - Tom: establish some kind of protocol for welcoming new chapters
 - Michael: we try to send flag and a copy of the charter document, signed by President and Executive Director
 - Patrick: tool kit for chapters?
 - Michael: yes, electronic tool kit for chapters

Regis Tremblay Proposal

- interview with Brian Wilson; some board members have been interviewed already
 - offer interviews to VFP; can use for counter recruitment, educational outreach in schools
 - Willie: ensure he gets interviews with Vietnam veterans
- Michael: we try to make it a habit to not purchase items from other people
 - can figure out a way to pay him once they're sold, or we can try a small sample
 - not the first person who have tried to sell us something, and then we buy a number of them and they don't sell, and we end up having to pay for them
 - Joey: talked to Virginia about stocking the Why Peace book in the store, and she said it's a lot of work, echoed Michael
 - Willie: why can't we just buy a box of them and if they don't sell then we send them back?
 - Patrick: when in Asheville we hosted Doug Rawlings in the President's luncheon, he sold a bunch of stuff
 - Barry: Ghost of Jeju film
 - Proposal: we receive some of his DVDs for advertisement on the website, and then give him his cut when we sell them, keep our cut, and he can bring them to the convention

Mike P

- thoughts on RENEW
 - reasons for going through with fiscal sponsorship are not in keeping with our mission
 - even though we are being self critical, important to admit that it was not a good decision

Committees roll call

Awards: Patrick chairs, Joey

- Barry: Golden Rule project, make special considerations for awards for people involved

Bylaws: David Wiley chairs, John as board liaison, Willie

- Barry: any issue that a board member is not the chair of a committee
- Michael: it's been done before, though it did affect how information was passed between board and committees; no rule says that board member has to chair; have to think about which committees it will impact more or less
- Barry: what does John think about chairing and most of heavy lifting done by David
 - John: not opposed to idea
 - Barry prefers to have John chair; Joey joins Bylaws

Communications: Gerry chairs, Willie, Tom

- Barry: policies, outreach, advertising, press releases

Conventions:

(NOTE: cross check list with Barry before sending to board)

Resolutions:

- Barry: don't want to be dealing with resolutions close to the convention date; need a board member as a liaison, direct line of communication so we can get it done early on
- Michael: what we discussed during excomm meeting, have John be on committee to provide liaison duties, clear communication back and forth
 - Barry: suggests having John serve as co-chair with Bob Kascinzsky and David Wiley

Working Groups committee

- John: needs to be reorganized; stay in contact with all working groups a big job
- Barry: work with John to figure out how reorganization will work

Protocols committee

- Patrick: have been taking notes on protocol issues from this call
- Michael: big task is to make sure the policy book is up to date

International Liaison/UN committee

- Ellen Barfield taking duties
- John: proposed that Ellen continue to serve as chair; in SD we elected Margaret Stevens to be on the committee; Michael serving
- Michael: periodically Ellen does send info that we put on website or newsletter; ask NGOs to promote their calendar dates on the e-newsletter
 - need to have a committee meeting; leverage our relationship with the UN better
 - Barry: one of only veteran's groups that has NGO status; now that we have international chapters, maybe we can have someone in an international chapter serve on the committee; such as Ed Horrigan from Ireland chapter

VFP Border Task Force

- Willie offered to chair, SD chapter folks, Jason
- deported vets and immigration issues

- need a mission statement, goals, recruit members
- Tom: work with Willie on starting project with Canadian border issues as well
- Willie: have already established contact in Toronto, already laid the groundwork
- Michael: member Eric Daniels lived in New York, died in the summer, was working on vets deported from New York area, down to the Caribbean, POC veterans mostly; may try to find information for that work, build bridges and make contacts with those affected

Events

- Creech Air force base event March 3-6
 - Barry going, big VFP contingent mostly from California area will be there; Tarak attending
- Spring Rising
 - Gerry: March 18-21 in DC; collaboration of a fair number of groups who got together in January lead by Cindy Sheehan;
 - divided up tasks who are working very well together; activities start Wednesday evening; anti-drone play canceled, David Roebucks concert instead
 - Thursday morning lobby and afternoon bus tour of war criminals and corporations
 - Friday teach-in at the University of DC Law School, 2-10pm
 - back to back panels/plenary
 - Hands UP Don't shoot
 - VFP collaboration with IVAW, MFSO; second panel around 3 or 4pm
 - moderated by Barry or Michael
 - Saturday, various march routes to the White House, rallies
 - Michael: we are going to be sending info to the regional e-newsletter next week, try to get people to show up
 - Tom: is there a dedicated website to direct people to?
 - Gerry: no dedicated website; popular resistance has updated info
 - Michael: do have URL – springrising.org goes to Sheehan's site; might not be the one that's most up to date
 - John: proposing a courtesy van to take up folks from Raleigh to DC; planning a fundraising party Saturday night at Columbia Heights, 6pm to midnight, will distribute address
 - Tarak: question – do we want to have a banner for the march on Saturday? If we do, would be helpful if you want Ellen and I to make it ahead of time, can make any kind of banner, any size; had big one at climate march; Tarak is attending
 - Michael: Sam's Ride chance for lobbying Congress in DC in May; national office wants to do it every year, let membership know to organize local contingents to lobby their home representatives; connect with ideas of PAH-PA; more info as we get closer

Joey: can we call this our monthly board meeting, since it's already March

- Barry: will squeeze the next one in between events

RENEW/USAID

- Barry: have noticed that some folks have talked about polls and referendums; some are skeptical because they don't believe it will give us meaningful direction going forward; others have suggested that as governing body we've made our decision and we should go forward;

- Nothing has changed since Jan when we voted; was opportunity for RENEW crew to prepare concept paper; they have done that, sent out to everyone; very educational as to where RENEW wants to go and how they see their goals
 - Doesn't speak in specific details about Agent Orange, just mentions people who are disabled
 - want to take the burden off of national office and Michael by having Chuck Palazzo to take on lion's share of work, oversight of the reports; pass on to us when
 - far from a done deal, still possible it won't go through
- Michael: clarify what the discussion is, what to decide on
 - Barry: suggestions from some to have vote of the membership
- Gerry: a lot has happened since January, advisory board members resigned or talked about it; leading members also;
 - Barry: nothing has changed with concept paper with RENEW since January
 - Gerry: how to address the fact that membership is divided; one idea was to poll the membership, but we already know that the membership is divided
 - I think a poll might help, better than nothing; but I question what poll would look like, would give different results or just further fire up divisiveness
 - my own proposal is to reconsider fiscal sponsorship, not on merit but based on restoring unity and common sense of purpose
 - one of the things we considered in January was impact on org, and we've seen what the impact is
 - board should vote for RENEW to access another 501c3, and then immediately engage membership on how to support RENEW
- Tarak: not sure I agree with Gerry's assessment that there's a crisis; a few very loud people; we've had issues like this before
 - not opposed to referendum or polling of membership; suggest that it's non-binding
 - will walk if we vote to ask RENEW to find new sponsorship
 - disagrees with
- Willie: support a referendum; no way to consider turning ourselves around on the vote, and it's disastrous to ask the Vietnamese to make the decision for us; it's the boards responsibility
- Joey: not necessarily against some kind of polling, but there's a lot of questions that need to be answered
- Kourtney: best interest of org; whatever it takes to keep org together; in favor of democratic process
- John: in terms of temperature taking of membership, would like to get an update on where to we're at with electronic voting for resolutions, bylaws;
 - other alternative is to have a chapter tally, never done before; can throw up a resolution or bylaw change at convention
 - if we reverse the decision based on threats, then we forfeit our ability to govern not just for current board but for future boards
- Tom: would like to see more oversight built into the concept paper; need to stay with our convictions and move forward; all of us should be required to write a 300-500 word position paper on our vote; equally weighted discussion
 - engage the org boldly, directly and transparently
 - due diligence and oversight
- Mark: in the beginning my sense was yes to take temperature; really opposed to that now

- what RENEW is doing to help Vietnamese is honorable
- will have people on the ground overseeing the project, who are members
- believe the board should show the membership that we stand behind our decision
- opposed to taking the temperature; strongly believe the majority of our membership will be proud of what we're proposing to do
- not even sure yet if we will accept USAID offer
- thought January board meeting was beautiful
- Jason: wasn't given opportunity to vote, would have voted against; will not go against democratic process and will work with board whichever way we go
- Michael: not talking about the merits of RENEW
 - did not think January board meeting was beautiful; much of it was emotionally-based
 - when we say we don't have a crisis, well this is the biggest one I've seen thus far
 - disappointed in both sides incriminating each other
 - not sure what a non-binding poll will do; should have one after we know a real decision has to be made
 - all for democracy, but consensus is how you build coalitions
 - if we do vote, then we need to think about what kind of majority we need to keep this group of veterans together
- Barry: voted in favor, continue to adhere to it; not so sure about a poll now, agree with Michael; nothing has changed in terms of process; concept paper lays out pretty well what is being proposed; identifies who VFP is
 - have been critical of USAID in past, and will be in future
 - it's actually over 4.5 million dollars
 - come to think it is less people dissenting than originally thought, though there is a significant group there
 - losing side tend to be louder than winning side because they have to get everyone's attention
 - suggestion not to do anything at this time as far as polling; stay the course for what we decided to do
 - as a board use our influence to get people to understand that we need to see it through as it works out
 - we could vote and then find out later that the project has been rejected and it would be a waste of money and time
 - we have other events going on that's so important, and we haven't been focusing on them; tell our members to refocus on doing the things that we can have some impact with
- Joey: need to find out what the time frame is for receiving and signing contract
- Gerry: VFP will be involved in one way or another; clear to me not a majority on the board who would reverse the decision; mixed opinions on value of a poll; acknowledge the fact that we do have a continuing debate
 - agree that there's not a lot of value on polling
 - would have to decide if it's even feasible

Barry closes discussion on RENEW

Michael

- reminding that we were to put out word on convention bids and hosting
- didn't do a full throttle outreach, but there was a discussion on the list serve
- someone mentioned Philly doing because DNC would be there, but they don't have capacity
- Minneapolis definitely wants to host 2018 convention
- is there something else that we want to do, people we want to call; if not, then SF is the place and we still have to find someone for 2017
- Barry: any other bids for 2016?
 - Michael: no, don't know of any bids for 2016 besides SF
 - make a motion for SF to host 2016 convention?
 - Willie: motion to accept SF to host 2016 convention
 - Tom seconds motion
 - Gerry: question about urgency of decision; pretty sure we decided that we would make this decision at the April board meeting
 - Michael: nothing super compelling other than letting SF know; if we're going to do outreach, we need to know who's going to make phone calls, how it's going to work, and then we need to do it right now; don't want to randomly call people, need some help; need to have an action plan and people to make it happen
 - Barry: Gerry is right, we allowed ourselves that time
 - Michael: if you have some thoughts on who we should call, then I'm happy to do that; or if we want to say that we reach out more next week and if we don't get anything by Friday then we go ahead; need more direction than just sending something out because we've done that already
 - Barry: if someone was clamoring to do 2016 they would be knocking on our door by now; would rather get SF on board and then stop worrying about it
 - Called to question; motion to approve SF for hosting 2016 convention passes

Joey

- motion to approve Board minutes from LA meeting
- Barry: making sure everyone has chance to read it; motion to adopt minutes has been tabled until everyone has read minutes

Barry motions to end meeting

Seconded

Barry ends meeting

Veterans For Peace, Inc.
National Board of Directors Meeting
Occupied Illini and Algonquian Lands
St. Louis, MO, USA
Friday, April 17 – Sunday, April 19, 2015

Friday, April 17, 2015

Present at the meeting:

Michael, Barry, Gerry, Kourtney, Mark, Jason, Willie, Tom, April, Tarak

Absent from meeting:

Patrick, John, Mike Prysner

Guest present at meeting:

Ron Hawthorne, member from Chapter 174 Jacksonville, FL

Kourtney

- recording meetings
- not shared with non-board members; not usually shared with board members unless relevant to do so
- Barry: recording is not official copy; for cross-reference purposes only

Strategic Plan

- Barry: Foundation Search engaged for five years to help with fundraising
 - have to make org attractive to those who may give us funds
 - financial situation is always one we have to deal with; more financial stability means we can reach out to public and get more members; gain buy-in from public
- Jason: when navigating databases for funding, it's limited for grassroots orgs; can develop certain programs, funders look at services provided, attracts funders
 - Jason is trained grant writer
- Barry: FS hooked into worldwide major organizations; will assist with developing letters of inquiry
- Jason: can assist with grant writing along with spouse
- Mark will place Jason on the committee list
 - have to be able to show the community that we're having an effect on helping the community; service to the community; lots of money for that
 - we're a 501c3 educational service; how do we put together educational teams that expose the true cost of war to our communities
- Tom: organizational affiliations, transparency – in relation to strategic plan
- Gerry: education can be packaged as providing a service, and so can training, empowering vets to speak out and engage in communities; training our people to be educators
 - Barry: no limit to what we can ask for
- Michael: presentation on SP
 - strategic framework – a framework of what kind of work we're trying to do; doesn't broaden

- out to all the goals of our SOP
- strategic planning process
- elements of a strategic plan in brief
 - four pieces of the puzzle with four questions
 - are we being effective, are we moving the mission forward
 - Jason on competitive advantage: in terms of grants, other orgs are competing for resources; standing out
 - Mark: we have a competitive advantage because we are vets speaking out for peace
 - Michael: that is our competitive advantage, it's what makes us stand out; speaking out against all wars, makes us unique
 - Michael: mission review, and overview of goals to achieve mission; identifying strategy to achieve goals, clarifying statements
 - things we can do program-wise, such as a speakers bureau locally; utilizing universities; talking points and resources on specific issues
 - Barry: also mention the ad board
 - Mark: frame what we're doing in a way that will relate to educating the public for the interest of the community
 - “true cost of war” may be limiting; maybe more about violence and conflict; we are for peace, not just against war; we have to relate to the violence and sense of militarism in our society; suggestion to change terminology to be more inclusive
 - Michael: agree, but would also like to include the word “war;” we are trying to abolish war; we need to stay focused on ultimate thing we are trying to do
 - April: our chapter 109 president has once per week program to educate on local and national issues; PAH-PA type focus; discussion with each other; very necessary; more natural approach
 - Michael: brainstorming time can be set aside; this discussion is more broad; but we do need the programming
 - Willie: learning that we need to improve our messaging; doing things without testing the waters, we have to be careful about how it can be read into; highlighting our competitive edge
 - Michael: statement is supposed to be kind of broad; when discussing programming, you can break it down
 - Mark: we are creating ourselves into a small box when we emphasize just war
 - Michael: matter of perspective more than anything
 - Jason: important to have a general and broad framework, in terms of grants; when you write a letter of inquiry you include purpose
 - logic models, part of strategic planning; have to state a specific problem when writing grants, determine short term and long term outputs; have to show funders
 - Gerry: not just war, but also militaristic policies; true cost of war and militarism at home; addresses new lens; war and militarism abroad, violence and militarization at home
 - Willie: we already have that language and definition transfers in place; just have to thread it; language should be about militarization of police in our communities
 - Michael: don't want the strategic statement to be so specific that we put

- ourselves in a box; lots of kinds of militarization; can get more specific in the program, are trying to do the 1033 which gets to the heart of militarization of police
 - Tom: in terms of finance and grants; don't want to contain it, but want more of a financial picture
 - Barry: if we want to expand the budget, we have to expand the staff
 - Michael: are there any other unique opportunities besides Full Disclosure that we want to highlight
 - Barry: do we need this in the template for the basic thing? Rather than focusing on what else to add, that's something we can plug in
 - Michael: we need to know what we need to focus on throughout the year; board needs to make a decision; it may change every year, but the point is to identify it so we know how to allocate resources and time; clearly identify, for instance, that Full Disclosure is a campaign that we want to be doing; helps in office
 - Gerry: Golden Rule means that we'll have a visible anti-nuclear campaign
 - Michael: GR is ongoing project for years; what we're looking for is unique opportunities; some national programs have a sunset, provide targets of opportunity we can identify and take advantage of this moment; GR and Renew are going to be there and will last a long time
 - Gerry: 70th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is coming up close to convention; GR is re-emerging there; somewhat timely
 - Barry: GR is going on every day
 - Michael: but there's no sunset on it, just like Iraq Water Project; we need to look further out at those things we can take advantage of, window of opportunity
 - Tarak: anti-war movement is passe; people are connecting with PAH-PA; find programs that are clear that we aren't just anti-war, we have a broad definition; add words that show that war is not only state war, but it's more than that; it's what funders will respond to; Golden Rule connects with larger issues; programs that connect to larger issues is what gets people engaged
 - Barry: GR example, can do radiation monitoring, connects to larger issues
 - Willie: program development with the kind of consciousness of what's happening at home; we have the power to translate that stuff with our imagery
 - Tarak: GR project is sexy in broad definition of word
 - Tom: how do we capitalize on that branding
 - Mark: how do we create the marketing on a national level; how do we get the voice of GR and Full Disclosure out to universities and communities
 - Gerry: neither FD or GR addresses the current wars; idea of promoting the concept of peace is possible; grabs people's attention; will apply to goals one and two; find a way to express that war is not necessary and peace is possible; have it appeal to our goals
 - Jason: framework can help with future inquiries and RFPs, (Request for Proposals) but it helps to have an agency overview; broad and simple; what we provide as services; problem statements – that there are problems we address and it's important to highlight them; necessary for writing grants; demographics are also important, in terms of money, people, groups; will tie-in with framework, that's where they look the most; having positive effect in the problem areas
 - Jason can use past RFPs; piece together different ideas, create template, use logic

models, they always ask for logic models in grants

- foundations who are really selective, they will basically audit; want to see where money is going and if it's being used for what you wrote proposal for
- Barry: process for auditing?
 - Jason: as we write grants, we have to breakdown where money is going, and then later on they will come back and see how money is spent; will ask for budget reports
 - Barry: precondition for grant?
 - Jason: will ask for us to systematically track everything we spend
 - Michael: if we don't spend it right, they can ask for their money back
 - Mark: example of Wisconsin grant writing experience; at the beginning, they will ask for reports at the end of year, but in reality they have never followed through; they are more concerned with giving their money away, won't make it hard on us; they have to get rid of money
 - Michael: we have systems in place that should track how we spend our money; we just have to do it even more so; Peachtree systems in place helps with accounting; it's staff time, but we're set up to do it
- Willie: on branding, Peace in Our Times is already available
- Jason: lots of agencies out there will give us money and not track us; but it's still good to cover our tracks; when we start working with grant programs, there will be disclaimers and we will see our limitations and what exactly they are looking for
- Michael: GR and FD as primary events to use related to first goal
 - Tom: developing a metrics
 - April: get people to understand there are solutions; people are wondering what do we do, who do we talk to
 - Gerry: goal two statement is a little too obtuse; sloganeering should carry us through what we mean in practice; developing a framework; confront every war and threatened war with what the alternative is; statement could be expressed better; suggestion to take out "decreasing public acceptance..."; awkwardly repetitive, too much in one sentence
 - Tarak: everything would be implied if it said "VFP will increase public expectations of peaceful means..."
 - Barry: there's this acceptance of war in the public; if we don't have that in there then we miss the chance to address this lingering in the public mindset
 - Michael: the purpose of this is to outline the strategic thinking that will achieve goal two; we have to state that we are providing alternatives

Further discussion on specific wording of Goal II action statement

Gerry to work on drafting ideas on wording on statement

- Michael: clarifying following statement on actions to achieve goal 2
 - examples: war education – talking to public about war from our perspective
 - use ad board to educate on specific wars in pamphlets
 - Jason: research best practices; they are research and evidence based; there are best practices on empowerment, for reintegration of returning vets for instance; way of addressing mental health and can help with funding; emphasis on serving vets in that capacity; funders will look for this and be impressed if we do the research; can use peer-reviewed articles

- Kourtney: has access to university full databases
- Michael: empowerment as part of strategic statement of purpose
- Barry: can open opportunity to invite in post 911 vets
- April: example is focusing on homelessness; good deal to help families of vets as a part of empowerment; abuse in families, suicide; families need to learn how to readjust
- implementation doesn't necessarily have to be a part of a larger program, but can be a part of our strategic framework; can use peer reviewed articles to connect the problems with how we do our work
- Willie: last year opened up millions of dollars for veterans orgs in light of suicides and other vets issues; fuse our conversation; build empowerment programs
- Jason: a matter of resources; we can lead them in the right direction; use Wounded Warrior as example – specific issues can lead to larger funding streams; what the public sees as popular causes; even though we're not providing service overall, but add in resiliency, additions to statement of purpose
- Mark: somehow prove how we provide therapy in some way to our members; use our membership numbers; provided a healing platform for us
- April: Ben Griffin talked about how they see the civilian side of militarization in Northern Ireland; how do civilians see us
- Gerry: healing aspect is profound and can't be overstated; also really important to frame that in our mission to abolish war and achieve peace; would hate us to start writing grants and rewriting our sop and then we start focusing on healing alone; we need to continue to make links to abolishing war and not veer into a different kind of program
- Michael: important Gerry stated that; could see how it can become that
- Jason: emphasizing that it's a part of our work, it's related to our goals
- Mark: questions on how PAH-PA relates to restraining government
 - Michael: relates to developing peace at home which leads to expectations for peace abroad; we're trying to help the public see alternatives to war and the idea is that by helping communities here it will lead to the ability to see peace as possible overseas

Further discussion on how PAH-PA relates to restraining government intervention

- Barry: issues relating to how overt/covert intervention doesn't always equal war, but that leads to such things as regime change, etc
- Tarak: suggestion to get rid of goal two
- Michael: can't get rid of goal two because it's part of SOP
- Barry: discuss how we think about it in a different lens
- Gerry: how to place goal two in terms of goal one; education; how we interact with the rest of the peace movement, build broad opposition to current and threatened wars; we have a lot of ways we do that, aren't spelled out in statement
 - Michael: strategic statement is abstract, then you spell out the specifics; you don't start from what you're necessarily doing; just like the logic model, it explains what you want to do first
 - Gerry: most of us understand overt to mean war
 - Willie: who's the document for?
 - Michael: both internal and external
 - Tarak: Barry's point is about the one particular statement; different kinds of influence, different directions that the governments take that don't always include war
- Mark: exposing the bully; all about education; see this as a behavioral modification kind of statement

- Barry: perspective on the last part of the goal two action detail statement

Break

- Michael: on the topic of how we restrain the government
 - Tom: clarification of tactics
 - Michael: the statement outlines the tactics
 - think about what the strategic statement should be and then share it with the board, and we can come up with some consensus over time
 - develop strategic statements for every goal of the SOP; look at it in a more realistic way
 - Tarak: suggestion for goal one: "increasing public support for peace by increasing public awareness on the full costs of war."
 - Michael: can't change the wording of goals because it's in our SOP
- Michael: confronting immediate crises
 - determination of what are immediate crises yielded five primary points
 - Tarak: opposing militarization of police should be included
 - Gerry: could replace last point on Guantanamo Bay
 - Barry: Iranian nuclear issues should be included
 - Michael: umbrella under current and threatened wars
 - Barry: why can't we just name the crises
 - Michael: because they are always changing
 - Jason: suggestion to include native struggles and environmental issues
 - Gerry: chapters involved in several environmental struggles
 - Michael: overview of current and suggested inclusions into list
 - Barry: is "confronting immediate crises" standalone? Relates to which goal?
 - Michael: SP is long-term plan
 - Gerry: headline doesn't relate to the rest of the paragraph
 - Kourtney: disagree; statement outlines how we determine what is an immediate crises for our particular org based on our goals
 - Tarak: GI resistance is unclear
 - Michael: clarification on why the statement was good when it was first developed but suddenly is not, even to those who helped write it
 - okay with it being rewritten
 - Tom: emphasizing our values, rather than specific statements
 - Michael: not what the statement was supposed to be; based on what chapters were doing, found important
 - Willie: what is wrong with the statement?
 - Gerry: in terms of looking at a foundation who may be looking at it
 - Michael: anyone willing to rewrite it?
 - Barry: in terms of writing grants; most immediate task is crafting a statement to use for writing grants
 - Jason: part of the grant writing process; scope of work and what you're writing the grant for; structure grant around the general working problems in the SP; suggestions for addressing concern within the grant writing committee
 - Michael: not essential to grants; essential to our work as an org; focuses our other efforts such as the e-blasts

- April: surveillance to be included on the list?
 - Michael: not a part of our work; use an objective filter – what are our people doing? Use something outside of our own opinions, instead use our members' work to craft the list
- Gerry: suggestion to omit the second sentence, would flow and read better; same point is made below
- Tarak: change headline to “Peace and War Issues We Face”
 - Michael: too broad
 - Tarak: it's included in the statement
 - Willie: argument is circular, no matter what issues you list, someone can always counter
- Tom: consider including issues of medical cannabis; gaining ground with senators and other leaders
 - Jason: could present problems when asking for money; could limit our funding sources; almost too political; not mission-focused
 - Tarak: not on the same level as other issues; more critical issues
 - Jason: broadened it to the war on drugs, prison industrial complex
 - Gerry: Mexico and Latin America connections
 - Tarak: inclusion of specific issues of racism and sexism
- Barry: clarification of who will rework statements
 - Michael to work on goal one; Gerry to work on goal two
 - Tarak: clarification on the suggestions to rework the title of the last paragraph on immediate crises
- Barry: mission statement can be its own point at the immediate crises list; maybe have an explanatory statement at the beginning
- Jason: offer to share information on grant writing process, RFPs, logic models in relationship to grant writing; shows how to address the problem

Emphasis on yearly events

- Michael: informing membership of events we are involved in every year
 - rundown of current and proposed yearly events, dates

Saturday, April 18, 2015

Present at the meeting

Michael, Barry, Mark, Gerry, April, Kourtney, Jason, Tarak, Tom, Joey, Willie

Guest present at meeting:

Ron Hawthorne, member from Chapter 174 Jacksonville, FL

Absent from meeting:

Patrick, John, Mike Prysner

Matt Southworth presentation

- Introductions to Matt
- Development overview for VFP and the board
 - o Annual fund: appeals, dues, conventions
 - o Major gifts from annual donors at a major level
 - Visits; funding specific actions; help underwrite major actions
 - o Charitable life giving; pooled income funds; estate giving
 - giving is coming mostly from baby boomers
 - coming from people who have been giving for a long time, not necessarily major givers over their donation history
 - o capital campaign giving advertising
 - o task for board and development comm is to beef up the annual gift giving
- philanthropy is the space between donor values and org needs
 - o strength is the base of supporters
 - o donor stewardship, how to get them to stay involved
 - phone calls, letters, personal visits
 - provide opportunity to let a person's values speak
 - follow up
- Development committee keeps everything on track
 - o Should be doing the asking
 - o Building programs
 - o Follow ups, thank you messages
 - o Contacting lapsed donors
 - Creating lapsed donor packets, sending updates, ask them to renew
 - 20% response rate is a good rate
- Leverage our connections
 - o Use relationships to build donor support
 - o Solo visits to potential donors
- Board should support the org financially
 - o Can tell potential donors that we also support financially in addition to dues
 - o Will help build a stronger conversation with donors
- Hiring special staff
 - o Not until the development program is built; when we have the tools
 - o Getting development work off the ground ourselves; thank yous, follow ups, lapsed donor packets; gain benefits from this first
 - Then hire someone when we have too many donors for one person
- Q&A
 - o Jason: stewardship aspect; newsletter is important for large donors
 - Listing donors on website
 - Corporate sponsors
 - Hiring interns
 - Matt: special person to jump in and self start
 - o Don't put wrong person in position just to fill space
 - o Will be transient and take a lot of staff time
 - o Be picky about who is selected and who will spend the time with

