

**VFP Board of Directors  
ZOOM Teleconference Meeting  
July 8, 2020**

Meeting called to order at 5pm EST - Kinne

**Board Members present:** Elliott Adams, Marti GuyDowning, Willie Hager, George Johnson, Joey King, Adrienne Kinne, Patrick McCann, Joshua Shurley, Ben Schrader, Dave Logsdon and Garrett Reppenhagen

**Absent:** Michael Dempsey (feeling unwell)

**Acknowledgements:**

Marti: I would like to note in the minutes that Jessie Medvan and Daniel Craig have stepped down from the Board of Directors. Daniel Craig specifically cited personal hardship he had been experiencing as a direct result of members harassing him regarding the matter of the expulsion of Tarak Kauff.

Adrienne: I would like to note that Dave Logsdon has been voted in as our Vice President of the Board of Directors. Welcome aboard and thank you to Dave!

Willie: Presente to Tom Palumbo, a longtime member of VFP, who recently passed away. Presente!

Marti & George: Presente to Lee Thorne, another member of VFP from San Francisco, who recently passed away. Presente!

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>1 - Approve the Agenda</b>               | <b>APPROVED</b> |
| <b>2 - Approve Previous Meeting Minutes</b> | <b>APPROVED</b> |
| <b>3 - ED Report and Convention Update</b>  | <b>Garrett</b>  |

Executive Director Board Report March 2020

**Managing Staff**

- Conducting daily staff meetings by phone or in person
- The current funding and the PPP loan has reduced the risk to cut hours for any staff members
- The current office will close and the last rental month should be August. I plan on giving notice by the end of July. We will either move to NO office or to a shared space. Our copier machine rental has some impacts.
- Printful t-shirts and hats are going live ASAP, to reduce stock there is a delay using

the new service as effectively.

- Work-at-Home continues do to COVID-19
- Shelly's fund has been appreciated and helpful. Thank you.

X – Likely need an outreach/program organizer if funding allows later in 2020 (now very doubtful)

### **Budget**

- Budget is stabilized. Thanks to some great fundraising, reduced expenses (project costs, travel, rent) and the PPP loan we are currently financial stable. We are looking at additional security with convention registration to cover expenses.
- Quickbooks challenges might be solved with overcoming an etapestry error.
- Eventually we will need to address updating the website and find a solution to our databases.

### **Board Support**

- Continued participation in board meetings and creating tools for board business management
- Starting to prep for Business Meeting for convention to include Treasury Report for the excomm

### **Chapter/Member support**

- Chapter contact emails continue to go out and calls continue organized. Casey taking on additional roles in chapter organizing
- Online ZOOM social hours, teach-ins and fundraisers are being organized
- Office is seeking ways to activate “independent members” A monthly email goes out to all “independent members” like the chapter contacts email with some edits.
- Social Hour calls are twice a week with 6-12 people usually attending
- We have a solid increase in membership in the last month thanks to BLM activity and StandDown efforts. A lot of public exposure with media and social networks.

X Regional organizing should still be explored

### **Communications**

- ENews is going out in regular intervals
- A newspaper Peace Sentinel to replace PeaceInOurTimes is being formatted to print, there is still a need for content. Reach out to your contacts to fill out the form for submissions <https://forms.gle/iSzZeeJ2ApVvcVQt8>
- Newsletter is being finalized to go out this week.
- Social Media tempo is steady.

## **Fundraising**

- Resource Development has been strong and we had a very successful appeal push and giving tuesday effort.
- We will need to reschedule the board fundraising training and calls.
- Many registering members have donated or purchased the additional ticket package Currently as of 7/8/2020 we have **62 registered, \$8,111.29 profit through sales and donations.**
- We can use help outreaching for Ads now that we have how they will be used and what they cost sorted.

