

**VFP Board of Directors
Teleconference Meeting via Zoom
Quarterly Meeting, Oct 16-18, 2020**

October 16, 2020

Meeting called to order; 5:06 pm PST- Kinne

The meeting began with the reading of VFP's Statement of Purpose- King

Board Members present: Elliot Abrams, Michael Dempsey, Natasha Erskine, Marti GuyDowning, Willie Hager, George Johnson, Joey King, Adrienne Kinne, Dave Logsdon, Patrick McCann, Miles Megaciph, Garett Reppenhagen, Ben Schrader, Joshua Shurley

Approval of the Agenda as submitted- Kinne

- Motion to approve-King, Second- Shurley Motion, Motion carries

Approve Previous Meeting Minutes; - Kinne

- July-Approved
 - August- GuyDowning asked for chance to review before approval
- September- Approved
 - Google Drive folder being updated

Executive Director's Report- Reppenhagen

- The budget is stable
- The store has a few new items
- Ballots are being mailed, results are expected by Nov. 8th.
- Staff is working on video for Armistice Day
- Donations for this year exceeded expectations, the results of grass root actions
 - Director praised for his efforts and accomplishments in stabilizing organizations financing- Abrams

Detailed account of budget presented as spreadsheet, with explanation and invitation for board members to further study sheets with Director

After question and answer period, The ED's Report was Accepted

Membership Committee;

- Policy Amendment Proposal; Code of Conduct Committee added to Membership Committee
 - Open discussion ensued with the following results;
 - Rename and Implement Committee
 - Revisit at a later date

Convention 2021;

- Discussion of reality of another online Convention
 - Pros and Cons of previous Convention discussed
 - Overall response, Convention was huge success
 - Brainstorming on improving and increasing access for future online activity
 - Virtual Convention Approved for 2021

Brainstorming Goals 2021;

- Open discussion of increasing membership, especially, younger members of color, and ethnicity
 - Better communication between Board and general membership
 - Regional meetings
 - Promote National's media sites
 - Having general membership more involved in projects
 - List serves better organized and monitored
 - National needs to refocus on original goals of organization

Review Budget 2020 / Draft Budget 2021 - VFP Financial Assessment

- Budget presented for approval
 - Explanation of "Projected Figures"
 - Board members reminded to make sustaining donations if possible

Meeting Adjourned; 5:15 pm est

October 17, 2020

Meeting called to order; 10:08am pst

Board Members present: Elliot Abrams, Michael Dempsey, Natasha Erskine, Marti GuyDowning, Willie Hager, Joey King, Adrienne Kinne, Dave Logsdon, Patrick McCann, Miles Megaciph, Garrett Reppenhagen, Ben Schrader, Joshua Shurley

Meeting began with review of previous days' meeting, it's results and conclusions

Strategic Planning - SWOT - Brainstorming

After much discussion, the following

Strengths

- We are a diverse group of individuals with varying backgrounds and experiences
- Veteran status gives us credibility in the community

Weaknesses

- Lack of a Strategic Plan
- Membership lacking diversity of gender, age and ethnicities
- Not cashing in on our credibility with the community
- Lack of involvement with other Veteran Organizations
- Using a shotgun approach for choosing campaigns and actions

Opportunities

- Develop a Strategic Plan
- Step up Counter Recruitment efforts
- Advertising
 - Encourage Chapters to use local media outlets, and offer guidance
- Interactions with Veteran Groups, Community Organizations
 - What's working for Local Chapters
- Promoting VFP Social Hour

Threats

- Our above listed Weaknesses are our greatest Threats

Open Discussion - White Supremacy's Impacts On Our Work

Multiple instances reporting bad behavior of previous BOD members and others in this Organization

Open Discussion - NDN Landback Campaign and VFP

- Explanation of Campaign and how it relates to VFP

Musical interlude by Megaciph, "I wanna be where"

Meeting Adjourned; 1:21pm PST

October 18, 2020

Meeting called to order; 10:08am pst

Board Members present: Elliot Abrams, Hazel Diaz, Michael Dempsey, Natasha Erskin, Marti GuyDowning, Willie Hager, Joey King, Adrienne Kinne, Dave Logsdon, Patrick McCann, Miles Megaciph, Ben Schrader, Joshua Shurley

Fundraising 101 with Hazel - Diaz

- Fundraising is part of BOD duties
- Three tiers of fundraising
 - Member and Donor engagement
 - Re-engagement and Donor Stewardship
 - Donor Expansion
 - Sustaining donors create more opportunities for Organization
 - Acquire list of potential donors
 - Six figure income, with Vet in household
 - Call lapsed members
 - Convert one time donors to monthly or lifetime

At this point the meeting descended into an unexpected question and answer period with Hazel being confused as to the types of questions being asked.

A long and extended discussion began with members raising concerns:

- Phone banking
 - Time consumption
 - Burnout
 - Hazel's employment status

Explanation by Kinne that this was a presentation designed to help us implement a fundraising strategy, not a training session, and admonished the Board for its lack of respect for Diaz.

Session lasted much longer than was scheduled due to interruptions

National Project Reports

- Deported Veterans -Hagar/Johnson

- COVID has diminished fundraising
- Enough funding available until March
 - Donations from Family and friends
- Suspended weekly stipends for staffers
- Project is still good recruitment tool
- Golden Rule
 - Exploring the most cost-effective method of returning boat to US
- Pivot to Peace - GuyDowning
 - Group is active
 - Climate Change is major issue
- SOVA - Shurley/Schrader
 - Meeting scheduled this week
 - Tension between Full Disclosure and VFW due to TK
- Iraq and Korea Water projects - Johnson
 - No contact with either director of projects
- Veterans challenge Islamophobia
 - Needs a new Liaison

Explanation of how Board members become involved with Working Groups

To help lighten the mood, Board members asked to name their favorite songs that're relevant to our organization.

- Members responded with a varied list that included
 - Rock, Funk, Bluegrass, Country, Musical Scores, Movie Soundtracks, XMass Carols and more

Added Item

- Meta Peace Team Presentation - Adams
 - Film presentation to raise awareness of Organization
 - MPT Training beneficial to VFP
 - Trips to Palestine and US Border cancelled
- Monthly Non-Violent Chat - King
 - VFW members disrespectful at event

Meeting Adjourned: 12:59pm PST

Respectfully,
Michael Dempsey
Veterans For Peace
Board of Directors
Recording Secretary
mikedevfp46@gmail.com

DONATE:

<https://www.veteransforpeace.org/>