- them to train
 - Stewardship four basic phases: identification, cultivation, solicitation, then stewardship
 - Proper cultivation can lead to larger gifts
 - Quarterly touches
 - Stewardship is most important piece
 - Keep them involved over the years
 - Barry: focus on identifying lifetime members and donors and put them on the web page; interview lifetime members; can offer it to all members
 - Grant writing: how do we approach it?
 - Matt: lifetime members is really important; creating circles of donor groups
 - Maybe would not publish the whole list on the web page; but maybe use vignettes
 - Would not list donors as anonymous
 - Allow lifetime members to appeal to others instead of using staff
 - Particularly those lifetime members who are not necessarily wealthy, can appeal to those who may not think they can become lifetime donors
 - People want to participate to solve problems; give them the solutions
 - Grant writing is increasingly crowded; granters getting more strict; they want metrics; can be a challenge
 - Important for annual fund, but should not be half of the annual fund; limit it to 20%
 - Do not let granters shape the work; maintain control
 - Corporate foundations have a place; can access certain ones
 - Tarak: why do you do this?
 - Matt: care about VFP; mission speaks to own values;
 - Tarak: willing to do this at the next board meeting or on a semi regular basis
 - Matt: yes, have been helping Barry on development comm
 - Can cover other topics next time
 - Mark: gotten good at bringing in enough money every year, not as great as a concern; potential is limitless; board has to have vision on how to grow; get message out in greater way; will be writing foundation grants and getting more money than ever
 - Matt: follow Michael on the strategic plan
 - Why and what you are raising money for
 - Having too much money is a good problem
 - Tom: how much do we focus on archiving and documenting our history
 - Matt: major donors are concentrated in specific areas; retirement communities, NY, CA, etc
 - Get active chapters involved, develop overlap
 - Important to have historical accuracy and knowledge about the org; develop common language
 - Barry: donor thank you calls; follow up on planned giving; how to cultivate and keep in touch with major donors
 - Matt: contact them and recognize giving; inform them of how we will use their money
 - Can start by asking them why they are interested in VFP; what other orgs do they support
 - Not every convo has to be about money; avoid with first convo unless they want

- to give right away
 - Personal visits; worth it to cultivate planned estate givers even if gift isn't coming for many years
- Michael – Grant writing tools; Foundation Search
 - why we need a development person sooner rather than later
 - someone who is always monitoring the database
 - technically proficient at databases
 - switching from E-Tapestry to Donor Perfect, has better relationship tables to connect donors and pull queries; Salsa for development
 - Gerry: perspectives on various software programs in comparison
 - Barry: does development person have to be on site in office
 - Michael: not necessarily, though it would be better; can talk to Doug about training
 - donor database is our most valuable resource
 - Tom: databases that are mobile phone-based so we can contact smaller donors
 - Michael: website isn't maximized for use with mobile phones; need to raise funds for it
 - Tom: campaign based texts to individual phones; national appeals
 - Barry: utilizing contacts proficient in websites – Patrick G
 - Michael: have tried with various people over time to update website and it hasn't always worked out; needs to be on call to handle different issues; servicing, maintenance, tech support
 - Willie: consider crowdfunding methodologies; examine interactive efforts
 - Overview of Foundation Search – Michael
 - need training on how to use it
 - developed three different projects to search for funding
 - how to search for foundations; keywords; using the site
 - Barry: site able to display who has given our org money; emphasis on returning to foundation to secure more funds
 - Michael: can only have two distinct users for the account; but can provide password to committee; protocols for the designated team/committee
 - Barry: orderly process for the team; utilizing FS resources
 - Mark: coordination with the team
 - Michael: board determines priorities, creates the team; and the team uses the database
 - Barry: other aspect of the program is Big Online; part of the paid service, can help write letters of inquiry and provide training
 - Michael: need to schedule initial consultation and complete online tutorials
 - committee to complete tutorials and orientation; required to secure refund should we see no success; accreditation
 - Michael: grant writing is just one aspect of development; don't lose sight of the other aspects
 - Granters are a part of the establishment, not saying they don't want to see good things happen; looking for metrics, how money measures success; we have to meet those expectations
 - Grant writing specifics – Jason
 - how to approach foundations for grants is that we have to orient ourselves

- towards their mission; align with their values
- letters of inquiry – give an overview of how values align and why they should give you money
- do research and present facts for specific problem
 - how much money have you received in the past; what communities have we helped; how their money will assist in solving the problem
 - demographics, stats, facts
 - letters of inquiry should stay to one single page; letter is the first step once you find a potential donor/foundation
 - find points of contact within the foundation; send an email to plan a face-to-face while another starts gathering information about their grant funding process
- Request for Proposals
 - asking them to ask you for a proposal
 - Michael: government agencies will request proposals so you don't have to ask; but we have to request foundations to request a proposal
 - RFP #s part of the database for tracking purposes
 - Agency overview: scope of work, services provided, programs; explains vision, projections
 - Problem statement: specifics on how the issue relates to the work we do and the values of the granters
 - do the research, provide specific numbers
 - Program hypothesis and intervention
 - hypothesis is how you will help solve the problem
 - using best practices
 - Barry: good idea to provide educational materials in the letter?
 - Jason: big granters are flooded with emails and proposal materials, so probably not with them
 - but with orgs such as Rotary Club, can send a high level rep to appeal in person, and present educational material; but not in the letter proposal process
 - Goals and Objectives
 - how are we going to reach our goals; projections may not be totally accurate, just give them an idea of how it will work
 - plans on tracking how we are meeting goals; want to see where the money is going
 - smaller funders who give big gifts will likely ask for tracking stats
 - larger funders will usually request a report and financials at the end of the grant period; will audit
 - measurable outcomes
 - Program design and implementation
 - basic structure of what we do and how we will implement
 - Agency Capabilities
 - how we function; how we operate overall and how we use their money
 - officer bios; basic org structure; building credibility
 - Collaborative capabilities
 - potential for collaboration; points of shared interest

- research who they have funded in past
- Sustainability plan
 - how will their money sustain the program
- Program evaluation
 - want to know how we evaluate the success of our programs; detailed description
- Budget and narratives
 - operating budgets and how will we use the money
 - very specific funds allocations
- References charts
 - development programs, who is in charge, what does the success of the programs depend on; timeline for implementation
 - references list for research
- Logic Models
 - attachment to the proposals
 - visual to flow from problem to outcomes
 - granters may skip the letters and go right to the logic models
 - useful for us in developing action plans and measuring objectives
 - breaks down the entire RFP
- Line-item Budgets
- large granters often use online systems that are easier and require less info
- many will send out requests for proposals periodically if they have given us money in the past
- if looking for interns, recruit from grad programs, they tend to be more serious; the internship is critical to their grades and resumes
 - economics, social work, social justice
- Utilizing free databases for foundations

Golden Rule

- Gerry
 - history of the vessel; overview of goals and aims
 - board members involved in committee and work details
 - recruiting crew and planning to operate vessel
 - plans to arrive in SD for convention
 - Tom: insurance policy
 - Gerry: committee has full insurance on boat; multi-million dollar policy
 - plans to keep vessel on the west coast for first two years
 - Barry: few vessels such as GR are fully restored
 - will have radiation monitoring capabilities on-board
 - reporter able to connect with Marshall Islands issues and send story to national outlets
 - ten year project; need a budget from committee
 - additional funding from board
 - Seth Rick offering matching donation up to \$8000
 - Mark: liability concerns once vessel is in the water
 - who owns the boat?

- Barry: Veterans For Peace Golden Rule Project; it's our boat
 - Tarak: need to determine rate for insurance premium
- Mark: stay clear on the liability issues
- Joey: approach Quakers for funding since it's a past Quaker project?
 - Gerry: no, but will be appealing to AFSC
- Joey: how are they planning to get it to the east coast
 - Barry: no one has thought that far
 - Joey: navigable on rivers?
 - Barry and Willie confirms
- April: crew is volunteer?
 - Gerry: volunteer, need skilled and unskilled crew
- Gerry: first voyage is taking off ten days before the SD convention
- Mark: reminder that we voted to give \$5000 to GR in October 2014 during a conference call
- Tarak: clarification on how GR will use tabling event during Peace & Planet in NYC
 - Gerry: hand out pamphlets, raise money
 - Barry: Ann Wright will give presentation on it at event
- Tom: suggestion to make further donations contingent upon receiving a budget from the committee to the level of a grant
- Barry: further donations will help with completion of restoration
 - labor has been volunteered; now needs to hire professionals to finish
- Mark: donation would be a gesture of confidence and faith in completion of project
 - don't think a budget from the committee is necessary
 - Michael: we as a board have to transition to a different mindset about this project
 - their not knowing what it costs to run for a year yet they're three months away from launching; this is a problem
 - it's like running another non-profit; it's getting ready to be a small business; if you're not clear on your costs, you're going to fail; you don't know what you need to bring in to make money
 - Gerry: until recently, the committee has been focused on restoration and raising money; no one has talked about where it's going, how it'll be managed, budgeting; the team of people handling this is not there until now; Gerry and Helen are pulling together committee; awkward gap between restoration and future programming; right now it takes a leap of faith
 - Barry: we need to see a projected budget at sea; cost of insurance; etc
 - Gerry: self and Helen will have to provide this information
 - Barry: LLC possibility
 - Willie: why can't we direct them to identify someone to be responsible and then provide the info to us as a contingency for national funding? They have to be proactive
 - Gerry: we have to build this new leadership and we're beginning to do that
 - Jason: important to develop a committee and task someone out to provide the details; we're not there on the ground, we need to know detailed info; it's like we're the granters now, we should be able to see where the money is going
 - Tarak: operating costs, food, insurance, fuel, maintenance, etc; who will be covering operating costs, is that what we're responsible for
 - Gerry: ongoing fundraising effort; we characterized this as a VFP national project yet have not been there, have been watching from a distance; we have to

- take responsibility as much as anybody
 - Joey: do they have a treasurer
 - Golden Rule committee does have a treasurer and chapter members are involved; treasurer is a chapter member
 - Willie: issues surrounding Skip Oliver in Ohio being so distant from the actual project in Arcata; questions of who controls the project
 - Gerry and Barry: clarification of who is running the restoration committee
 - Michael: we don't want to stop this because we're too far into it and we want it to show up at convention; but we need to give them incentive to get us required information; we need to take the reigns and responsibility to make that happen; don't remember that we agreed that someone else would restore the boat and we take all the responsibility for running it; we have to put a plan together on who's responsible and putting a budget together; this has turned into a small non-profit
 - Gerry: individuals on the restoration committee have begun orienting themselves to answer those questions; won't be decided here at the board meeting right now; something that should have happened six months ago but is just happening now
 - Barry: identify a lawyer who knows admiralty law; is structure adequate to protect individual committee members
 - Gerry: no maritime lawyers in Eureka; have to go to bigger town; lots in SD
 - Barry: vessel is covered while in shipyard
 - Gerry: project is bigger than VFP; identify others who can be a part of the project
 - Willie: we need them to give us confidence
 - Gerry: can we make a motion to support reconstruction
 - Barry: board members still have questions they need answered
 - Tom: the issue is risk management; cost of failing right now is less than something going wrong later
 - Tarak: we have to go forward with this, the boat has to be finished and in the water; boat is on logo of the convention logo; we ought to make and pass the motion to support restoration, then deal with the other stuff
 - Gerry: legal liability questions
 - Tom: and operating budget also to get the boat to the destination (SD)
 - Barry: shouldn't be hard to set up a budget for operating
 - Michael: general support for getting the boat restored, but enormous concern over the other issues; we need to vote to give them the money for restoration; Gerry is point person to oversee the pieces contributing to its success moving forward
- **Gerry presents motion to vote on providing additional funds to Golden Rule reconstruction**
 - to invest \$8000 which will be matched
 - Tom: point of order; friendly amendment to create contingency for providing budget in order to receive our additional grants
 - Gerry does not accept amendment
 - Barry: call for discussion; no discussion
 - Tarak: motion seconded
 - Barry: any further discussion or call to question
 - Willie: call for discussion seconded
 - Tom: serious concerns over operational piece; fully in support but we're failing in the operational piece

- Mark: info we're needing concerning insurance when in water; operational costs; info we need to be a responsible organization
- Jason: fully support the amendment even though it's been shot down; looking at it from an operational standpoint; setting bad precedent as far as our responsibility; in the future we should have documentation before deciding; we shouldn't be agreeing to anything involving a large sum of money unless we have info
- Tarak: the problem is that we need to have some documentation on the program costs and operations; can we empower the excomm to authorize the loan in a week once we get the info?
 - Michael: the problem is that they can write the info but it might not mean anything since it was written in just a week
 - Gerry: these things are needed and they won't argue with it; but we don't have to tie it to this particular motion; we can make a separate motion to ensure it happens
- **Barry: no call to question**
 - **Tom: point of order: roll-call vote by name**
 - **Barry: you call for roll call after the vote; motion is will VFP donate \$8000 to match the funds of the Seth Rick foundation at \$8000 to complete restoration**
 - **8 in favor; 2 opposed**
 - **Joey King and Tom Palumbo voted opposed**
- Mark: clarification: we will allocate \$8000 to get it in the water, but it's possible that we will see it costs more to do so; not the end of the world if it doesn't make it to SD

Development Committee report – Barry

- contacting members, calling donors is underway

Treasurer's Report – Mark

- will give detailed report twice per year; rest of the time will give a general overview
- General Overview according to printed report provided to board
 - Tom: IVAW loan taken care of?
 - Mark and Michael confirm yes, IVAW loan taken care of
- **Mark makes motion to accept report**
 - Tom seconds
 - **Unanimous acceptance of treasurer's report**

Executive Director Report – Michael

- report given according to written report provided to the board
 - Barry: how many snail mail appeals sent out?
 - Michael: not sure, maybe 6000; snail mail appeals far more successful than email appeals; members used to writing checks; has to do with demographics; should diversify our appeals
 - Tom: status of changing the amendment to allow associate members on the board
 - Michael: status is that there is no consensus in the org; will be another fight if brought up
 - Gerry: board made a commitment to make a motion to include one or more associate members to the board; we haven't followed through with commitment
 - Michael: do remember this; but found out there wasn't consensus in the organization
 - Willie: was chair of bylaws committee and stated we would cover it at the next

committee meeting; it just hasn't come up yet because the committee isn't even together right now

- Joey: reminder to ensure dues of board members are current and status in org is current
- April: reminder about scholarships to pay for dues
 - Michael: has been informal, not written anywhere; membership committee should organize this further; in past we've asked chapters to pay for members
 - Mark: should be responsibility of the board member to contact national and get it taken care of
- Moving expenses regarding ED's move when officially taken on ED title
 - personal moving expenses
 - would like reimbursement on door-to-door moving expenses: \$3127
 - total expenses: \$5419
 - **Tarak: motion for board to provide reimbursement for total moving expenses: \$5419**
 - **Gerry seconds the motion**
 - **Barry: no discussion**
 - **unanimous vote to provide reimbursement for total moving expenses**

Membership Committee report – Tarak

- report given according to written report provided to board
- April: exploring with younger board members and Casey to brainstorm how to reach out to diverse vets for membership; ideas include an email appeal and follow up with those who express interest
- Clarification on who is in membership committee
- Joey: advertising can be worked with the communications committee
- Tarak: request for ED, Prez and VP to attend chapter open house meetings and national provides travel funds; additionally send ad board members
 - Tom: clarification on how many chapters we do have; how many chapters are active; how many at-large members as opposed to chapter members
- Willie: has had success with directly contacting and visiting chapters and finding out what programs and resources they have; national can use new development tools to provide support to chapters; ideas on how to send board members to neighboring chapters as opposed to sending officers
 - Tarak: will national pay for board members to visit neighboring chapters?
 - Michael: yes; next year, the membership committee determines what they need and we can put it in the national budget; consider it for grants and in appeals to major donors
- Michael: on advertising campaigns; lots of orgs do ads but nothing else; we do lots of other things; as we get our new programs and our communications piece as part of it, 75% of the ad campaign will come with the work we do; can't put money into a campaign that should go to the work; there are cheap options, such as PSAs with national and send it out to everyone and give instructions on placing it on the radio for free
- Barry: look in the communities we live in and advertise in the progressive media outlets to attract younger demographics; online sources
- Joey: have something ready printed or available on the website
- Michael: all vets orgs are struggling in recruiting
- Barry: VFW and American Legion having especially hard time appealing to younger and diverse veterans; younger vets want community activism; VFP should be a natural resource for them, to attract them

- Michael: we have the same problem recruiting female veterans, though not as reactionary as the other orgs
- Tarak: national can help develop social justice programs that chapters can participate in

Communications Committee report – Gerry

- wants meeting with Tom and Willie on ideas about what committee should be doing
- don't have a functioning committee at this time, will soon
- report given according to written report provided to recording secretary
- Tarak: suggestion to Gerry to communicate between Comms and Membership; overlap for coordination
- Michael: Resist only funds groups with budgets less than \$150k; but they have funded individual chapters; deadline coming up in June; suggestion to Comms is to pick a few priorities and focus on them most

Tarak: makes motion for national to allocate \$5000 seed money to help post gulf war and Iraq/Afghanistan vets to get to convention

- **Gerry seconds motion**
- **unanimous vote to pass motion**

Committee membership clarification

- Awards: Patrick chairs; Joey, Michael, Tom
- Bylaws: John chairs; Joey, Willie, David Wiley
- Comms: Gerry chairs; Willie, Tom
- Convention: Barry chairs; Patrick, John, Michael
- Development: Barry chairs; Doug Zachary, Doug Rawlings, Matt Southworth, Ken Barger, Ken Mayers, Jason, Willie
- Finance: Mark chairs; Barry, Michael
- Membership: Tarak chairs; Barry, Joey, Jason, Nate G, Willie, Kourtney, April, Ellen D
- Newsletter: Barry, Michael
- Nominations: John chairs; Kourtney, Willie, Patrick, April, Doug Zachary
- Personnel: Mark chairs; Patrick, April
- National Projects/Programs: Excomm
- Resolutions: John chairs; Bob P
- Working Groups: Gerry liaisons to the committee; Helen, John
- International Liaison and UN NGO Rep is Ellen Barfield
- Protocols: April chairs; Patrick, Willie, Kourtney
- VFP Border Task Force: Willie chairs; Jan R, George J, Jason, Joey, Mar Cardena
- Project RENEW: Mark chairs; Gerry, Paul Cox, Ken Mayers, Barry, Michael

Project RENEW report – Mark

- steps to get to the decision on USAID funds is still up in air; today is the final day of USAID letting Project RENEW know if they are getting funds
- involves only accepting the concept paper; USAID stated that they would notify Project RENEW of funds but has not done so as of today

- committee report given according to the written report provided to the board
- Joey: are we saying that we will be a sub contractor to a sub contractor?
 - Mark: no; we'll be using the same audit firm; we are the fiscal sponsor for the USAID money going to RENEW
- Joey: how long is the contract for?
 - Mark: five years
 - Joey: how old are Chuck P and Chuck S?
 - Mark: both are in their early 70s; staff running RENEW are, according to Chuck, really fabulous; if something happens to Chuck S or Chuck P, then we will have to make a trip over there and have to be worked into the budget; a couple of weeks in country to get a real handle
 - Joey: every chapter in the organization will get younger members with the probable exception of the Vietnam chapter; they will not, made up probably of people who are Vietnamese veterans; are we going to have a worst case scenario of having to deal with a member over there who doesn't speak English
 - Barry: a question we can reserve until at least we get the concept paper and the contract
- Gerry: grant has increased several times up to \$6.5 million
- Michael: what's the process if they don't get the grant? We still want to be fiscal sponsor and support; do we want to provide the oversight?
 - Barry: we don't have an oversight responsibility unless we have a contract to be the fiscal sponsor for
 - Michael: we need to determine what it means to be the fiscal sponsor without the contract from USAID; what is our bottom line fiscal sponsorship to them; if we don't get the money, what's the next step?
 - Barry: how do we want to approach it in terms of fundraising for them; other funding sources, other government agencies or foundations
 - Michael: committee needs to start thinking of this, absent from report
 - Mark: USAID is only donor who has required a US-based 501c3
 - Tarak: besides being a fiscal sponsor, we made a commitment to support RENEW; how to raise money if USAID doesn't grant the money
- Gerry: acknowledge that it's still a controversial issue in org, and may come up at convention
- Tarak: at last two major VFP events, issue didn't come up at all
- Michael: some non-members have expressed that our credibility is in jeopardy

Personnel Committee report – Mark

- report given according to written report provided to board
- Tom: did they give a letter rank for VFP?
 - Mark reports from staff interviews: A, B-, C, B
 - Tom: should responses to concerns of being treated unfairly by ED be in writing?
 - Mark: VFP does have a policy for this
 - Tarak: what's the process for grievances?
 - Mark: will provide the policy to protocols committee
- Barry: clarification on staff concerns on advancement and responsibilities
 - Mark: certain jobs will involve more responsibilities with higher pay
- Kourtney: is staff aware of their responses being provided to the board, or under impression they are anonymous?

- Michael: they know the ED will not look at responses
- Barry: it's okay for board to know, that's part of our responsibility
- Barry: possible to include questions regarding their experiences of working with the board

Border Task Force report – Willie

- ad hoc committee that Barry commissioned
- action-based committee
- committee members all have something they can bring to the table
- VVAW/OSS developed a program in past to train veterans claims advocates
- enabling veterans to take control of their own lives through the claims process
- collaboration with vetspeak.org and Banished Veterans group
- Deported Veterans Support House in Tijuana
- organizing as an international chapter of VFP
- taking action programs and turning them into self-empowerment
- some are sitting on convention workshop panel
- networked with social justice action programs in SD
- can assist with providing membership potential for VFP
- chartering chapters in Tijuana and Jacksonville
- Barry: how many vets are involved?
 - Willie: throughout Mexico probably 100-150 who are ex-pats and deported; no official count on who was deported; setting up an office at the border to get them support as soon as they are dropped off
 - Barry: how many available to form a chapter? Ten required
 - Willie: fourteen in the house; several petitioning in are activists in the community; twelve applications gathered, getting together DD214
 - Mark: trouble verifying DD214?
 - Willie: no, we know clearly who is and is not a veteran
- Willie: we have veterans ready; we are positioned to help them and we owe it to them because they've been wronged; have grant writing now; George Johnson, former board member, called Casey and inquired about homeless veterans paying dues; can we waive dues for homeless veterans?
- **Willie makes motion to waive dues for temporary chapter 972 petitions**
 - Joey: point of order: consider that they are post 911 veterans who can qualify for discount
 - Tarak seconds motion
 - Barry: no discussion
 - Mark: how do we prove their income?
 - Willie: they have no income, they have nothing; are deported and dumped on the border; can't find jobs
 - Tarak: this will be ongoing?
 - Willie: no, waive dues to get chapter up and running and then all things will apply afterward; will forward documents and petitions to national
 - **unanimous approval for motion**
 - Joey: can they cross into US border legally?
 - Willie: no
 - Joey: have they been recruiting Mexican vets?
 - Willie: no

- Joey: have we experienced language barrier?
 - Willie: no, they've experienced language barrier in Mexico
- Gerry: clarity on the process for this occurring? Felony convictions post military service
 - Willie: not all felonies, some are served warrants

Barry briefs on Sunday agenda

Tarak offers to provide membership report to general membership; Michael to make recommendation on Sunday after reviewing the report

Sunday, April 19, 2015

Present at the meeting:

Michael, Barry, Gerry, Mark, Kourtney, April, Joey, Tarak, Tom, Willie

Absent from meeting:

Patrick, John, Mike Prysner

Guest present at meeting:

Ron Hawthorne, member from Chapter 174 Jacksonville, FL

US Intervention Update – Gerry

- example: US supporting Saudi Arabia to bomb Yemen
- US to arm Ukraine; UN mobilization in Russia; Russia giving weapons to Iran
- US isolation attempts in Venezuela after easing tensions with Cuba; Obama unfairly labels Venezuela a threat to US interests
- 250 Marines sent to Guatemala
- Barry: Ed Horrigan coordinator of Ireland chapter; runs website Shannon Watch; attempted to inspect four (4) US C-130 cargo planes landed on Shannon civilian airport and was escorted off by police and prevented from boarding his scheduled civilian flight
- Tom: 1600 troops from Fort Drum 10th Mountain Division to mobilize this summer in Iraq
- April: electromagnetic aviation warfare in pacific northwest region; test for war as a muscle against Russia; September
- Kourtney: military training exercises in Southwest US region among civilian population
- Barry: ask a board member to give updates/presentations on US interventions
 - Mark: important to present the problem and also what our solutions could be
 - Willie: round robin format; board members from different regions and we can all give updates from our own regions
 - Gerry: spend no more than an hour
 - Tarak: US has record number of interventions around the world; one hour not enough time;

we need in-depth discussion

- Michael: Don't Shoot Coalition is working on legislative policy statewide and local; working to change racial profiling laws; Ban The Box – banning a check box on government job apps requesting felony conviction, no chance to even do an interview before self-reporting; supporting civilian review board legislation; more stringent police training and making it standardized; speak outs/town hall meetings to offer opportunity for public to provide testimony on police violence, document the testimony to provide to Dept of Justice; the coalition is volunteer, attempting to secure a fiscal sponsor, get an EIN, and get funding to get a coordinator and communications person
- Mark: civilian review board – do other cities have it?
 - Michael: a lot of cities have it, some more successful than others in terms of authority; some don't see it as effective
 - Willie: another police shooting in Jacksonville, FL; coalition of groups have elevated conversation around police militarization and surveillance; many communities are having the same issues
 - Michael: Show Me 15 coalition to raise the min wage
- Gerry: TIME magazine cover on black lives matter movement
 - Michael: Ferguson changed the conversation and it drives home the work we have to do to make peaceful change possible; who creates the darkness, not the people who are acting inside the darkness; we have to bring the light in a nonviolent way; being in relationship with a group of people who see violence as a path, if we aren't around to influence them towards peaceful direction, then they are more likely to be involved in violence
 - Gerry: have you considered VFP as a fiscal sponsor
 - Michael: thought it should be more local; but if we need it to be then prepared to ask board
- Gerry: national office has supported diplomacy with Iran; Virginia sent out legislative update; Michael issued statement
 - Michael: focus of lobby days next month is Iran; also the 1033 Pentagon program on militarization of police, bill in congress to reform that; Sam's Ride is specifically about the Pentagon budget; Paul Cox working on agent orange legislative campaign
- Michael: Representative Ellison's Inclusive Prosperity Act; great idea but it kind of lets them off the hook as far as looking at Pentagon budget; but wouldn't stand against it
 - Willie: do we want to sign on to this in particular, uses need to be specified; it says could be used to strengthen American families but it doesn't say what it will actually be used for; it would be embarrassing
 - Tom: Ellison is the only Muslim in Congress
 - Michael: has been strong progressive voice; co-chair of Progressive Democrats of America; Progressive Caucus puts together a people's budget every year that gets introduced into congress every year that most politicians simply ignore

Calendar/Agenda review – Barry

- International Peace Day – September 21
 - idea to have multiple actions in various cities such as NY, DC, etc.
 - Michael: chapters should participate locally
 - Barry: three simultaneous events around the country; utilize ad board members

- Willie: UN NGO representative should take lead
 - Michael: we should discuss with representative
- Gerry and Tarak to organize the national committee to coordinate a NY event
 - Tom: avoiding partisanship and agendas; procedural issues; suggestion that NY board residents take on the task; Tom to assist with coordination
 - Willie: coordination with Another Mother for Peace in conjunction with mother's day in Mexico