X Bequest video and tools still on the to-do list

X LifeTimeMembership push support has stalled due to office workload around convention planning

## **Program**

- Current racial justice movement has allowed VFP to concentrate on StandDown efforts and response to the ongoing Peace At Home Peace Abroad connections. The office is producing educational material for chapters and groups to learn and discuss racial bias, equitable organizing and intercultural awareness that will be put out like organizing packets.
- Engaged with About Face and allies to be active in BLM support actions and StandDown actions
- Afghanistan Accountability group is moving forward to form a video testimonial campaign. We gained a grant for \$2,500 to help in this effort, but things are stalled due to COVID-19
- VFP is looking at ways to mobilize for Black Lives in DC in Aug.
- Many program work has shifted for the time to current events.
- Nellis military takeover of DNWR is coming to a climax with the NDAA discussions
- Creech Drone effort in Sep is still being planned

Discussion:

PRINT ON DEMAND: Board members asked specific questions about the store to include what the upfront costs are, what designs will be available and who selects the designs, speed of orders being filled, and quality of materials. ED shared that we will design the shirts and have them posted, people can go to the store, pick their design and shirt, and how many they want, and the shirt is printed on demand and mailed to you. So we don't take on any risk based on what sells better. There is no risk if a t-shirt only sells one copy. The office doesn't need to organize hundreds of shirts anymore. The designs will be on the store. Staff are working to pick out manufacturers that delivery quality goods while

maintaining our values. Orders will be filled more quickly than staff are able to now.

**PUBLIC EVENTS:** Concern raised regarding ED going to Tulsa action and request that the Board be made aware of future travels of President/ED. The ED did not advertise the event nor encourage members to attend because of COVID, except those members living very close by. ED asked for specific guidance from board regarding whether or not to call members to show up for actions or otherwise gather. There are opportunities coming up in the next few months, but wonder what our responsibility is given the pandemic.

**IF YOU GO OUT TO PROTEST/ORGANIZE, PLEASE BE RESPONSIBLE:** Board members shared that while they are also struggling with what is appropriate and responsible, people are organizing and coming out. It is possible to organize and protest responsibly. Encourage members to be thoughtful about their own health needs and the greater public health. Do not go out if you are vulnerable. If you do go out, be responsible.

**RNC:** Willie raised that the RNC will be held in Jacksonville, FL. Local community organizing around this highlighting militarization of the police and community policing. Has asked VFP to endorse nationally and let members know what is going on. Local chapter feels that we do not need to encourage members to come out to FL as local chapter and organizers will more easily be able to participate safely. Discussion about writing a statement and who could write the statement.

**VFP NEWSPAPER:** Peace Sentinel – will be a quarterly project. Working on getting the first issue ready now.

**AFGHANISTAN ACCOUNTABILITY –** We have a group of Afghanistan veterans who have been leading the effort for this project on accountability. A couple videographers have asked to help and be part of the project to help with content. We were going to gather in DC and do lobby visits and start recording video, we had a hotel site donated to us with a sound booth in it for recording, but COVID put a halt on that. We are trying to figure out how to continue the campaign without meeting physically right now. Garrett is the contact person if members would like to get involved.

**SUPPORT FOR STAFF:** Dave shared that he appreciated the ED report and the work staff have all have been doing. Also shared that VFP Social Zoom Calls have been a nice way to get to know Garrett and members better. Encourage board to participate. Question regarding the independent members, how can chapters still reach out to them if they are in our state/region/area if they are listed as independent. With so much organizing going on via the internet, how can we still outreach to independent members and get in touch with them. (Joey can answer that offline.)

**CONVENTION ADS:** Point of contact is Becky and Sam for convention booklet ads.

**CONVENTION LOGO:** Similar to the one on the website.

**DISCUSSION ABOUT CLOSING VFP NATIONAL OFFICE / PHYSICAL SPACE:**

Some board members shared concerns about the VFP National Office closing. Garrett had shared this starting in January (and earlier) due to financial concerns at the time. COVID has resulted in staff working from home for months. It has been working. Staff are keeping on track of getting work done. Closing the physical office will not result in any staff being let go. Garrett is looking into possible shared or small office space to use in the future, but options have not panned out as of yet. Some concern expressed by board members that it can be hard for workers to be as productive working from home. Some board members also shared that they would prefer a physical work space be secured at a reasonable time in the future, while other board members expressed comfort allowing Garrett to explore work from home and seeing how it goes.

