



Veterans For Peace 2017 Board Meeting Minutes

- January (Albuquerque, New Mexico)
- February (Conference Call)
- March (Conference Call)
- April (St. Louis, MO)
- June (Conference Call)
- July (Conference Call)
- August
 - August 6 (Conference Call)
 - August 9 (Chicago)
 - August 12 (Chicago)
- September (Conference Call)
- October (St. Paul)
- November
- December (No Meeting)

Veterans For Peace
National Board of Directors Meeting
Albuquerque, NM, USA
Friday, January 27, 2017

Board members present at the meeting:

Barry Ladendorf, President
Gerry Condon, Vice President
Michael McPhearson, Executive Director
Mark Foreman, Treasurer
Kourtney Andar, Secretary
Brian Trautman
Tarak Kauff
Patrick McCann
Dan Shea
Monique Salhab

Members and guests present at the meeting:

Willard Hunter, VFP Member, Albuquerque Chapter
Sally-Alice Thompson, VFP Member, Albuquerque Chapter

Motions and votes in bold.

Barry chairs the meeting.
Barry convenes the meeting at 9:20 AM MST
Kourtney records the minutes

Executive Director Report – 9:22 AM MST

- Michael briefs the meeting on his report as provided in print; Christine Assafe hired as Administrative Assistant in the national office; accountant has to finish up December numbers; in February third week, we will have our reviewer/accountant review our books; the numbers from last year will change based on adjustments to be made; we raised over \$850k last year total; further briefing of the report as provided in writing
 - o Barry: what are the projections based on?
 - o Michael: based on what we can do
- Michael: will have to work hard to increase major donors; we've never gotten a hundred grand in major donors before, unless it's been a bequest; we need to make sure we get that this year; if we get Craigslist donation again, we'll be halfway there; correction – Craigslist is a grant, it comes to us as a donation from Craigslist organization
 - o Mark: is it safe to assume we'll keep getting the Craigslist donation
 - o Michael: we should reach out to him, but no we shouldn't assume, but take action; work hard to get it; never assume that you will get a grant, because

- foundations change their focus and you can't rely too much on that grantor; Magic Pebbles grant has been received
- Patrick: with Trump's election, we ought to craft something that can use his election to increase membership; everyone on the Board should be a recurring donor so we can model that behavior to our members
 - Barry: agreed, no matter the amount; tell Doug Zachary that we want to donate every month
 - Patrick: brief comments on chapter members who are not paying national dues; we should pay attention and re-up that conversation with our chapters
 - Brian: what about using the term "sustainer" rather than "recurring."
 - Barry: term helps distinguish that you are helping to sustain the organization
 - Michael: we need to re-look at some category names that we already have; Michael presents the membership level names according to list on national website; these levels have been around even before I came to VFP; we can redesign these levels to be more current; when a person renews membership and they want to give more and have a title attached to that gift; we should probably publish these people's names with the titles
 - Further discussion on membership levels and redesign
 - Patrick: we should encourage chapters to get their members to pay national dues; we should refer this discussion to the development committee
 - Michael: eTapestry system used to handle donations, we have to get them to make the changes and they charge us; we are looking to move away from eTapestry, shouldn't take moving away from donor database lightly
 - Mark: possible to get rid of the term "recurring" and just use "sustaining," could be confusing
- Michael: briefing on membership number changes according to report in print
 - Gerry: discussions on dues, keeping lapsed members on rolls, in membership committee
 - Michael: payment to organization is a measure of commitment; some lapsed members just forget, but after so many years, they just don't have the commitment
 - Patrick: recommit to IVAW, they have good leadership right now; have organized with IVAW in last few months; be more conscious of working with them
 - Michael: briefing on 2017 budget proposal as provided in print; GR does do fundraising, but it's not a systemic effort; the GR should send out mailings and monthly appeals online; we should follow up those paper appeals with email appeals; it's a way to spur and remind people to send in the donation when they receive the email appeal; Program Associate can help make those things happen; still looking for candidates
 - Mark: possible to change name to Program Coordinator?
 - Michael: Helen Jaccard is the current GR Coordinator, the new position would not be coordinating many activities; we can discuss
 - Michael: in the past, we have a base salary for staff, and then I asked them what the ACA would cost them, and we would put that on top of their base; we wouldn't call it for healthcare, they can use it for whatever they want; Program Associate is full-time,

would rather they reside in St. Louis but we can consider work ethic in that regard; considerations regarding how VCI campaign went; consider closer supervision for coordination; would like to work closely with person on day-to-day basis

- Barry: inquiry into VCI campaign coordination based on rest of grant left over
- Michael: coordination and field workers will change, need to get more structure with it and fundraise for more funds for campaign; we should have brought in IVAW much earlier; find places to work together; work closer with local VFP chapters and hire their leaders as their leadership capabilities emerge; further comments on how to engage more chapters in campaign; have new staff member cultivate the work of the chapters; reach out to signers of VCI statement and cultivate their action, tie those veterans closer to VFP; see if there are some of those people close to each other to work together, or work closer with Muslim communities in their areas; reconstitute the Islamophobia committee
- Patrick: has anything been done with VCI since the NY event last fall?
- Michael: yes, they continued to do outreach
- Brian: working with Vets Vs Hate and Common Defense
- Monique: there is still a lot of VVH and VCI actions going on; not at the same level of 2016, but still a lot going on
- Michael: considerations on working relationships between IVAW, Common Defense, and Beyond The Choir; a lot of stuff going on; we're not all working together because of competing directions and funding
- Gerry: we have a new bylaw passed by the membership requiring that we ensure that we aren't seeking or taking funds from sources inconsistent with our principles and unity; Soros controversial; afraid that we will ignore that bylaw change considering new grant proposals
- Brian: is Program Associate a one-year contract position? Will it then be optioned to continue with new funds?
- Michael: yes, tell them we have funding for one year, and continue if we get the funding; unless the Board decides that the funds we currently have would go towards position for two years, but continue to fundraise to make up the difference; the GR half of the funds would suggest that we want to continue to do that into the following year
- Mark: from what Gerry brought up, real concern; Board needs to make a decision regarding taking more Soros funding
- Michael: not asking the Board to go after OSF funding; just looking at funds we have; going forward, we should have that discussion; but right now for this position is money we already have
- Tarak: potential candidate for position is great writer, progressive, currently looking for work, would love to work with VFP
- Michael: further briefing on report as provided in print; take half of the OSF grant left, use for travel and programming for VCI; would want that person to travel to California to meet face-to-face with Helen and tour the GR boat

- Tarak: met with Ralph Nader aid and he's excited to help with outreach to WWII and Korean War veterans
- Michael: have different levels of recognition regarding Howard Zinn Peace & Justice Builders; motivate people to attain levels of giving; Barry to draft letter to send to associate members for Memorial Day
 - Barry: ask members to report on why they decided to reactivate dues and get quotes from them to share
 - Brian: very good to see those on social media
- Michael: many chapters have tabling events and they get names to sign, but those names don't always get input into database; have them mail those names to us; added money to budget to have someone come in and take those lists and input into database, and then send back to chapters; we can use them to reach out to people who signed; figure out how to get donations from that process back to chapters
 - Barry: clarify on engaging store customers who are not members
 - Michael: reach out to them; Casey is doing a good job increasing products and sales from the store; have more product that is appealing to non-members; if they buy something from us, get them to donate to us also; reach out to artists and pay them to create designs for us; one design is related to Banksy style street art; take that style and have civilians painting the VFP logo, put it on a tee shirt and sell it to supporters of VFP
 - Further discussion on design ideas, potential artists for designs; potential product ideas
 - Barry: do we count donations-in-kind with donations in the budget? How is it accounted for? Michael to explore question
- Michael continues briefing of report as provided in print
 - Guest: have gotten calls from office asking me to renew dues, is that ongoing? Very effective
 - Michael confirms Doug Zachary makes the calls
- Michael briefs the meeting on national office breakdown and planning for Our Work document and strategy, presents photo slide to meeting; campaigns have a change component, educational component; need to go beyond the choir; have big swath of people who will come with us, or go in another direction; the other side is active and gaining membership; in order to get those people who could be swayed, we have to engage with them beyond the choir; coordinate more nationally; a lot of work being done but not coordinated; doesn't mean there is centrality, but have a similar message; uplift VFP's core messaging – PAHPA and Peace Is Possible, culture of peace
 - Tarak: all of those goals are encompassed in Peace In Our Times newspaper; great tool for use by chapters and members to spread message in hard copy; chapters do not access this tool, have to figure out how to get active chapters to start using it
 - Barry: send copies to chapters to show them the tool; once they read it, they see the value of it
- Michael: legislative priorities briefing; considering attempts to privatize VA, we should focus in regards to ACA; deported veterans as priority; Agent Orange campaign active in

terms of legislation; People's Budget actually has elements calling for reduction in military spending, and has been in Congress with Progressive Caucus for many years; doesn't have to be made up because they do it every year; will be used more this year because of opposition to current administration; nuclear weapons, and figure out what specific legislative possibilities are; and militarization of borders and police, will become more acute over next four years

- Patrick: I think it's important for us to focus on key tasks, it's also important to have more astute political discussion; briefs meeting on discussions; how to make importance of Vietnam era story relevant beyond older veterans; Peace Is Possible message undermined by pessimistic speeches at convention
- Gerry: new bill to be aware of, in House and Senate; basically a no-first strike bill with nuclear weapons; should be focused on it
- Barry: use it as focal point for our campaigns
- Brian: talking with Senator in Oregon to do a companion bill
- Gerry: Tulsi Gabbard's bill should be added to our legislative agenda
- Guests: ABQ is ground zero; have nuclear testing sites and national nuclear laboratories right here
- Gerry: director of Sandia Labs is pushing Trump for greater nuclear capabilities
- Michael: further briefing on photo slides for planning campaigns based on Our Work document; active versus inactive campaigns; isolated campaigns meaning that there is work but not coordinated nationally; maybe no working groups, for instance; focus on developing Pivot to Pacific/Korea Peace Campaign, could become much hotter issue; with the Military Voices For Peace, that's the idea of creating our speaking tours, raising VFP visibility; lots of activity with Trump administration, and some activity will duplicate; there's no one who can compete with VFP; because we have a mostly older veteran segment, we have a different look and different audience; play to our strength, get our message out; it's a major campaign tied to membership; start conversation with groups; we can influence groups we talked with and it helps those groups develop as well
 - Tarak: what's holding up the speaker's bureau; great speaking tour with Rory and Mike Hanes
 - Michael: people gotta get together and figure out how to make it happen; need to be focused instead of members going off and doing their own thing not connected to our campaigns
 - Barry: focus on chapter areas; chapter members can give good presentations in their own areas; cater speakers and topics to the audience and demographics; encourage local chapters to do outreach
 - Tarak: San Diego is one of the strongest chapters in the country; not all chapters can do that, don't always have the people
 - Barry: show them how they can do it; take a regional area and have Board members visit those regions and encourage the chapters to join in
 - Michael: providing materials, we're working on it in the office; do need to have a national speaker's bureau, but also support and push chapters to do it locally; if we have conference calls nationally to talk about direction and priorities, and tell

chapters what we are doing and achieving, and provide resources, then we'll get the momentum