Sexual Harassment discussion and training – Michael

- VFP policy on general harassment
 - Appendix 6, revision 13; January 8, 2012
- Willie: women participating on the VFP facebook page are vocal about the org addressing misogyny as part of the harassment policy; group of members active on this issue saying that we aren't addressing it, they see it as a root problem
 - Michael: harassment policy is based upon addressing all -isms; our value statement needs to speak to misogyny and patriarchy; if we want to deal with racism, sexism, patriarchy, then we need to talk about it and come up with a position statement or policy statement based on how we behave towards each other on the board
 - Mark: policy is stating the problem?
 - Michael: policy is stating the expectations based on the issues; if want the values to be reflected, then we have to determine how they become reflected based on the policy; we need to be in a place that we don't become defensive when members bringing up the issue
- Willie: policy doesn't specify the kind of discipline for these kinds of behaviors
- Michael: discussions will lead to a new lens on how to address it
- April: anti-oppression rhetoric, addressing issues of oppression against everyone; consider when drafting the policy
 - Michael: on topic of reverse discrimination; structures in place that are oppressive against certain groups; structure that's oppressing women isn't oppressing men in the same way; New Black Panther party is a reaction to oppression that breeds hate, similar with issues with women; racist/sexist behavior from the oppressed group towards the oppressive group
- Michael: can have a training by a professional on the topic of language and oppression
- April: can have an understanding of the time-frame; considerations regarding generational gaps, facilitating dialogue on the topic
- Michael presents video and PowerPoint on sexual harassment
 - Kourtney: considerations on “welcome” behaviors that create a culture of acceptance which can make an employee afraid to express a legitimate harassment claim
 - Michael: situations in which one is afraid to make seemingly compassionate or neutral statements that could be construed as harassment
 - April: creates an environment in which we're afraid to be nice, to recognize beauty in a polite manner; April offers to create workshop at convention on sexual harassment
- Gerry: acknowledging that it's we have such a conscientious Executive Director to address these issues
- Michael: developing a process to deal with those complaints; excomm needs to discuss how we are going to move forward; workshop is a good way to address it; Michael and Barry should

- bring up these issues when they address the convention
- Tom: there is sexual harassment occurring within our ranks; present everyone with the same information; have notified ED and President before of harassment and nothing's been done about it; one thing to have policy, another thing to have practice
 - Barry: policy says complaint must be filed immediately
 - Michael: from here on we need to address it
 - April: women may need to be encouraged to speak up since it can be hard to want to do so; never too late
 - Michael: how various incidents are interrelated and it can become a mess
 - Willie: we need to address it up front, be real clear; be careful since we are dealing with antagonists and don't allow their antagonism affect our decisions

Convention update – Barry

- things are locally are moving very well; UU church being used as a forum
- possibly bringing in Amy Goodman, representative Barbara Lee; Black Lives Matter reps; Pedro Ruis
- speaker for convention is Seymour Hersch, NY Times reporter who broke the story of the Mai Lai massacre; not charging a speaker's fee, just request to cover airfare
- need to determine plenaries; contacted David Krieger; other speakers contacted
- April: workshop/caucus for post Gulf war and 911?
 - Barry: yes

Thank you cards for board to send out to donors – Michael

- will mail cards and postage to each board member to send out as thank you notes to donors
- Mark: specify board member status or insert business card into the note

Veterans For Peace, Inc.
National Board of Directors
Conference Call
Occupied Turtle Island
Sunday, May 17, 2015

Present on the call:

Kourtney, Tom, Barry, Joey, Tarak, Mark, John, April, Gerry, Patrick, Michael

Absent from the call:

Jason, Mike P, Willie

Agenda Review

- Barry goes over the agenda
- Agenda additions
 - John on Sam Winstead Ride for Peace
 - Michael on MFSO fiscal sponsorship

Award nominations

- Patrick: no nominations as of now
- had lifetime achievement award last year, and stewardship award
- peace leadership award
- we should decide if we want to keep these categories
 - Barry: committee should meet and make recommendations, get them out by end of month
 - number of people with Golden Rule committee; consider awards for people working on this project; Gerry can work with Patrick and Joey on this
 - Patrick: would be perfect for stewardship award, could give group award
- Tarak: NY chapter has been talking about honorary lifetime membership for Harry Belafonte; suggest we make a plaque from VFP for him
 - Michael: gave him our letter expressing to him that we gave him an honorary membership and asked him to attend the concert in NY; they tried to follow up with him but couldn't get in contact with him; we're trying to officially give it to him; plaque would be pretty cool
 - Tarak: we can definitely do it, design the plaque; Chapter 34 would be happy to pay for it; have friends who met with him in NY office; can we make this the first honorary lifetime membership for VFP
 - Joey: already have folks who have received this; Sally Alice Thompson
 - Barry: should try to get publicity
 - Tarak: press release with Amsterdam News

World Future Council letter

- Barry: met with Jennifer and Bruce Gagnon
- letter calling on world governments to reduce armament and use for sustainability and well

- being of people of the world
- straight forward goal, related to PAH-PA
- can table this and send out email for vote later; we can handle this with the Excomm first
- Gerry: briefly remind of the process of endorsements; goes to Excomm and we decide within couple of days; if not unanimous then it goes to the full board for further deliberation

Lobby Days event

- Michael: tomorrow will have training; not sure about attendance; response hasn't been as big as we would have liked it
- first time we've done this
- Tuesday and Wednesday we'll go to Capital Hill
 - four items of discussion
 - Human needs; audit of Pentagon
 - Diplomacy with Iran, emphasize Congress not to block
 - HR 1232, Congressional support, companion bill in Senate
 - Agent Orange relief; HR 2114
 - Paul Cox flying in to event
 - follow up press release
- beginning of what will be an annual effort; work to make lobby efforts more sophisticated and coordinated
- Tom: any provisions for lodging at event?
 - Michael: no provisions; can help people find places to stay
 - Tom requesting help to find lodging; will be in touch with Michael
 - John: several persons in the area can help with lodging
 - Patrick: is it worth considering getting a hotel as a board expense?
 - Barry: we have three board members staying in a hotel room; coming in for membership comm meeting
 - Michael: we'll find a place for Tom to stay; we'll do what we can

Advisory Board event

- Michael: event is Sunday night as a part of Full Disclosure
 - not sure how many people showing up; emails sent to local chapter, will call them individually
 - advisory board members coming: Ray M, Phyllis B; haven't heard back from Matt Ho or Margaret Stevens; will call them to follow up
 - going to have projector and screen so we can do a briefing
 - will provide overview of VFP direction; have materials available at the reception so we can show local members what's available
 - next day is Full Disclosure action at Vietnam Memorial; Roger will have peace tower; he's at a good spot, Michael visited yesterday
 - Full Disclosure action basics: letters written from persons with personal relationship to Vietnam war will be delivered to the memorial
 - will send out press release latter part of week
 - Barry: how many board members can make it to FD and advisory board event?
 - Tom, Tarak, Kourtney, Jason, Barry, Michael

San Diego convention

- Barry: planning for June 20 launch of Golden Rule is well under way; still looking for spot in SD; have been turned down from a few places primarily because of the boat and the configuration of the piers just don't fit; maritime museum doesn't have any space right now
- convention comm is having Tuesday night dinner and will have everything updated on status of this
- met with maritime attorney; he said we should talk to a west coast insurance broker, recommends someone in Seattle who is the best on the west coast; define carefully the use of the boat will dictate the type of insurance we can get
- former coast guard commander thinks we should discuss issues with him concerning boat
 - prepared to talk to GR committee concerning the best way to hold title; title currently held in name of VFP Golden Rule Committee; he thinks the committee should sell it to the national organization for a one dollar sell and put it under the name of the national organization; his recommendation from a legal perspective
- still working on loose ends with convention
- Kourtney: any update on workshop approval?
 - Barry: will be sending out updates; conference call will go through workshops; nothing decided
 - Michael: we've let people know we've received workshop and will let them know outcome on the 29th
- Gerry on Golden Rule
 - just returned to the west coast after a month gone; Helen and Gerry heading to Eureka in time for monthly meeting, but they are having biweekly meetings from now on
 - on track in getting ready to sail; fair amount of stress for boat, events, and future of the boat; a lot of work to be done
 - Helen and Gerry planning to stay in Eureka and parking RV close to GR through June 20 at least and possibly beyond; will be fairly hands-on; give good reports back to board on progress
 - can Barry or someone else present proposal for ownership to GR committee?
 - Barry: was hoping to hear back from attorney with names for insurance broker; he said he would be available to talk with us
 - would prefer he act as neutral arbitrator to explain it to comm
 - Gerry: if he's not ready, we shouldn't rush it
- Tom: point of order; we need to approve minutes of last meeting; we also talked about obtaining budget from GR committee but haven't received it
 - Gerry: Helen has put together a proposed annual budget; first attempt from anyone with GR; feedback has been positive; she did it in consultation with other people; not an official document of the committee; they came up with budget for trip to SD; a priority of the committee to come up with an annual budget, has been put together but not finalized
 - Tom: when can we see it?
 - Gerry: we can see it soon; will talk during the committee meeting tomorrow
- Mark: what is splash down date?
 - Barry: June 20
 - Mark: very nervous about insurance aspect concerning going into the water; liability will be much deeper once it goes into water

- Barry: have policy looked at by attorney; he does maritime insurance defense all over the world for boats and cruise lines and other companies; he said policy was pretty good; recommends best people in this business is in Seattle and on west coast
 - concerns: paying passengers makes a big difference in the policy; paying passengers requires a licensed captain
 - insurance dictated upon exactly what we tell a broker how we are going to use it
 - figure out what our needs are
 - policy will cover dry dock and in water

Project RENEW update

- Mark: concept paper has been rejected by USAID
 - hesitated to get it out to board because there was a lot of communication going on after rejection letter came in concerning things RENEW staff might try to contact Senator Leahy and see if he can do something about their decision
 - not sure if it's over as far as getting \$7 million grant
 - if those on board think it's important to contact membership concerning rejection, I'm willing to go with whatever the board wants to do
 - Joey: point of order: should we be in executive session for this since minutes will publish and members will know we're talking about it?
 - Mark: I respect your personal concern but don't understand why you're in a hurry; I hope we don't get bent out of shape about this; we will at some point explain what's going on; we're not in that big of a rush
 - Michael: don't think we're hiding; are we going to get the grant or not, and since we're not real clear on that, it doesn't make sense to tell people we didn't get it when we might; contradictory messages; finishing conversation with Paul and Chuck S about getting the grant; we should have it in minutes and if people have questions they can ask us; don't need to put out broad announcement without information; we can't go into executive session unless we have something to go into exec session about
 - Mark: will be nice when we do send out info that we have a back-up plan concerning what national will do to raise money for our project; members will want to know
 - Gerry: is on RENEW committee and haven't seen any indication that we might still get the grant; we have a letter on why USAID decided not to ask us to make a full grant proposal; Chuck is getting more clarification on them reconsidering, but he said it's highly unlikely; fact is that there has been a decision handed to us, highly unlikely decision will be reversed; no reason why we shouldn't tell the membership who are going to be hearing it from other people without context that we can provide
 - Barry: we could send out notice of decision and inform them that others are trying to get further clarification and we'll let them know; all we have to do is report on the status on it
 - Tom: we owe the organization an explanation when we take on big projects; will be especially important when people find out we're buying a boat
 - **Barry: anyone who thinks notifying membership is not a good idea? Do we want to vote on this? Make a motion?**
 - **Joey: motion to release information about status on RENEW with caveat that we're working to get further clarification**
 - **Mark seconds motion**
 - **Barry: further discussion? None. Call to question? None. Roll call**

- **Mark: yes**
- **Joey: yes**
- **John: yes**
- **April: yes**
- **Gerry: yes**
- **Kourtney: yes**
- **Tom: yes**
- **Tarak: yes**
- **Patrick: yes**
- **Barry: yes**
- **Motion passes unanimous to inform membership of RENEW decision**
- **Mark to draft letter with Michael**

Foundation Search update

- Michael: brief overview of what service is and how it will assist VFP with fundraising and grant writing
 - committee getting into order so we can begin to do more grant writing; Helen has written grants for Golden Rule
 - Michael wasn't able to take a training this past Thursday; will reschedule for Thursday after next
 - foresee up and running in the next two weeks
- Mark: perspective on where things are at with committee
 - Helen, Jason, Ken Barger, Mark, Michael on committee
 - going through process of figuring out who has most experience doing searches, grant writing; who should be doing those functions
 - it has to be a board decision on what projects we will prioritize to write grants for; we really don't know what grants we want to write yet
 - maybe should start with excomm and we bring it to the board for discussion for help with prioritizing
 - only two persons can use the search engine to find out which foundations
 - all of us want to get going with writing grants but other steps have to be in place first
 - Michael: I wouldn't completely say that we don't have any idea; we have three or four things that we actually have happening
 - Zinn Fund; Golden Rule; RENEW; Iraq Water Project; Full Disclosure; these are on-the-ground projects that need funding
 - others include more staff; moving to DC or having a staff and office there
 - need more clarity on things that we know are important but haven't figured out how to build a program around, such as PAH-PA; counter recruitment; educational curriculum for educators and parents; we want to develop and build something to fund those efforts
 - Mark: we have nine different ideas about what we want to write grants for; I could email all board members and list nine ideas and the board could number their priorities and I can compile that and that will give us board approval
 - Gerry: sounds fine; I would number something differently after hearing others' opinions; build in another step for discussion, then move into voting
 - Barry: when I sent out the agenda, I tried to list priority according to the meeting
 - VFP staffing could be number one priority; Michael wants to hire part or full

- time fundraiser to manage materials and work with development committee; that person can shoulder responsibility
- once staff and infrastructure is built then we can take on other projects and have focus on major projects and get them done
- Gerry: I agree; we had a good discussion on excomm meeting and were unanimous that should be number one priority and recommend to board
 - interested in moving office to DC but haven't had discussion on it
 - Barry: has been on the radar and we acknowledged but haven't had a discussion on it; will be determined by grants and what committee decides on implementation; has to be a mechanism in place on how that decision is made; we need that process in place so we have a fuller understanding
 - Michael: we've been talking about it for years but has never been voted on
- Other funding sources
 - Barry: crowd-sourcing
 - Tarak: indiegogo, gofundme; can raise considerable amounts

Committee Reports

- Membership – Tarak
 - going to have meeting in DC and will make report afterwards
- Development – Barry
 - Jason and Barry will meet with Brandon Johnson with SD chapter; has been working with Greenpeace and has success raising money with them; has ideas on raising money
- Appeals – Michael
 - will receive snail mail appeals this week; focuses on DC work currently; lobbying; taking action such as Full Disclosure; 30 years of waging peace also in appeal
 - will have follow up emails to push people to donate online or mail in donation
 - April fundraising: surprised that we are still in the black; unsure about May pending recent expense approvals; appeals will help

Board Candidates

- Michael: we need to make sure that we find some people since it's getting close to convention; make sure whoever we get are good people; don't want to be caught short
- Barry: who's up for re-election?
 - Patrick: myself, Mark, Tarak, Mike P, Jason
 - Barry: anyone know if Mike P will run again
 - Michael: called him and asked, haven't heard back from him
- April: we were discussing nomination in st Louis; Casey would like it if we first reach a hand out and ask what they are doing and for those who respond, ask them if they would like to run for board, but doesn't have to be at the annual convention
 - Barry: yes we have to reach out; ask people who really want to be on the board; that's a good outreach
 - Michael clarification on Ken Dalton's election and term
- Patrick: we ought to put an announcement on the website or in a Friday e-blast concerning

nominations or running for board

- Michael: will ask Shelly
- Tarak: there are times when we have stellar activists but they on the board are incommunicado; emphasize that when they are on the board we expect communication, expect to make phone calls and meeting; board is a big responsibility, can't just be a board member in name only; when you put appeal on the website, some of those expectations should be emphasized; don't expect them to demean the board or speak poorly about the board
 - getting young vets in: have been getting all the applications from folks who want to come to convention; just got a \$2000 donation from one person; haven't seen as much activity from young vets who want to come; reach out and write letter and put it on website and give it to IVAW
 - Patrick: totally agree; maybe we should consider doing something that makes them want to come; something to draw interest from people from a different generation; lots of activity on Vietnam, we have to come up with more from the modern era
 - Barry: we have Dylan Raddigan from MSNBC, he was recommended by young vets in SD; will take part in plenary session with post 911 vets; number of workshops related to PTSD; post cold war caucus as well; we need to get it out there
 - Michael: Seymour Hersch's name is not in news about Vietnam, but about Obama and bin Laden
 - Gerry: maybe we should identify and package together something that will be appealing to younger veterans and publicize them and focused outreach in places where younger vets will see it; membership committee can spend time on this; good idea to get together with IVAW, they may have good ideas; might think of something else we want to add to the mix to make it appealing
 - Barry: have a list of those we assisted last year who came to Asheville? Start with asking them
 - fundraising letter talks about why it's important to support the convention and buy a page in the booklet; rationale about young vets coming to convention; all of us to take that letter to people we know, can be easily modified
 - Doug Zachary asking people who supported young vets last year to double their donation this year; goal is \$20k this year

Michael to send list of top donors for first quarter; spreadsheet will include who board members individually will send thank you cards; Shelly will send along blank thank you cards to board members so we can send along to top donors

- if you can't write thank yous, please let Michael know so we can make sure donors actually do get cards; board members won't get more than ten to send out

Sam Winstead Ride for Peace

- Michael: caught up with them near Iwo Jima memorial; Michael rented bike to ride along
- at same time of arrival there was also contingent of Korean and WWII war veterans – Flight of Heroes, they were at the memorial and they asked us to move since they had a permitted event
- crossed memorial bridge
- a lot of young people present; middle school participated in the ride; a vet who joined last year at convention was present; two or three other vets participated
- week went well, drew a lot of attention; VFP flag at Iwo Jima site
- documentary being made about the ride; World Peace Challenge is a beautiful statement about how people can approach building peace; falls in line with World Beyond War, David Swanson

was present; we can use as a statement to build belief that peace is possible and act on it in everyday life

- John: further updates on Sam's Ride; persons joining the ride; will put in request to national for further funding assistance
- Barry: a woman named Jean C Candee from Ohio sent me two poems for us to use as we see fit
 - Tarak: we can put them in Peace in Our Times if they are good

Barry: motion to adjourn

Multiple seconds

Veterans For Peace, Inc.
National Board of Directors
Conference Call
Occupied Turtle Island
Monday, June 22, 2015
Recording Secretary: Kourtney Mitchell

Topics in bold.

Motions and votes in bold and underlined.

Present on the call:

Mark, Joey, Tom, Kourtney, Michael, Gerry, John, April, Willie, Barry, Jason, Patrick

Absent from the call:

Mike P, Tarak

Agenda Review

- Barry outlines review
- Joey adds 2017 convention to agenda
 - Chomsky is in mid-80s, booked two years out
 - 2017 may be last chance to book him for convention
 - Consider Minneapolis chapter for 2017 convention
 - Michael: Minneapolis is for 2018
 - Barry: can't discuss without consulting chapter first
 - Michael: we don't need to talk about it much; we do need to start looking further out; board can say this is somebody we want and begin to book them; it's a national convention and we need to look further out to get some of these people; we handicap ourselves; discuss it further and later, but not close ourselves to idea of looking 18-24 months in advance to get big name speakers
 - Barry: agree; it's a national convention; no question that some people would have been on horizon here if we had got to them a few years earlier; first need to decide where we're gonna be in 2017
 - Willie: agree with Michael, need to figure this out; uncomfortable with idea of start stacking conventions five years out; don't negate long term thinking; but without some interaction with the chapter, it's bad policy
 - John: been working for some months to make sure we get minutes approved before next monthly meeting
 - Kourtney: have been sending minutes to board for few months now; only get a few responses; no protocol for approving minutes
 - Barry: appropriate way to do it is to formally approve minutes before next meeting; you're right to send them out and ask for comments; if people have read minutes and are comfortable adopting then we can have a motion to approve

- Barry: any objections to last call minutes
 - **Patrick moves to approve minutes; Joey seconds**
 - Patrick: it's a board responsibility to read and approve minutes; cannot hold up meeting
 - Barry: all in favor
 - **unanimously approved minutes for last board call**

Budget Update

Michael: \$20k over what we were supposed to spend; quick rundown of recent expense approvals; clearly identify where money has been spent. Other issues: renewals continue to be down quite a bit - \$10k through May; have not identified major donors and get donations from them; need to determine who they are and talk to them. We are \$5174 over what we estimated to spend for board travel through May; that's another place contributing to deficit. We are almost at our budgeted limit for the year on board travel expenses. Actual fundraising: renewal letter to pump it up and make it more appealing; updating all letters going out; next actual snail mail appeal is in August, still determining which advisory board member will write the appeal and what the angle or hook will be. A number of vets signed up on the website but we only have their email address; want to give them free copies of PIOT and that will give us their mailing address and we can send them appeal; those who aren't vets who are signed up, we'll appeal to them to support us but not to specifically join. If we can figure out a way to leverage the "thank you for your service" angle we might find that we can get a lot of support from people, have to figure out messaging. Looking ahead for next two or three appeals - August, Late September or October, and end of year appeal comes out end of November or beginning of December. Number of email appeals to get money in before end of year. Office is still working on interns, we have one at this point and two others interviewing. Bought a computer and need to buy new projector, the one we used at board meeting is down. Projector is unexpected, the computer is not necessarily unexpected. Putting together a report on budget. Talk about what our funding priorities should be. Capital expenses or new hires or office activities will be priority for Foundation Search. Will send specifics about what we are talking about doing with fundraising money.

- Questions
 - Joey: how much in reserve
 - Michael: have to look at balance sheet
 - Willie: board travel is \$5k over; identify why? Costs and budget? Would be best for us to increase it?
 - Michael: still have to look closer; it's we have more expenses; at beginning of year we had Excom meeting in St Louis that added to cost; we just have more costs; I need to look deeper into numbers to make sure
 - Willie: need to focus on this; projecting costs; getting people more mobile in region
 - Patrick: people can make a difference by booking tickets now than last minute, save money; clarification on costs; only a couple of people who pay their own way these days; many dynamics; Michael's moving expenses is a one time thing, not an issue; Golden Rule we'll get to; not too clear on Foundation grants myself
 - Michael: we'll have a report on FS; \$8k is over five years; we have access to the site allowing us to search thousands of foundations for money; we're moving to make use of that and we'll surely make money from it; more on that from Mark shortly; clarification

- on specifics of current org financials; we're not in any kind of trouble
- Tom: clarification on Golden Rule contribution, specifically a confirming that \$13k of VFP money has already been given to the GR project
 - Barry: pump up renewal letter by getting advisory board member to do a standard letter; possible members to ask; get names some others haven't heard yet
 - Patrick: we should develop a short list of high potential donors; Sally Alice Thompson tops lists; Nader is next; develop a list of couple dozen people; Barry has to talk to Sally Alice
 - Barry will talk to her and visit
 - Michael: please do get plane tickets and call Shelly to book room for conventions as soon as possible; if I could get a few board members to work with me about strategic framework; board meeting talked about wanting to revamp it and reword the text but we never finished; it's really important because we're going to talk to people about giving and we need to explain our vision for future; why we need this money; developing national office and what raising funds can do, and also strategic framework towards peace; then we can tell people exactly why we need money; but can't unless we've written it out and agreed; idea of whether or not we want to move to DC or have a presence there or legislative piece; need to iron out within board so we can talk to people as one instead of a bunch of different ideas
 - Barry: DC becomes so evident that press and chance to get word out is greater; we have to be there; part of our capital expenditure investment has got to be about what we can do in the office; a week ago Vivian sent out Ford Foundation information; they ask people who they give money to what they can do better with funding system; a complaint came back that they are good at funding projects but don't focus on infrastructure building of orgs and they agreed; a lot of good ideas on the board but if you don't have infrastructure framework then we can't do them; should have full time development person to help Michael to raise money; small staff isn't going to get it done

Golden Rule

Barry: thanks Gerry and Helen for their work on project and brief update on splashdown event before opening up for discussion

Gerry: high quality event; people from all over country; Hiroshima survivor; original crewmember and family of crewmembers; a lot of connections; people from Quakers and nonviolence movements, also from east coast; Barry did fantastic job speaking and represented us well and knowledgeable about history of GR and test ban treaty; other speakers included rep from Greenpeace, Physicians for Social Responsibility; connections from other coastal cities; really powerful and strong event that showed history and endless connections but also showed a vision for what it can be and what we can do

Barry: Gerry spoke in DC and was a powerful speech; vision for VFP's role in boat; work has been remarkable

Gerry: on this call from inside GR

Barry: list of five questions from Patrick from email

- 1) who owns it and as of when do they own it

1. Barry: Veterans For Peace Golden Rule project, no such entity of that really; it's a national project of VFP; that's publicized in documents; liability would come back to us no doubt about it; contacted maritime lawyer who is knowledgeable about getting title changed and insurance cover; we could have ownership do a bill of sale to the national VFP and we would own the boat as an asset of org; other idea is incorporate it as itself as non profit; put together BOD who would manage boat outside of national board being responsible to us; insurance aspect to button up liability; committee members would be liable individually and collectively; we got the insurance company to insure all the members of the committee; even though VFP has own insurance, we got them to additionally insure VFP on the boat itself
 1. Gerry: after last call with maritime lawyer who is giving us pro bono advice, we all were leaning strongly towards non profit status for GR; formation of new board, opportunity to bring other orgs on board who could help out; considerable work of upkeep wouldn't be taking up half or more of every VFP board meeting; that's the way we're leaning; it could potentially be a LLC at same time as non profit; weighing pros and cons; would clarify ownership issue
 1. Barry: ship guard owner has made it a point that VFP should be the controlling interest in the boat;
 1. Gerry: was at one point considered a property of chapter 22, they signed over to VFP in understanding it would be a VFP project; there are ambiguous areas to clarify; think it will be a relatively smooth transition
 2. Patrick: need to get clearer on LLC and non profit status; if liability issues that could kill us financially, that's what I'm concerned about; if LLC, our BOD will make those decisions; non profit is a more united front thing, coalition
 3. Willie: concerned about forming a separate corporation; put in position to be co-opted by others
 4. Tom: what is the message we provide to the organization regarding how and why VFP money was determined and distributed? How and where can members find minutes, policies and financial information regarding the GR?
 5. Patrick: what was the democratic decision that brought us to this; those of us not on excom felt like it was an excom decision without consulting this
 6. Gerry: excom has never made independent decision about GR; Barry made presentation to entire board on a call five months ago; pitched the value of it, why we should embrace it; there was a vote; could have taken place at in-person meeting, but it did happen on a call; excom hasn't made a decision to do anything
 7. Michael: this unfolding of GR has taken place over many years; if board members aren't familiar, then for various reasons you decided not to pay attention; has been four or five years worth of boards who have made decisions to be a part of this; it has come to fruition and now board is paying more attention; this is culmination of various board decisions; current board is dealing with reality of actually having a boat; we have to figure out what to do with this, how to move this forward in positive way; any decisions we make about all things, we need to brief boards as we move forward so that memory of board isn't forgotten; each board knows what projects are after briefing; six years from now we shouldn't be dealing with something like this
 8. Barry: saw a pic of Elliot Adams as prez with crew members in 2010