**MOTION:** The Board supports Garrett in closing the office space, managing a virtual work environment for staff to work from home, and exploring a possible physical workspace in the future. (Seconded)

Vote: 7 for - 2 opposed - 1 abstentions

APPROVED

**MOTION:** Mandate for Garrett to secure a physical office space within a reasonable amount of time. Seconded.

Vote: 3 for - 7 opposed – 0 abstentions

THE MOTION DOES NOT PASS.

**Garrett:** We aren't completely virtual yet, we are closing the office, we may get a different space. I am getting feedback from staff and they are leaning towards keeping with the virtual workspace. We might find something that works out for us. We will see happens when we discuss this next week with the staff when we review all of our option. I will send an email to the board outlining staff decision on this matter.

#### **4 - Proposed Bylaw Amendments**

**Adrienne Kinne**

Bylaw Committee: Adrienne Kinne and Nate Goldshlag

#### 2020-01a and 01b: Proposed amendment to Articles V and VI

**Intent:** To include specific language on a process for the Board of Directors to remove Board members with cause from the Board of Directors, as well as to recall officers on the Executive Committee with cause.

**Committee Vote:** 1 for - 1 against - 0 abstentions

**Discussion:** The process for removing board members from the board of directors for cause as well as executive committee officers from their position is already addressed in Robert's Rules of Order and therefore included in the rules and regulations of the organization. It is redundant and unnecessary to include it in the bylaws.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment WITHDRAWN by the submitter

Follow-up: The Board will work to make a reference to specific sections of Robert's Rules that have or may pertain to Board business, in order to support the work of future boards should they need the information.

2020-02a: Proposed amendment to Article III

Intent: To include the Code of Conduct as a measure of conduct standards.

Committee Vote: 1 for - 1 against - 0 abstentions

Discussion: The Code of Conduct has already been drafted and redrafted with input from the membership and it is open to future alterations as a living document. Feedback was that there is no need to change the bylaws as the Code of Conduct is already supported by the bylaws.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment WITHDRAWN by the submitter

2020-02b: Proposed amendment to Article III

Intent: To clarify that members who have been removed from the membership with cause by the Board of Directors are ineligible to be paid staff, hold positions within the organization to include those at the local, regional, and national level, and are not entitled nor allowed to participate in VFP National Projects or other entities acting in the name of Veterans For Peace.

Committee Vote: 0 for - 1 against - 1 abstention

Discussion: This bylaw amendment proposal is redundant as the bylaws already give the Board of Directors the authority to restrict or rescind membership and chapters/national projects are required to abide by the bylaws of the organization. Failure to do so can result in their chapter charter or national project charter being rescinded.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment WITHDRAWN by the submitter

2020-03: Proposed Bylaw Amendments to Articles V and VII

Intent: To allow approved caucuses the ability to elect directors to the Board and outline the process for such an election to take place.

Committee Vote: 0 for - 1 against - 1 abstentions

Discussion: This bylaw amendment proposal was drafted and submitted with the intent of strengthening the voice of marginalized members of the organization. Upon

discussion the Board of Directors determined that there were other and likely better ways to fulfill this desire, based upon feedback from members.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment WITHDRAWN by the submitter

## **5 - Resolutions**

**Joshua**

Resolutions Committee: Joshua Shurley, Willie Hagar, Bob Krzewinski

### 2020-1. Satyagraha Resolution

Discussion: General concern over whether this is an appropriate resolution, but neither the committee nor the board saw a specific reason to hold it back.