- Mark: public speaking is a fearful thing for many humans; a small percentage is really good at it; good idea to try to educate chapters and give them resources and materials; reality is that they don't have the speaking skills; a speaker's bureau is a good role model for chapters; national speakers attract larger group than locally known speakers; maybe both at the same time; put emphasis on the national bureau
- Brian: like both ideas, we can do both; when I was involved with Peace and Justice Studies Association, they created list of names for others to use as contacts; volunteers contributed to the bureau and made themselves available, and listed their specialization; draw from this list
- Tarak: ideas can be combined; but to get it going, we need a committee that actually puts it into practice; the northeast region is loaded with speakers; we need to set aside some funds for this; chapter speakers can be coordinated into the overall speaker list; get people who are willing to get it going
- Patrick: committee is the first step; Bill Collins former board member, he did lots of work on the speaker bureau; include him in the committee; in college, we did speaker bureau's and we brought people up from other states and the college paid their travel; create a glossy brochure highlighting key speakers who can be paid honorariums
- Barry: one thing we can do locally is to market availability; many clubs are looking for folks to come and speak every month; chapters can send out notifications to be available to speak at monthly meetings of different local clubs; can't wait for people to ask us; we have to go out and get them
- Monique: agree with the speakers bureau and ability to do both; encourage it to be as diverse as possible; on the local level, our ABQ chapter is not very big and I'm the youngest in the chapter; important to me to pursue Truth In Recruiting; I visit schools constantly; as part of a coalition organization meeting, I spoke there and two teachers invited me to speak to their students; I've spoken to third graders; it's not about perfection, but do what works
- Dan: in the Women's March, there was a lack of female veterans speaking at the events, at least in my town; women of color leading that movement; I work with many organizations who organized it locally, but they didn't call us to get women veterans to participate; we can promote this with the speaker's bureau; and we can have associate members speak on these issues as well
- Gerry: reinforce the idea of the local chapters being empowered to do this; if we really push this, it could become our major organizational focus for this period of time; increase recruitment; will be a lot of veterans out there now who were active in past or never active, and want to be active again; if we are there, we will really grow; should involve speaker trainings, could provide it and it would be attractive to new members and potential recruits; we will show them how to use their veteran voice to get out there and be relevant; go full force, big organizational push; so few things we do that involve all chapters, they don't

- always talk to each other, feeling isolated; this will give the organization more of a sense of a nationally networked org
- Kourtney:
 - Guest: make this a topic at the next convention; emphasize it with the hundreds of members attending the convention
 - Barry: have a workshop at the convention on speaker training
- Michael briefs on progress of discussion; speaker's bureau is not easy, national will probably be easier to organizing local speakers; but we make the most money at the local level because we reach the most people and chapters gain new members; at the local level, we are reaching out to them, going to places they don't expect us to show up; in order to make local effort successful, we have to provide training and resources; many people don't realize the skills they already have; provide a template; if there is ever a time to step outside of comfort zone, now is the time; provide examples; develop the committee to make this thing happen; we need funds for the training; provide a basic place where people start out from; diversity is really important, have the local chapters really thinking about cultivating diverse speakers; organize the training at the convention
- Barry: some people may claim they aren't versed on the issues; chapters can use their meeting time to cultivate speakers, provide briefings on their special issues; ask the workshop and working groups developers at the conventions to provide materials from their topics to the bureau
 - Board members express interest in providing seed money to budget for speaker's bureau; materials, trainers, travel
- Michael continues briefing on photo slide planning as provided – reforming VFP working groups; not necessarily saying we should reform the movement; come up with what we want to do, our specific messaging; working groups priorities include drones, before you join/ truth in recruiting, war resisters, nuclear non-proliferation, pivot to pacific, Korea peace campaign, and Palestine/Israel; what is the visibility of the campaigns, needs to be more coordinated and leveraged; what is the legislative change component; visibility does not necessarily change the problem; who are the levers in D.C. to pull to make the change; we as an organization need to identify the buttons to push, and how to push them
- Barry: went to Seoul, Korea and met with members there, they were excited; need to engage with these campaigns; don't want to dismiss these connections
 - Gerry: how to address the U.S. policy with North Korea and potential for nuclear catastrophe; Korea Peace Campaign attempting to address it; have to overcome these problems and be proactive; make the working groups real and democratic; surround them with good people to make it work
 - Michael: have clear ideas of what we are trying to do; how do these pieces fit together
 - Patrick: at the convention, what about having a session or workshop that addresses our working teams, that are organizational and not necessarily educational; a working group meeting; we don't do good enough follow-up

- Tarak: there are other groups with whom we are friendly, who do great work in these areas; in attempting to leverage to reach goals, beyond VFP, working with these groups
- Michael: continues with report; pay attention to culture in VFP; turn activists into organizers; not the same thing; move beyond the choir
- Gerry: our work against current and threatened wars; many movements not focused on wars; we should make those connections; what are the current and threatened wars; Afghanistan is the longest running U.S. war ever; have to continue to vocally oppose and expose what's going on there now; we need to come up with a more sophisticated analysis of these wars, including the war against terrorism and ISIL
 - Michael: years ago I talked about how the wars could become normalized; our longest war is Iraq, we've never really left
- Michael: Trump contingency plans; right now he has his own focus, but at some point his administration will start focusing on activists and peace movement; could include IRS audits and other things; how to tell this to our chapters and national organization leaders; not caught unprepared when it happens
 - Monique: with the new executive order and Muslim bans, Trump will declare Muslim Brotherhood as terrorists, will affect CAIR and other orgs
 - Michael: maybe the Iraq Water Project will be affected as well
 - Dan: very important in regards to how to talk to our chapters and members; how to train our leaders and members to stand up for other movements
 - Barry: create a form that our members and chapters can use to have their audience complete and gather the information to demonstrate our work

Barry breaks the meeting for lunch at 11:48 PM MST

Barry reconvenes the meeting at 1:10 PM MST

Monique Salhab introduces Sally-Alice Thompson, VFP Albuquerque Chapter founder

Barry briefs the meeting on the remaining agenda items.

Development Committee update

- Barry: previous chair of the development committee; important element of organizing in VFP; Jim Driscoll, who helped with VCI campaign, has agreed to stay with VFP and assist with fundraising and development; will conduct training for board members during Saturday meeting; Dan Saint will also assist with fundraising and development, has lots of experience with major firms; will also assist with development committee meeting on Sunday after board meeting; need to make more effort to write grants and use the foundation search database; stressing personal contact with grantors and foundations; Barry consistent with making connections with Magic Pebbles grantors, communicating with foundations
 - Mark: Our Work document will help
 - Barry: sent document to Magic Pebbles foundation

Membership Committee update

- Kourtney:

Howard Zinn Fund Committee update

- Mark: briefs the meeting on the report as provided in print; became the liaison for the Zinn Committee and the board; at the time there was no grant program for the fund; protocols were created with good intent but without much experience as far as putting together the guidelines; in the beginning, the fund was granting up to three grand per year in small chunks of five hundred dollars; proposals at the time were incomplete, possibly because we were offering so little for the grants; there were four grant periods in the year; attempting to attract more serious proposals, this has worked; would like to increase the grant award limit to \$5000 and the max number of awards given decrease to one per year; would like to eliminate the rule for chapters to contribute half of the requested amounts
 - o Board inquiries into specifics of grant process
 - o Mark: there is follow-up, they need to prove how they spend the money and what the results were
- Patrick: with grant projects, should be a component for how it furthers VFP organizationally, as part of proposals, especially for larger grant awards
- Mark briefs specifics on proposed changes to Zinn fund guidelines for awards; we're finding out that \$5000 awards are attracting serious proposals with real results, using it as a model for other chapters to see what can be done; would like to increase the principle to \$50k; would like to vote on a certain amount to take from VFP treasury to give to Zinn fund; motion to change the language in the guidelines
 - o Michael: this was written in 2012 in consultation with Zinn's daughter, and she agreed; is it strategic for us to change it at this time; we can talk to Ken Barger and ask if he wants to reach out to her again; she gave us permission to use Zinn's name on the fund; the ten percent amount kept some money in the fund; we should ready to put forth fundraising effort otherwise we will deplete the fund
 - o Gerry: clarify on where the initial funds came from, and relationship with Zinn family; what's the connection between this fund and the legacy of Howard Zinn; do we want to do something with that legacy and take full advantage
 - o Michael: Zinn was a VFP member; daughter okayed the draft of the guidelines; we should find ways to use the family's approval to raise money in a better way; we have to make connection to his legacy; the original money for the fund came from two places – Smedley chapter did a fundraiser, and there was a fundraiser in Hollywood that former VFP director Dennis Lane and Matt Damon organized; we should follow up with family, send them the reports for the fund
 - o Patrick: how can the fund give a grant of five grand this year if they were only spending ten percent of thirty grand? Did they shift the guidelines? Mark confirms

- Dan: make the proposal that we change the rules with caveat that we talk to Zinn's daughter first
- Barry: I would rather we be able to tell her what we decided already
- Gerry: have some of my own concerns about the Zinn fund; great they are attracting quality proposals and granting larger awards; but my feeling is that most chapters cannot meet the guidelines for the Zinn fund; would rather see a two-tiered process; a number of smaller grants available with easier terms; wondering how many chapters can actually do this
- Mark: they did grant one five hundred dollar grant; they are open to this idea; but they want to attract the big fish
- Barry: issues with keeping track of more awards, it burdens the committee
- Mark: Brian Sparks is now the new chair; Ken Barger is staying on the committee; and one other member of the committee; they are dedicated and spend amazing amount of time
- **Barry clarifies the motion: to adopt the rules for the Zinn committee as requested by Mark Foreman; call for second; Dan seconds**
- **Barry takes the vote by affirmation; Barry confirms the approval of the motion by affirmation**
- Mark briefs on the second motion regarding the funds; the funds should be placed in at the very least a Certificate of Deposit without risk; some kind of interest bearing account
 - Dan: is there a continuing donor list to the fund?
 - Michael: no, we haven't done any Zinn-specific fundraising for the fund
 - Mark: there was a donation of six grant to the fund
 - Gerry: should have some kind of sustainable fundraising effort
 - Michael: we've talked about a major donor campaign for the fund, to keep a certain amount going specifically for the fund; and then we can do a fundraiser specifically for the fund; we could raise a lot of money major donor wise, aside from VFP people; and we could raise money for the fund in a similar fashion; figure out who will do it; don't want to put it totally in the committee's hands;
 - Patrick: briefing on issues with grant process and communication with committee
 - Gerry: request to add funds should be coupled with a process on deciding how to raise funds for the committee in the future
 - Mark: committee has stated that they will handle the fundraising
 - Michael: I would like to know what their ideas are for fundraising; don't want committee's ideas of fundraising to conflict with our own
 - Barry: they should send us their ideas
 - Mark: if they are willing to do the fundraising, then we don't necessarily have to take money from the treasury to add to the fund
 - Further discussion on actual language of motions and votes; clarifications on the language
 - Mark to clarify the language of vote in writing to present to the Board
 - Barry: need a motion to subtract the previous amended vote; motion made and seconded

- Barry confirms rescinding the previous vote with the purpose of having the proposals presented in writing for a subsequent vote

Barry breaks the meeting at 3:10 PM MST

Barry reconvenes the meeting at 3:30 PM MST

Barry calls for Closed Session at 3:31 PM MST

Membership Conduct Case

- Kourtney and Mark briefing
- Gerry: follow the lead of the membership committee; he is potentially a danger to women in VFP, though I don't know if there's a history of his violence in VFP; his actions of the type that are his pattern could endanger women members and associates, but they could endanger the organization; no question that we should get him off our rolls
- **Patrick: motion to vote to expel Kyle DeWolf from VFP for life; seconded**
- **Barry takes the vote; Barry confirms the vote is unanimous by affirmation to expel Kyle DeWolf for life from VFP**
- Mark and Kourtney to draft letter for Barry to sign and send to Kyle DeWolf for notification of Board's decision to expel him