9. Tom: only saw a draft budget, haven't seen anything specific; we have to prepare for losses, what happens then; details is the important part now before going forward
 10. Gerry: we have to take responsibility that we committed to this huge project over years; haven't committed much resources to taking charge of it; part of reason why Helen and I decided to come to Eureka; messy history of boat and control of project; no one from national was on the ground; was no budget, no solid plans for future; Barry stepped in and secured us strong legal support; insurance is covered; Helen and I joined committee, programs and logistics starting; we weren't on top of it and should have been
 11. Barry: budget has been looked at, pretty good handle on costs; half of costs are projected admin costs for full time boat member to help with scheduling and maintenance
 12. Gerry: want to get closer look at budget
 13. Patrick: clarification on full time staff position, projected pay for staffer? A hundred grand for annual budget? Who hires this person?
 1. Gerry gives clarification on expenses and payroll; hired by VFP board if we take over project; or hired by non profit that's formed including a number of VFP board, some separation;
 2. Patrick: how soon to hire?
 3. Gerry: not too soon because we don't have money
 4. Barry: GR is second on list of capital expenditure goals
- 2) Who will crew
1. Gerry: initial crew is five; have thirty applications, many are qualified sailors; briefing on current crew members; applications continue to come in
- 3) Barry: plan is to do repairs in Eureka; invitations in the northwest, washington seattle area
1. Barry: committee keeps minutes
 2. Gerry: pretty sure they are posted on vfgoldenruleproject.org (Secretary's Note: GR meeting minutes made available to supporters upon request to the committee secretary)

RENEW Update

Mark: the grant that USAID was going to give out is on hold; when NGOs handed in concept papers, none of them were accepted; assuming because they really didn't have their act together in some fashion; Chuck Searcy went to exec director of USAID in Vietnam and had good discussion about why he felt that Quang Tri province needs to be considered on list of grant promises; he agreed with that and Chuck called senator Leahy's office and talked to admin assistant and he was interested in what Chuck was saying; the USAID exec director called Chuck and said they need to create more clear guidelines for all NGOs who are writing for this grant; it is on hold right now, could be as late as end of summer before new movement happens

Comments:

- Barry: talk about Foundation Search and how grant writers will contribute
- Mark: it's a huge search engine; lots involved with writing a grant; board decided to focus first on capital funding, and then bringing younger vets to convention; then Golden Rule, then Howard Zinn fund; will take a while for committee to complete searches, they've just begun;

learning curve; briefing on current grant writing committee; going to depend on how the search goes and how likely foundations are to give to us before we put energy into writing grants; really hopeful the searchers will have something within a couple of weeks

- Barry and Jason: clarification on Jason's membership on the grant writing committee
- Tom and Mark: clarification on Helen's role on committee; Tom offers to join committee for researching
- Mark: only two people at a time can use search engine; Michael is one of them, and Helen is signed up; can't have more, unless we spend nine hundred for each additional person; Michael is letting other staff and committee members to get on under his name; it's legal to do that; have four people working on search right now; don't need complexity right now
- Tom: experience with request for proposals, not with grants proper
- Patrick: if we spend 8 thousand, now we have to allocate labor resources to follow that up; glad Michael is showing creativity; would hate not to have labor power, we should maximize it
- Mark: we'll be writing grants for hiring development person; other people who can administer these programs that we know are important to mission

Governor Ota advisory board update

- Barry: signed letter to support Okinawa activist groups protesting military bases there; lobbying congress in DC, a person on letter was 90 year old former Okinawan governor, lots of respect, he's a veteran; DC chapter member took it upon himself to notify governor of his nom for advisory board; now we're in a quandry regarding our policy for notifying noms; he would be losing face if we rejected his nom; strong positives to get from approving him; a possible chapter in Okinawa he would be an anchor for that; would help anti military bases in Okinawa
 - **Patrick: motion to approve former Okinawa governor Ota for advisory board membership**
 - Barry: no comments, no discussion
 - Patrick: soldier rapes in Okinawa a longstanding issue
 - Barry: Blowback by Chalmers Jonhson; chapter on rape of Okinawan girl
 - **call to vote**
 - **vote is approved unanimously to approve Ota for advisory board**

Nader fundraising idea

Barry: idea for a major one day event to raise money for DC office; he's prepared to rent out Constitutional Hall at 3000+ seats; don't want to reject out of hand, would like to at least explore; some folks have already volunteered to help; could raise a lot of money, get publicity, bring in more advisory board members; panel discussions, concert ideas; need to talk to Ralph about it

Michael: read over his proposal; aside from the event, the idea that he was proposing to do it for is for us to try to develop relationships with some influential vets, high ranking, who would be more conservative than we are with their approach, but would agree with us on foreign policy; may not agree on capitalism or imperialism; how can we leverage that; Barry and I have to explore further with Nader what he plans to do; somewhere we can meet him with his ideas; we need to talk to him fairly quickly so we can take advantage of his offer one way or another

Gerry: in general very supportive of idea of DC presence; need a good financial analysis of how much that will cost; adding staff in a place where you have to pay more because cost of living is higher; lot of great things we can do in DC; would like to see us look at DC presence in a holistic way; not just legislative work, but also a great place for media and where you can protest; Code Pink model, they lobby and protest at congressional meetings, etc; we should have an overall holistic activist presence in DC, not confined to legislative

Mark: clarification on what a secretariat

- Barry: Nader used term; collection of people; he explained it as during run up to Iraq, there were a lot of people who weren't in favor of proposals for war; they got pushed out of media and were marginalized; secretariat would contain former military people, wouldn't see eye to eye with us on everything, but would do so on endless war and debt
- Michael: looked up term, clarification on definition; coordinating body; they wouldn't necessarily join VFP, but we're acting as national coordinator; secretariat is placeholder name for it.

John: swords to plowshares tower is non-partisan monument; opportunity for event

Joey: would this include the refugee crisis; lots of press on it; more refugees than since UN was created

- Michael: crux of what Nader is talking about is a left and right coalition of veterans; looking at finding people who are already influential; we have very few influential veterans; he's looking at people who pentagon contacts and white house and congress; leveraging that; part of vision of this people can include anything; depends on if we can bring these people together and how we can message it

Barry: DC is important place to be

Willie: question: do we have a chapter coordinator in DC?

- Patrick: I was president for years, but crew has let go; other folks trying to pull group together
- Michael: don't need to form a new chapter, should talk to Casey about chapter there

San Diego convention

- Michael: not clear what resolutions and bylaws will be; haven't been turned into the chair of committee yet; people wait until last minute; have maybe two more weeks until deadline July 6; have received one correspondence on awards
 - Patrick: nominated Ann Wright for leadership and peace award; encourage board to put forward noms for three awards
 - Gerry: possible member name for lifetime achievement award
 - Patrick: just have to submit the application
 - Barry: have to include written justification for noms
 - Board members give further ideas on awards and noms
 - Michael will send noms link to board; don't call Shelly; it is on national convention website along with registration

Media project

Jason: Chris Smiley leading project; dispatches that highlight significant events that we do as an org; available on a website; similar to VICE; three to five minute videos; short videos captivate more attention to a general audience; will give more general idea of what we're all about; documentary format; briefing on direction of project and possibility of filming at convention

Gerry: talked with Chris; has good ideas about project; not asking for money as far as I know; eventually there will be a cost or budget involved; not much of an issue right now; he's not there to film the plenary or posting on website; that has to come from somewhere else; he'll be doing short film pieces; possibility of longer film; will bring a lot of resources for our media work

Michael: sounds really exciting; with him being the creative mind he has control; we have to make sure the messaging of the video is compatible with what we want to put out officially as VFP; need to state that up front; anything published under our name needs to be sent through the office; won't be giving anyone access to our channels and uploads

- Gerry: good concerns, raised these with Chris; material would be his; he really wants to work with us; he's doing it for us, not for himself; further clarifying conversation with Michael is good; recent email he asked specifically about theme of reconciliation

Other fundraising ideas

- Barry: ideas on company which uses real estate deals to secure funds for orgs

October board meeting

- Barry: determining availability for certain dates for board meeting in SF; October 23-25
 - Michael: when is time to be there on that Friday?
 - Barry: in St Louis we started at one pm after excom meeting; my preference would be to continue with that schedule; all day saturday, then 9-3 sunday
 - Michael: Thursday, October 22 is national day against police brutality; important day
 - Barry: maybe something going on in SF
 - Patrick: we should come in early
 - Barry: if Thursday event and SF chapter can make us aware, we could get involved there
- Joey: July phone call date?
 - Board deliberates possible date
 - will handle scheduling through email

Tom: point of order: associate members discussion on agenda; and request to hear April's opinion on discussions

- Patrick: associate members issue should have been a part of convention; since it wasn't, it is a non issue; until someone brings forward resolution, then it is a non issue
- Tom: if it arises before July call, then we can talk about it then
- Gerry: my hope that board will take responsibility for bringing non voting associate members on board; am prepared to draft bylaw changes as required; we need to discuss it another time

Brainstorming on Charleston

- Patrick: need to get behind the push to bring down confederate flag at state capital in South Carolina
- Michael: true and not true; two other states have pieces of confederate battle flag on their state flags
- Patrick: do the investigation a little bit; few cities worse than charleston, few states worse than SC; would take some responsibility for this, can maybe get down there this summer; those interested should get a statewide contact list for SC; would be glad to do a work team and get it to people on development team; other points are making contacts there, and some members being down there this summer
- Michael: SC governor and senator Lindsay Graham have come out against the flag
- Kourtney: support for Patrick's position on Charleston
- Gerry: black lives matter movement all over country; we know that black people are being attacked all over country; we haven't addressed it programmatically; I would try to link it up for providing guidance for local chapters all over country to be more supportive of struggles in their own communities; no specific proposal but we should be thinking on how we can deepen our commitment to PAHPA and how we can give more guidance to chapters; if we had money to hire field organizers going chapter to chapter and looking for opportunities; more effective in reaching out to POC communities
- Michael: need to be clear on what we're trying to do; don't need to lead anything, we need to join people and support and solidarity; no need to lead efforts to bring down flag, just be supportive; something our chapters can do; stand with people, not our place to lead; show connections; we can really take some leadership on reforming 1033 program; militarization of police and related to foreign policy abroad; our expertise and legitimacy; we don't need to react to crisis; we need to be thoughtful about how we can move forward in programmatic way that addresses racism and relation to war making; make sure we are helping people see the connection to our own work; back to strategic framework
- Barry: this fits in with framework for PAHPA; foreign policy
- Patrick: will volunteer for this work team
- Barry: clarification on 1033 program
 - Michael: police and militarization; clarifies bill; need guidance and be clear on what that guidance is

Joey motion to adjourn meeting**Patrick seconds****Barry adjourns the meeting**

Veterans For Peace, Inc.
National Board of Directors
Conference Call
Occupied Turtle Island
Wednesday, July 29, 2015
Kourtney Mitchell, Recording Secretary

Present on the call:

Michael, Joey, Tom, Kourtney, John, Mark, Gerry, Barry, Willie, Jason, Tarak

Absent from the call:

Mike P., April, Patrick

Topics in bold

Motions and votes in bold and underlined

Discussion on Resolutions

Barry convenes the meeting

- Willie: need a frame; went thru policy; if submitting then be accountable, put plan in place, prepare to take action; do follow up, not ignoring it
 - o Barry: decide to support based on actions; can't require a chapter to take actions
 - o Willie: for future considerations
 - o Joey: point of order, where to find resolutions
 - Barry and Michael clarify
 - o Tom: point of order, old business for approving last month's mins, specifically on Golden Rule
 - Barry: board decides to withdraw decisions; not based on other's actions
 - **Tom: request to approve minutes; motion made**
 - **John: seconds motion**
 - **Barry: motion carries, none opposed**
 - o Mark: minutes taken this meeting
 - Kourtney confirms

First resolution

2015-01: Support of the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015 - S.2738 & H.R. 5484

- Barry reads resolution aloud; opens discussion
- Joey: adding word "of" for grammar in second paragraph
- John: supports

- Barry: request for motion
 - o **Willie: moves to motion for approval**
 - o **John seconds**
 - o **Barry: unanimous vote in favor of resolution**

Second resolution

2015-02: Veterans For Peace Support For San Carlos Apache Occupation Of Oak Flat, Arizona

- Barry reads resolution aloud; opens discussion
- Barry: clarify location of chapter 75; Michael confirms
- John: member of resolution committee; supports; requests unanimous support
- Mark: Aaron Davis submitted, he's chapter member; chapter will support; supports
- Willie: responsibility on chapter to keep us posted, not Aaron's responsibility
- Barry: should we clarify non-violent protests and marches
 - o Joey: insert word "in accordance with VFP statement of Purpose"
 - o Gerry: don't think additional language necessary; nothing implicit there suggesting violence
 - Barry: anyone can organize march; reaffirm VFP values
 - Gerry: organized by San Carlos Apache
 - Michael: BLM and other movements show other elements can be involved; don't want to separate ourselves from the start; if it comes up, explain why violence is present
 - Willie: agree with Michael; support inclusion of mission statement, not words on violence
 - Barry: John Lennon quote; perfectly comfortable not including statement on violence
 - Michael: can't change words? Have to talk to author
 - Willie: looking at protocol; committee can't rewrite for chapters; BOD can ask authors to change language; policy cited in 2015 convention protocol
- Barry asks for further discussion
- **Barry requests asking author to consider language change**
 - o Gerry: not necessary; assumed we're acting in mission
 - o Barry: asking just for vote on language change
 - **Opposition carries, no changes will be made**
 - **Joey clarifies change of vote to yes**
- **Barry: vote on resolution**
 - o **None opposed, resolution carries approved**

Third Resolution

2015-03: Stop All Foreign Intervention In Syria

- Barry reads resolution aloud; opens discussion
- Willie: clarify language, seeing different language in copy
 - o Barry clarifies
- John: supports

- Gerry: strong resolution; third point is vague, sounds ok but not clear; supports
- Barry: agree with Gerry; is new alliance a military alliance with troops on ground? Sounds like armed struggle; who is that specifically? Ambiguous; doesn't spell out VFP position on that point; ask to take it out
- Michael: don't want too specific; figure or alliance and partners; make clear we're not calling for more violence; more peaceful oriented
- Barry; don't have to name names; fashion in way we can respond and not have it interpreted for us; no more arms and weapons in middle east; positive things we can say other than combatants
- Gerry: agree with Barry; requests changes from author; peaceful resolution; put resources into refugee crisis; he'll be open to change; offers to talk to him
- Joey: valid, need clarification
- **Barry: any opposed to tabling resolution until we speak with author?**
 - o **No opposition**
 - o Barry: John or Gerry to consider speaking with author; revisit at Wednesday board meeting at convention

Fourth Resolution

2015-04: Withdraw All NATO Forces from the Russian Borders

- Barry reads aloud; opens discussion
- Gerry: solid; no problems, request support
- Willie: how did Iran working group end up covering Ukraine
 - o Barry: won't be able to figure that out
 - o John: can clarify with author
- **Barry: any opposed**
 - o **Unanimous support**

Fifth Resolution

2015-05: Peace At Home, Peace Abroad

- Barry reads aloud; opens discussion
- Joey: seems awkwardly worded; not good to put on website as resolution
- Tom: talked to author, drafted clearer wording; reads suggested clarification on wording; diversity of experiences on chapter level; request to table in anticipation of withdrawal and considering new wording
- Barry: agree with Joey on lack of specificity; not succinct; supports tabling
- Barry: anyone support resolution
- **Tom: motion to table**
- **Barry: no opposition to tabling; resolution is tabled anticipating withdrawal and consideration of clearer wording**

Sixth Resolution

2015-06: Okinawa "Bridge of Nations" Asia-Pacific Pivot For Pacific Peace & Reconciliation

- Barry reads aloud; opens discussion
- Michael: point of order; calls for org to action; doesn't ask but instead calls; can be considered out of order
- Barry: agreed, confusing, multiple non permissible issues
- Gerry: agreed; too bad bc would be nice to have positions on bases in Okinawa; ask Bruce Gagnon for clearer words
- Barry: requires different resolutions
- Willie: concerns about formation of chapter; request tabling; Tarak concerns
- Barry: agree with Michael; clarify Michael's suggestion
- Michael: clarify guidelines on rejecting calls to actions; can write to him suggesting language change; more support of struggle
- Barry: clarify board members on resolution committee, ask to draft letter for board approval to send to author
- John volunteers to draft letter

Seventh Resolution

2015-07: U.S. Military Test of Anthrax in South Korea

- Barry reads aloud; opens discussion
- Joey: worded funky; not sure it can be worded well enough; too confusing
- Barry: news outlets as authority is not good; unclear wording
- Gerry: Barry think it can be fixed?
- Barry: yes; can't guess in a resolution; non factual info; have to vouch for facts when adding to website
- Willie: concerns about bullet points; contradictions; no responsibility or accountability
- Barry: do we want to call on congress? Not comfortable
- Willie: not support it?
- Barry: reword or not support? Motion?
- **Joey makes motion not to support**
- **Willie seconds**
- Barry: any opposed to rejection?
 - o Tom: send back out of courtesy, no harm to do so
 - o Barry: rejection still presented to membership at convention; send out as vote; tabling can make it disappear and don't have to present to convention
 - o Michael: not sure about that; we can't stop it from going to body
 - o Barry: unless we table right?
 - o Michael: that's a procedural way to block, not fair; has to have clear violations of protocol; required to present to convention if he declines to change wording
 - o Barry: badly worded as reason to send back
 - o Willie: go with vote and address concerns as reasoning not to recommend
 - o **Barry: recorded vote is rejection minus one with reasoning**
 - o Barry: asks Joey to write rationale, Joey agrees

Barry proposes to save Eighth Resolution for last in discussion
None opposed

Ninth Resolution

2015-09: Resolution for Responses to 2014-15 Israeli Aggression

- Barry reads aloud; opens discussion
- Willie: providing naval escort to U.S. flag vessels is not actionable; nothing to do towards that effect
- Barry: urging gov to do that; you're right, can't enforce it, just calling gov to do it
- Gerry: Palestine-Israel working group does homework; solid resolution
- Barry: agree; not in favor of singling out; not suggesting sending back but wouldn't write it that way
- Barry calls for vote
- **Joey and Willie abstains**
 - o Barry asks for reasoning on abstention
 - o **Joey abstains on this issue**
 - o **Willie abstains based on non-actionable**
- **Barry confirms board recommends resolution via vote**

Tenth Resolution

2015-10: Resolution On Humanitarian Response To The Economic Crisis in Gaza

- Barry reads aloud; opens discussion
- Gerry: supports; spell out ICRC; self explanatory
- John: seconds recommendation
- **Barry: none opposed; takes vote; Joey and Jason abstains**
- **Board approves recommending resolution**

Eleventh Resolution

2015-11: 2015 VFP Resolution for Normalization of US Relations With Iran

- Barry reads aloud; opens discussion
- Tom: entirely accurate minus one word; "sabotaged" is an opinion
- Joey: agreed; "hypocritical double standard" is a judgment; language is unclear; two paragraphs clean up, then support
- Gerry: resolution would put us in opposition to the position of the left; not a position we should take
- Michael: agree with Gerry; talked to author
- Barry: agree with Gerry; contrary to our position; can't support as written
- Barry request motion
- **Gerry: motion to reject**
- **Joey seconds**
- **Barry takes vote on rejection**

- **Tom abstains**
- **None opposed to rejection of resolution**
- Michael: board write resolution to replace this; explains rejection
- Joey: we have press release for this
- Barry: take wording of press release to draft new resolution
- Tom volunteers
- Michael: statement on front page
- Gerry: author makes important points, incorporates those without drawing same conclusion

Twelfth Resolution

2015-12: Veterans For Peace As An Earth Charter Initiative Affiliate

- Barry reads aloud; opens discussion
- Barry: clarify on ECI endorsement; upgrading to affiliate?
- John: yes; authors previous resolution; good way to address issue of foreign military bases
- Barry: gives us more punch on environmental issues
- Gerry: do quick research on requirements of affiliation
- Barry: agreed
- Joey: asking us to do something, never heard of this, what are requirements
- Gerry: who can volunteer to do research?
- John volunteers
- **Barry: tabled resolution**

Barry requests brief break

Eighth Resolution

2015-08: Veterans For Peace Should Have No Relationship With USAID

- Barry reads aloud; opens discussion
- Mark: admires Gerry sincere efforts, respect him, coming from heart; sixth point disavowed last fall and winter process to achieve vote and pulse membership; process was admirable; made MOU with RENEW; money can do lots of good, worth more than Gerry's principles; opposed
- Tarak: have heard worse terms; don't see it that way; we've demanded for decades gov address harm; better platform to do it now; radically opposed; USAID didn't turn us down, was still in process; we're not thanking USAID, just the opposite; another org would have already dropped the ball, Vietnamese knew this, that's why they asked us; prominent members know why they support; gives us big advantage; we're not paying a price
- Gerry: a lot of wishful thinking in Tarak position; don't need to go around, already have; both positions held among membership; good chance RENEW advocates will win argument; discussion is healthy, conducted in healthy way; members can live with

- decision; understand RENEW position, but doesn't stack up as high as opposite position; that time of year where we have that discussion
- Willie: opposed to resolution; last point is short sighted; shouldn't bind ourselves; no conflict means no change; be flexible; no lock step
 - John: call for vote
 - Barry: request for more discussion
 - John: support Willie position; advocate for aid, cutting off one avenue is not a good idea
 - Tarak: appreciate Gerry acknowledging both positions; not wishful thinking; what advantage could USAID get that they don't already have? No one has explained; not opposed to presenting to convention; voting against resolution; no automatic general rules that always apply; agree with Willie
 - Joey: needs to go to the membership bc that's what democracy looks like; similar to public referendum
 - Barry: is the intent of resolution to block board from entering contract with USAID now and in future?
 - o Gerry: yes
 - Barry: not subject to vote until November; clarify on issue of passing resolution and timeframe of entering USAID contract; legal implications
 - Gerry: implications means we should be circumspect about entering contract
 - Barry: effect to nullify a contract; subject to damages; serious legal question; possible litigation from membership; opposed bc it doesn't resolve issue; not sure it's likely; membership had solid debate in January and February; not one other member drafted resolution; policy manual says board member can't mount campaign against board decision; inappropriate; clarify on Gerry previous email after vote; not in favor of tying future board hands
 - Tom: request board members to write two sheets to present position; org as whole gets clearer idea of difficult decisions made this year; RENEW, GR, medical cannabis
 - Tarak: request Gerry to consider withdrawing resolution
 - Gerry: have that option until convention; discussion is valuable to membership
 - Barry: request motion and roll call vote
 - **John motion to defeat resolution**
 - **Willie seconds**
 - Barry requests Secretary take roll call vote
 - Barry clarifies motion
 - **Kourtney takes roll call vote**
 - **Barry: yes**
 - **Tom: yes**
 - **Gerry: no**
 - **Willie: yes**
 - **Joey: no**
 - **Kourtney abstain**
 - **Tarak: yes**
 - **Jason: yes**
 - **Mark: yes**

- **John: yes**
- **Seven yes, two no, one abstain**
- **resolution is rejected from board approval**
- Michael: have to present reason for rejection at convention
- Tarak agrees to draft reasoning for Barry approval

Bylaws changes

Michael presents proposed changes

- Name change for status of membership; from “full member” to “veteran member”
- Mailing procedures to allow emails; protocol for Secretary
- Gerry: suggests covering this either Wednesday at convention or another call before convention in interest of long call time
- John: agree with Gerry; made a lot of progress; expedite bylaw process
- Barry requests covering bylaws Wednesday; promised to bring resolution on trans rights
- Joey: have bylaws on not discriminating based on sexual orientation
- Barry: intention to align more closely with trans serving in military; statement supporting; broaden into general population; better to do a resolution
- Tarak: who will write resolution? Tarak will assist Michael in drafting
- Joey: a member who is fluent can help?
- Tom suggests member to help
- Willie: deadline issue?
- Barry: not for us on board

Tom: rules of engagement on bylaws and resolutions

Michael will put bylaw changes on website

Barry: bylaws are not decisions

Veterans For Peace, Inc.
30th Annual National Convention
National Board of Directors Meeting
San Diego, CA USA
Wednesday, August 5, 2015
Kourtney Mitchell, Recording Secretary

Present at the meeting:

Barry, Kourtney, Michael, Tarak, Mark, Gerry, Willie, Tom, Patrick
Joey via Skype

Absent from the meeting:

Mike P, April, Jason

Motions and votes in bold and underlined.

