

VFP Board Candidate Questionnaire

1) Please briefly describe your reason for joining the Board of Directors and what you hope to bring to the organization?

In 2020, VFP is surrounded by enemies: racism, militarism, imperialist attitudes and policies, unbridled capitalism,... the list goes on. In other words, wherever we turn, we have opportunities to make a constructive difference in the new world unfolding before us by recognizing the intersection of all these threats with the elements of our statement of purpose. The criticality of these opportunities varies from location to location; thus the ones that can be most effectively addressed will be different from chapter to chapter, as will the most effective means of addressing them.

Our heritage as a member-and-chapter driven organization – as distinct from a top-down, centrally directed one – is a great advantage and one that can best be served by a board which takes as its major function providing the supporting resources that the chapters need in manifesting the VFP mission in their respective areas of operation. I believe my long and diverse experience within a wide range of organizations, as well as my “institutional memory” from 35 years of VFP membership and 6 years of VFP board experience can help the board deliver the support to the chapters so badly needed.

2) Veterans For Peace has a hard time retaining members, what do you think VFP could do differently to keep members who join the organization?

Every month the list of newly joined members should be divided among the board members so that each new member receives a personal welcome from the board, with a copy going to the listed chapter contacts. On the first anniversary of membership, the member should receive a survey to find out what the member has found most satisfactory about membership, least satisfactory about membership, and what the member would like to see the chapter and the national organization doing that it isn't currently doing. Opportunities for improvement identified in the surveys should be developed by the board, the chapter, or some combination thereof.

3) How do you envision helping VFP expand its membership, particularly in terms of Veterans of recent wars, women veterans, and BIPOC Veterans?

To amplify the effectiveness of VFP in striving for “Peace Abroad, Peace At Home” it is essential that we act in alliances at the local, regional, and national levels. The board should support chapters with alliance building aids, and every board member should be a de facto (if not de jure) liaison to at least one organization whose goals and principles align with those of VFP. By showing up, listening, and offering appropriate support, we can not only further the shared goals but may also increase the visibility and, potentially even the size and diversity of VFP membership. There is a special opportunity in the current convergence of protest movements – most notably the Movement for Black Lives and climate crisis actions – provided we engage with sensitivity and a commitment to engage such activist communities by listening, learning, and supporting appropriately.

4) How do you envision ensuring that VFP is a safe space for our members? VFP has passed a Code of Conduct in 2018 and 2019, but this is only a first step. What else can we do?

It may be useful to obtain or create a series of compelling videos on non-violent communications which can be used as a common resource by the chapters with encouragement from the board.

5) What are your thoughts about VFP's Peace At Home, Peace Abroad campaign?

PAHPA should be a major framing device for much of VFP's communication at both the chapter and the national level. The War on Mother Earth is probably the most important war of all, and it cannot be effectively addressed without bringing an end to our wars abroad and our racism, militarism, and economic exploitation at home.

6) The VFP Board of Directors is striving to make directorship as accessible as possible. We conduct monthly zoom meetings, and when we meet in person VFP can and will help subsidize travel costs to ensure financial needs are not a barrier. For members who have difficulty traveling for any reason (e.g., due to work or family commitments), it is possible to attend in-person meetings by Zoom as well (which we have been doing through lockdown anyway). Will you have the time and availability to be an active member of the Board of Directors, join committees, and help with the duties and responsibilities of board members?

Yes. I never missed a board meeting in my six years on the board, and I never failed to submit a timely treasurer's report to the membership, and I've attended most of the conventions for the past 20 years.

7) What do you do, or did you do if retired, for a living?

I've had five careers.

1. Uncle Sam's Misguided Children - USMC - 8.5 years;
2. Academia: Bennington College. Social Science Faculty - 6 years;
3. High tech: Digital Equipment Corporation – Advanced Interactive Services – 13 years
4. Independent process consultant – 8 years
5. Director of Member Relations for an International Alliance of Independent Professional Service Firms – 19 years

8) Have you served on any non-profit boards before?

Yes – Veterans For Peace 2004-2009 (Treasurer 2005-2009)
New Mexico Peace Choir – 2015-2019 (Founding member and treasurer)

9) If so, what board committee(s) were you on?

Executive Committee and Treasurer in both cases; VFP Development Committee

10) Has your work or non-profit board experience included any responsibilities in any of these areas?

Human resource/personnel:

Legal:

Development/fundraising:

Accounting/financial management: Yes

11) When was your military service?

USMC 1958-1966; USMCR 1967-1978

12) Where do you live?

Santa Fe, New Mexico

13) Do you belong to any racial or ethnic minority?

14) Are you a member of a VFP chapter, National Project, Working Group, or other entity?

Santa Fe, NM Chapter 055

15) Please briefly describe any other organizing experience within VFP or the broader peace and social justice community.

Co-founded Bennington VT chapter of the Beyond War Movement in 1983. Active in Beyond War Movement in VT and NH through 1993. Led several dozen iterations of the Beyond War Orientation Series. Co-founded Santa Fe Chapter of VFP in 1992. Have served as chapter president for at least half of the years since. Have helped organize and execute VFP missions to Jeju Island (Korea), Okinawa, Palestine, Ferguson, and Standing Rock. Was part of the planning committee for the 2020 VFP convention as well as the *Pace e Bene* Hiroshima-Nagasaki 75th commemoration. Serve on the core group of Santa Feans for Justice in Palestine.