Okinawa delegation issues

- Tarak: Edo Sanchez actively attempting to derail delegation; is there something short of dismissal that can be sent to him to get him to stop; something like a cease and desist order
 - Barry: we can explain to him how it's not conducive to healthy organizing; but no protocol in the policy or bylaws
 - Gerry: considerations regarding recent issues with Okinawa chapter; some attempts to heal the tensions between them and others involved; deeper context for this behavior; to censor him without coming to terms with that ourselves would be a mistake in my opinion; we need more time to deal with this
 - Tarak: should also talk to Rachel Clark and some of her people; would also include Mike Hanes and Rory Fanning
 - Gerry: a process of open examination and healing that needs to take place, before risking alienation of chapter; learn the lessons of the mistakes we have made; happy to help facilitate
 - Michael: do you think that the historical split and tensions between the Okinawan Island and the Japanese plays a role?
 - Tarak: yes, but stronger with some people than others; problem was greatly exacerbated by some; both delegations were great, and we want to go back
 - Gerry: Edo and Doug Lummis also had some legitimate grievances
 - Dan: briefing on discussion with Edo regarding planning of delegation and response

- Tarak: delegation was extremely respectful
- Gerry: emailed with Doug Lummis and he was glad someone on the board was responding; but then I didn't hear from him again

Barry exits the meeting from Closed Session at 4:01 PM MST

Status of Working Groups report

- Gerry: likely the more dysfunctional part of our organization; need new criteria for how they function; need to establish requirements for being a working group; some groups are not active; need to rethink and reorganize the working groups, otherwise we will have a number of semi- or non-functioning groups
- Further discussion on status of specific working groups
- Barry: have working groups take on some issues, and then build a template and provide it for our speaker's bureau organizing
- Gerry: original intent of working group were to provide resources; and also to suggest campaign ideas to the organization; do what we can to pump up the working groups that have potential
- Michael: bylaws says that the president can appoint the chairs of the working groups; we can write up new criteria for Gerry to review; need the board to have more oversight, specify the criteria; we should not have content on our website that is not functional

Finance Committee report

- Mark briefs on recent issues leading to necessity of financial oversight of chapters; Mark briefs on proposed change to policy manual regarding oversight of chapters; changes include having two people listed on chapter bank accounts, and hopefully at least two people will keep an eye on the accounts; issues regarding smaller accounts
 - Tarak: some chapters don't have meetings but do have money in the bank; must discuss what that looks like
 - Further discussion on how to approach issue of funds within inactive chapters
 - Michael: reminds that if chapters don't report for two or more years, they are stripped of tax-exempt status; chapters generally have to obtain their own EIN, but they do use our 501 c (3) status
- Mark: further briefing on proposed policy changes
 - Kourtney inquires about reasoning for dollar amount required for chapter reporting; Tarak suggests lowering the threshold, would inspire chapters to be more vigilant with keeping accurate books
 - Michael: most chapters are keeping track of their funds already; we're trying to get our chapters to have something in place to prevent stealing
 - Tarak: the second proposed policy change, how does that relate to preventing stealing
 - Mark: if we lower the threshold, that would include a lot more chapters and increase Michael's work

- Michael: increases the burden on the national office; we should survey chapters to determine what appropriate thresholds are
- Patrick suggests lowering the threshold; Board agrees
- Barry: these policy changes ensure that someone is overlooking the finances and does not rely on trust to prevent stealing
- Michael: the key is not having just one person's eyes on the reporting; two people in each chapter need to have access so they can look at the accounts and bank statements; so maybe the treasurer and another member
- Barry: suggests that the treasurer and one other member of the chapter review the accounts and sign the end-of-year reporting
- Michael: should say that's a requirement, and suggests that at least quarterly the president reviews the bank statements; justify these new policies, so explain to chapters the reasoning regarding the Palazzo incident
- Barry: we talked about it at the business meeting at the convention
- Kourtney: enforceable? how to gain buy-in from chapters?
- Barry: we just have to rely on people's good intentions; remind them to report if they don't
- Gerry: how to communicate this to the chapters?
- Barry: send an email blast to chapter contacts, and put it in the policy manual and notify of updating the manual
- Board discusses the specific language of the proposed policy change; Board agrees on the following language for point three (3) of the proposed change: "If a chapter transfers US\$1000 or more within a period of one year to a VFP chapter, single recipient, or organization, the transferring chapter is required to notify VFP's Executive Director within 30 days of the final transfer date."
- Discussion on how to apply policy to international chapters; considering three different kinds of international chapters; membership committee to discuss

Executive Director Michael McPhearson exits the meeting at 4:53 PM MST

Barry calls for Closed Session at 4:53 PM MST

Personnel Committee report

- Mark: presents the results of the staff evaluation of national office work environment and executive director
- Monique: last year, there was concern among the staff who are predominately women that they didn't feel safe in the area of the office; was that looked into or resolved?
 - Mark: it was addressed in some form, and we asked what can we really do, other than move to another location
 - Monique: was that discussed or conveyed? Mark confirms it was not; Monique states that maybe the staff did not receive a response to this concern and it wasn't taken seriously
 - Mark: I talked to Virginia about it and I remember that there was some concern that the only way to change it was to move the office to a different location

- Patrick: you can still develop a culture of safety without moving; the staff should be asked what would make them safer in the office, what steps to take; the other negative responses dealing with pay and work environment, we need to discuss for sure
- Mark: regarding the responses, the staff all have so much work to do now, they feel separate from each other; no specified break time for them to sit with each other and talk
- Kourtney: Excom met and Michael stated that he plans to include a cost of living wage for staff
- Patrick: we should give them a raise after receiving a large bequests; any time we can give them a raise, we should; investment in human value
- Mark: cost of living increase is officially 2.3%; Michael is recommending 3%
- Further discussion on staff wages, proposed 2017 budget
 - Patrick suggests five percent raise
 - Gerry agrees with a generous raise but suggests we do some research on current trends in wages among other peace organizations
- **Tarak motions to approve a five percent raise for all VFP staff members for 2017**
 - Further discussion
 - Board agrees to invite Michael back into meeting for further discussion

Michael enters meeting at 5:30 PM MST

- Colleen: \$35k/yr plus \$378 per month cost of living; \$39,536
- Casey: \$35,360 plus 285 equals 38786
- Shelly: \$37,073 plus 330 equals 41043
- Michael: \$70,451
- Doug: 22/hr for 30 hours 34,320
- Michael planning to give a six percent raise this year to everyone in office; Michael gets 3 percent raise; Doug gets one dollar per hour raise, about five percent
- **Tarak motions to approve the budget; Dan seconds**
- Gerry inquires if the speaker's bureau and other specified work is included in budget
 - Michael: no, we'll do that work, but we can approve another budget after revisions
 - Michael inquiries about adding the new staff position on programming for GR and VCI
 - **Board agrees to approve the proposed 2017 budget**

Barry adjourns the meeting at 5:43 PM MST

Veterans For Peace
National Board of Directors Meeting
Albuquerque, NM, USA
Saturday, January 28, 2017

Board members present at the meeting:

Barry Ladendorf, President
Gerry Condon, Vice President
Michael McPhearson, Executive Director
Mark Foreman, Treasurer
Kourtney Andar, Secretary
Brian Trautman
Tarak Kauff
Patrick McCann
Dan Shea
Monique Salhab
Joey King

Members and guests present at the meeting:

Willard Hunter, VFP Member, Albuquerque Chapter
Dan Saint, VFP Member
Jim Driscoll
Tom and Sherry Greacen, VFP Albuquerque Chapter Members

Motions and votes in bold.

Barry chairs the meeting.
Barry convenes the meeting at 9:03 AM MST
Kourtney records the minutes.

Barry introduces Dan Saint and Jim Driscoll – 9:04 AM MST

Development/Fundraising Training – 9:06 AM MST

- Jim: introductions, background information; for everything we want to do, there is money to fund it; co-counseling approach to personal growth; emotions are part of personal healing
- Dan Saint: introductions, background; have to believe in your mission and organization, create value for people
- Board introductions
- Jim: lots we can do, and can do more if we had more money; donors are easy to find; progressive left funding community; website called Open Secrets lists political donations; the question is why do we or don't we make the ask; have kept long-standing

relationships with donors; some problems include aversion to being rejected; the other problem is that some of us hate rich people; not the best way to build relationships

- Jim: briefing on recognizing and dealing with past trauma; Jim leads counsel exercise
- Michael: board option whether or not to participate
 - o Gerry: clarify on what the exercise is
 - o Jim: counsel exercise first solo then in pairs to discuss personal apprehension towards fundraising
- Dan Shea volunteers to participate in solo counsel
- Tarak Kauff volunteers to participate in solo counsel
- Jim shifts the meeting to paired counsel
- Jim brings the group together for debriefing

Member and guest enters the meeting – 10:56 AM MST

Suel Jones, President, Chapter 160 in Vietnam

Darla Morgan

Barry breaks the meeting at 11:01 AM MST

Barry reconvenes the meeting at 11:17 AM MST

Development/Fundraising Training continues – 11:17 AM MST

- Jim: presents to-do list for prospective foundations
 - o Barry inquiry into communications approach towards funders
 - o Michael briefs on recent communications with potential funders
 - o Dan Saint gives further insight into approaching funders
- Jim presents list of World War II veteran members as prospective donors
 - o Barry to send list of top six prospective donors to Ralph Nader team
 - o Mark: clarify on specific funding interests of listed foundations
- Jim presents list of prospective major donors
- Jim presents Open Secrets political donors database/website
- Board decisions on participation in fundraising

Barry breaks the meeting for lunch at 12:08 PM MST

Barry reconvenes the meeting at 1:11 PM MST

Barry briefs the meeting on the remaining agenda items – 1:12 PM MST

- **Barry motions to adopt and approve the December Board meeting minutes. 1:15 PM MST**
 - o **Seconded by Mark.**
 - o **Barry takes the vote, confirms approval of the minutes by a 9-0-1 vote.**

Board Travel & Reimbursement briefing – 1:16 PM MST

- Michael presents the policy in print to the meeting.

- Barry briefs the meeting on the policy.
 - o Gerry emphasizes in-kind donations
 - o Mark: foundations like to see in-kind donations
 - o Joey: we could get chapters to submit reports for in-kind donations and volunteer hour donations to VFP

Barry calls for the oath of office to be administered to the Board – 1:21 PM MST

- Michael commences the oath. Joey King abstains from taking oaths.

Executive Committee Elections – 1:23 PM MST

- Barry introduces the candidates for officer positions
 - o Brian Trautman for Treasurer; Brian makes statement on his candidacy
 - o Monique Salhab for Secretary; Monique makes statement on her candidacy
 - o Kourtney Andar for Vice President; Kourtney makes statement on his candidacy
 - o Barry Ladendorf for President; Barry makes statement on his candidacy
- Patrick motions to move by acclamation to elect all Excom candidates
 - o Motion seconded; no opposition heard
 - o Barry confirms acceptance by acclamation to elect all Excom candidates
- Barry briefs the meeting on Excom responsibilities and expectations
- Joey thanks the outgoing Excom members, Gerry Condon and Mark Foreman
- Patrick introduces idea of outreach to former Board members; power of affirmation; we should be more conscious with keeping in touch with former Board members; a lot of people in our former leadership are still active but not necessarily in tandem with our vision; had to personally struggle with feelings of being on the outskirts of decision-making; should get better at keeping in touch with former leaders; came to agreement with Gerry after discussion to find ways to keep people tight; call them alumni
 - o Gerry: invite them to serve on committees
 - o Barry: hold special event at convention banquet to honor former Board members
- Gerry: short briefing on why three Board members are not present at the meeting?
 - o Barry gives briefing
 - o Discussion on Board expectations and ways to approach Board members and prospects on responsibilities
 - o Patrick: considerations on demographics of Board members and capacity to serve; how the Board can be proactive in providing necessary ways for Board members to serve
 - o Gerry: not all Board members are able to be as engaged as others, especially younger Board members; give some special attention to them; talk to them more frequently
 - o Kourtney:
 - o Tarak: would be a real step forward for us; an allocation for childcare if possible
 - o Michael: further comments on how to approach childcare for Board members
 - o Patrick: further considerations for policy on missing meetings, including Board phone calls; needs to be some exemptions, but not every single month