Barry convenes the meeting

Barry: Agenda Review

Chuck Searcy: Project RENEW update

- Application to USAID for funding
- APS, Senator Leahy, targeted to Agent Orange victims
- RENEW staff proposed to expand institutional contacts in Quang Tri province
- Submitted concept paper, three pages max; rejected by USAID initially
 - o Province was not eligible at time
 - o Now they are saying come back for more discussion
- Process supposed to be open and transparent
- Vietnamese stated they would like to follow the process to the end
- Peoples committee in province is arguing for province to be included in document
- Going to submit the letter to USAID and ministry
- Discussion
 - o Tarak: are any funds allocated towards cleaning up UXO
 - o Chuck: no, all disability, don't draw fine line but mostly all agent orange
 - Continue to work with UXO
 - o Mark: with this particular grant, do you see possibility of unfair dealings among USAID and can you detect it
 - Chuck: things said about USAID is true and documented; since end of war they have cautiously and respectfully come back into Vietnam
 - Do not see any shenanigans; vietnamese said they know everything about USAID, watching them carefully

- Willie: in process being stalled, definitively about province question; no language concerning VFP parameters in our paperwork about what we would or would not do; nothing from USAID about VFP from their side?
 - Chuck: asked mission leader about VFP being involved, and he said absolutely nothing to do with it; another aspect to the concept paper that needs to be factored in: made a reference to not thinking the response strong enough for their requirement on POS services; another part of the process we would negotiate with them; people we are trying to help, not a matter of teaching skills; these are really horrendous cases, people cannot move or speak or get out of bed; not too concerned about that part, I think we can convince them there
- Gerry: about how long will the process go on before a definitive response
 - Chuck: do not know, wish I could say; USAID people are nice people but they draw salaries to keep this process going; could be a month or six months; was ready to walk away, but Vietnamese said let us send letter from Peoples committee in province and get some shift
 - Gerry: resolution against VFP being involved with USAID presenting on Saturday; supposing the membership were to say they do not want connection with USAID, where would that lead RENEW in terms of process; would you be able to substitute another non profit and go forward, or would this be somehow a fatal blow to the procedure or your request
 - Chuck: would go back to Vietnamese colleagues and they would decide; there are a few other non profits, but they prefer VFP because RENEW has been associated with american vets; resubmit, make some changes
- John: express my admiration and inspiration of RENEW to restore environment and neutralize effects of war; environmental devastation of war of recent ongoing conflicts
- Tarak: seconded and appreciation of Chuck for bringing VFP into process
- Chuck: appreciate willingness to consider this; our view is that this is opportunity for VFP to step up and deal with this and not just walk away and drop a dark curtain on what we left behind
- Michael: issue is not RENEW; not anyone I know of who is not grateful for the work you have done; issue is only USAID
- Barry: everyone on both sides have remarkable admiration for you Chuck and RENEW
- Chuck: worthwhile thing, rewarding to us, gratifying
- Barry: your own experience is that the province is where most of this occurred; how true is it that RENEW can lend that expertise on the ground where most others cannot
 - Chuck: have had fifteen years of capacity building and cooperation; province is one of the few places in Vietnam that can succeed; n argument strongly for the province;

San Francisco convention 2016 update

Denny Riley, Chapter 69 SF

- Had in mind to do it in vets building just to use the building; board of trustees and arts commission trying to run vets out of building, so we want to fill it with vets events
- I am chairman, began looking for hotels near the building, spent months on that; least expensive room is 240 per night with tax
- Went across the bay to Clark Kerr conference center and campus in Berkeley
- Brief on map of Berkeley and Clark campus; photo slideshow of campus
- Main hall holds 358 people, abundant meeting rooms, patios
- Much cheaper with rooms and meals on campus; less than 90 dollars per day with meals
- Some considerations: people cannot show up until Thursday afternoon and can be there through Monday with same schedule that we do now; can have a meeting day before
- No other deal besides this one
- Can put twenty people into a meeting before Thursday
- Room on campus
- John: what are possible dates
 - o Denny: would have to be moved a week; August 11th start date; could be consideration; no other alternative
- Patrick: if someone booked a room on website, would they be able to register for meals
 - o Denny: would think they could, will confirm later
 - o Patrick: would be more like a hundred with tax
- Tarak: it would actually start on Thursday
- Denny: board meeting could start Wednesday
- Tarak: could not check in until Thursday; would convention run one day more into Monday
- Denny: proposal runs through Monday and includes breakfast that day
- Michael: answer is whatever we decide and figure out; board willing to put work and time into retooling what that would be
- Paul: first event could be Thursday at five pm
- Patrick: usually with hotels if you fill a certain number of rooms, then you can get conference rooms for free; campuses nail you for room rentals for meetings
 - o Denny: rooms and costs come to \$12,500, but that is assuming we use all of the rooms; hotels are corporate institutions
- Tom: ten or fifteen blocks from BART station, what is the walk like?
- Denny: gradual uphill walk you do not notice until you are halfway there; we march up the street, whole thing is uphill
- Gerry: assuming that chapter 69 wants to host us, they are ready to do so; cost effective; flexibility in schedule, good exercise, find a good model
- John: airport?
- Denny: fly into Oakland, but either Oakland or SFO will get you to BART
- Paul: fly into what is convenient and cheapest
- ADA clarifications
- Gerry: still something we can do that week at vets memorial building

- Denny: would love to, but distance can be tremendous during the day
- Barry: banquet could be off site
- Barry: board sense of this
 - o **Motion for approval; hands show unanimous approval for Denny proposal for campus venue for convention**
- Barry: October board meeting is last weekend; could stay there on campus and have a room to meet

Barry: brief on UN NGO status update, will discuss more later

Barry: Peace Day events update, September 21, multiple city events

- Gerry: Golden Rule will be in SF on that day
- Michael: wrote up concept paper; every year UN announces theme and what they want to do
- Gerry: we could help pump up that day and make it an annual commitment
- Michael: theme is Partnerships for Peace, Dignity for All; goes very well with PAHPA
- Virginia: speaker who works in Afghanistan and says this is a day of peace; working with gangs and militias and working with domestic violence

Guest intros:

Chuck Searcy

Denny Riley, VFP San Francisco, CA Chapter 69

Elaine Martin, VFP Jacksonville, FL associate member; Florida rep for Quaker House

Dave Winstead

Tom Myers

Nate Goldschlag

Adrian

Virginia Druhe, VFP National Office

John Spitzberg

(Secretary requests assistance with identifying meeting guests missing from the record)

Golden Rule update

- Barry: arrival of boat; news coverage
- Gerry: five years of hard work and struggle; not a small amount of internal struggle; Helen and I have been in Eureka for most of last five months; missing mast was dropped and repaired two days before splashdown; racing against the clock on way to SD; change of captain at the last minute; not a single day of this that was easy; arrived on time, Saturday evening just before sundown; media reception just gives a glimpse of the power and inspiration that this boat and its history has; visuals are awesome, really captures people's imagination; major part of convention in a number of ways

- Barry: update on San Diego WISH foundation and film on life of psychologist whose parents survived Hiroshima; Japanese press attending convention to cover commemoration of bombs dropping
- Patrick: less than six months ago we gave thirteen grand to make this happen
- Gerry: presentation tomorrow morning from crew; crew will be honored at banquet; boat visitations; will hang around SD for a couple weeks after convention; further updates on boat schedule and cruise stops
- Michael: becoming more sophisticated about work we are doing; have to remember that when person gives to org, the org has to figure out how to allocate resources; do not want to starve national office ability to do work because we are expanding other work; diversify revenue sources, how to go to membership for funds; can end up hurting ourselves
- Gerry: want to talk more about how to approach members this week; offer for next spring, plan to go to northwest; Fukushima testing projects with scientists with org called Beyond Nuclear; he will join crew for several weeks for testing; offering money to fund it; still legal issues on how GR project will be organized; at current time it needs to be more clearly structured; discussions with maritime lawyer pro bono; most popular idea so far is to organize the GR Project into its own non profit; want to reorganize the GR board mainly based in Eureka; would like to see a board of directors under a new non profit including big peace organizations like Greenpeace, AFSC, PRM, etc; transitional period; things we need to closely examine before we have whole thing organizationally solid; appropriate relationship with accountability with VFP
- Tom: unanswered questions from June; actual budget vs projected budget; issues on policies and procedures; fiduciary under chapter 22 issues; boats are money pits; we have invested thirteen thousand; need concrete things we can tell our org about what we are going to do; great ideas do take money
- Gerry: Tom is right, don't have budget in front of me; did come up with pretty sound budget with people who know about boats; funds keep coming, every month we have a meeting we always have the money in the bank; it continues to inspire funding; raising twenty thousand a month for last few months; raised over two hundred thousand over five years; we have something to show now; each stop we make will include serious fundraising goals
- Willie: great work getting the thing up and floating; committee work is wonderful; serious concerns with VFP investment, not just with money; taking liability with this; understanding is that we own the boat; was not real impressed with National Geographic article; we took on liability knowing that this would be a hard deal; do not think we can just sign over boat to new non profit; problems that it is getting done without any conversation with us about dynamics; if it all goes south, we are the plank holders; not enough consideration about VFP and our infrastructure; too far ahead of ourselves; we want VFP to be the story; want more clear definition; projected budget for the numbers; we are sort of rushing, and we need to be cool about this
- Patrick: I think comments on this will take longer than we can deal with; if we do a new board, then affirmative action on bringing Japanese onto the board; we can raise money in japan; begin to start talking tonight with some of the people

- Gerry: a lot of this stuff still has to be sorted out; if it becomes new non profit, should it be majority VFP on board; we do not want VFP board spending half of every minute on GR, but we do want VFP board to have ideas and provide input; we could decide to organize it differently, and bring it directly under VFP, but that would be more than just owning the boat; inherent potential conflicts
- Barry: sailing under the VFP flag, a national project; has to remain that; organize corporate structure allowing others to have input and fundraising; can work in concert with other orgs like Greenpeace; sense of it is that we are the stakeholders and we have the final decision; organize the boat itself as the corporate entity; or as VFP asset but still have separate org that we have advisory capacity; has to do a lot with legal issues of how the boat is held; another lawyer friend has volunteered with pro bono hours for the boat
- Michael: would like to hear clarity on what that means; it is one thing to have other people or orgs and this is partly their project too; that is different than this is VFP project and we want their input; the more you have other people who are invested, the more they will do to move it forward; do not know answer, but suggesting that a partnership can be just as beneficial or even more so; we tend to have a problem keeping people focused on things in our org; people can get burnt out; partnerships there is a larger pool of people to get burnt out, or at least to switch out; more opportunity for fundraising; do not try to be too territorial
- Barry: how is it going to be legally established; if its our asset, then it has to be our thing; if its run as its own thing with other stakeholders, then that is a different approach; what approach do we want to have; what are the fundraising responsibilities
- Gerry: anti nuclear movement in general in this country; needs boosting, now is the time to do that
- Barry: fashion out an advisory capacity role with other peace orgs; their goals are the same as ours, just a different vehicle; look at boat as partnership and mutual goals; support each others projects
- John: Joey suggests an Excom to report to the board daily
- Tarak: tremendously appreciative of work Gerry has put into it
- Mark: another huge aspect of this is the crew; we are not getting any younger, real concerned with future plans; how is crew going to afford to make this their life; long term planning crew
- Gerry: continue recruiting; over thirty applications so far; training and criteria; recruiting younger vets; Jim Summers idea of having three week long sailing camps and nonviolence training together with younger vets;
- Barry: Summers idea with young sailor camps to recruit trained young sailors to work on boat
- National project issues; organizing projects on chapter level and national supports at the chapter level; extent involved with this is way beyond what I was used to
 - o Barry: became national project in 2012
 - o Tarak: we have all seen this as a powerful manifestation; cannot buy publicity like this; articles and tv coverage; the board wants to be involved, cannot just let

it float out there; Gerry is representing us; other national projects can function on their own with report back to the board; but the boat is different

- Willie: fiduciary perspective with our investment
- Michael: generally speaking there has not been a change; board is not trying to manage other projects quite to the extent as GR; fiscal responsibility not as much in this particular project; we have to have a little more hands on; are we looking at developing more of a national initiatives that are coming from the board or national office; to some extent we are wanting to do that because we want to leverage ourselves in the national org; things have not really changes, but to protect the whole org we feel we have to be involved in it
- Bill: everything talked about this today was part of Fred original vision; hope that somewhere along the line that it has Fred name on it; a plaque with his name on it
- Tom: Joey comment reiteration

John: plans for lunch, maybe a working box lunch

Barry: do not have an answer on that, was not involved with local planning in that regard

Five minute break

Bylaw changes

- Michael: presents bylaw change proposals; will not be doing electronic voting, have to develop the process; just changes language that allows us to do that
 - Michael clarifies that we are not allowed to change the naming status of Full Members to Veteran Members based on online discussion, interpretation of when board can make changes; would cause a big argument that we do not need to have; after convention we need to relook our policies on bylaws and resolutions and how the committees work; clear and thoughtful about when deadlines take place; what was intent on saying no changes can be made; part of the intent was based on changes taking place in business meeting and making the meeting long and infighting; intent was to streamline the process in the business meeting; but now we have gone in opposite direction and our hands are tied
 - Barry: have to reconcile bylaws with policy manual; overall structure; do not want bylaws to be too detailed; policy manuals supplement bylaws and carry out their intent
 - Willie: remember reading that under part about special meetings that it allows for electronic mailing and voting as interpreted; excom can call special meeting, in that circumstance you can apply electronic mailing; do have a window we can work with

Resolutions

- Barry goes through resolution decisions from last board meeting, confirming board decisions and further discussions
- 2015-06: Barry recommends asking author to withdraw to work with him to draft a statement to put up on website; if he refuses, then we will recommend to reject resolution
 - o Michael: clarification on offering a chance for him to withdraw
 - o Reasoning is because based on errors and subject matter; needs to be reworded; error in terms of time frame referenced (not 22nd century); multiple subjects which violate terms of resolutions, can only have one subject matter
 - o **Barry: motion to reject the resolution**
 - o **John seconds**
 - o **Vote: unanimous to reject resolution**
- 2015-11: Tom reads aloud rewording of resolution
 - o Barry: clarifies rejection of the resolution and offering a substitute
 - o **Barry makes motion for vote**
 - o **Vote shows that we reject resolution and offer substitute wording for resolution**
- 2015-12: Barry clarifies endorsement of ECI and clarifies what it requires of us to become an affiliate; we cannot fundraise as affiliate; Barry recommends rejecting resolution
 - o Michael: committee did not think of requirements; should have asked him to take that out; calls for us to spend money so it can be rejected as a resolution; violates policy manual
 - o **Vote shows full support for rejecting resolution**
 - o John still interested in learning from Eduardo
 - o Tarak: he is doing great work, but has habit of assigning himself as rep of VFP on many issues
- 2015-07: Michael presents revised resolution from Joey, substitute wording
 - o Joey: told him to simplify it and take out articles he is referencing
 - o Board reads revised resolution and discusses changes made
 - o Barry calls for discussion based on reading; asks for motion
 - o **Tarak motion to approve**
 - o **John seconded**
 - o **Vote unanimous to approve; one abstention – Willie**
 - Willie: do not understand what is going on with it other than another angry statement; point of clarification
- 2015-08: clarify that board rejected resolution
 - o Tarak: wrote rationale, sent along to full board
 - o Willie: clarify that we had good discussion and offered author to pull resolution based on vote

- **Joey votes no on resolution five; yes on six; abstain on eleven; voted yes on seven; yes on twelve to reject**
- Gerry: we are not awol on Syria; motion to table white paper on Syria because there are debatable points; Joey supports tabling
 - o **Vote on tabling: unanimous to table**

2015 Convention update

- Mark: food situation
- Gerry: close to major mall; clarify issue to everyone present
- Barry: they closed two restaurants right before convention
- Tarak: clarify food options at the opening plenary
- Barry: Gary will clarify; restaurants we contracted for are not made available to us
- Gerry: Sam Winstead is here and Akai is here; he wants to speak to convention; would be nice to make space for him somewhere; Bob Bergdahl is here, father of Bowe who walked away from unit; charged with desertion; no decision yet to court martial Bowe; Bob should be introduced and acknowledged at plenary or banquet
- Willie: approving new chapter during meeting; too late to add new speakers to the convention
- Michael: 70th anniversary of WWII; we should acknowledge at banquet, and Sam is most known; give him a moment to speak at that time in respect to all WWII vets; two things done at one time
- Barry: update on additional featured guests during banquet; also IVAW wants to present to convention based on 30th anniversary
- Tarak: IVAW made art display to present to VFP at banquet

MFSO fiscal sponsorship

- Michael: basic like any other fiscal sponsorship; they fill out MOU; 8.5%; they report back to us for requirements on money they raise; founded in late 2002 right before invasion of Iraq as response to stop invasion; in close relationships with VFP from the start; long eleven or twelve year with them; not against all wars necessarily, but in same place as we are about what is going on; do not see any reason we should not be their fiscal
- Mark: want to support them, but we need very clear guidelines as to the kind of reporting of their funds that come to them through us and what they use it for
 - o Virginia: currently with any project or org that we are sponsoring but not handling money, our requirement is at end of year they give us an expense report; couple other VFP people involved in their org in a direct way
 - o Michael: if board wants quarterly reports, we can ask them for it
- Barry: my recommendation is to not require it until we think we need it; allow process until we see a change needs to be made
- Tarak: we charge 8.5%
- Willie: originally want to support motion; 8.5% and quarterly report is the standard; not demeaning to ask for quarterly report

- Tarak: 8.5% does not depend on their report
- Michael: clarify on tax write off through non profit
- Mark: they are small enough that I do not want to require them to report four times per year
- Michael: ask them for a few times and then back off; better to back off then get them to do something they are not used to
- Gerry: support; they are helping us out because they are helping us pull together first venture into the north
- Michael: MFSO/IVAW/VFP delegation to white house
- Willie: think about how we do business; cannot do it on warm fuzzy bases; good business practices; just because a good cause does not mean we jump on it
- **Barry takes vote on fiscal sponsorship**
 - o **Vote carries unanimous to support fiscal sponsorship**

Tijuana chapter 974 charter

- **Willie: motion to approve charter;** met all the standards; eleven vet members, five associate members of chapter; want to meet with them on Sunday for legislative networking project
- Never leave anyone behind; will increase our membership in the future not just with members, but with outreach into latino community; female vet retired from Navy; women's and POC outreach
- Barry: assume that all requirements of military service verification confirmed; questions on citizenship
- Willie: confirmation on chapter activities; networking with other countries; will have table set up
- **Gerry: seconds motion**
- **Barry takes vote: unanimous support for approval of charter of Tijuana chapter**
- Hector Barajas, director of Deported Veterans Support House

Janesville chapter charter

- **Tarak:** update on situation with Madison; **motion to approve**
- **Mark seconds motion**
- Gerry: clarification on issues with the Madison chapter; tarak confirms that there is only one member from Madison
- **Vote is unanimous for approval of Janesville, WI chapter**
- Tarak: chapter is working to get required membership; update on several other regions working on fulfilling requirements for charter; someone from Australia coming, will discuss possibility of starting chapter in Australia; IDF vets looking to form chapter in Israel

Okinawa chapter issues

- Michael: how is it supposed to move forward; two different kinds of VFP chapters or affiliations; one is here in the states, very clear, traditional chapters; the one in Vietnam where US vets go where they fought and start chapter, and they live there a lot of the time, expats; third is international chapters with vets from that country who started a VFP chapter or association; so what is the Okinawa chapter going to be; can people living in US affiliate with the chapter and that we charter the chapter with people who are not even living there; totally against that; either it should be Japanese vets with American vets in it but primarily Japanese; or its US vet expats who live there more than not with minimum of five members;
- Tarak: agree; five people who live in Okinawa who live there most of time
- Gerry: even that would be a new forming; mixing expats with nationals; we could do that but we have to make a decision that its cool; primarily expats with one national, or primarily national with one American; its going to have a primary character
- Tarak: primary characteristic of VFP chapter is that they are vets for peace; we do not have specifications whether they have to be US or national vets from that country
- Barry: Ireland chapter had number of vets from UK, Ireland
- Joey: now that EU is basically like US now; people can move within borders of EU; gonna have people who served in French army who moved to Ireland
- Barry: agree, do not see it as problem or issue
- Tarak: do not see it as problem in case of Okinawa; no problem as long as they are vets
- Barry: what Michael is saying is that we cannot have folks who have never been there or lived there but want to sign up for the chapter; relationship with people who are forming the chapter, that is another thing
- Tom: consider bylaw change for proof of military service; do we have to characterize it; if we go international then there are legal repercussions; work out logistics
- Barry: require that whatever their military requires for proof of service, they make the initial verification with us
- Michael: might want to begin writing out that when we start a chapter in a country we need to clearly write out what are forms of identification that verify; as an org we are doing this, but we do not have policies in place; we need to follow a standard; as each case comes up, membership committee should make decision; talk to those who want to start a chapter we need to talk to them about the sensitivities of that process; still is that tension concerning americans who want to start international chapters
- Tarak: Edo has been there 20 years and speaks fluent Japanese; work up something and write it out and present it to the board

Transgender issues

- Michael: we put forth a statement supporting trans rights; there have been a few people who want clarity on the statement; we received a long letter asking a lot of questions; we committed to a resolution on trans rights; the letter stated we should not do that until there is clarity; Barry and I thought to move forward by discussing with people who sent the letter; transgender rights in military; Obama and other high staffers who are supporting

- Barry: we want to say that everyone should be treated equally who ever is serving in military; President and Sec of Defense is calling for support
- Michael: we should be in conversation with the women who sent their concerns; do not want to appear insensitive; understand what the conflict is; peacemakers moving forward
- Tarak: concerning statement we could make in support of calls from Prez and Sec of Defense; does not really address specific issues outlined in the letter; we need the conversation; understand what the various objections are
- Barry: we are here to guide the purpose and mission of VFP; cannot be pushed off what our obligations are; I think we have to be sensitive; we can look at things as how we look at it as vets org
- Michael: the conflict is much bigger than VFP; we cannot solve it; individually people can try to understand, but we as a board do not have a responsibility to understand the conflict; we have to help people to come together; honest truth is that board could be torn up about it; try to do the best we can to bring this to a resolution within the org
- Patrick: we have a right to determine our focus and not allow other people determine our focus for us
- Gerry: we were approached from IVAW and Civ-Sol with concerns with VFP stance on trans vets based on content from VFP person who seemed to be denying validity of trans identity; they were upset and pressed us for clarification and take steps to guarantee trans vets would feel safe at convention; our response was to make sure that was the case; promised a resolution on this issue but we are not able to do it at this time; there seems to be expectation that we would have some kind of words early in convention to advise people that trans vets among us be treated with respect; in the letter to the IVAW folks there would be a workshop; Michael confirms workshop; some of us should be present to learn and also as peacemakers; question is that if we feel appropriate or necessary to offer words of wisdom on respect of trans people at beginning of convention
- Michael: I do not know what that means exactly; I do not know if at the beginning of the convention we should say that; if that is the expectation then I do not know; if we feel like we need to reiterate then that is fear; if we are so transphobic as an org then maybe we do
- Jason: I would proceed with caution; author of letter seemed to be baiting us; I would not go too deeply as far as answering every question; we should offer statement regarding equality; going to deviate from actual mission
- Barry: we are not obligated to answer every question put forward to us; it can be a trap; in the legal field we could make a big mistake and they can start driving the discussion
- Willie: I don't think we can resolve this in this discussion; whole thing was brought to us in improper fashion; some of the statements are just not true; not as reality was; I don't think we as an org when someone has a complaint against us or another member that we are supposed to set up tribunals or make decisions about their future with our org; I don't think we should answer every question, but we should set up a means of ongoing dialogue on how we can together work this out without conflict; the wrong way can bring us through another year of turmoil

- Kourtney: briefs board on communication with concerned women and outlining their questions
- Mark: I see the reality of the population of vfp being older white men; this issue has activated a lot of sensitive among us; general white male membership has not been wrestling with this like we have; women feel frightened and have experienced sexism; it is our responsibility to let general membership know we are very conscious about this and we are for equality on all levels and we will have procedures to deal with unfair treat
- John: letter made reference to threats of violence; have there been actual allegations of threats of violence; Kourtney confirms
- Tarak: legit grievances on both sides of issues; in the letter we were being baited, no question about that; we should not go for that; specific instances brought to my attention; Tarak clarifies specific instance
- Michael: part of the problem is that we have not done a good job in dealing with the sexism in the org; I can understand the women feeling marginalized ad because they are already involved in a philosophical struggle that most of us did not know about; for years they are seeing us not meet their expectations and yet we act quickly on trans issues; we may not address it quickly for them, but we need to address it; we have started to do that, we have had trainings on sexual harassment; we are developing clear process for any type of harassment to report it; we should not get into having trials, but we still need to have some level of accountability; we are a peace org; we need it within leadership of the org; need to have a process; have workshops and talk about it as leaders to our members; it takes time for people to heal and for people to change
- Barry: is there anything we need to decide today
- Michael: Barry and I have opportunity to address things from the stage, we should be careful about what we say
- Ellen Davidson: while I think there are certainly issues with sexism as most orgs; as a woman and as a feminist, it is not an either/or situation; in the larger feminist community there is not that either/or debate; there is a very broad feminist movement with lots of different points of view
- Kourtney: suggested direction is to communicate with concerned women regarding statements or policies on sexism and misogyny as requested in the letter
- Michael: if there are threats within the org then I want to know who they are
- Willie: coming off from listservs and ended up being VFP having a responsibility; there needs to be some accountability and criteria for that; there are agendas at work here
- Mark: we need to be able to tell the membership that other than we are working on it, that maybe we can have a committee and coming up with a process for complaints, and procedures for handling those complaints
- Virginia: it exists already and has been in the convention books for a couple of years now at the insistence of several women; was supposed to be in one year and a couple of women were saying that it is a problem, and a male board member tried to assure them was not a problem; so I am saying that it is a problem
- Michael: something called three steps of grievances; we still do not have a committee or a timeframe; we have beginnings

- Tarak: re-emphasize statement in convention booklet; we need a special group besides just general policy
- Gerry: since it has been in packet for several years and some of us here were unaware; I am guessing that not everyone looks at packet; at beginning of convention Michael or Barry should make general statements on harassment and proper behavior
- Tarak: suggestion for showing it clearly to the convention
- Is it on the website so that everyone gets it?
- Kourtney: issues with introducing a new debate to the membership
- Michael: how do we talk about the whole thing? We have women who feel marginalized, so if I pull out the trans thing as its own piece, then they could feel further marginalized; but I would have to talk about everything so no one feels marginalized; which I think I can do as I am thinking about it
- Joey: emphasis on all life matters
- Gerry: make a call for sensitivity and respect for every body and no sexual harassment; statement will be appreciated and give everyone something to think about
- Patrick: are people expecting a statement this week?
- Barry: we have to respond sensibly and we cannot be pushed into responding a certain way

Executive Director Report

- Michael: biggest event was moving in St Louis;
- Michael briefs board as outlined in the written report
- Barry: questions on Howard Zinn fund; Mark clarifies
- Patrick: clarification on who can receive Zinn fund, individuals or chapters?
- Joey: can a working group apply for Zinn fund grant?
- Mark: a working group is not a chapter, so no
- Tarak: suppose we have a proposed project we already promised to do, but it is not a specific chapter project; what if we make it a chapter project? Mark confirms
- Michael: specifics should go to Ken Barger
- Willie: just applied for Zinn fund; just having a chapter tag is not enough, it requires chapter members to work as a committee and work with community
- John: suggestions for additions for Michael report; Sam Winstead Ride for Peace and Roger Ehrlich Swords to Plowshares Bell Tower
- Michael: those are elements of events
- Gerry: five areas of emphasis; arrival of GR means nuclear disarmament becomes stronger focus for us; members have joined into local coalition efforts, maybe needs to be reflected with our commitment; demonstrate as a priority
- John Spitzberg: mechanisms for when new things come on; big change going on for disabled veterans; change not all positive; privatizing health care for disabled vets; do we have a mechanism for dealing with emergency issues
- Mark: big vet organizations with millions of members are on it
- Michael: one way is that people do stuff and it starts to happen all around the country; we realize that it is direction our members have gone, such as homelessness and drones

and Gitmo; other thing is that you can present to the board for something you want to do and it could become more of an emphasis that way

- Barry: some programs come from top and some from bottom
- Dennis Mills: independent accredited VA benefits claim agent; glad to keep you up to date on changes coming down; we are the only chapter who has accredited claim agents; we can help people file a fully developed claim; absolutely free service and can help train others
- John S: vets being reported to collection agencies; wrote letter to editor; some of these big orgs are not doing enough

Membership Committee Report

- Tarak: briefs board as written in report; Doug Zachary great work on lapsed members; working to expand infrastructure can also support membership goals; emphasis on in-person committee meetings
- Willie: talk about expanding funds for board members to visit chapters; board members are from different parts of the country, representative of the masses pull chapter efforts together
- Gerry: great report and committee is doing a great job; supportive of advertising budget; travel budget is a new thing for committees
- Jason: in order to appeal to younger vets we should look at aesthetics; invest in rebranding; could rethink the logo; reached out to orgs who work with non profits and grassroots; website development
- Tarak: have to have a visual, present it in a solid way
- Michael: communications plan regarding ads; we really need a broader plan; how many vets pay attention to Air Force Times over other active duty publications; need synergy
- Tarak: funds show intent, do not have to use it; if we come up with something we like, then we have already allocated for it
- Michael: funds itself would be part of broader plan, it wouldn't be specific to membership committee
- John: approve of extraordinary efforts of committee and Tarak; proposing adjournment of meeting so members can make it to Hiroshima commemoration at bell tower

Michael: brief on specific expenses in Treasurer report

Tom: motion to approve July minutes

Barry takes vote to approve July minutes

Unanimous approval of July minutes

Joey: clarification of date of October board meeting; October 24-26

Veterans For Peace, Inc.
30th Annual National Convention
Business Meeting
Saturday, August 8, 2015
San Diego, CA, USA
Kourtney Mitchell, Recording Secretary

Board members present:

Kourtney, Barry, Michael, Tom, Willie, Mark, Gerry, Tarak, John, Jason, Patrick

Board members absent:

Mike P, April, Joey

Topics in bold.

Motions and votes in bold and underlined.