Committee Vote: APPROVED (2 for - 1 against - 0 abstentions)

Board Vote: APPROVED (6 for - 0 against - 4 abstentions)

### 2020-2. Pivot to Peace with China and the World

Discussion: Support the resolution and committee's recommendation

Committee Vote: Unanimous Approval

Board Vote: Unanimous Approval

### 2020-3. Call for a DoD review of the Henoko Base Project, Okinawa

Discussion: Support the resolution and committee's recommendation

Committee Vote: Unanimous Approval

Board Vote: Unanimous Approval

### 2020-4. End Economic Sanctions by the United States

Discussion: Support the resolution and committee's recommendation

Committee Vote: Unanimous Approval

Board Vote: Unanimous Approval

### 2020-5. Motion to Censure the Board of Directors of VFP

Board Discussion: Robert's Rules allows for the Board of Directors to be censured by members; however the mechanism for a censure is not by resolution. If an expelled member thinks that the Board came to the wrong conclusion, the correct procedure would be to appeal the decision. There was also concern about factual inaccuracies in the resolution. None of the members who have co-sponsored the resolution are aware of the entire investigative process. While the board did not feel that this should go forward as a resolution, they are preparing to address this matter separately from the resolution process.

Committee Vote: Unanimous Disapproval as an inappropriate resolution

MOTION to not send this resolution forward to the membership as an inappropriate resolution (Willie, made the motion; George seconded)

Board Vote: 8 for - 1 against - 1 abstention

Decision: The resolution will not be forwarded to the membership for a vote.

Follow-up: Although this item will not be presented to the membership as a resolution, this matter will be discussed during the business meeting. The Board is preparing a letter to members as required by our bylaws and policies. There will be an opportunity for this decision to be challenged during the business meeting. Board members also discussed sharing the letters submitted by Tarak to the board and membership sharing that he accepted the board's decision, even if he did not agree with it, and that he encouraged members to let this matter go.

#### 2020-6. Time to End the Korean War with a Peace Treaty

Discussion: Support the resolution and committee's recommendation

Committee Vote: Unanimous Approval

Board Vote: Unanimous Approval

#### 2020-7. Cancel Enormous Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Naval War Rehearsals

Discussion: Support the resolution and committee's recommendation

Committee Vote: Unanimous Approval

Board Vote: Unanimous Approval

#### 2020-8. Shut Down Red Hill Naval Fuel Tanks

Discussion: Support the resolution and committee's recommendation



Committee Vote: Unanimous Approval  
Board Vote: Unanimous Approval

### 2020-9. Creating a My Lai Memorial Moment

Discussion: Support the resolution and committee's recommendation

Committee Vote: Unanimous Approval  
Board Vote: Unanimous Approval

Much appreciation to the Resolutions Committee for doing such a thorough job getting the resolutions prepared. We are on track to get all of these documents out to membership in a timely manner in preparation for our business meeting.

### **6 - Business Meeting Agenda**

**Adrienne**

Discussion: The Business Meeting Agenda has been drafted. Now that the Board can better approximate how much time will be required to review bylaw amendment proposals (none) and resolutions, we will redraft the agenda. The agenda will also include time to discuss membership actions to include the removal of Tarak Kauff from VFP membership with cause in accordance with our bylaws, as well as next steps going forward to continue to improve the internal health of the organization in support of our mission statement.

### **7 - Courage to Resist request for VFP fiscal sponsorship**

**Adrienne**

Discussion: This request has been unanimously approved by the Executive Committee. Discussion regarding the proposal which was submitted to the full board largely took place over email. Board members shared their support for the request.

VOTE: APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Steps: The Board of Directors authorizes the Executive Director to follow-up.

### **8 - Any Other Business**

Ben: Announcement that I am starting up my own enterprise, Demilitarism, Inc., which will be about teaching classes around literacy about militarism and everything going on. I will let people know about classes that I will be teaching.

George: Chapter 182 is continuing to set up water purification systems along the border. VFP Face Masks available – to order them email [vfppfacemasks@gmail.com](mailto:vfppfacemasks@gmail.com)

Marti: How are we doing presentes? Are we doing a dry run of the system prior to the convention? We usually have a second board meeting in the month of July, when is that going to be?

Adrienne: The office is handling presentes for the convention. We will schedule a dry run for the convention set up. We will be meeting again in July to solidify everything.

Dave: Barry Reisch is collecting names and photos for presentes, so please contact him. Also, looking forward to seeing the new VFP paper, Peace Sentinel.

**9 - NEXT MEETING:** July 25, 2020 at 10 am PST

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15pm EST