- Barry: clarifies policy on missing meetings
- Tarak: would love to see all of the Board members, or most, involved in some kind of direct action that we would publicize to the rest of the membership; not a requirement; but if the opportunity comes up
- Michael: agree, but connected to a real campaign so it means something real, not just feeling good
- Mark: we have some momentum going, bringing in younger veterans, and female veterans, and women with children; maybe we need another committee if we're serious about this; a group of us to make sure that any new candidates understand the responsibilities; hoping this wave continues to bring in younger veterans
- Barry: when the nominations committee gets the names together, they can develop a one-page thing about duties and work of the Board so all prospects have; candidates speak at the business meeting at the convention; we can emphasize at that time that it's a serious obligation that requires a lot of time; give them the chance to reconsider if they don't think they can handle the time commitment
- Gerry: add some of this information to the candidate questionnaire
- Michael: agree, but we should have one or two Board members communicate with candidates and prospects; the nomination committee puts together a slate, and the Board members should use that slate to communicate
- Tarak: the other side of the coin, we should think about the kind of support we can give to them
- Michael: go ahead and schedule the January Board meeting very early, and then we can get that info out to the prospects before the election, so they understand that if they are elected, they should expect to attend the meeting and plan well in advance
- Kourtney: Board should have an idea of what skills and talents we need filled on the Board, and how to communicate that to prospective candidates
- Dan: don't want to scare off prospects; don't want to get too many things up in front; I think we already have the process in order
- Michael: a balance has to be struck; the Board should be figuring out what we're missing, and tell the nominating committee to look for it; we want to be open enough for anyone to offer their skills to serve

Committee Assignments – 2:11 PM MST

- Barry goes over the current committee assignments with Board discussions
 - Awards: Joey chairs; Patrick, Will Covert
 - Bylaws: Gene Marx, Nate Goldshlag, (Barry to ask Adrienne to chair)
 - Communications: Gerry chairs; Patrick, Brian, Michael, Dan Shea, Colleen Kelly (VFP Staff)
 - Nominations: Monique chairs, Patrick, Doug Zachary (VFP Staff)
 - Resolutions: Dan chairs, Gerry, Bob K

- Development: Barry chairs; Jim Driscoll, Dan Saint, Michael, Mark, Ken Barger, Matt Southworth, Ken Mayers, Doug Zachary, Jason
- Membership: Kourtney chairs; Tarak, Brian, Monique, Joey, Nate Goldschlag, Travis Weiner, Ellen Davidson, Doug Zachary
- Finance: Brian chairs, Michael
- Newsletter: Michael, Shelly Rockett (VFP Staff), Doug Rawlings
- Personnel: Mark chairs, Joey, Monique
- Convention: Barry chairs, Michael, Frank Fitzgerald, Arny Stieber, Denny Riley, Joe Walsh, Paul Cox, Monique, Jack Doxey, Gary Butterfield, Shelly Rockett, Tarak
- Zinn Fund: Mark as Board liaison; Mark Runge, Ken Barger, Brian Sparks
- Gerry: what about Peace In Our Times newspaper?; need some discussion with Tarak concerning going into the future and get assistance with the project
 - Dan: he has Becky Leuning helping now
 - Barry: he has help from Doug Rawlings and they have an editorial board
 - Michael: on specific issues, such as Syria, we may need a broader perspective; one of our advisory board members read the last newspaper, and is upset about the position on Syria; he sees it as a VFP position, though it's not necessarily; PIOT is a bit like its own entity, doesn't always reflect our definitive positions; when it shows one perspective, it should show the other as well to show our diversity in the organization
 - Tarak: Michael's idea is good; when we have controversial pieces in the paper, we will consult with at least Michael and Barry; we have a very good editorial board; would like help and support to figure out how to distribute widely around the country; make it a national phenomenon
 - Barry: have we considered sending one copy each to big city libraries; do so until they say they don't want it
 - Tarak briefing on cost of mailing copies of paper
 - Michael: good idea, suggest that we try to use our chapters; we've had chapters work to put books into libraries; they are our advocates who are already there, makes it more likely it will happen
 - Patrick: distribution to prisoners as well
 - Tarak: distribution to active duty military bases; get me the addresses and the confirmations, and we'll send them out every month
 - Barry: San Diego library archiving the paper on microfilm
 - Gerry: if Tarak drafts the letter to send with the bundles, give them to chapters with ideas listed for distribution
 - Joey: PIOT can fall under the sub-committee as Communications
 - Gerry: don't necessarily need to structure it that way
 - Michael: we periodically send materials to chapter contacts; we're talking about national calls with members to talk about our future work; on a national call, have three or four things that we want to talk to members about, this could be one of them – distribution of the paper; follow up with a letter that talks about

it; we can talk about the speaker's bureau and membership drive; they are more likely to retain this information if we talk to them about it

- Tarak: follow-up is important; Secretary should add Action Items list or Follow-Ups list in the meeting minutes
- Tarak: Board should take ownership of the paper

Barry breaks the meeting at 3PM MST

Barry reconvenes the meeting at 3:15 PM MST

VFP 2017 National Convention, Chicago, IL

- Barry: Music Festival organizer Miles MegaCiph states that he sent the music festival information to Jackson Brown team, awaiting confirmation from them
- Tarak: very good connection with Jackson Brown; very likely Brown is available for the convention dates; a chance for VFP to move into another modality, which is music and that's powerful and add to the resistance; high quality music event for the public; build our reputation, promote our goals and mission; offer somewhat cheaper housing such as the hostel in Chicago so that our convention attendees will stay to attend the concert
 - Michael: weren't able to get an extension on the room price for that Sunday evening at the Hilton Palmer House; when people book their rooms, they can ask to see if they can get the same price; depends on availability, could change over time
 - Tarak: make arrangements or suggestions for where people can stay that Sunday night, it will help draw people to the concert
 - Barry: in the future, if we are going to continue with music festivals on Sundays, we should extend convention into Monday
 - Mark: good idea to offer attendees to stay at the hostel for Sunday evening; how much lead time to give the hostel?
 - Michael: as soon as we can tell them something; it's Chicago in the summer; how many rooms to reserve?
 - Tarak: can possibly block off a certain number of rooms? We do have to fill those we block off, could lose money
 - Gerry: when we visited them, they weren't real concerned about having rooms reserved way up front, but we told them we would get back to them in January; the hostel is nice, and it's close to the site
 - Barry: have to make sure we don't fall under our room quota at the Palmer House Hilton
- Barry: have to discuss the Sunday parade/march organizing with Kids For Peace; talked to them last year, they thought Chicago is a great place to do the march; bring in local organizations and members; focus on women's issues in the military; Urban Indian Movement headquartered in Chicago; Black Lives Matter in Chicago
 - Tarak: we all agree the march could be tremendous
 - Gerry: skeptical, just because of huge organizing and political effort it would be; additional tasks that we would be taking on; should be lead locally, with a coalition effort; people don't normally march on Sunday mornings

- Tarak: small or large, we still like the idea; who is going to make this happen? who will be on a committee to start organizing?
- Further discussion on how to organize the march; Barry, Tarak, Monique, Frank Fitzgerald and Gerry to serve on parade committee
- Barry: will talk to rep from Kids For Peace, see if she will also serve on the committee
- Gerry: can see us stepping on toes, leaving people out, being accused of parachuting in and doing a march that didn't respect certain aspects; we have to do this right, it's a lot of careful work
- Joey: associate member Kathy Kelly in Chicago would be perfect for the march
- Michael: we have to reach out to the local activists who are dealing with the issues; or not; peace people tend not to be in contact with everyone on the ground; most chapters are not; every convention we've ever had, the local chapters have not been that tied into grassroots organizing; in order to pull this out, we have to reach out to those communities; the best person is someone in those communities who is networked with those chapters; there is a coalition in Chicago to reach out to; Black Youth 100 organization; Michael has list of Chicago activists from the Ferguson activities
- Patrick: in terms of stepping on toes; Chicago is the base of VVAW; considerations to be careful with our organizing
- Joey: do we have a good women's movement contact in Chicago?
- Kourtney: workshops geared towards women's experiences in the military and use that to reach out to women's movements to participate
- Barry: considerations with the convention theme; make peace studies required in the schools, especially Chicago Public Schools since they have such a big military recruitment program
- Barry to call Kids For Peace coordinator to gauge interest and make them feel comfortable in bigger arena; if you have a veterans peace organization marching, there may be a counter protest, but with kids marching, they may not do that
- Michael: we sent the letter invite to Michael Moore, and followed up with an email to Moore; will follow-up with an email to his sister; so far I don't see a response from him; ask the committee to send us more suggestions for speakers; we need to get right on the speakers for the convention; get invitations out; theme is Education Not Militarization; they need changes, such as put VFP national website on the logo; I like how the rifle is being broken, but it doesn't say "no" anywhere, it's just figurative; the theme needs to be reflected in the logo more; are we okay with the mono- or bi-color scheme; our logos usually have more colors to make it more lively and vivid
 - Brian: I like the yellow; important to slant the pencil at a more 45 degree angle so it's more readable; the vertical format is difficult to read
 - Mark: the symmetry is powerful element; the angle may lose the symmetry
 - Michael displays the proposed convention logo on screen for the meeting to consider
 - Further discussion on revisions on the logo
 - Barry: we need the dove to be white, not black; black helmet

- Michael: the logo needs to reflect our national convention; needs to display our national website, the date and city of the convention
- Barry: briefing on ideas on how to run plenaries and workshops at the convention; need to finalize what the plenaries will be; opening plenary is standard – get local political sympathetic person, get a native community member in Chicago to present
 - Tarak: have an indigenous voices plenary considering Standing Rock and connections made; I have at least five people I spoke with to invite to do a full plenary; need to know that if we have six people, and that's five hundred dollars each for travel, plus three rooms
 - Patrick: consider four people and two rooms
 - Barry: Urban Indian Movement in the city
 - Gerry: search for speakers should be focused locally and regionally; done in tandem with initial outreach for a march
 - Tarak: get these people in contact because we can imagine a future native VFP chapter; also a great native Dine woman singer
 - Gerry: Buffy St. Marie is an all-Indian band to consider for the concert
 - Barry: Taina Asili to consider for the concert

Golden Rule update – 4:15 PM MST

- Gerry: the GR has a companionship with the Phoenix of Hiroshima boat; a fifty-foot boat in the Sacramento River; new nonprofit set up to lift her up and get her sailing again; a filmmaker who is dedicated to the boat has done a lot of work and is going to the Marshall Islands in March; invited to meet with the president there; his own vision – Crossroads 2020 for big celebration conference with both boats sailing to the Islands; GR finally back home after 2016 voyage;
 - Michael and Gerry presents unreleased promotional video, Raising The Phoenix of Hiroshima
 - Online blog: <http://phoenixofhiroshima.blogspot.com/>
 - VFP Albuquerque chapter members Tom and Sherry Greacen enter the meeting
 - Gerry: presents further information on the project of restoring the Phoenix of Hiroshima peace boat; plans to sail along with the Golden Rule
- Gerry: further updates on Golden Rule organizing; just released newsletter, info on voyage; \$4500 in donations came in during the last two weeks; the committee had a special meeting a week ago to decide on the future ownership of the boat, how to organize it; there has been some ambiguity in the ownership; we had a good discussion, and we voted 8-1 to turn over ownership to VFP; pending the completion of the Memorandum Of Understanding; spell out how to share responsibilities between the committee and National VFP; joint fundraising, sailing the boat, crew, etc.; decisions on where it will sail for the next few years; proposed to work on consensus between committee and VFP; don't really see a lot of potential for conflict there; then it will be largely our responsibility to maintain the mission of the Golden Rule; the committee is prepared to take day-to-day responsibility for the boat; hope to expand the committee

to recruit people from VFP and other allied organizations to help us to continue to raise funds; Quaker involvement is absolutely essential; last couple years they have been totally involved and helped organize our tours, crew, captains, and they are on the committee; briefing on last year's voyage; no doubt that we can be bigger and better in terms of publicity, funding, media events; potential VFP staff person will help work part-time on the GR; Helen Jaccard still working on the ground as the Project Manager; we're in pretty good shape, and we're excited; this year we're talking about going to the Gulf States, potentially all over the U.S.; committee consensus is that we're not quite ready organizationally and financially to sail to Cuba; instead, we're planning to stay on the West Coast for 2017; travel down the coast, do a number of same events, end up in San Diego around August; Jim Summers active with Quakers and VFP San Diego proposing this idea for some time, we will flesh it out; have a group of young veterans or young kids in the San Diego area to have a special program with the GR, learn how to sail, learn nonviolence; we can raise foundation funds for this project; we might end up wintering the boat in SD; doing longer-range fundraising and organizing for a really powerful 2018 voyage