Barry convenes the meeting

- Agenda Review

Barry: President's Report

- Presented to the membership
- Creation of advisory board; notable additions
- Fundraising, grants, major donors
 - o Foundation Search contract
 - o Importance of organizational resources; endorsements from advisory board members
 - o Matthew Hoh fundraising letter success
 - o Donor contacts and communications; in-person meetings
 - Contacts with Top 50 donors
 - Craigslist, Colbert Foundation
 - o Wills and Bequests
 - Encouragement to consider VFP in plans
 - o Staff Development
 - Full time fundraiser/development position
 - o Messaging
 - DC office considerations
 - Ralph Nader fundraising proposal
 - UN member status
 - International Veteran Cooperation: Mission to Moscow; combined veteran statement

- Membership
 - Thanks to Tarak, committee
 - Bringing in younger veterans
 - Slow down of negative trend, potential for upswing
 - Asking new members to explore how they can contribute
 - Approval of new Tijuana chapter; thanks to Willie
 - Emphasis on growth at chapter level
 - Events attended during year: Creech, Spring Rising
- Concluding remarks
 - Making VFP most powerful voice of peace in the world; speak with credibility

Mark: Treasurer's Report

- Overview of the condition and status of the orgs finances
- Brief on report as printed and shared with the board; displayed to membership
- Membership encouraged to contact Mark for more detailed report
- Closing remarks
 - Importance of full time development position
- Q&A
 - Leah Bolger: information on loan to IVAW
 - Michael: brief to membership on loan details; loan is fully paid
 - Mark: emphasis on clearer criteria for loan policy and repayment
 - Michael: political question; many disagree with loan; will not be giving many different orgs loan; IVAW is us, we helped found them, we were their fiscal sponsor; peace movement needs healthy representation of young veterans; important for us to make sure they do not fold; if they ask us for help, I would rather us than someone else; we are not in the business of giving loans; if we want to change culture, we have to share resources; IVAW and MFSO is part of the family
 - Mark: as protector of treasury, we need to develop written policy; when we give a loan we need to make sure we are going to get that money back
 - Question: grants clarifications; one year or multi year grants
 - Mark: exploring all options; beginning phases
 - Question: Adrienne – emphasis on local chapter fundraising and actions as opposed to encouraging members to fund national board projects; embrace the Zinn fund as part of the financial model, not just fundraising; supporting Zinn fund as part of our org spirit; include how we support members at chapter local as important part of financial piece
 - Question: Sally Alice-Thompson: source of David Kline fund, purpose
 - Michael: started when David died at the celebration of his life; decided not to have it as just part of Chapter level because it was two chapter and others also added to it for national level account; Chapter 21 and 34 put on joint event for veteran organizing and used some of the funds; those

two chapters were working closely with Kline; money comes from organizing those two chapters do; line-item in budget just like other projects but not coming from around the country but instead from specific activities those chapters are doing; we may need to change or specify

- Question: clarification on income specifics
 - Michael clarifies revenue categories
- Question: request to handout report to membership
 - Mark: Appreciated; will send detailed report to members requesting copies
 - Further comment: likes national fundraising position; funding for national projects, communicating with funders on specific projects
 - Michael: correct; cannot ask for grants or major donors without explaining goals and plans; put forth challenge to national projects to provide written plans; most national projects do not have clear plan; national office and development person will help project write out action plan
- Question: Nate Goldschlag: donations includes quarterly dues beyond dues amounts; considered part time development consultant; previously tried with mixed results
 - Michael: yes, have considered; looking into staff possibilities and configurations; Shelly does lots of work on website; energy could be used somewhere else; part time web development; different possibilities for efficient use of staff
 - Barry: where is pool of talented development people to draw from; presence in DC increases chances of drawing larger pool of talent than St Louis office area; have to look where that person would come from; not necessarily working out of St Louis, can work remotely
- Mary Singhas question: individual chapter level, national has to have good books; tax exemption considerations with giving
 - Mark: has been real problem with some chapters; communicate with chapter presidents importance of tax considerations and keeping up with membership dues
 - Michael: national needs to help chapters develop process for tracking funds raised; have not put out policy on how to do so; talking with staff; capacity is consideration; provide guidelines and tools to make it easier for chapters; chapters raising over 50k have responsibility from IRS to report that; Virginia does keep up and reminds chapters
- Kara Tucson Chapter 13: Craigslist grant; details; unsolicited grant; any strings attached
 - Michael: good work everyone is doing
- Question: sophisticated fundraising programs in Silicon Valley; everyone with substantial job makes financial contributions to orgs every year; should study

what major orgs do; this org is one that has very many worthwhile projects; get out word and raise high amounts of funds; use that as a model

- Barry: offer for member to join development committee

Tarak: Membership Report

- Brief on printed report; will post online; request for members to contact Tarak for full report
- Thanks to Doug Zachary, one-year lapsed veteran membership has decreased; more than one year lapsed membership also decreased
- Emphasis on recruiting younger vets, POC, diversity
- Acknowledgment of membership committee work
- Emphasis on in-person committee meeting in DC
 - Continue effort to recruit younger vets; national providing seed money; membership raised funds
- Emphasis on recruiting female veterans for board leadership
- Long range plans: dynamic and effective leadership training; plans depend on fundraising
 - Chapter open house events; provide speakers for events; created template
 - Encourage chapter responsibility to utilize tools
- Providing platform for marginalized communities of veterans
 - Opportunities available for members
- Recruitment and retention
 - Where to find younger veterans
 - Advertising in active duty publications
 - Former Colonel Ann Wright: appeal to membership to collect donations for advertising project
- Questions
 - Paul Cox: the Times publishes all of the branch papers; why stick with just one publications
 - Tarak: this particular ad is about drone operators; targeted advertising
 - Further comment: ask Casey to add your chapter to her list for updates on membership; automatic spreadsheet sent every month
 - Denny Riley SF: if we have a lapsed member who attends meetings, what can that member participate in during the meeting; can the member initiate business?
 - Barry: if you do not pay dues, then you are not a member
 - Michael: if not a member, cannot vote
 - Bill Gilsan, NY: looking into our own chapters and seeing how we can expand membership; in NY would like to cooperate between upstate and downstate and offer as an example to national; each chapter seriously consider who is in neighborhood within state; expand it to once or twice a year regional members; tie in a better and more cohesive membership

- Barry: done in north California and southern chapters; mini weekend conventions
- Patrick: been pushing for regional meetings for years; respect to Bill for raising issue; critical consideration; examples with teacher unions and organizations
- Vern H, MN: VVA has regional meetings every year
- John: third weekend in November every year For Benning SOAW vigil, second largest VFP gathering every year
- Question: lots of competition between veteran groups; VFP unique, only forward looking org with a mission; resonating with post 911 vets, the national vision and purpose can assist; other orgs cannot
- Barry: Ellen Davidson providing assistance with online donations on-site
- Question: Margaret Stevens: some women have not received invitation for board leadership; have moved backwards on this; brief on Reaching Beyond the Choir workshop during convention; only people who came were the choir, the only ones struggling to do so; how to translate into your work; not a task for some of us, being the vanguard; responsibility is on everyone to embrace visions, or it will remain the same demographic every year

Michael: Executive Director's Report

- Moving St Louis office from Clayton county to St Louis city; larger space, less rent, more event opportunities; potential for construction at new site; new stadium construction plans
- Membership brief with info not included in Membership report
- Financial brief from Treasurer report
 - Foundation search contract
 - Major donations
 - Snail mail and email appeal updates
 - Identifying donors and granters; efforts will pay off next year
- Development
 - Develop a narrative to communicate mission; coalition building, bringing people together
 - Present long term consistent thoughtful campaigns; membership retention, increase revenue; develop a formula once increasing revenue streams
- Calendar day recognition, annual observances of specific days
 - Creech; Lobby Days; Full Disclosure; Annual conventions; International Peace Day; DC panels televised
- Specific uses for fundraising
- Social media visibility
- Emphasis on PAHPA framing; problem versus solution; not asking anyone to change their focus of work, but a matter of how we talk about the work; people need hope

- Current and future wars updates; monitoring budget process; capacity issues; presence in DC; coordinating and organizing congressional visits and lobbying efforts; not focusing on Congress as the answer, our place is in the streets with the masses of people; have had meetings and conversations with both Democrats and Republicans; we don't have all the answers; seek out new information
- Not as active on GI resistance this year
- Seeking new directions into closing Gitmo
- Seeking justice for vets and victims; de-militarizing police departments, another chapter opportunity for outreach, more visibility for VFP; Zinn fund strategic plan; working groups most active: Agent Orange, Drones, Homelessness, SOA
- Priorities
 - o Convention wrap up
 - o Elections
 - o Newsletter
 - o Website review
 - Adapting to new trends; mobile friendly
 - o Major donors
 - o Intern program
- Question: Michael L., Santa Monica Chapter 7; come up with particular questions to take to election candidates; questions from VFP org perspective
 - o Barry: give the board the ideas
 - o Gerry: recognition on Arlington West
- Question: Sheri: thanks to Michael for Ferguson organizing
 - o Michael: appreciation; brief on anniversary of Michael Brown uprising; VFP has been part of organizing effort; uncovering connections
- Chapter 7 LA member: doing Arlington West for eleven years; BDS letter to Hewlett Packard; clarification on financial deficits; clarification on foundation search contract; utilized for Golden Rule funds
 - o Jason: clarification on foundation search deal
- Question, Barry Reich: overlooking broader public; have to ask them for funding; bell tower in DC, was there a sign up sheet, example
 - o Michael: capitalizing by reaching out to non-members; agreed
- Question: educating congress, using advisory board; alerting congressional members to org actions
- Question: Chuck Kline, PA: Ralph Nader proposal clarifications; struggling with abolish war possibility; imagining what peace means; is there a way to come up with a vision of what peace is; cannot do away with violence so cannot abolish war; how to troubleshoot a vision for peace
 - o Michael: potential policy team to explore building peace; movement has a problem with many people not believing peace is possible; developing a narrative to see it happen; contribute to the narrative; what other vets org will put out such a vision, would be special by itself
 - o Tarak: World Beyond War org released fairly comprehensive booklet
 - o Kourtney: emphasis on comprehensive vision of booklet

- Michael: bring together different components; voice as vets has a place, so lets take different things and make a VFP brand
- Alice, Chapter 13, Tucson: highlight in convention packet, sexual harassment policy; encourages membership to view the policy; personal work and trainings on sexual harassment in military service; emphasis on inclusion of LGBTQ issues surrounding harassment
 - Michael: connections with PAHPA and peace inside org; doesn't change focus, just way we talk and behave; we have to think about war and peace and what it looks like individually; no way to separate out the interconnections; emphasis on valuing intersections
- Jon King: have to raise our profile, influence policy of this country, presence in DC; once we have necessary funds we can hire a person to work in DC; believe there is strong connections with PAHPA; look at mission statement, main emphasis is to end war; impression that we are not putting more emphasis on peace at home over peace abroad; consider emphasizing peace abroad first and then peace at home; messaging is important
 - Michael: we are not changing our emphasis; website and e-blast shows emphasis is same thing; disagree with starting conversations with members who are dealing with primary emergencies first; can emphasize how same violence overseas affects the violence here; need the help of local community, and they wont help unless we show solidarity; have seen fluctuation in strength of movement; too much about us, instead of focusing on what people need to hear; work coming out of national office; not going to reach people to come to us if we are wanting them to do double duty; citizens abroad have already made the connections
 - Barry: poem by Ann Jones; perspective of people outside of US; emphasis on fixing domestic policy and how that affects fixing foreign policy
 - Tarak: if we want to stop wars abroad, we have to look at causes; violence started here; we have to start from right here; makes our response abroad powerful; cannot send members overseas, but can do a lot here; seeing and exposing the connections; we are focusing on abroad even more
- Ed Ellis, LA treasurer: Santa Monica successes with outreach; source of income; received commendation from city council and mayor; modifying statement of purpose to reflect peace at home emphasis; bring peace and love to immediate environment
 - Michael: do not think we need to incorporate something different into mission statement; that is a matter of how you talk about this work; maybe would vote for it if presented; think SOP is great, may need to be updated
- Erin, Okinawa chapter committee: thanks to board for letter to Governor of Okinawa; former governor runs peace center and is willing to work with VFP
- Monique, Albuquerque chapter: last year when learning about PAHPA it resonated and is why I returned and wanted to participate; discussion at panel went even deeper; it drew a visual for me; threaded all of the points together; observing resistance to this new lens, don't understand it; reacting in fear to change; as a black lesbian veteran woman, going to be judged, having to navigate it; importance of PAHPA is that I don't

have to internalize the judgments, navigating peace within self; learning from fellow veterans, roommate with Sally Alice Thompson; recognition of her work, embracing PAHPA, continuing to push it forward; if she can support the vision, then what is the problem with the rest of us

- Adrienne, Vermont: American exceptionalism causes people to justify Hiroshima bombing; are we valuing the lives of Americans more than others; how we spend time resources and energy; too much emphasis on election candidates
 - o Michael: PAHPA doesn't overvalue American lives; people in the movement here feel undervalued
- Chip, Australia: public relations officer in Australian army; PAHPA; Chris Hedges mentioned VFP as revolutionary; making connections between the issues; looking at the branding and communication; doesn't come clear to folks all the time; strategic asset
- 168 Louisville: concerned with watering down mission
 - o Michael: look at our website, look at what we are putting out as an organization; more resources on the website; a list of fundraising ideas, awareness raising on specific chapters; list of activities for getting involved in community
- Nadia Williams, SF 69: "Freedomland" political play
- Dan: our focus really is here at home and abroad; Black Lives Matter is important; black lives are the fodder they are putting into the military; if we support them, they will support us; they talk about VFP supporting them, we are part of the community; we should build those relationships; think globally, act locally
 - o Michael: not about one community, but about the issues we all face; opportunity to talk about VFP; good outreach tool; it's a tool, not the toolbox; okay not to use it

Mark: Foundation Search

- Mark briefs membership on contract and grant writing committee
- Raise money for general fund, major emphasis
- Importance on bringing in younger veterans; membership and conventions
- Hire development staff person
- Golden Rule will take a lot of money; educational tool
- Howard Zinn fund has been among strongest projects
- Question: will local chapters have access to database to find funding for local events
 - o Barry: access is limited, chapters will not have access

Break for Lunch

Barry re-convenes meeting

- Intro to auction of VFP-logo ukulele for Golden Rule fundraising
- Board introductions to membership

Resolutions

Barry convenes session of resolutions

- Barry briefs assembly on resolution procedures as based in policy guidelines
- **Barry motion to approve procedure for resolutions; ayes have it; procedures approved by assembly**

Discussion:

- Nate Goldschlag proposes to cover resolution 8 first based on potential for controversy and interest of time
- **Barry: any objection to proposal: the ayes for honoring proposal to start with resolution 8 carries**
- Discussion: request to clarify for when associate members can vote on resolutions
 - o Barry: associate members can vote for resolutions
 - o Michael: further clarification

8th Resolution

2015-08: Veterans For Peace Should Have No Relationship With USAID

- Barry reads resolution aloud to assembly; announces rejection decision
- Tarak reads aloud rationale for rejection to assembly
- Barry opens discussion
 - o Gerry Condon supports: majority of board made big mistake; extraordinary situation; USAID isn't just another government agency, well known for covert ops; a decision for members to make
 - o Paul Cox opposes: main issue can RENEW find someone else to do it; DAI recently received nine million for Vietnam and kept most of it in DC; none have moral standard VFP has to make it work; under RENEW and fiscal sponsorship of VFP we can help many in province
 - o Jim Redford, UK, supports: upsurge of people doing peace work; recently put in reverse; government co-optation and local officials; we don't trust our government, you should not trust yours
 - o Diane from Phoenix: visited province in 2006; appalled that US has done nothing to help the people there; faith in Chuck; need is huge; obligation to get money over there; give them a chance to do the job right
 - o Ben Griffin, UK: speaking for UK members; reads aloud chapter decision; opposed to any influence by governments or agencies funded by governments; USAID an arm of US government; plays integral role; non-association with US gov foreign objectives; unanimous that VFP decision violates second principle of SOP; significant chance VFP will be discredit to destroy our credibility; dangerous precedent

- Comment, Dan Shea: agent orange victim; was poisoned in province; thousands of people poisoned there; first born possessed birth defects; would take funds from anyone offering to save child's life; since child passed away, has been working for reparations; not a gift from USAID, told to give money through Senator Leahy
- Gene Marx, 111 Wa: engaged in discussion for a year; former board member; joined because we were above reproach along with credibility; chapter voted 12-1 to limit capacity to involve with USAID; sick of capitulation; hate to see it happening to org I love; need is great, but funds are available; deflecting the issue; other orgs who can handle logistics; opposed to association

Patrick moves to extend debate fifteen minutes

Seconded; ayes have it

- Comment: support proposal; we caused the devastation and destruction; was court martialed so can stand as witness; our responsibility to clean up UXO; no one has any question concerning USAID; based on our actions and oversight, what we left behind in this war we can clean it up
- Adrienne, VT: projects like this the gov uses to bolster legitimacy; draw attention away from illegal and immoral actions around the world; not about an in-road for co-option; its about diverting attention away from problems
- Chuck Palazzo, Vietnam chapter: we abandoned the people of Vietnam; not going to go back to Vietnam and tell them we abandoned them again; over three million victims of agent orange in Vietnam; urge you to get on plane and help them; offered scholarship program for board members to travel to Vietnam; as citizens and taxpayers we capitulate; if you want to not capitulate, move out of country like I have; gov is corrupt and hypocritical; want to be a part of the solution
- Chapter 7 LA: went on Vietnam tour; saw what RENEW does; not the issue; we are being distracted; people there are suffering; but issue is will VFP be connected to US government; how can we trust US gov to live up to the contract; will use any ruse they can, and we will be stuck trying to get out of contract because of humanitarian conflict
- Geoff Millard, SF: resolution is a misuse of resolution policy for board member to bring resolution against board decision; have a choice facing you; work in conjunction with a shady org to help a better cause; we worked with shady org to end veteran homelessness, and we are about to; was in Vietnam and there is no other money there; conscious decision to turn backs on those kids in province; no one is doing the actual work
- Chip, Australia: potential to shut down our participation in VFP; looks very bad from outside; agree that we support the project; agree that it is Us gov responsibility to pay; disagree that our org should take dirty money; propaganda purposes; we should not facilitate this; look for other ways to fund this;

compartmentalizing our responsibility; its about integrity for us; support this project in a cleaner way that wont corrupt us

- Gerry Bone, Chapter 166 TN: talking about a big org corrupted in past; but can get something that you could not get before; if it fails it doesn't say anything about the org, but about the organizing
- Brian S. Willson, OR: incredible ability of RENEW; however stunned from beginning that VFP would fiscal sponsor USAID money; respect principled positions; simply cannot support it; makes me uncomfortable as a member; rather than finding another fiscal sponsor
- Doug Rawlings, 001: served in Vietnam; involved with VFP because of damage done to children in Vietnam; not how we look from outside, but how I feel from inside; this use of money is one of best things we can do as org; arrogant to say to Vietnamese to not do this; they know all about USAID
- Marti, 69: not about RENEW; all of us really want RENEW to succeed; believe that this issue is a set up for us; money does in fact influence people's actions; getting money takes a lot longer; fundraising gets the awareness out there; its not just about money; restorative justice requires time and money is just a pay off
- Willie Hager: last paragraph; should never say that we cannot do something because of the past; need to be forward moving
- Barry clarifies board member expectations relating to supporting board decisions; means you cannot organize campaign to try to overrun board decision; creates cliques and division and disharmony on board
- Barry clarifies that dues paying members are allowed to vote; associate members can vote; non-dues paying cannot vote
- Barry calls for vote in favor of resolution
 - **Support Vote shows 20 in favor on left side, 13 on right side; total 33**
 - **Opposition vote shows 17 on right side; 36 opposed on left side: 53**
 - **Abstention: five on left, four on right: 9 abstentions**
 - **Opposition to resolution carries the straw vote**
- Chuck Searcy: point of order; clarification on deciding to enter into contract
 - Barry: legal quandary resolution creates; whether or not a resolution undoes a legal contract

First Resolution

2015-01:

- Barry reads final therefore of resolution
- **Barry takes vote: vote recorded as unanimous support of resolution**

2015-02

- Barry reads resolution aloud for further clarification; informs assembly of board unanimous approval

- **Barry takes vote: vote shows unanimous support**

2015-03

- Barry explains board unanimous approval
- **Barry takes vote: vote shows unanimous approval**

2015-04

- Barry reads therefore portion of resolution; states board unanimous approval
- **Barry takes vote: one opposed; vote shows assembly approves resolution**

2015-05 was withdrawn by author

2015-06

- Barry reads therefore portion of resolution; states board rejection, explains rationale based on unclear wording and incorrect timeframes; multiple subject matter violates resolution policy
- **Barry takes vote: vote shows approval; one abstention**

Point of Information: Nate Goldschlag: was there a resolution committee who looks at this

- John Spitzberg: on committee; abrogated use of the committee for last two or three years; I guess that was the choice of the president
- Michael clarifies Bob Krzewinsky was head of committee; committee didn't catch errors; was not only problem with the resolution

2015-07

- Barry reads therefore portion of resolution; states board acceptance
- **Barry takes vote: vote shows approval**
 - o Point of Info: resolution was co-sponsored by chapter 134

2015-09

- Barry reads therefore portion of resolution; states board approval
- **Barry takes vote: vote shows unanimous approval**

2015-10

- Barry states board approval with two abstentions; reads therefore portion aloud to assembly
- **Barry: takes vote: vote shows one abstention; assembly approves resolution in straw vote**

2015-11

- Barry states board rejection decision because of language contradicting VFP position on acceptance of Iran nuclear deal
- Barry states inclusion of alternative resolution
- Michael clarifies position of org on Iran deal agreement
- Barry takes verbal vote of assembly; calls for discussion in favor
 - o Chapter 63 member: author not present to state his position; Iran deal agreement has gotcha clauses that allows an in for US gov; good chance Iran will break deal and then US will lambast the country
- Point of Order: show both resolutions to clarify to assembly
- Barry shows alternative resolution approved by board; Michael explains rationale for alternative resolution; portions contain public statement VFP made
- Ben Griffin, UK: original author is saying that deal means more likely lead to war; board resolution is saying that it is less likely to lead to war; key difference
 - o Michael: most of peace movement is saying that deal is needed to avoid war
- Point of Order: violating our own policy
 - o Michael: we didn't change his resolution; board can ask author to make changes so it can pass without rejection; I made sure in our policy if the board sees missing elements, the board has the ability to fill the holes; should not have holes in our resolutions; we saw this as a hole; should not go forward against what we are all trying to do and it being the only resolution on the issue
- Point of Info: John Spitzberg: what this board did was scotch the whole thing; suggest to vote with original resolution
- Nate Goldschlag: don't think board can submit alternative resolution; has not acted per the bylaws; one whereas makes no difference; the therefore statements are the same
 - o Did board send substitute resolution to committee?
 - Michael: policy leaves procedures to the board for resolutions; bad idea to have a resolution that goes against a position; because the body and the org is what helps determine our positions; not the right position to go against the agreement, not good for us as an org; because it is included in the whereas, means it is still in the resolution
 - o **Willie: motion to withdraw resolution**
 - **Motion seconded**
 - Barry clarifies to withdraw alternative resolution; **board approves to withdraw alternative resolution**
 - o Barry calls for discussion in favor of original resolution
 - Nate Goldschlag: has unclear whereas statement, but everyone agrees on Therefore statement
 - Opposed: George Taylor, chapter 35: opposed because want to support substitute resolution which was withdrawn; give peace a chance
 - o Michael clarifies bylaw on importance of language in both Whereas and Therefore; suggesting a down vote so we can put out more statements on issue; will put in the caveat that we should be on guard for what the US does in these circumstances

- **Barry takes vote in favor: seven in favor on left, four on right: 11 total**
- **Opposed: 25 on right; 28 on left; 48 total**
- **Abstentions: 4 on left, 2 on right; 6 total abstentions**
- **Vote shows the opposition carries; resolution is rejected**

2015-12

- Barry explains 2013 decision for endorsement of ECI Endorser; this resolution asks for affiliation with specific obligations imposed on VFP such as fundraising, using org resources; board didn't think it appropriate to impose fundraising duties of VFP for ECI countries; board decision to pull the resolution on basis

Board Candidate Statements to Assembly

Tarak Kauff: consuming commitment; appreciates working with the board, want to see positive things continue; have energy to put into positive directions

Mark Foreman: running for reelection; three years in January; treasurer for one year and a half; wanted position because of desire for security of finances of org; watchdog to make sure we are solid on finances

Monique Salhalb: running for election; recording secretary for chapter; active member for a year, active in chapter for a few years; last year's convention was first; true believer in PAHPA; need to continue in that forward motion; working with homeless women transitioning from incarceration; all we do is connected

Dan Shea: appointed to board by David Kline; want to serve on board with Monique; Black Lives Matter is very important to me; studied black studies at Florida State; mentors were from Somalia; teaching assistant for class on race; war is racist, class war on poor people is racist; also about class war; have to change the whole system; black lives says that, we need to say it with them

Barry: clarifies that five board positions open for voting; other candidates running not present at convention; at least ten candidates

Barry adjourns the Business Meeting

Veterans For Peace, Inc.
National Board of Directors Meeting
Berkeley, CA USA
October 23 – 25, 2015
Recording Secretary: Kourtney Mitchell

Motions and votes in bold and underlined

Friday, October 23, 2015

Present at the meeting:

Barry, Gerry, Michael, Mark, Kourtney, Tarak, Willie, Patrick
John via Skype

Absent from the meeting:

Tom, Joey, Jason

Barry convenes the meeting

- Patrick: Presente! for Alvin Poole and John Judge

Denny presentation on 2016 conference committee

- Brief on potential themes
 - o Discussion on themes
 - Gerry and Willie favoring environmental theme (Building Livable World for our Children); suggest stronger action words
 - Michael asks why it sounds soft; why we do not act as if children really matter
 - Willie: it is strong; community actions towards justice related to children
 - Gerry: addition for an action statement, maybe a subtitle
 - Patrick brief on last four themes
 - Gerry: anti-nuclear theme
 - Tarak: just and sustainable world for our children
 - Marty and Catherine: The Children Are Our Future; children should come first
 - Denny: no justice without peace
 - Barry: real justice; if you want peace, do justice
 - Willie: what does justice mean to you; no defined meaning
- Pricing for rooms and meals on campus
- Speaker list
 - o Barry: sooner we can identify, the better; should go after Michael Moore

- Denny: First Congregation Church, fill it up with a big name; sell tickets
- Michael: capacity will not work for us
- Denny: would be a good way to bring in funds
- Gerry: do not assume Moore can bring in more than others such as Michelle Alexander; not the top in terms of draw and political speech
- Willie: Dylan Ratigan and Dahr Jamail
- Michael: not as big a name as Moore or Alexander
- Barry: Moore for a big event and charge; banquet can include other names
- Tarak: Jamail has tremendous appeal to younger veterans; a factor to consider
- Patrick: legwork to contact names and ask if they are available and interested
- Mark: process oriented; prioritize the wish list first
- Michael: Moore's appeal compared to others, lots of people know his name; radical positions; depending on release of his new movie, could raise visibility; we contacted him and he is interested; Alexander was not available; we have connections with many of these people
- Barry: Moore interested and big supporter; attempting to get him on advisory board; can help raise money
- Mark: can Nader contact these names; could hold more weight
- Tarak: that gets Nader involved directly and he wants to be involved
- Meals: required to purchase a package, only one offered to everyone and have to purchase whole package for meals on campus
- Free printing services during convention
- Have to present the program book to campus staff
 - Patrick: maybe can give them past booklets
- Have to provide materials by certain date; fees incurred if not followed
- Schedule and timeframe issues; whether or not to go into Monday
 - Willie: 2015 border crossing well attended on Monday
 - Denny: if we do not do Monday then we lose an entire day
 - Patrick: Sunday is usually half the attendance; an action on Monday
 - Tarak: flights are cheaper on Mondays
 - Barry: we may not have a choice; give plenty of notice
 - Gerry: the other option is to shorten it; brief on Excom discussion; rearranging schedule; people are creatures of habit and are used to traditional schedule
 - Willie: don't want to cut back workshops, maybe shorten and focus on actionable projects; as opposed to showcases without an objective; shrink the themes to relate to overall theme
 - Mark: positive and negative for Monday extension: positive is that those who fly far will not come if convention is shortened; negative is how many people will leave Sunday because of work Monday
 - Barry: a lot of people do not come Thursday; bring in a speaker for the banquet and a public event
 - Gerry: Tri Valley Cares, Livermore event encouraging people to come early and offering free housing; two days before convention; maybe a strong speaker on Sunday night