- Gerry fields questions and comments from the meeting on the Golden Rule
- Board discusses possible further funding for Golden Rule; current budget allowance; further influx of funds related to recent bequest
- **Mark motions for VFP to donate \$5000 from recent bequests to the Golden Rule committee; Brian seconds**
 - o Further discussion on VFP budget specifics
 - o Barry calls for further discussion; none
 - o **Barry calls for vote on the motion**
 - **Barry confirms unanimous approval of the motion**

Barry previews the remaining agenda for the meeting – 5:12 PM MST

Michael presents proposed revision mock-up of national convention logo – 5:16 PM MST

Barry adjourns the meeting at 5:20 PM MST

Veterans For Peace
National Board of Directors Meeting
Location: Conference Call
Date(s): Monday, 19 February 2017

Board members present:

Michael McPhearson, Executive Director
Barry Ladendorf, President
Kourtney Andar, Vice President
Brian Trautman, Treasurer
Monique Salhab, Secretary
Mark Foreman
Patrick McCann
Adrienne Kinne
Dan Shea, joined call at 1623 hours
Gerry Condon, joined call at 1629 hours
Monisha Rios, joined call at 1647 hours

Board Members not present

Tarak Kauff – Out of country - Palestine Delegation
Jason Cardenas – personal emergency

Motions and Votes in bold

Action Items italicized in red

Completed Items in blue

Proposed Agenda:

1. Convention Update
2. Music Fest Update
3. Golden Rule Update
4. Anti-Nuclear Weapons Campaign for 2017: Propose "New First Strike Campaign, in conjunction with the 2017 Golden Rule Cruise.
5. UN/VFP Conference Update
6. Follow-up on Strategic Planning from Albuquerque Meeting: ED
7. Committee Reports: Membership, Development, Awards, Personnel, Communication
8. Standing Rock: status, where do we go from here?
9. Board email protocol
10. Travel Fund Committee Draft of Application. Status.
11. April Board Meeting and Retreat

Barry calls the meeting to order
Commence taking of minutes at: 1612 hours

1. Barry discussed an email received from VFP member Thomas Milcarek regarding an event being held in Washington D.C. March 31st.
 - a. Barry informed he would let him know “we do not have enough information”.
2. Convention and Music Fest Update
 - a. Michael briefed the board regarding Jackson Browne. Three issues have arisen
 - i. JB has a different vision than VFP
 1. JB wants to focus on fundraising vs. VFP’s convention vision
 - ii. Conflict in dates
 - iii. JB prefers to work with someone they are familiar with rather than Miles
 - b. Decision was made to have two music events – Friday, 08/11 & Sunday, 08/13
 - i. Michael is scheduled to speak to JB’s representative Cree, Tuesday regarding what they wish to do. Should they decide they wish to do their own fundraising concert, they would provide the promoting, pricing of tickets
 - c. Barry informed JB would use their own promoter for their concert; they may likely price tickets according to their previous shows.
 - i. Separate concert allows a chance for VFP to attract a different demographic
 - ii. Bring in sufficient funds as a fundraiser
 - iii. Cater to a different audience
 - d. Patrick asked “what happens if he is not available the 11th and 13th” and how much to book for a second date
 - i. Michael responded VFP would do it another time
 - ii. Both Barry and Michael answered about 12,000
 - e. Mark asked if it is a fundraiser for VFP specifically? And what percent would be VFP’s?
 - i. Michael informed that once everything is paid, the remainder is VFP’s.
Michael wants to speak to Cree to find out the exact numbers and percentages
 - f. Kourtney asked “What kind of influence would JB have on other acts?” “Would they determine other acts?” If so, we would need to have ample time to figure that out.
 - i. *Michael will find out if they need VFP to find an opening act*
 - ii. Per Michael, Miles is confident he can locate prominent musicians
 - g. Barry at 1633 hours’ updates both Dan and Gerry on the discussion. Barry explained a decision needs to be made by the BoD whether it is okay to spend the extra money to book the second date for the Vic Theatre
 - h. Dan asked what kinds of prices? Will it outprice our members? Will JB give VFP members a discount?
 - i. Michael expressed it would be better to receive money from “outside” people.
 - i. Gerry inquired how did we get to two concerts and how does it affect our convention schedule
 - i. Barry explained the desire to have a diversity of acts and broad exposure to the public (beyond just VFP members); Jackson Browne probably feels more comfortable utilizing their own people and promoter; let’s continue with the original message of unity and diversity with a second concert; allow convention attendees to have ability to possibly participate in both concerts.

- j. Gerry also expressed he would leave it to the Convention Committee to figure it out. Is the Jackson Browne concert in line with the convention? It is something that could realistically be held separately from the VFP Convention.
- i. Michael expressed that he couldn't think of anything other than the march and the concert which would Bring in outside people, who would learn about VFP.
- k. Patrick expressed that "we do need to start figuring out how to organize in big ways". If JB plays Sunday night, we want to plan ahead and allow individuals to plan.
- l. **Barry requested the discussion go to vote. Below are the results:**
- Barry Ladendorf, President - Yea**
 - Kourtney Andar, Vice President -Yea**
 - Brian Trautman, Treasurer - Yea**
 - Monique Salhab, Secretary - Yea**
 - Mark Foreman - Yea**
 - Patrick McCann - Yea**
 - Adrienne Kinne - Yea**
 - Dan Shea - Yea**
 - Gerry Condon - Yea**
 - Monisha Rios - Yea**
3. Barry informed the convention logo is completed. No callback from Michael Moore as yet; The theme has been decided upon. Michael explained Shelly is working with the hotel regarding online registration.
- a. Michael stated the reality is that we may not have Michael Moore; he has not heard from his sister (via FB)
- i. Patrick stated we should have the head of the Chicago Teacher's Union as the opening speaker; hold a workshop regarding
- i. Michael sked Patrick to send an email as a reminder*
 - ii. Barry stated he welcomed Patrick's involvement
- ii. Dan mentioned Tavis Smiley, Cornell West and Angela Davis as possible speakers
- iii. Barry asked members to email he and Michael with names*
4. Gerry informed The Golden Rule is planning for another NW tour; arriving in San Diego in mid-March. Conducting some Non-Violence training with younger veterans and youth. They have decided to sail to the Gulf and Cuba the Spring of 2018 – wintering in San Diego.
- a. Barry discussed the fact of Trump's access to the nuclear arsenal and the dangers of it. An intentional campaign focused on "educating the public on the dangers of a first strike use". Introduce a petition for people to sign and then present it to congress and Senate leaders.
- i. Utilise the formulation of a Speaker' Bureau
- b. Gerry stated it is important that be an VFP organization wide campaign (National and International), rather than a Golden Rule Campaign.
- i. Develop PowerPoint point presentations
- c. Gerry also mentioned it creates more work for staff. Barry stated involving the Nuclear Working Group and board members

d. Dan expressed Hiroshima Day in August, allowing opportunity to connect to the Japanese communities around the country. Develop specific letterhead in addition to presentations.

i. Brian is interested and willing to develop curriculum and PowerPoint for campaign. Wants to coordinate with Gerry and develop timeline

e. Barry reminded of VFP's connection with the Nuclear Age Foundation. Barry asked if Gerry could contact individuals on the WG. Barry asked if there were any objections – there were none

i. Next couple of weeks Barry, Gerry and Brian will connect to discuss and organize.

5. Barry informed Costa Rica and the Marshall Islands are two prospective countries who may sponsor VFP UN Conference

a. He is formulating a both a budget and an outline of the program.

6. Michael reviewed discussion relating to “Our Work” goals, which was discussed during the Albuquerque meeting through programming for 2017.

a. Reach beyond the converted

b. Best Practices

c. Uplift VFP Core messages

i. PAHPA messaging

ii. Peace is Possible

d. Priorities

i. Speakers

ii. Membership drives

iii. Reform Working Groups

e. Work that supports efforts around country and have a VFP impact

f. Lobby Days – 2017 dates not yet set

g. Golden Rule, Vietnam Full Disclosure, Korean Peace Campaign (need to make it more relevant), Agent Orange, Iraq Water Project

h. Isolated work throughout the country

i. Speaker's Bureau, end current and threatened wars, Asian-Pacific Pivot, Whistleblowers, Kellogg-Briand Pact, Before You Join

i. UN work and global veterans work

j. Working Group Priorities and reform

k. Legislative Priorities

i. Adrienne expressed a need to bring to light militarization around the police and bringing that into VFP's work

ii. Patrick included a contrast of what is our organization and what we are involved in; also adding the importance of regional conferences

1. Need to be aware of the anti-fascism

ii. Gerry expressed the importance of turning “Activists into organizers” May want to combine speaker and organizer training

iii. Mark expressed concern about the need for a Program Coordinator

1. How we are prioritizing campaigns, workshops, working groups

2. If VFP did dedicate monies to a PC, they would have to organize committees relating to the above points.
 1. Michael informed Casey has been acting as the PC; have Shelly and the Kristine (Admin Ass't) assist the Membership Committee develop new chapters. How do the membership tasks breakdown?
7. Kourtney reported on the Membership Committee. The committee is due for a call – Kourtney had been organising the following:
 - a. Build a framework for the Membership drive
 - iv. National Board, National staff and chapters
 - b. How do the different parts of VFP fit into the Membership Drive?
 - c. Should have a start to the drive by April meeting will not be yearlong
 - d. Next call will be in March 2017
8. Adrienne is new Chair of Personnel; Mark has stepped down
9. *Gerry reported the Communications committee still needs to meet*
 - a. Colleen, Michael, Brian, Gerry, Patrick and Dan
 - b. Two tasks: Speakers and Media (social, press)
 - c. Gerry asked if the Speakers Bureau framework needs its own committee
10. Dan has been involved in various amounts of peace work over the last week and shared it is important to be where you can at this time; he appreciates Adrienne's point regarding the Militarization of the police. Important to bring VFP's message to wherever we are.
 - a. Barry informed it is important to carry cards, applications and where t-shirts and hats.
11. Brian reported on Standing Rock. Seems the resistance campaign may be "winding down" due to the administration's approval of the Keystone and the Army Corps of Engineers passing of the easement. VFP needs to focus more broadly on the Indigenous Solidarity camps throughout country no pipelines
 - a. March 7th -10th Standing Rock march is on the 10th "Native Nations Stand with Standing Rock"
 - b. Directing members to "action information page" link on VFP's website
 - c. Gerry mentioned Ken Ashe's detailed report regarding SR
 - i. Many "die-hards" will remain and continue
 - ii. Approximately fifty members on the VFP Standing Rock email listserv
 - iii. Shift focus on how we can continue to supports efforts; VFP can be visible in local actions
 - d. Dan thanked Gerry and Brian for the update. There will be a solidarity March 10th in Portland. Mentioned the efforts for divestment of groups linked to Keystone funding
12. Barry mentioned the issue regarding the issue of the BoD listserv. Do we need to have protocol regarding emails to one another? Barry mentioned it is important to place "Subject" line matter in emails. Tailoring "response" emails appropriately.
 - a. Patrick mentioned there is an issue of board protocol

- i. Informed there is a bigger issue with “Chapter contacts” listserv
 - b. Gerry informed he did not believe there is an issue
 - c. Michael expressed there is a problem in our movement with how people express themselves
 - d. Monisha informed she may have some suggestions with ideas related to the listserv and would like to reach out.*
 - i. Barry suggested Monisha connect to Gerry
 - 1. Gerry informed there has not been a bad word relating to the listserv
 - e. Kourtney pointed out that the ExCom discussed this issue. The ExCom agreed that Kourtney and Brian draft protocol regarding the board listserv. Encouraged fellow members to send ideas to both he and Brian. Once completed, it will be included into the Board Policy Manual.
 - i. Volume of emails
 - ii. Language
 - iii. Multiple threads (exchanges)
 - f. Adrienne asked the policy address the tone and volume of emails
- 13. Gerry, Tarak and Dan have not commenced work regarding the Travel Grant application. Michael refreshed everyone on the issue and why the decision came to be
 - a. Barry mentioned there are missed opportunities regarding delegations. What is the follow up?
 - b. Dan mentioned there was discussion to develop criteria for members wanting to be a part of delegations
 - c. Kourtney stated he needs to be a part of the committee
 - i. Tarak, Gerry, Kourtney and Dan
- 14. Dan asked about the April’s in-person BoD’s meeting in St. Louis
 - i. Last weekend in April (27-30); must arrive the 26th

Barry adjourns the meeting at 1823 hours

APPROVED

Veterans For Peace
National Board of Directors Meeting
Location: Conference Call
Date(s): Sunday, 19 March, 2017

Board members present:

Michael McPhearson, Executive Director
Barry Ladendorf, President
Kourtney Andar, Vice President
Brian Trautman, Treasurer
Monique Salhab, Secretary
Monisha Rios
Joey King
Tarak Kauff
Patrick McCann
Mark Forman
Dan Shea
Adrienne Kinne
Jason Cardenas – joined call at 1838 hours
Gerry Condon – sent an email to inform he had no cell service

Members and guests present: Not applicable

Motions and Votes in bold

Action Items italicized in red

Completed Items in blue

*Approve Minutes from February board call

1. Convention and Music Fest Update.
 2. Golden Rule/No First Use Campaign
 3. Committee Reports: Development, Membership, Financial, Personnel, Awards, Nominations, Bylaws, Communications and Zinn Committee
 4. Electronic Voting
 5. Korean Peace Campaign Update
 6. Report on the Palestine Delegation Trip. What's is the follow-up plan? What did we learn? Was there interest in VFP chapter forming?
 7. UN/VFP update
 8. Possible veterans march Washington DC with Vietnam Letters, Full Disclosure Campaign
 - 9 Report on Standing Rock/DC March
 10. Cuban Conference on Military Bases
 11. Youth Empowerment Project Please read the Zinn Committee report submitted by Long Beach VFP Chapter 67
-

Barry presides over meeting

Commence taking of minutes at: 1807 hours

1. Barry commenced updating the board regarding the convention and music festival. Jackson Browne will plan the concert – publicity, venue, ticketing. The Copernicus Theatre in Chicago has been reserved. The concert date is still unknown. Cree (JB promoter) informed JB will write VFP a check after the event, once costs have been calculated.
 - a. The convention committee will have a call in the new week to continue planning.
 - b. Dan informed he spoke to Tavis Smiley’s agent – who informed he is unavailable for the convention – but he is available in the future.
 - c. Dan also asked about a discount for VFP members
 - d. *Barry will follow-up regarding Dan’s inquiry*
2. Barry updated about the Golden Rule (GR) transfer of power. The GR Committee sent an MOU, which the ExCom discussed. Barry informed the ExCom will do the initial negotiations with the GR Committee and will present to the remainder of the board what is decided. Barry cited how much time was taken to discuss transfer of ownership and believed the above process to be more efficient.
 - a. GR Committee agrees on points of “No First Strike” Campaign. It will sail from Humboldt Bay to San Francisco. *Brian is working on a PowerPoint presentation.* The Nuclear Working Group will be integrally involved with planning the campaign.
 - i. Barry highlighted the campaign will also assist with fundraising for VFP.
 - b. Joey asked about the disagreements regarding the transfer of ownership.
 - ii. International Court of Justice rejected the claim and the San Francisco case will be heard this coming week. Nuclear Peace Foundation is encouraging individuals to attend the hearing. Barry informed a decision will be made in three months.
3. Barry mentioned the Development Committee met (emailed a report to board). Michael drafted a letter to WWII and Korean War veterans to bequest money to VFP. Michael emailed Ralph Nader the draft bequest letter for review and awaiting a response.
 - a. Michael also informed Jim Driscoll (Development) is has been trying to contact board members and encourage board members to contact VFP members.
4. Michael informed both he and Amar (Open Society Foundation) have been communicating; he does not know if VFP will receive money from OSF. Michael has also been communicating with other organizations regarding funding.
 - a. Joey noted the “pushback” received from membership accepting money from OSF. He also noted the recent bylaw change.
 - b. Michael suggested a discussion would be prudent to examine any money received from OSF. Michael suggested a discussion could be had if OSF grants money to VFP.
 - c. Adrienne noted the bylaw change as a result of the USAID issue; it would be “better to have the conversation before you have to cross that bridge.”
 - d. Barry suggested it could be discussed further at the April board meeting.

- e. Tarak suggested Gene Marx and Ben Griffin a part of the discussion, since they proposed it. Barry informed it's the board's responsibility to discuss and decide the outcome, if the OSF grants money.
5. Kourtney will have a full Membership report at the April meeting.
 6. Michael informed of the 50,000 grant from Craigslist. An April appeal letter will be sent out to membership. Current deficit of 8,839.
 7. Adrienne informed the Personnel Committee had its first call a few weeks ago.
 - a. She asked about VFP staff, E.D. and board evaluations. Mark informed staff completed evaluations in November 2016. He also mentioned evaluations are done in April and November (twice a year). Adrienne will follow-up with emailing evaluations to the board, so they may be reviewed at the April Meeting.
 - b. Barry asked if the salary increases were made; Michael informed they went into effect last paycheck.
 - c. Michael discussed the following concern:
 - i. The unknown future of ACA
 1. It was cheaper for staff to use ACA and instead instituted a Cost of Living Adjustment (CoLA). Highlights if ACA is repealed, it will affect VFP's budget.
 8. No reports on Awards, Communications and Nominations
 - a. Michael requested board members start thinking about possible candidates and to maintain awareness around diversity and time commitment. Barry echoed Michael's sentiment.
 9. Mark reported on the Zinn Committee
 - a. Highlighted the appeal to increase the Zinn Fund money. Joey suggested a change the rule from 10% to 15% Mark proposed the Zinn Fund committee and the ExCom committee agree to make the increase. If the board agrees, the board will have to agree to committing 5,000 (either by fundraising or out of the budget) each year to the Zinn Fund.
 - b. Joey cited the percentage was "agreed upon willy-nilly"
 - c. Michael countered and noted the 10% was agreed upon with an attempt to preserve an amount in the fund.
 - d. Dan requested the board discuss the issue further at the April board meeting
 - i. Noted the bill in Arkansas banning Howard Zinn's books
 - ii. Suggested the viability of Indiegogo and GoFundMe (split 50:50) – splitting the monies raised with an Arkansas group fighting the ban and VFP.
 - e. Adrienne highlighted the relationship with Howard Zinn and
 - f. Michael stated based on principles, money raised should not go to VFP; and to engage the struggle on the ground in Arkansas if "we are going to reference it".
 - g. Patrick cited it is a "slippery slope regarding intentions"

- h. Mark mentioned he had a discussion with the National Howard Zinn Memorial and the vote is expected in April.
 - i. Dan thanked Michael for what he stated. He also highlighted there is a whole Right Wing movement working to dismantle education across the country. He also explained it is important to raise awareness.
 - j. Barry reminded that with Sally-Alice's bequest in January 2017, her wishes were 5,000 be given to the Zinn Fund. **Barry proposed the motion to give 5,000 to the Zinn Fund per Sally-Alice's request. The board unanimously voted to the motion.**
 - k. Mark informed the Zinn Fund Committee discussed the increase and "agrees to" the 10% to 15% increase to the fund.
 - i. Patrick informed he would like to discuss the increase at the April board meeting.
 - ii. Kourtney asked for clarification for the proposal to possibly table the vote to increase the fund from 10% to 15%.
 - 1. Patrick explained he raised concerns during the January board meeting – administration of it, process of funds – and would like to table discussion until the April board meeting.
 - iii. *Mark volunteered to send all of the documents regarding the Zinn Fund to the board*; explained it's the ExCom which oversees the fund. Believes the committee has done a good job administrating the fund.
 - iv. Barry motioned for a proposal to increase the Zinn Fund from 10% to 15%. Dan seconded the motion. Discussion commenced.
 - 1. Adrienne asked if the increase would affect the current year (2017) awardee.
 - 2. Brian explained the increase is high compared to similar organization. Brian also noted money is not in an interest-bearing account and its long-term sustainability questionable
 - 3. Barry asked if Mark would withdraw his motion due to the increased level of discussion and questions. Mark agreed and withdrew his motion.
 - v. The board will re-commence the discussion at the April BoD's meeting.
10. Adrienne spoke to members of the Bylaws committee. Individuals would like to know the processes of enforcing it.
- a. Michael noted levels of security will change from year to year as technology changes. The steps regarding security should not be in the bylaws due to changing in security software.
 - b. Joey supported Michael's points regarding security technology
 - c. Adrienne asked if having an outline of what security process(es) would be used could help "assuage members" concerns.

Barry left call at 1922 hours; Michael presided; Barry returned at 1925 hours and re-presided over meeting

- d. Brian stated he is curious to know what and how IVAW implemented their e-voting.
 - e. Patrick Gokey helped IVAW with setting up their e-voting and the VCI website.
 - f. *Michael suggested sub-committee be formed to research security and implementation options. Barry informed he will send a follow-up email requesting volunteers.*
11. *Michal has reached out to the Korean Peace Campaign members but has not heard from any of them.* He will continue to reach out. Barry cited an article written by Ann Wright.
- a. Patrick noted there have been issues with both the Korean Peace Campaign and the Palestine group and said it should be discussed.
12. Tarak summarized the emailed report on the Palestine Delegation. Informed they will return to Palestine next year at 7-8 members and have two teams. Stressed the importance of having “carefully picked members” for the future delegation.
- a. Film taken by Chris Smiley may be done by the Chicago Convention
 - b. Dan asked if the delegation will be conducting a tour discussing the delegation
 - i. Tarak informed logistics would have to be solidified – money, where to stay, travel costs.
 - ii. Barry suggested having certain persons from the delegation (one preferably), visit chapters to help minimize cost.
 - c. Michael mentioned the office staff have been discussing the possibility of a tour – the intersectionality of issues – discussing Okinawa, Palestine, Standing Rock, MST, etc.
 - d. Michael noted that delegations have not necessarily paralleled “Our Work” and VFP’s campaigns
13. Barry informed a meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 10th at the U.N. Barry is also working on a letter to the Foreign Minister of Costa Rica.
14. Barry brought the possible march in Washington, D.C. scheduled for May (Memorial Day)
- a. Tarak informed the action in May will be “dynamic” and “stop traffic”. There is a scheduled conference call Monday, April 20th.
 - b. Dan mentioned he is on the Full Disclosure group and will be asking VFP members to come to D.C. to the Vietnam Memorial.
 - c. Patrick agreed with Tarak regarding not competing with Rolling Thunder. He also suggested having “focused actions” and acquiring a permit for an encampment for the Memorial Day gathering.
 - d. Michael reminded VFP did both Lobby Days and the Full Disclosure Action last year (2016) and noted the difficulty in navigating both events. Mentioned the possibility of having Lobby Days around the Fourth of July holiday.
15. Brian reported on the Native Nations Rise March in Washington, D.C. Approximately a dozen VFP members were a part of the contingent. Approximately 5,000 people were

present at the rally. Four to five teepees were established and workshops, educational classes were held.