- Mark question on finding space for banquet
 - o Denny: may be facilities on campus big enough; will look into it and report back to board
 - o Gerry: would not be first time we had banquet off campus
 - o Denny: Catherine can manage a big tent event
 - o Catherine: comes down to cost comparison; transportation; obtain a bargaining chip and obtain donations; do not negate the big lawn as a space because of the cost of busing people off campus
- Patrick: PAH-PA consideration, bring in POC and women speakers; increasing board diversity; develop POC and women leadership and then bring in speakers to increase interest; threshold to go over the top; cultural space, comfort for POC and women
- Marty: have a good middle east department, draw from there to get speakers; Barbara Lee and Van Jones as ideas;
 - o Barry: some can do plenaries or panels

Committee Reports

- Treasurer, Mark: total assets reduced considerably compared to last year this time; member dues reducing continually; donations significantly reduced
 - o Clarification on bequeathments and donations
 - o Mark: board has to decide to budget for a year's worth of expenses to run the office, or two years worth, in case of not getting donations for that time; at moment we do not have enough to operate for a year if we do not get donations or bequeathments; unlikely scenario
 - Gerry: should not base decisions on unlikely scenarios
 - Tarak: establish operating cost for a year to determine how much for liquid assets; most organizations operate on six months reserve, so a year is quite a lot to have, will be in good shape
 - Michael: have not been able to replace the bequeathment; operating at a deficit
 - Gerry: if you separate bequeathments, then you will have a fairer look at how fundraising is going from year to year; we actually raised more or at least not very much below last year
 - Michael: we are not spending money carelessly; our problem is fundraising; everything we have spent has been from a sound decision; \$26k below what we actually budgeted; our budget is about \$500k; we are never going to have two years worth (a million); that does not make sense to have so much in reserve unless we have good fundraising and then we would use it when it comes in
 - Mark: with \$96k, psychologically we thought we were rich; \$25k for unbudgeted items
 - Clarification on being under budget but not bringing in the other \$96k

- Michael: we should have the budget reflect our desires for what to spend; do not spend off-budget
- Willie: should have a year of overhead covered
- Michael: cannot go to foundations and ask for reserve money, but could go to individual funders and ask for reserve
 - Willie: we could manage our assets and do line items
- Patrick on Grant Space suggestion for 3-6 months in reserve
- Tarak: are we going to have a budget discussion in January or will you draw up a budget and present to board
 - Michael: have this discussion in conjunction with program discussion; finalize it in January; can be flexible; collective board decision
 - Barry suggests forming a budget committee
 - Michael: not necessary; the issue is raising the money, not writing the budget; needs the board to determine priorities, and bring in numbers to support it
- Barry: travel budget concerns
 - Michael: ED and Prez travel budget is separate from full board; full board budget is over, but put together with other two budgets, we are actually ok; determine if we need reasons for board to travel
 - Barry: Excom meeting in St Louis was unbudgeted; we should budget for these trips since they are valuable
- Willie: moving operations to east coast could cut down on costs
- Membership, Tarak: membership slightly down; we have very strong younger members; okay with quality of membership; would like to build membership into more active, dynamic and committed
- Grant committee, Mark: committee formed last spring; evolving organically; Diane on committee has experience with grant search engines, will work with Michael to learn the Foundation Search tool; writing LOI for a foundation and submitting a grant application for another; Diane searching for grants for GR and Helen will write the applications; feeling confident about what to tell foundations regarding other national projects; believe there is chance for grants for chapter building, specific to Tijuana chapter
 - Barry: focusing on board decision to prioritize national org building, staff development, national projects; would to see the pace increase
 - Mark: pace is increasing
 - Barry: FS can help us identify and write grants
 - Mark: issue is timing; prioritize which ones to go after first
 - Barry: identify foundations who funded us in the past
 - Willie: had discussion with Mark; we are program building and how to fund it; not to compete with anything else; prepare for missions in the longterm

- Gerry: how to set goals; get first round of priority grants off the ground; establish a vision to multiply our effect; create momentum; committee could train others to write grants; provided some resources and identified other foundations
- Tarak: Rhonda volunteered to write grants; extremely capable to do so
- Mark: how to gain credibility; once you get grants, it appeals to other foundations; list on website of funders to impress other foundations
- Michael: hardest part of writing a grant is what you are writing it for; I do not see where we have real programs to list for applications; we can write up a grant application before identifying a foundation, and then make it fit once we do identify a foundation; have to identify what it is we are writing the grant for; how we measure impact; mission does not translate into programming; have to specify audience and education; projected results and how to measure them
- Barry: chief focus is major donor programs, not writing grants
- Michael: board needs to decide the priorities; who actually does the work after I write up what the program looks like
- Tarak: funders look for longevity; we have thirty years; carries a lot of weight with funders
- Barry: chronology of VFP; big programs in the 90s; chronology stopped in 2012
 - Michael: working with staff to recapture some history; what have we achieved in 2015 and put it out in December as part of fundraising effort for end of year
 - Barry: send to major donors
- Kourtney: clarify what is a program, what it consists of
 - Mark: identify what projects need; focused on the questions that the granters are asking; Diane will figure out what the foundations want from us
 - Michael: not have the grant writers write our programs; identify our programs and then present to writers based on what they know about funder questions
- Barry: Ken Barger plan on approaching major donors; redeveloping the case for support, updating; Nader wants to help us identify WWII veterans
 - Michael: working with staff to identify names and work with Nader; he can send letter and then follow up with phone call; have to determine content for the letter
 - Barry: extend search to Korean War vets; can get info before end of year; Michael confirms
- Barry: Waterbury Philanthropic Trust contacted us; Barry wrote letter and Virginia sent some information; they are a family trust based in Colorado; scholarships for children and environmental groups in CO; interested in our work
 - Gerry: would not send PIOT to a family trust because it is radical left politics
 - Michael: recommend there are one or two articles firmly about building peace, not critique or resistance
 - Gerry: could not find out what the trust really wanted

Planning on making donor thank you calls Saturday afternoon

Tarak presents the Kunduz bombing banner; suggesting an action outside a hospital on Sunday

Barry adjourns the meeting

Saturday, October 24, 2015

Present at the meeting:

Barry, Gerry, Michael, Mark, Kourtney, Patrick, Willie, Tarak, Joey
Tom via Skype

Absent from the meeting:

John, Jason

Barry convenes the meeting

- Patrick reads the VFP Mission Statement
- Barry: agenda review

Project RENEW update

- Mark: major development is USAID is open to considering Quang Tri province being part of the funding area for the grant; RENEW placing pressure on the USAID folks; undetermined when they will get the money out; fiscal sponsorship is still in the air for VFP; ballots for membership vote for resolutions going out end of month
- Barry: there has been some funding towards Quang Tri province; process could drag on for much longer and that is undesirable
- Joey: any info on US presidential election affecting the grant funding; Mark and Barry confirm no info available
- Willie: we have folks on the ground giving us information; we cannot answer every question members have; we have made a good faith effort; do not have to apologize, we did everything how it was supposed to be done; patience; make sure we are in the conversation with USAID
- Tarak: could send additional information in the newsletter
- Gerry: Searcy's recent letter to the board was shared on the listservs; has been very patient with USAID connections; USAID stated they are not sure if funds will be available after having given funds to at least seven other provinces; do not know when they are

going to open up the grant request period; reporting the nuances to the membership is kind of tough; since Searcy's letter is going into the newsletter, there could be a short update at the end of it stating that USAID indicated intent to consider Quang Tri province

- Michael: likely no space in the newsletter for further updates besides the letter
- Idea for condensing Searcy's letter into a smaller update
- Gerry: unnecessary; too much up in the air; questionable to do so right before an org vote; have to check with Searcy to make info in USAID letter available
- Willie: low profile is recommended; tired of getting beat up by the membership; have seen plenty of transparency
- Joey: grants process from federal government
- Mark: do not know why we need a timeline; we have the MOU; if the membership votes in favor of sponsorship, then we move ahead
- Patrick: convention vote could be reversed by the membership and a different opinion can come forth; can vote on it and that is the timeline
- Gerry: we have asked the membership to vote and they are about to do so; why put out more info, unnecessary; info shared right now makes it seem as if board is going ahead as if there will not be a vote; maybe after the vote we can share all of that information; right now it could be provocative
- **Barry motion to approve drafting a brief update on the website**
 - **Vote shows rejection**

January board meeting planning

- Barry: getting advisory board members to meet board in DC; possible action in DC; have to put it in the budget; possible Excom meeting in St Louis; Excom elections during January board meeting; need to go through policy manual for new board members
- Mark: need a new board member packet of information; buddy system for new board members
 - Tarak: welcoming statement from the president to the new board members
 - Willie: board is a lot of work; include a statement of the work in the packet; extract a commitment to leave other agendas out of board work; work together as a unit and support each other's decisions; create a bond; working through the process of integrating the mission; we each represent the entire organization
 - Barry: some people have the capacity to work in other arenas and still participate in the board well; they need to commit to doing VFP work
 - Willie: the commitment has to be to VFP
 - Michael: agree with Willie; when you are here, your primary allegiance is to VFP; when we are working together in this space

Executive Director report, Michael

- Office has resigned lease with no changes or increases; January will be a year in the new office; membership numbers are steady, may be gaining some new younger vets; figure

out ways to keep them, made it easy for them to join without a high commitment level; get chapters involved in buddy system for new younger vets

- Mark: is membership committee following up with lapsed members; Tarak confirms Doug Zachary handles follow up
- Patrick: is worth allocating resources to Doug to do this task
- Michael: he is a paid staff member, he could use some help
- Willie: Casey is assisting Doug with some of the tasks; we should ask Doug what help he needs
- Michael: Doug is only person calling and attempting to renew membership; he calls and asks for one-time and recurring donations; what does allocate resources mean for this; we do not have the funds to hire another person; maybe he could use a volunteer to spread tasks; Casey's work is reaching out to new members but she is also doing program work such as Creech, Lobby Days, Spring Rising, Reception; she is doing chapter/membership and programming work
- Willie: why can't we find someone to appoint to do that work with Doug
- Tarak: they need certain qualities; Patrick could fit
- Michael: could ask Doug and consider finding someone else
- Michael briefs on financial status and development according to written report given to the board
 - Spending is not the main source of our problem; our problem is increasing revenue
 - Mark: requesting access to database and expense updates from the office
 - Michael: brief on specifics of expenses and cash flow issues as an org; even with great fundraising we still have to go to savings because of the ebbs and flow of cash flow trends
 - Barry: inquiry into travel budget and expenses
 - Willie: west coast travel increases expense; need to mix with chapters
 - Michael: need to figure out what we would be doing when mixing with chapters
 - Joey: sometimes our expenses and revenues on the convention trickle in;
 - Mark: how much liquid assets do we have, that is the bottom line we need to know at the end of the year; board should decide what the cut off is for how much expenses we incur; we have not voted on a percentage number to cut it off when we are overspending; maybe need to make a motion
 - Michael: 3-6 months recommended for reserve; board does need to decide the cut off; if that happens that we are suddenly down to four months, then spending would be the problem; question then becomes what do we cut; there is not much else that is not basic operations, will be hard to decide what to cut; we would cut funding for projects, then the next step would be people
 - Mark: board meetings would be the next spot to cut; amend the bylaws to reflect overspending
 - Michael: the answer to all of this is to raise more money; we have a great mission and we are needed at right this moment
 - Mark: will write something up and present to the next meeting

- Willie: is there an indication that we are not spending efficiently; not into cutting programs, we are about building programs; mission is widespread and we have to be careful about cutting
- Michael continues with brief on efforts to increase revenue as part of the written report
 - Patrick: do we have a link on the website to help potentials with bequests; Michael confirms
- Michael on programs and infrastructure as part of written report
 - Barry: we have volunteers to update website
 - Tarak: donors look at longevity first, then they go to the website
 - Michael: biggest thing is that website is not mobile friendly
- Barry: brief on increasing efforts to engage major donors; send them end of year of review to encourage refunding; specify projects that need money; make it a personal appeal, encourage them to increase donation to fund projects

Peace Coalition conference call

- Michael, Barry and Gerry participated with the US Peace Council
- Gerry reads Peace Council letter to the board on proposal for efforts
 - Council recommended VFP take the lead for united national actions; weekly vigils
 - Troops out of Afghanistan, removing troops from Russian border; ending NATO
 - November 11 actions would international
- Gerry: unique possibility but difficult because Armistice Day is in three weeks; operating in somewhat of a vacuum; movement is quiet and divided
- Tarak drafted a VFP letter to Doctors Without Borders
- Barry: why is the peace movement dormant; with all of the stuff in the world, where is the activism; run up to Iraq War, worldwide marches with millions of people; since it did not convince governments, some asked what is the point; protests and calls to legislatures to prevent US bombings in Syria; credibility of VFP
- Michael: peace movement won't be successful doing the same old thing; we have to be more compelling; the world is accepting this as the new norm, that war is inevitable; crisis is normal now, not seen as any different; people are involved in their own struggles, such as Black Lives Matter; in order to create resistance, we need a broad front; unless something happens that is immediate regarding the war, then we will need a broad front; when I mentioned all of this on the call, typical peace people responses
- Barry: even the army recognized the connections with other struggles with their report on potential conflicts in the future; if Occupy, Army, and peace movement agrees, maybe we ought to pay attention; get people to see the connection
- Tarak: everybody gets exactly what we are saying; we do not have to educate them; the question is what do we do; they want to see an example; VFP can take the lead in these things; the example has to be a bit further then what we have been doing; we did not have the next step with the millions of peace people in the streets – stopping business

as usual is the next step; need veterans to take the next step, or any other group; we have the respect to do so; how to stop business as usual

- Barry: some people outside of our circle do not get it
- Tarak: you do not need people on the other end to get it; just need those who are much closer to our side who actually can get it to do so
- Barry: not talking about the far end of the spectrum; some have not made the connections
- Tarak: the core group has to be willing to take action; getting it is not that hard; my mission is to build the core; put veterans in the front, best thing that can happen; that is how we build the core; not into the educational piece
- Mark: do not have information on the US Peace Council
 - Gerry: part of international council, affiliated with communist party around the world during Soviet Union; not close to CP anymore, some former members still active; they have been successful building fairly broad alliances; now they are more generic anti imperialist around the world
- Mark: how to get local chapters involved in Armistice Day; local government in Milwaukee agreed to call it Armistice Day officially; will contact other allies to encourage this partnership and invite them to event at city hall; general sense around the world that the power is in uniting
- Barry: there are people in our movement who do not see the connections; some have decided not to wear VFP shirts at environmental events
- Patrick: arrogance of white middle class people who think they are the movement; liberals retreated back into party politics; we need new methods; need to have a materialist analysis on what the current conditions are; have to proceed with an analysis of the situation, such as economy; can we predict next upsurge
- Barry: many people thought everything was taken care of when Obama was elected and won peace prize; taken time to get back to speed on this
- Mark: we have to understand when the prairie is dry for the spark; build coalitions
- Joey: get to younger veterans in the green movement; historical switch from active during peace but inactive during war, nowadays it's active during war and inactive during peace; maybe we should get to bottom of why the change; inquiry into what role US can have regarding peace in Syria; if a peace treaty started today in Syria, we would still be years out of peace in the region
- Willie: cannot be all things to all men; we are never going to have a mass movement like we did in the 60s and 70s because people are distracted; leadership by example, being visible; work with green movement, Quakers, coalitions in the community; affecting change at the local level; deal with the institutions that bring it about; working for Jacksonville; it is about sustainability; educational efforts often talk down to people, as if they are not smart as us; focus on the cost of war, our job is to present that as a negative and the positive is to provide infrastructure at the local level; support chapters; associating their struggles with what we are doing; have to attack institutional racism, not individual racists; move from street corners to the board room; cannot act in a vacuum

- Kourtney: protests and demos are training grounds for new activists, it raises sentiments and stirs up passion; shows that they are not alone in their thinking; they do not actually bring down oppressive institutions; targeted attacks on vulnerable infrastructure
- John: Bennis book on Challenging Empire on organizing against Iraq invasion in 2003; massive communication and organization around preventing Syrian invasion and in favor of Iran peace talks; today is United Nations Day; Yes We Can Leave Afghanistan; opportunities for rallies such as Bell Tower events; Madea Benjamin video on building bridges across movements
- Tom: talking with Casey about thunderclap message on social networks; message communicated to many thousands; Armistice does not mean peace; message could be that peace starts when you stop the hostilities; nationalized action around memorial day as an example; Christmas in Jail idea for veterans protests; not just agitate, but also educate on true cost of war; need to be more prudent on applying resources; something has to catch and we are best in starting that fire; Peace Council is a complicated resolution and most won't make it past first paragraph; a lot of planning need to go in; the time is here
- Willie: in Florida we had bells ringing on Armistice Day
- Gerry: agree with John on peace movement flexing muscles for specific issues; sometimes we beat ourselves up too much and underestimate the strength of the movement; what type of mobilizations in the future; VFP actually took lead on establishing Armistice Day away from Veterans Day; we could contact all the chapters and encourage Armistice Day events; all the parties who have interest in Syrian conflict are saying that there has to be a diplomatic solution
 - o Barry: bringing Syrian government into the conversation
 - o Gerry: historical non-starter for US backed rebels attempting to overthrow Assad administration; call for end to all hostilities
- Michael: when I went with MFSO and IVAW members went to White House to meet with low level advisors, we asked if US was prepared to do what is best for people on the ground in Iraq; we have similar challenge for US in Syria; US policy is that Assad must go, not necessarily sabotaged by rebels; challenge president with that US policy; should not be about Assad, but about the people of Syria and stopping all the violence; whatever the statement we develop has to stand on principle that violence needs to stop; not ideological; nothing can move forward if people keep dying like this in Syria; has to include Assad right now; consult with advisory board members; be willing as org to step out on that; we are not supporting Assad, but instead supporting a peace process
- Patrick: Armistice Day is a Wednesday; the 9th Netanyahu is in DC; when we do these events on the day we should try to unite with what is going on; US has three main allies supporting Sunni rebels against ISIL; float idea to Peace Council of an ongoing office in DC or NY to develop resources for mobilization
- Kourtney: efforts to determine what historical efforts actually worked towards peace; local and national variations on how to determine what works and what does not
- Willie: concerned with the Left choosing up sides in the movement; how to bring the sides together; do not see it on national level, but do see it on local level

- Michael: Excom talked about how VFP has members in all different factions; so all the factions respect us, but we cannot associate too closely with any individual faction
- Willie: community respects VFP; know it is working
- Joey: when talking about Syria, it is not really a country; thrown together after WWI; at best it can be some kind of confederation; this civil war is going to continue
 - Gerry: Syrian people have to determine the fate of Syria; US goal is to divide and weaken these countries so they cannot resist US imperialism; should we accept the challenge that Peace Council put forward; not to follow their lead but we agreed with their analysis to step up; part of ongoing discussions when considering next steps
- Barry: we are an educational organization not trying to talk down to people; we have a message as veterans; it depends on how you say it, how you frame it; core function of what we do but not in insensitive way; Vietnam mobilizations were based on draft, media coverage of the war; an explanation of how the movements work together so they can see the connections; through the veterans lens
- Tarak: clarify what exactly chapters would be doing on Armistice Day; what are we going to say to them when contacted
 - Michael: office has already started reaching out to the chapters; organizing in St Louis with peace poles and bell ringing; making a map of which chapters are participating in Armistice Day events; greater effort to reach out to other orgs to join us in what we are already doing; take next steps to build broader efforts; next step is working behind the scenes to talk to orgs and coalitions and come to the table together; we do not have capacity to pull off on wider scale; pressure from us and others to put aside differences and find a role in doing work together
 - Tarak: getting chapters to get banners and participate; banners are dramatic
 - Michael: not sure if Kunduz is the right theme for that day; has to be something big like opposing WWIV or nukes
- Barry clarifies a vote for accepting Peace Coalition call for VFP-lead actions
 - Willie request clarification on what we are called to do
 - Gerry asks Michael to clarify
 - Michael: reaching out to other orgs and letting know what we are doing anyway; right people to be on the forefront for Armistice Day
 - Willie: chapters are already reaching out to other orgs
 - Gerry: if chapters get a call from national they may want to increase activity
 - Michael clarifies proposal and next steps following Armistice Day; get other orgs involved to determine the coalition actions
 - Gerry: bell-ringing is key part of Armistice Day, widely practiced; get orgs to ring bells for PAH-PA; get churches to participate
 - Barry: following Armistice Day, do we want to have the calls to mobilize other orgs; clarify the motion and vote

- **Barry calls for vote after clarification; vote shows 7-0-2 in favor of accepting Peace Coalition's proposal for VFP actions on Armistice Day and following the events to have conversation with peace community for further planning**

Break for lunch

Barry reconvenes the meeting

Guests at the meeting:

Fred Putcha, President Chapter 71, Santa Rosa

Gerry introduces Fred to the board

- Two tours in Vietnam
 - o Sister City program
 - o Peaceful relations with Iran
 - o Plans to do a Peace Climb next year with Americans, Ukrainians, and Saudi Arabians
 - o Iran most significant country in Middle East
 - o Intention is to write a letter to Iranian president explaining vision for peace climb
 - o Mt. Damavand sacred mountain in mythology; first recorded climb is 908 AD
 - o Letter to Obama for support
 - o His orchestrating the nuclear treat is an important legacy as US President
 - o If we do not get an invitation from Iran, then we will have to start there
 - o Starting planning in 96; went to Southern Russia in 97
 - o Russians, Ukrainians and Americans climbed Mt Elbrus
 - o We have had ten expeditions
 - o Presents contents of packets handed out to the board
 - Barry: any response from prez
 - Fred: said he wishes us well, good luck, but has too much on his plate; did not write supporting letter or meet requests
 - o Peace climb with emphasis on peace, not the climb
 - o Climbers must be physically capable and have a desire to climb the mountain
 - o Lies told to younger generation of veterans are much worse than previous generation
 - o Presents Climbers For Peace tee shirt
 - Teamed up with peace poles international
 - Had shirt on near Olympic stadium when they climbed Mt Olympus
 - o Not seeking financial support; just the blessing of the org
 - o Looking for more participants particularly young veterans
 - o CIA orchestrated an overthrow of the democratically elected government in Iran
 - o Secret police, torture programs; people tend to forget or do not know this history

- Fits with mission statement of VFP
- Fred opens to questions
 - Tarak: if people want to join, what basic financial commitment would it require; would love to see younger veterans participate
 - Fred: what I will be requesting from Iranian Alpine Federation is called portal to portal celebration; reciprocated invitations for expeditions; will suggest in letter to Iranian President is to do this with reciprocity in 2016 and 2017
- Mark question: the process; clarify permission from Iranian government or their mountaineering federation
 - Fred: President Kuchma of Ukraine passed it on to their mountaineering federation; only had three of sixteen Americans summit; over half of Ukrainians did
- Barry: scholarships or assistance to participants
 - Fred: limited amount of fundraising to help subsidize; expeditions are cultural; visiting UNESCO world heritage sites; not just climbing and leaving for home; will be in Iran for three weeks, can arrange shorter visits for others
- Barry: clarification if you still have connections with Soviet veterans; trying to revive a 1989 program for a combined statement on ending nukes; establish relationships with Russian veterans
 - Fred: Sasha Karpenko renowned poet; burned over 80% of body and survived; interpreter in Afghanistan; keeps in touch on Facebook; teamed up with Earth Stewards network; lead fifty Nam veterans; ran through Moscow for 26.2 miles; still have some contacts; Peter Cameron, ED of Veterans Service Project in Santa Rosa, great resource
- Tom: really admire the project; traveled to Iran in 07; International Peace Museum in Iran; touch bases with them; east coast and west coast office
- Fred: had a dream that I spoke on national television in Iran; apologized on behalf of VFP for overthrow of freely elected government in 1953 and aided the Shah; could not abide by the fact that their oil belonged to the people of Iran; in that dream I was offering apology on behalf of VFP; any board members have any objection for actually and speaking to the Iranian people that way
- John: Obama has issued left handed apology to Iran for overthrowing of the government in 1953
 - Michael: board should create statement and not just from an individual chapter
 - Fred: would send the speech by email to the board; would like consensus on telling the truth and this is appropriate venue
 - Gerry: will get attacked by the right and it will raise our profile
 - Fred: the right wing will come after us, great opportunity; we should stop being the evil satan
 - Michael: send to board; the board is the voice of the organization and we should officially say that; I think the delegation is great; could you explain

role of relationship with Ukraine and why they are involved in this; have a problem with Russians not being involved in this but Ukraine is; maybe overthinking but makes sense to have Russians involved so we have a different kind of message to give

- Past participants have been by our side since 97; Russian support has been very minimalist; may not be so simple to have bilateral support; we owe it to them, they have been supporters; a guess that they do have very proud mountaineering traditions; part of their culture; chance to be on the world stage; may appeal to Ukraine government; do not think Russia will take any umbrage with the participation
- Barry: is the Ukraine federation part of their government
 - Fred: they stand alone from the government
 - Barry: independent people from Ukraine in the peace movement
 - Fred: Sierra Club most well respected environmental org; organizes treks all the time; primarily environmental; relationship with our own government;
 - Michael: still concerned because reason is political; if we think we can impact the political process with people who are not governmental but are representing US and uniting with Iranians and Ukrainians; but conflict involving US and Ukrainians; cannot pretend those optics do not say anything; the Ukrainians climbers know about the conflict; if we can reach out to the Russians and see if we can do it together it will make a more profound statement; we should all be concerned with that
 - Fred: do not have an answer to that
- Kourtney: comparison to Greenpeace mistake when mountain climbing; chance to do it right
- Gerry: either including the Russians or making it more bilateral would make sense; flagging it for further discussion
- Fred: simple way is to make it bilateral; by and large the US people and government is siding with Ukraine; could have a negative effect on our relationship with Russians
 - Michael: we are working on project with Russian vets
- Willie: are you open to making it bilateral
 - Fred: can make the decision unilaterally but would communicate with Ukrainian participants
- Tarak: would be great if you could get a Russian climber; pretty sure the board is in favor; proposing putting something in paper to publicize; probably subsidize a younger vet from PIOT
- Barry: not concerned with the connection; not talking about a governmental entity; it is a citizen's group
 - Gerry: questions about why Ukraine is represented but Russians are not
 - Patrick: do not have to decide all of this now

- Willie: the motives are good, the optics are good; do not want to turn this into the Ukrainian situation
- Barry: agreed that we agree with the reason why they are doing it
- Fred confirms that VFP would be primary supporter
- Tom provides information on CASMII organization, US based; they would know of peace museum in Tehran
- Patrick withdrew motion to support
- **Gerry makes motion to support as the US sponsor and work out details later; Ukrainian issues need to be explored; assuming it would be work out eventually**
 - **Joey seconds**
 - **Board vote shows unanimous**
 - **Patrick: general sense of the body vote; a general support of the initiative and the details are to be worked out later**

Okinawa/Jeju Island trip

- Tarak: South Korea and Japan have very strong peace movements; trip is a great opportunity to establish connections and do it in person
- Tarak presents list of participants on trip
 - Most are paying their own way for the trip
- Have raised a decent amount of money
- Schedules are being set up; symposium on December 14 in Okinawa and get lots of television and newspaper coverage; meeting set up with governor
- Everyone on the trip has been briefed that it is a working trip and are expected to learn and bring back report; younger vets will get good education; tee shirts designed but designer wanted design rights for fee; Tarak asks board if VFP should allow use of VFP logo for the Japanese designers to sell shirts in Japan; at event in Okinawa governor and Col Ann Wright and younger veterans will speak; do not see many cons to allowing use of the logo
 - Willie: does not see any cons; does not show ownership of the logo for them to use it
- Tom: in favor but do we lose rights to the copyright; probably nothing to happen but there is a risk
 - Joey: copyright protection otherwise you can lose your copyright
 - Barry: danger for someone to take the logo if it is used in other ways
 - Willie: can print circle c on the shirt
 - Michael: protect copyright by going after people who are violating the copyright; does not know international law; but letting people use it if you authorize is okay
 - Barry: you can authorize anyone to use it; they do not have authorization to allow others to use it; does not mean they would follow; is it a problem that we want
- **Patrick motions to allow use of the logo for Japanese designers**