16. Michael discussed the upcoming conference in Cuba regarding military bases. Ann Wright has been asked to speak at the conference. She is also organization a veteran contingency. Casey is creating a webpage for veterans who wish to be a part of the group.
 - a. Dan asked when the conference is scheduled.
 - b. Tarak informed it is May 4th-6th

17. Barry referred to the Youth Empowerment Project (Part of VFP Chapter 67), which received an award via the Zinn Fund. He suggested VFP examine the program and whether it could become a VFP National Project. Requested board members review the report (emailed by Barry) and be ready for discussion at April's board meeting.

- a. Dan mentioned a solidarity march; will have a Native veteran on his radio show; working with Ryan Holleran on Counter recruitment.
- b. Monique highlighted the
- c. Monisha noted she has been "off the grid" due to moving and re-settlement issues. Discussed a film highlighting Moral Injury. Asked about University/College VFP chapters. "War and Morale Injury" paper coming out this Spring. Psychologists for Social Responsibility.
- d. Dan mentioned he is on the Resolution Committee but has not had any contact with anyone; he asked for the chairperson's contact information.
- e. Jason is "putting the finishing touches on VFP Media". Informed by next month's board meeting "should have something tangible for the board".*

Barry adjourned the meeting in 2017 hours

APPROVED

Veterans For Peace
National Board of Directors Meeting
Location: St. Louis, MO
Date(s): Thursday, 27 - Friday, 30 April 2017

Board members present:

Michael McPhearson, Executive Director
Barry Ladendorf, President
Kourtney Andar, Vice President
Brian Trautman, Treasurer
Monique Salhab, Secretary
Dan Shea
Mark Foreman
Tarak Kauff
Monisha Rios
Patrick McCann

Board members not present

Jason Cardenas – joined meeting on Friday, 28 April at 1543 hours
Adrienne Kinne – unable to attend due to work conflict
Joey King – Arrived Friday, 28 April in the morning, prior to the start of the meeting

Members and guests present:

Helen Jaccard, VFP Chapter #

Motions and Votes in bold

Action Items/tasks in the process italicized in red

Competed Items in blue

Proposed Agenda

Thursday 9 am - 5 pm (Subject to modification)
9- 9:15 Weekend/Agenda Review
9:15- 10: Sexual Harassment Training.
10-10:15 Break
10-15-11:15 Executive Director Report Michael
11-15-Noon Budget and Financial Reports Michael/Brian
Noon: 1:15 Lunch Break
1:15-2:15 Committee Reports: Development, Membership, Bylaws, Nominations, Awards, Communications, Resolutions.
2:15-2:45 Convention/Music Fest Update including overview of the convention budget. Barry and Michael.
2:45-3:45 Golden Rule and VFP Disarmament Campaign. Gerry, Helen and Barry.
3:45-4:00 Break
4:00-4:15 Status on Drafting application for VFP Delegations and Process for selection.
4:15-5:00 Time for Electronic Voting; Discussion. First Steps.

Friday 9 am-5 pm (Subject to modification)

9-10 Memorial Day Events in Washington DC. Tarak

10: 10:30 Veterans For Peace/United Nations Event-Next Steps: Barry, Brian, Tarak, Michael.

10:30-10:45 Break

11:00-11:15 Developing Process for Endorsement Requests

11:15- 11:30 Cuba Trip Status. Who is going from VFP?

11:30-Noon Catch up on items not completed.

Noon-1:15 Lunch Break

1:15-1:30 Memo from Willie Hager Request for Support.

1:30-1:45 Review for Weekend Retreat- Michael

1:45-? Meeting with VFP Staff members.

Commence taking of minutes at: 0830 hours

Barry presides over the meeting

1. Tarak read the VFP Statement of Purpose
2. Patrick gave a brief statement about John Heuer who passed in November 2016 – Presente’
3. Barry commenced introductions to welcome new board member Monisha Rios; fellow board members followed with introductions.
4. Barry reviewed the agenda. Gerry suggested “we should have some built in time in the agenda for updates and discussion” regarding current issues. Gerry also reminded he would like to update the board regarding Climbers for Peace (Iran climb in November 2017).
5. Michael commenced his **E.D. report**.
 - a. “The national office continues to be in transition”; Casey’s last day is May 13th but she will “continue to run the VFP Store due to her retail background” and the increased revenue.
 - b. [The VFP Mobile site is up and running.](#)
 - c. Both Michael and Helen have conducted three interviews for the full-time Golden Rule (GR)/Veterans Challenge Islamophobia (VCI) position.
 - d. Michael expressed a desire to hire a veteran for Casey’s position.
 - i. Patrick asked if individuals for the above two positions need to be localized. Michael expressed a desire to have them localized to strengthen face to face interaction and work stability.
 - ii. Mark asked if the GR/VCI position is full-time. Michael responded it is.
 - iii. Tarak inquired if individuals who are interviewed are willing to relocate. Michael informed one individual expressed interest to relocate. He is considering that individual for Casey’s position.
 - e. Michael informed first round interviews will be in person; second round interviews will be skyped/facetime.
 - f. Barry asked if the wage for the GR/VCI position is the same as Casey’s. Michael responded Casey’s position is more.

- g. Patrick asked if the pay for the positions is coming from grants. Michael informed the GR/VCI position will be paid from remaining revenue from 2016 and fundraising. The staff salary is paid out of general funds.
- h. Michael expressed “we have a little bit of a challenge to raise money” for the GR; both he and Helen have discussed options of how VFP National can assist with fundraising for GR. Michael stressed “we need to do more”
- i. Michael noted we are at a “positive income” resulting from the Craigslist grant.
- j. VFP received a grant from Magic Pebbles; received 2,00 from the Guacamole Fund; and 5,000 from Common Counsel Foundation (CCF).
 - i. *Barry asked for the contact information for the GF & CCF so he could send “Thank You” letters.*
- k. Michael mentioned he not heard from Ralph Nader regarding his offer to assist with the “Peace is Possible” Legacy bequest letter. Barry suggested both he and Michael initiate another meeting with him to possibly “reinvigorate him”.
- l. *Michael informed he is working on an appeal letter to be sent in May.* The next one will be in July.
 - i. Barry suggested Michael include the upcoming May 30th action in D.C. and possibly the link to Will Griffin’s video.
 - ii. *A VFP Associate “Thank You” letter will also be sent.*
 - iii. *A special appeal to lapsed VFP members will be drafted focusing on the “urgency of the times”; upcoming projects/actions*
 - 1. Kourtney cited the “intense conflict(s) which could ignite at any moment”
 - 2. Gerry added “that if we could demonstrate the things we are doing” in the appeal letters
 - 3. Monisha asked “do we actively measure our outcomes?” Michael stated “we kind of do” in a year-end letter. She also mentioned utilizing some metrics work and incorporating it into the work of VFP.
 - 4. Tarak asked if the measuring will incorporate descriptive.
 - 5. Kourtney stressed the importance of chapters being taught/shown the concept of a successful campaign via a workshop during conventions.
- m. *Barry informed a grant application for the Barret Foundation has been completed and will be submitted today, 27 April.*
 - i. Barry’s wife has volunteered to be a researcher for grants for VFP.
- n. Discussion centered around posting the received grants on the VFP website, to “pump up” and advertise monies received from foundations to membership. Barry suggested recruiting VFP Advisory Board members to contact potential bequestors. “We need to get back to the BoD’s calling top donors” and “scheduling national conference calls with membership” regarding what we are doing to address the current crisis.
- o. Michael wrapped up his report on the following: continue to update the website; hire for the two vacant positions; the upcoming convention; candidates for the VFP BoD’s; review the Working Groups; staff reviews; major donors and grant writing.

- i. Kourtney asked if there can be discussion on grant writing and salary increase. Michael suggested general discussion can be done within the Personnel Committee and presented to the board.
- p. Monisha requested the board examine the expectations required for incoming board members and potential board members. “We need to make participation equitable and accessible” to potential board members; “how can we modify and adapt?”.
 - i. Michael highlighted a previous discussion on the issue and concerns Jason had expressed.
 - ii. Patrick suggested the Nominations Committee could possibly address the issue as they look at potential candidates.
- q. Michael discussed the retreat. Training will be Saturday and discussion will continue on Sunday. There will be team-building activities; campaign and program development; campaign and program objectives. Michael noted the desire to discuss the upcoming D.C. action and current and threatening wars.

BoD commenced break at 1112 hours for ten minutes. Meeting re-commenced at 1142 hours

6. Brian commenced the **Treasurer’s report**.

- a. The “Fiscal Sponsor” item is when VFP is a sponsor for another organization – i.e. IAVA, Military Families Speak Out.
- b. Michael explained that a letter of appeal has not been sent to the membership to request money for the GR, noting that when an appeal letter is sent for a particular campaign, those monies must be used for that campaign – disallowing for flexibility. He would like “us to diversify our revenue streams” and not rely on just the membership.
 - i. Barry suggested a letter addressing the Nuclear Disarmament Campaign should include the GR.
- c. Gerry stated monies obtained from a specific letter of appeal for a campaign does not necessarily have to be used for that same thing.
- d. Brian explained he “sees both Gerry and Michael’s points of view”.
- e. Monisha suggested a general appeal letter via the website which offers “options for people to choose where their donation goes” – i.e. operations, GR, etc. - would empower members.
 - i. Mark expressed concern regarding this idea because membership may not donate to “General Operations” since they may not fully understand the importance of this fund – salaries, operating costs, etc.
 - ii. Kourtney highlighted diversifying “revenue stream” would hopefully remedy such an issue.
- f. Michael explained there is a list of individuals who are not VFP members who have supported the GR and cited the importance of developing that contact list.
- g. Mark noted “we need to establish how much we need to reserve each year” in case of a crisis to maintain operations.
- h. Dan asked if we could research how VFP could obtain a donation button on Facebook, which would possibly generate a new stream of revenue.*

- i. Monisha informed the Speaker's Bureau is another way to obtain revenue - when the speaker receives an honorarium, VFP could request a percentage go to VFP.
- j. Barry asked what are the expenditures on the Iraq Water Project. Michael informed he has a report which will explain.

Break for lunch at 1225 hours. Meeting re-commenced at 1336 hours

7. Committee reports continued.

- a. Barry informed he has not completed a *Development Committee* report. He informed Jim Driscoll is interested and available to come on board to travel and meet with individuals in New York to discuss VFP and the campaigns. Barry also informed he and Michael have discussed incorporating Dan Saint to assist with development issues, with minimal compensation to relating to plane fare.
 - i. Gerry suggested inviting Daniel Craig (Craigslit), Daniel Ellsberg and others to visit the GR.
 - ii. Barry would like to see BoD's roles focus more on major donor calls and smaller fundraising initiatives; focus on a year campaign.
 - iii. Gerry asked, "Do we know how many bequests we have?" Barry does not have the answer. He highlighted collecting the "intent" of a bequest and then following up with it.
 - iv. Helen mentioned the spreading of ashes by members, filming the event and sharing it via social means as a possible fundraising avenue.
- b. Kourtney commenced the *Membership Committee* report and debut the new schematic he created for the recruitment campaign. He is working with Shelly to "streamline the reporting" – Post 9-11, demographic information. One of the new methods of reporting is tracking members immediately once they have lapsed to provide better accuracy. Kourtney asked these two questions: "How do we organize the tasks for a recruitment campaign?" and "What is a way to get the organization to cooperate on one campaign?"
 - i. Kourtney will email the schematic to the board.
 - ii. Kourtney gave an example that there are many members who have paid chapter dues but not VFP National dues "but are committed to their chapters". One possible rectification is having the chapter president contact the member to ask about dues and engage in discussion about the importance of national dues and the necessity to support the national office.
 1. Patrick suggested a Membership workshop at the conventions each year to discuss recruitment strategies. Kourtney will be submitting a Membership development workshop for this year's convention to begin addressing such issues.
 2. Dan said it would be important to find out "why someone may have left the organization" as a piece of data to collect.
 - iii. Barry mentioned another tactic would be chapter visits by board members.
 - iv. Tarak stressed the importance of "person to person" to recruit new members. Additionally, carrying the membership brochures and copies of Peace In Our Times (PIOT).