- **Vote shows 9-1-0 in support of allowing use of the logo**
- Tarak clarifies dates of the trip
- Patrick asks for clarification of contact with Japanese VFP contacts
- Tarak: will have a translator on site in Okinawa
- Tarak: have established connection and involved Edo in planning
- Willie: asks about how many veterans are traveling; Tarak confirms majority veteran travelers
- Tarak: requesting national board funding so participants do not have to come out of pocket once there; need \$3-4000 more; establishing relationships and future trips; will bring more younger veterans next time; will help recruit younger veterans; requesting \$4000 but will settle for \$3000
- Barry: clarify expenses
 - Tarak: ground transportation; have to rent four vehicles; will return unused funds
- Mark: supports the trip; does not support the process; does not expect national to support passions; establish a fund for global trips in the future; but it is putting the cart before the horse; making it seem like emergency situations
 - Tarak: in May we sent a letter to Okinawan government that we would send a delegation; it was our commitment
 - Barry: letter did not specify date
- Patrick: SOA is more important than this trip; board has not funded SOA trips; you have already fulfilled commitment of the letter without board funding; we should fund SOA
- Gerry: would be a good delegation overall; willing to support financial backing; join in criticism about process; financial commitments should be asked for up front; delegations are typically ground cost part of the individual responsibility; some few individuals get subsidized; people should have been asked to contribute more; with Vietnam delegations, individuals have to completely fund their trip plus two grand for the project; give them tools that they can use to raise the money; fantastic effort and profound and will pay off; we are tight on money but I do not see why we could not chip in; buy into it more than we have
 - Tarak: will consider withdrawing request because of opposition
- John: in favor of a compromise for two grand towards the delegation; think it is a great opportunity for younger veterans
- Michael: we have to support it, important effort; have to make sure we build off of it; sustained effort of some type; clear understanding of what we are trying to do as an organization
- Barry: itemized budget or roundabout estimate; where is the deficit
 - Tarak: does not have a budget, but a good idea of costs; follows through on commitments
- Mark: does not want to enable this process; will double personal contribution; should have budgeted into the 2015 budget; this process is not mature; should have presented a year ago

- Tarak: want to set a precedent for national being able to fund these things; Greenpeace is highly effective but bigger than us; they do not ask their members to pay their own way; make part of the budget for these kinds of things
- Michael: they can show you a strategic plan; that is how they raise money; money put aside for unforeseen expenses has to be decided
- Patrick: we went to Haiti and did not ask any money from national
 - Tarak: board will be delighted with exposure and results from the trip
- Tarak: can have board members work with planning for future trips
- Gerry: not only a question of money but an individual is driving the program of the org without going through process of board
- **John made a motion for two grand and Gerry seconded**
- **Vote shows seven in favor, two opposed, one absent (Tom); board approves two grand to assist in funding Okinawa/Jeju trip**

Break from meeting

Golden Rule

- Gerry: boat is docked in Humboldt Bay; successful stops; Helen was part of crew; trip back to eureka was against current and wind; constant advice from weather guy in Eureka on when to leave; three captains, several crew changes; several went all the way and back; stopped in fourteen cities; many chapters involved; round trip cost including diesel fuel, some repairs, gas for support vehicle, groceries for four person crew, docking fees, rental of lifeboat, together all (get numbers later); came out of trip ahead in funds; not a well organized trip; imagine if we had organized months in advance, we would have raised a lot more money; income includes donations from several chapters; shows the promise of the Golden Rule; results in terms of money raised; lots of good media, newspaper articles, radio and television; most events relatively modest; successful on a lot of levels but cannot claim big success
- Gerry on draft budget in 2016 by Helen
 - Includes projected expenses based on the results of this trip; trips planned for the northwest starting in April; will be in Humboldt Bay over the winter; in care of restoration team for further work
 - Researcher will be traveling to assist with radiation testing and will raise his own money for the trip
 - Invitation from Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action; very active group includes priests and nuns in Seattle
 - Requests GR support with actions into August 2016; Fleet Week actions in Seattle; Columbia River nuclear reservation, active power plant, provided plutonium to atomic bombs

- Many strategic military installations to focus on
- Draft budget might be a little light, will identify additional costs; \$35000 without staffing for the coordination of the project; all volunteer currently; may need to hire professional captain, which may be real money
- Barry: clarifies six month budget for \$35000 and start and end dates
 - Gerry: budget is not just the voyage dates, but that will be the main thing; staffing not included in the budget, would be a lot more money; need staffing, cannot run on volunteer only basis; need at least one full time or two half time positions to do this right; schedule, materials, relationships, fundraising; do not have members or major donors
- Gerry: holistic fundraising effort; online campaigns; newsletter report back to supporters with further appeals; Helen part of grant writing committee and will write grants for GR; fundraising with GR has to be coordinated with other fundraising efforts from national to not compete with other projects; another challenge is structuring the project; how to hold the GR boat, who owns it; title to GR boat is VFP Golden Rule Project, no legal entity by that name
 - One option is organizing as its own 501c(3) with clear understandings from the org; a better way to go is to have this belong to VFP; we will propose in writing soon after board meeting to clarify ownership; people who feel the most ownership with most work invested will be wary with VFP ownership without demonstration of VFP responsibility to care for it; VFP would hold title and organize a new board or committee in the VFP structure; mission oriented board; fewer boat people and more activists; committee would run the project but it would remain a national project of the org and accountable to the board; written understanding of responsibilities
 - Barry: some kind of a document that demonstrates the relationship; set a policy that says this is our boat and we set up committee responsible to us, does not have to be an agreement, just another committee
 - Gerry: MOU assumes an agreement between two independent organizations
 - Barry: do it in a politically acceptable way
 - Gerry: committee would run the project and make most of the decisions about where it will go, what is needed for the boat and how to select crew; board does not want burden for the board; autonomy within context of VFP structure; VFP takes primary legal liability, fundraising, hiring staff who would be on VFP staff and accountable to direction of VFP; will submit written proposal to organizers and crew
- Barry: written document should be shown to board first before sending out; an outline of what we want but the specifics come later
- Willie: is there an underlying contest between the two sides
 - Gerry: there is not but potential in the future; possible that there is some projection; will probably have to put more money into it; have been

carrying debt for a long time but now is small as it has been; no emergency

- Willie: is there a move to take ownership away from VFP
 - Gerry: no movement to take ownership
 - Barry: title is not clear; we would own the boat; could get reports from committee
 - Gerry: we have a proposal to take ownership of the boat and we expect cooperation from the crew; will not be completely easy
 - Gerry clarifies Chapter 22 owns the accounts; Michael clarifies we do not need quarterly reports from chapters; chapters responsible for 990 tax form, or else they lose EIN
- Joey: will sailing into Canada will affect insurance, concerns about passports; Gerry has no further details
 - Gerry: winter next year in SF Bay to be active all winter; Jim Summers VFP SD on board of GR committee to recruit younger veterans to do three week sailing training and nonviolence training on the boat; can write a grant for it and major donors; get to Gulf Coast, Atlantic Coast, up and down Mississippi, Great Lakes; Marshall Islands and Japan, peace activist in Japan requesting; huge undertaking but can be done; could ship it to Japan and then sail there
- Patrick: the question is can we make this a self sustaining project financially; discussion on where it will come from; most funding will come from grants based on appeal of the project
 - Barry: has demonstrated self sustaining ability
 - Michael: have been discussions on fundraising
 - Patrick: focus on where it will come from
- Gerry: will be sustainable is the expectation and board will not be expected to kick in more money
- Mark: founders syndrome is very real; people who restored ship has soul in it and they are the founders; ground support is vital; near future staff position; possibility for writing a grant for the vehicle and the expenses; transition from donations to VFP
 - Michael: budget will have overhead of national office built into it; we should move towards national projects having administration in the office to provide continuity and clear direction
- Mark: important to find endorsements from institutions and well known people; aids in grant writing
- Patrick: highlight high profile events
 - Gerry: PIOT two issues featured
- Barry: seek designation as national heritage or historical boat
- Gerry affirms efforts to so under national historical place designation; also seeking designation as a research vessel; crew is four, max crew of five; seeing whales and dolphins

- Barry: need someone who is savvy about sailing northwest waters; Gerry affirms need to seek captain from northwest
- John: Akai St Rain working on reconstructive crew and is ambassador for Golden Rule
- **Barry calls for approval from board to move forward with ownership of project; board affirms approval**

Strategic Planning

- Michael: presents written reports to board on program areas, capacity, infrastructure needs, strategic framework for VFP program work review; sum up most of the work done nationally; review of Excom discussion on focusing as an org; full board not all on the same page; successful organizations communicate work and makes their work more effective; helps improve fundraising; up to this point we are member funded through the passion for what we do; that will not give us the funding we need to make greater impact;
- Barry: case statement as an approach
 - Michael: case for support; answers questions about the problem and how we address it
- Michael summarizes program areas statement; this does not communicate a change model; how does that impact society to move us forward; as an example, Michael presents statement on how VFP achieves change, peace is possible and take action to bring about peace; easier to communicate with our members, write grants, major donor outreach
- Patrick: what are the good influences and what are the benefits
- Joey: explain the benefits, not the features
- Michael: how change takes place and what is our strategy to use that idea about change; our biggest problem is that people think peace is not possible, not the government or ruling class; how to bring a peaceful world about; as we develop clearer way to move mission forward, we can agree or go along with majority on how change takes place and emphasize programs
- Mark: peace is imperative; we either cooperate or destroy each other
- Barry: that is something most people see; the hump is that reality can actually happen if you do this; thinking war is inevitable
- Tarak: make peace is possible a theme; active promotion
- Joey: greed hatred and delusion
- Willie: likes the theme; open door, has hope; provide the hope with vision; how to attain it
- Gerry: hand in hand with another world is possible slogan with global justice movement
- Tarak: articulate it more; really go into it
- Michael: challenge is buy in that it is actually possible; point is from belief that challenge is changing minds, then what do we need to do to change minds; tell the story
- Tarak: mission statement would be a big step towards peace in the world

- Michael: has to be a global thing in people's minds then just the US because people think we need military if others have a military
- Barry: a tool in the toolbox; it is a policy and a mindset; put the military option way down
- Joey: difficult to get buy in
- Gerry: bases campaign focusing on US bases around world; solidarity with resistance to bases; pull out one or two of program areas to strongly focus on
- Michael: develop the overarching change model
- John: recommends book Base Nation: How US Military Bases Harm America and the World
- Michael: determine how base campaign relates to our overall change model
- Joey: lot of people going on delegations; every year since 92 VFP members have been to El Salvador
- Willie: how it relates to our mission
- Michael: if we believe it is a way to effect change, next step is vision on how to do it; do we believe we should build solidarity with people around the world; different programs can go under it; deciding our approach, plug programs into the approach
- Joey: do we need to put chapter work under program activities
 - o Michael: things as a national org we want everyone to do; chapter work we have to do no matter what we are doing as an overall org; would be in strat plan as org
- Patrick on errors in statements
- Michael: staff has to do which working groups are active; decide what to do with active and inactive group
- Patrick: counter recruitment active among chapters; not a national program
 - o Michael update on efforts to revive truth in recruiting efforts
- Tarak: peace delegation can be international and national
- Michael: if we agree this defines our work, does it still fit, then go from there; will it still work for us in 2016, what adjustments can be made
 - o Willie: no need to adjust this afternoon
- Barry: where does peace is possible fit into strategic plan
 - o Michael: just work we have done in the past; going into 2016 does it still work
- Further discussion on peace is possible and using it for grant writing
- Tarak: promote campaigns more strongly among chapters
 - o Barry: Casey does great job promoting events
 - o Gerry: VFP demonstrating strong presence and success at events such as Creech
 - Paul Cox: exception; Code Pink shut down Creech for thirty minutes
- Willie: if anyone has any objection to programs on the list, do we still want to do them
- Tarak: VFP Maine Peace Walk; golden opportunity to spread VFP; door wide open; help promote it
 - o Michael: we plan to promote it; programs on list are national office work; putting office time and money into it
- Patrick: gaps in the calendar, maybe fill gaps
 - o Michael: staff may not be able to handle a program every month

- Michael: empowering them to do something and showing them what they can do

Secretary breaks from notes during meeting

- Michael: making upgrades to software in office; updating website to make mobile friendly; may take a month to complete; Michael presents responsive web design proposal
- Willie motions to fund updating website with \$4000 from board; Tarak seconds; vote is unanimous in support
- Michael continues capacity and infrastructure report; presents needs for additional staffing
- Denny: Skip Oliver workshop on websites
- Joey, Willie and Kourtney to assist Michael with language of peace is possible statement
- Mark: every year it is board responsibility to give direction to ED

Barry reviews agenda for Sunday

Barry adjourns the meeting

Sunday, October 25, 2015

Present at the meeting:

Barry, Gerry, Michael, Kourtney, Patrick, Joey, Tarak

Absent from the meeting:

Tom, Mark, Willie, John

Barry convenes the meeting

- Agenda review

Board agrees on January 22-24 dates for board meeting in DC area

- Barry: consider an action for Sunday after meeting; present advisory board with strategic plan and plan a reception with available members
- Patrick: consider planning with other actions, consider contacting CODEPINK
 - o Consider Silver Springs, MD for lodging and meeting
 - o Barry: should not assume we always have to stay at a hotel; other lodging options; we could potentially all stay downtown in DC and save on hotels; hooking up with chapter members
- Barry: review new board member obligations
 - o Board reviews Excom intentions to run

Committees review

- Board reviews specific committee seats
- Michael: policy and procedures review is important; agreeing on resolutions process, have resolutions policies published beforehand, maybe even before the convention
- Barry presents current board committee seats

SOA Watch

- Joey: briefs board on plans and considerations for attendance at yearly vigil; room is reserved for VFP event at vigil; have had meeting with organizers; open Sunday morning with a mile march; have a parade permit; averaging 125 participants in march, 75 VFP members; bus chartered from Minneapolis/St. Paul; always the weekend before thanksgiving, Friday thru Sunday; convention center in town; attendance overall at watch is down, VFP attendance remains steady
- Patrick: funding is diminished and attendance dropped after defrocking Roy Bourgeois; expanding the united front and progressive forces, Latino solidarity is important; make

connections with a lot of people based on their work, not just ours; solidarity with food workers movement

- Barry: political stability in Latin America affecting membership at the watch because not many people going to SOA school
- Kourtney: potential for recruiting young radicals and veterans in Georgia
- Patrick: working with groups we have not been working with much such as the religious left and youth movements; Latino movements have hundreds of years of resistance
- Further discussion on engaging communities and encouraging members to attend SOA watch

Joey initiates board thanks for Patrick's service on the board

- Patrick: affirming each other sustains the work; more intentional gratitude; remember to love and affirm each other during trying times
- Gerry: leading active board members and past leaders work hard on the board and then step off board and their work declines; many committees and projects need staffing and assistance
 - o Patrick briefs board on work of Ft. Lauderdale chapter; six Latino members Camilo Mejia; MLK parade every year

Amicus letter support for Marshall Islands lawsuit

- Barry: Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and lawsuit advocates encouraging others to file letters in support; labor unions and peace orgs filing letters; materials received from NAPF; Barry and partner will file on behalf of VFP to federal court of appeals in SF; no standing status, or the political question; Islands used to be a protectorate of US, became independent in 1992; US violated international humanitarian law based on US responsibility to protect the people, not to bomb them or test nuclear weapons; 1996 US court of justice advisory opinion
 - o Barry further briefing on political and legal aspects of lawsuit
- Joey: Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, Ralph Hutchinson, religious pacifist

Strategic planning

- Michael: further considerations for five program areas; current crisis work; peace is possible, long term consistent work
 - o Joey: Syrian refugee crisis as program area; twelve million refugees
- Michael: peace coalition request for VFP to lead peace efforts regarding wars
- Michael: explore program areas:
 - o Afghanistan, Russia, Syria, Ukraine, Palestine/Israel, Middle East region (Iraq, Syria, Libya, Yemen)
 - o Asia Pivot
 - o Drones

- Future and Current Wars
- GI Resistance
- Environmental Impact
- GITMO
- Move the Money
- Congress, legislation, policy advocacy, lobbying
- NATO
 - Barry: has NATO's usefulness outlived itself; switch from defensive to aggressive; potential for South American aggression
- Michael: if we follow formula of looking at member activity to determine work, what those areas of work are; do we use member work as a filter for program areas focus
- Michael: looking at five program areas and seeing if they need to be changed
 - Gerry: some of these are not as prominent regarding who is doing the work; one is GITMO, the other is GI Resistance; not currently being worked on as priorities of the org
 - Barry: opposing drone warfare and future/current wars
 - Joey is brilliant: Add proxy to future/current wars
- Michael: many can fall under specific areas, but consider if members and chapters are working on it
- Patrick: PTSD as an area of work; PAH-PA and BLM
 - Michael: PAH-PA is a lens on how to do our work, not a program area; cannot make BLM a part of our work specifically
 - Gerry: we should have a program that helps guide members towards addressing racist police violence; regularly attend and show up with VFP gear on when black community is mobilizing; would be a program if we were creating materials and encouraging members and promoting; lens with no content then what good is the lens
 - Tarak: a lot of revolutionary current in those communities; there is a huge number of vets in those communities
 - Michael: solidarity with other movements and talk about war in context of struggles; building broad spectrum; but this point is that what is VFP's focus, and our focus is not BLM
 - Further discussion on BLM and PAH-PA
 - Solidarity with Progressive Movements as a specific program area
 - What does solidarity mean, how to do it
 - Not necessarily something people are doing, but can be something we begin to focus on; not only a vision but also a project; where is the most advanced work on that occurring now; militarization of the police keeps you around the fringes of BLM
 - Michael: speaks to our overall resistance to militarization
 - Gerry: easily defensible link hard to dispute
- Gerry: US military bases as a program area of work; after Asia trip, likely have speaking tours and ongoing solidarity work; anti-bases campaign, focus on various parts of the world where resistance is taking place; environmental impact of bases

- Could add Hawaii and resistance to telescope construction on Mt Mauna Kea to solidarity program area
- Michael: military budget work; allows a lot of space to do work for different orgs; many people are doing move the money work, funding human needs; lobby days event are pretty much about that; Sam's Ride is own 501c(3) but is also about this topic; NDAA resistance
 - Patrick: how much is agitational but not making it a project and suggesting funding focus; actually moving the money
- Gerry: if a priority, have to have way to fund it and measure its progress
- Michael: what members are doing and we are trying to support it; not us figuring out how to guide what they are doing, just support; national will have its own set of areas to fund and move forward; annually look back at what members are doing and adjusting national priorities based on what they are doing so we do not recreate efforts; be careful not to overburden our capacity;
 - Michael: look at overall picture and decide how org will move vision forward; individuals will do work that is important to them; we have to develop long term programs that change the landscape that makes it possible for member work to get done
- Patrick: counter recruitment efforts among members and chapters; big during Iraq war
 - Gerry: more than a dozen chapters doing this work; working group forming; put members doing work in touch with each other
 - Barry: Chicago has funds and is doing strong work here; working with them to create a billboard with Tarak
 - Tarak: many individuals operate independently; connect as many as possible and get input into methodology
 - Patrick: label it as militarization of our schools project; focus on young middle school aged kids; peace is possible connection
 - Gerry: access to the schools and kids; active duty people in uniform teaching classes and coaching teams
- Tarak: working groups need to be notified that they are expected to mobilize the work; get people moving; takes energy and outreach
 - Gerry: working groups are not working; half a dozen that are, most are working group in name only; identify those that are working and give them a boost
 - Kourtney: structure of working groups may be built in if not in name only; consider work members and chapters are doing and then empty a slot for national to fill; work we feel must be done but is not being done by chapters and members
 - Gerry: at large members can network and work with chapters and other groups
 - Tarak: working group is too broad; what are you working on, what are you organizing
- Michael: send out from national office the list of four areas we are working on; use it ask chapters and members what they are doing; focus resources and attention to help working groups get their work done; do not want people trying to join something that is not happening; can dissolve the group if it is not working

- Barry: make a list of projects and have chapters rank their work by priority
- Michael: do not want to ask about priority, just what they are doing; may have different priorities; general survey to chapters
- Further discussion on finding out what work chapters are doing; not priorities, not what they think they are doing, but what they are actually doing; members may be doing something totally different than what they're chapter is doing; what question are we asking and who are we asking
- Barry: can still gauge what they think priority should be
 - Gerry: follow up survey with phone calls; call chapters
- Tarak: organizing group clarity; ask who is leading groups, what work are they doing; will they drive it
 - Kourtney: could establish a working group committee, have board member chair the committee, bring together group leaders, report to the board
 - Gerry: committee, criteria, expectations, reports, worth the energy we put into it; staff has been involved in reaching out to working groups
- Barry: examples of working groups taking over an area of work, changing the name of the group without notifying national; changing the focus without national input
- Further discussion on engaging chapters, opening lines of communications; getting control over the work of groups and focusing
- Michael work with office to send out survey to chapters gauging work in light of board priorities and strategic plan

Barry adjourns the meeting

Veterans For Peace, Inc.
National Board of Directors
Monthly Conference Call
Tuesday, November 17, 2015
Minutes taken by John Heuer and Joey King

Present on the call:

Barry Ladendorf, President
Gerry Condon, Vice President
Michael McPhearson, Executive Director
Mark Foreman, Treasurer
Tom Palumbo
Willie Hager
John Heuer
Joey King
Tarak Kauff

Absent from the call:

Kourtney Mitchell, Secretary
Patrick McCann

Barry convenes the call at 7:30pm EST

Executive Director Evaluation – Mark

- Will be sending out survey to board members for ED evaluation, to be reviewed during our January meeting.

Okinawa/Jeju trip – Tarak

- December 3rd-16th; 2 young vets on board, thanks to \$2,000 contribution names? Will inspire other young vets to join VFP; 14 prospects for trip; An Okinawa chapter is in the making, but could be problematic with on-the-ground leadership; low-key advance press; \$5,000 local grant
- Barry/Tarak: Dec 3—Jeju; Dec 9 fly to Okinawa until Dec 16
- Gerry: huge protest in Seoul; Tarak, what's your thinking about follow-up?
- Tarak: focused on trip for now.
- Barry: planning on post trip presentations from San Diego chapter.

Dublin/London trip – Tarak

- Barry had to twist arm, but so inspired by each member; very together members; lots of first hand experience; over 200 UK members; talked about USAID issue; great mutual respect and value for international veterans movement; same in Dublin; future visit to Shannon Airport in contravention to US, Irish and international law
- Barry: London and Dublin appreciative of US delegation; moved annual conference to coincide with Armistice/Remembrance Day; Adrienne joined Barry, Tarak, Gene, Mike; Catherine McCoy and Adrienne carried the banner, "Never Again," before retiring to a

pub; lots of informal business gets done at the pubs afterwards. Ireland trip well organized by Edward Horgan, Chapter 1002; Good press coverage; young Russian Major attached to the Ireland diplomatic post; wholeheartedly agree with what VFP is doing; wants to help us get a chapter started in Russia and has given contacts to Barry

Transgender issue – Michael

- Conference call with women in response to VFP statement; Women’s Alliance concerned about delicacy of the issue. They are concern about how VFP supports transgender issue at the possible expense of women members. Understand their concern—want to support them; VFP statement of transgender rights subject to rephrasing; Kourtney, Gerry, Barry and Mark also on call; How to attract women to VFP? Inadequate attention to sexism within VFP; More attentive to media expressions of sexism
- Mark: Interesting call, a lot of insight into new concepts, learning a lot
- Michael: Issue of restroom access. Airport ‘pat downs.’
- Gerry: Radical feminist theory, not entirely compatible with transgender identity; political battle
- John: ExCom needs to look at our minutes
- Barry: Paragraph 3 of transgender support for active duty and veterans; move by Obama and Sec Def to safeguard rights of all.
- Michael: Anticipates more agreement on legislative issues; effort to be more supportive of women members
- Willie: attended IAWA conference; Discussion about women’s alliance became animated; good reconciliation.
- Gerry: thanks to Willie for representing VFP at IAWA convention.

Golden Rule update – Gerry

- Docked in Eureka Marina; Helen and Gerry back in the boatyard; back at work in maintenance and unfinished restoration; plans for May-September 2016 campaign in the Northwest; likely on site face to face planning visits with NW allies; peace groups in Northwest donating \$1000; finances “dicey” (under \$2K on hand and \$9K debt, but fundraisers planned, including newsletter by Helen; she is being hired for 20 hrs/week @ \$20/hour for 11 weeks (\$4400 total), will focus on fundraising to Jan 2016 under Michael’s supervision to make bi-weekly reports
- Barry: good discussion on GR being a major project of VFP; will need to take ownership of boat; require investment, anticipate 100% dividends
- Michael: GR enterprise unto itself, we have to fundraise for the GR; grantors need a curriculum, how to measure our objectives, does not currently have this capacity—not there yet; a lot yet to figure out
- Willie: Savannah chapter member has papers, interested in participating. Willie will follow up
- Tarak: inspired by Helen and to Gerry; Bill Gilson, stage IV cancer victim, interested in having ashes scattered from GR; a John Jay College connection, distinguished history professor, wants copies of PIOT to distribute in her classes
- Barry: Jim Summers of San Diego chapter and GR committee on his way to Hawaii to speak to chapter and Quakers about GR; Jim will also be speaking to west coast Quaker groups

Nader fundraising plans – Michael

- Michael: We have a new database “Wealth Engine” that can analyze donors based on causes they give to. Ralph Nader is willing to call WWII and Korean War donors. Michael and Matt Southworth are working on a letter to precede the calls. “Peace is Possible” is our fundraising theme. Will coincide with end-of-year fundraising. VFP is also participating in “Giving Tues” on Dec 2, not targeting members in this appeal. Using electronic media to market
- Barry: Andrew Bacevich and Paul Chappel to donate books for a certain level of giving. Other gifts being considered; for Korean war veteran outreach, Paul Chappell has written an appeal letter on the theme Peace is Possible; first week of December
- Gerry: happy that Michael, Mark, Barry and others are on to fundraising
- Michael: repost tweets to members’ networks

Paris Attack – Barry

- Talked with Gerry on crafting a message, hopefully completed by end of week
- Michael: People need another vision; members scheduled to local civic orgs, engage people, peace is possible (new frame), challenge people, reach out to Muslim community
- Joey: Bacevich could help, defending our homes rather than projecting violence
- Gerry: time to step up, endorse Michael’s recommendation; good opportunity for organizing
- John: note event at Raleigh (NC) Islamic Center. Former Israeli IDF members of Breaking The Silence presentation after Friday prayers co-sponsored by VFP, NC Peace Action, Black Workers for Justice and Muslim-American Society of Raleigh; had good panel discussion “Is Another World Possible? Ending War, Sickness and Environmental Catastrophe” at Guilford College in Greensboro on 11/16 with Jill Stein and local Black Lives Matter and NC Healthcare activists and myself; Georgia Green Party Chair (and national campaign co-coordinator) Bruce Dixon has reached out to VFP for guidance on vet issues; Jill Stein will be at SOAW; suggest contacting her there

Barry adjourns the call at 9:19 EST