- v. Discussion turned to the pending issue of the inquiry from individuals in Japan who wish to form a VFP chapter. Barry informed none of the potential members have proof of military service except photos. Michael noted the continued dilemma of “having international chapters”, explaining different countries have different requirements of proof of military service and may not have such records. He also highlighted the burden it creates on VFP National to navigate such barriers. Barry discussed an MOU which was signed with South Korea and VFP, explaining they are autonomous yet adhering to the VFP Mission. Patrick noted individuals from other countries may be contacting “us because they are looking for support to start their own thing”.
 - 1. Tarak stressed his approval of international chapters and suggested a “small three-person committee” form to figure out what would be needed to establish parameters for potential international chapters.
 - 2. *Kourtney will present Tarak’s suggestion to the Membership Committee*
- vi. Dan suggested creating a virtual tour of the GR to appeal to younger veterans.
- vii. Monisha suggested looking at student chapters and “is that something worth looking at?” Barry explained, “we’ve tried that” and the problem is turnover – when students graduate, there is often no one remaining to continue the work and keep the chapter viable. He noted one solution is student veterans affiliating with an established VFP chapter.
- viii. Tarak suggested using the line “You’re always a Veterans For Peace”. Discussion surfaced about how does that relate to lapsed members and those who have not paid national dues. Michael noted the impact of spending money on people who are no longer interested in VFP and/or wish to donate. Barry added there three ways you no longer a VFP member: “you die; you’re expelled or you ask no longer to be a member”.
- c. Patrick asked that both the *Nominations Committee* and *Awards Committee* present tomorrow when Joey arrives.
- d. The *Bylaws Committee* did not have a report.
- e. The *Resolutions Committee* should commence work around the end of May, when members begin to submit resolutions.
- f. Gerry presented on the *Communications Committee*. The committee’s discussion centered on “How do we get more represented in the media?” He reported Colleen suggested the “open reader rates” need to improve, communications to chapters needs to improve and chapters need to improve on social media outreach. Gerry explained the need for a “Rapid Response Team”, increase press release statement response time. He also mentioned the Speakers Bureau and the use of letters to the editor (providing a sample Letter to the Editor for chapters to utilize).
 - i. Brian noted <http://peacevoice.info> which provides editorial reviews and feedback as well as sending submitted articles to nationwide publication sources.

- ii. Dan suggested “preparing letter templates” to have ready to ease the pressure of having statements ready immediately.
 - iii. Mark asked “these seems like a lot of work for a small group of people, do we want to compensate them?” Barry cited it is part of the board work.
 - iv. *Michael asked the board to think about “what are the top things to have letters of response ready” and let him know.*
 - v. Barry remind about InDepth News and how they have published articles submitted by several VFP members.
 - g. *Dan contacted Bob Krzewinski on the Resolutions Committee. They will start receiving submissions on May 1st. Michael will send the protocols to the ExCom tonight for review and have them posted by May 1st.*
8. Barry updated members on the Convention. **Col. Lawrence Wilkerson is approved to be the banquet speaker. Jackson Browne is approved and scheduled to perform on Sunday, April 13th as a fundraiser for VFP.** Barry suggested “we honour Jackson Browne for being involved with VFP with a t-shirt and plaque”. Paul Chappell is approved for the “Peace is Possible plenary. Michael reported “Miles is moving things forward”. He is drafting a contract for performers; tax-exemption status paperwork has been filed to facilitate with lowering expenses. A letter has been sent to Rev. William Barber to request he speak at the public event. Michael reviewed the convention program.
- a. Gerry suggested his “surprise at not reaching out to local” speakers in Chicago. Michael responded, “Rev. Barber is known nationally”.
 - b. Patrick asked “Given the theme of the convention, do we have anyone from the education community who is involved with the attack from the Trump Administration?” Patrick volunteered to approach the National Education Association (NEA) for possible speakers. Barry noted someone from the Chicago Public School system will be present.
 - i. Dan cited this was discussed during the meeting in Chicago and “doesn’t understand why we are discussing this now.” He also inquired if Col. Wilkerson will be addressing the education peace of the convention theme.

Break at 1526 hours. Meeting re-commenced at 1354 hours

9. Helen Jaccard commenced her report on the **Golden Rule**. Helen reviewed the GR Mission Statement, reviewed the GR budget, needed repairs and possible lawsuit.
- a. Proposed 2017 theme: Ban Nuclear weapons! No New Nukes! No First Strike!
 - b. The 2017 voyage is planned along the mid to southern coast of California. An action camp is planned in the San Francisco Bay area. Helen explained “there is a fvision of the GR and the Phoenix of Hiroshima – which is still underwater - to sail together” in 2020.
 - c. Helen requested any contacts and ideas be sent to her; she also expressed openness to travel and speak about the GR.
 - d. Barry asked how the process is going regarding crew selection and captain(s) selection(s). There has not been “much response from prior crewmembers”. She will be advertising in yacht clubs and boating magazines. Compensation to licensed captains will be offered this year.

- e. Helen clarified she “would still like to be a consultant not an employee.”
 - f. Gerry informed discussion continues with VFP and the GR Committee to transfer ownership. He would like to see it completed by the embarking of the GR in June 2017.
 - i. Barry explained the ExCom will continue discussion and present to the remaining board for vote; Gerry will abstain from the VFP board vote.
 - g. *Monisha pointed out the VFP necklace, which is sold through the VFP Store – From War to Peace, Inc. based in San Louis Obispo - is made from copper cables. She suggested contacting the organization and initiating possible partnership to bring in revenue. Monisha volunteered to follow up with the company.*
 - h. Patrick expressed “one thing that limits the Golden Rule is that it’s a West coast thing,” and what are the plans to expand and reach out to the east coast? Gerry acknowledged the difficulty in location but noted sending speakers to landlocked chapters, a virtual tour (*originally suggested by Dan, see 7.b.vi*). Patrick also asked “what kind of outreach” has been done with other nuclear groups? Helen noted she has not done a lot work in that area because of all the duties but would like whomever is hired for the GR/VCI position to incorporate it into their work. Barry asked what Helen’s vision for the GR/VCI is; she highlighted outreach, fundraising events, possible travel to organize events.
 - i. *Helen recapped the incident which occurred last season with the Washington County Sheriff when the boat was struck by the county’s boat crew in the water. The GR filed a claim which was denied; therefore, the GR has submitted a 30-day demand letter for repair to the Washington County Sheriff Department. Helen will supply updates as needed.*
10. Both Gerry and Barry presented on the **VFP Disarm Campaign**. Barry stressed the need for a nationwide campaign focusing on No First Strike, the increase in military spending and the increased crisis with North and South Korea. Gerry recapped the Trump Administration’s active boycott of the U.N.’s Nuclear Weapon’s Treaty Ban Conference. Barry stated several countries have expressed thoughts that the formulation of a Nuclear Ban Treaty without U.S. participation would be stronger. U.N. negotiations are to be completed July 2017.
- a. Gerry reviewed the GR campaign slogan, the Lieu-Markey bill (No First Strike) and work with Roots Action to create a petition to be presented during the international veteran’s conference at the U.N. November of next year.
 - b. Barry discussed Brian’s work to create a PowerPoint presentation to make available to chapters to use within their communities as an education piece regarding nuclear weapons and No First Strike.
 - i. Utilize the VFP foundation search engine relating to United Nations and nukes to obtain monies to assist with the campaign.
 - ii. Member nations of the U.N. to raise “our voice and say we are tired of war”. The conference is planned for November 2018 (100-year anniversary of WWI).
 - c. **Gerry motioned the VFP Disarmament Campaign to “Ban Nuclear Weapons! No New Nukes! No First Strike!” be voted on; Barry seconded. It**

was unanimously approved by the BoD's to have the aforementioned as the 2017 campaign.

- i. Gerry asked, "What can an individual do to bring attention to the Nuclear Ban Treaty?"
11. Discussion turned fundraising resources. It was also discussed if GoFundMe should be used to assist with fundraising. Patrick noted it takes "courage to ask for money"; Dan expressed he raised 4,000 to assist with his Jeju/Okinawa delegation trip. Michael stated he is "getting a lot of pushback" from staff to use crowd-sourcing avenues; he suggested to have a few people examine the advantages/disadvantages (when and when not) to utilize such means. He also expressed his desire to use such methods only if there is a way to obtain the names of the donors and the percentage some crowd-sourcing companies take from raised monies is minimal. Brian suggested some people may be more "apt to click on a GoFundMe" link because of the reputation associated with it.
 - a. Monisha mentioned <http://www.startsomegood.com> as a possible viable source to learn crowd-source fundraising; "how dynamic your campaign is". She also suggested organizing community art spaces, asking people to "create your vision of peace", while "having discussions with people" – incorporating art with action.
 - i. Tarak asked if Monisha would "get the ball rolling" on the aforementioned; *she will follow up with her contacts on the aforementioned.*
 - ii. Michael stated the best way we "can be disruptive right now" is to talk with people we normally do not talk to and to intertwine the PAHPA message into the art spaces; "so that when you have to hit the streets, you have people to hit the streets with."
 - b. Tarak mentioned the event in D.C. on May 30th and the need to raise money for it. He highlighted Will Griffin's video and using it as a possible fundraising initiative.
 - i. Michael informed an email letter of appeal to lapsed veterans will include the May 30th event and a GoFundMe page will be created for the May 30th event, as a test to see what results are acquired and monies raised.
 - c. Helen and Tarak stressed the importance of supporting the upcoming Women's March to Ban the Bomb in June 2017.
 - d. Barry suggested challenging members to record videos of themselves discussing the VFP DisArm Campaign and utilizing social media to spread the message.
 - e. Patrick proposed "a different option of allowing people to use their own creativity".
12. Barry mentioned Kourtney and Brian are drafting policy regarding delegations.
13. Barry would like to have the Bylaws Committee examine the e-voting.
 - a. Gerry asked "if there is any way to suppress a bylaw change to enact e-voting sooner". Barry suggested a test could be done this year by offering membership the opportunity to "opt-in for e-voting" versus snail mail.
 - i. Michael mentioned there are members who will disagree with the board's interpretation of the bylaw's definition of "mailing" to include "email".
 - b. *Helen reminded the board that approximately three years ago she completed extensive research on e-voting and will forward the information to the board.*

- c. Kourtney asked “is there are other member organizations that do this?” *Michael noted IAVA does e-voting and will “dig up a report he completed a couple years ago and forward the information to the board.*
- d. Michael reminded (and warned) the membership may have an issue with the expedited implementation of e-voting from the board.
- e. Barry suggested “taking the temperature at the [Chicago] convention”.
- f. Michael asked “what the urgency is” and asked the board to think about it. Barry highlighted the low voter turnout and participation this past election cycle.
- g. Kourtney asked “What are the next steps?” Barry stated to examine the Bylaw and change the language, look into e-voting software and for board members to initiate conversations with fellow chapter members to prepare them for the change. Barry added he will write an article for the VFP newsletter addressing the upcoming change.
- h. Monique cited that Tom Polumbo had written the “language piece and presented it” at the Berkley business meeting. *She will email the board the information from that period.*

**Meeting adjourned at 1810 hours; will reconvene tomorrow (Friday) at 0900 hours. **

**Meeting re-commenced Friday, 28 April at 0815 hours. Barry presides over meeting. **

14. Barry reviewed the days’ agenda and transitioned to discussing the VFP Memorial Day event in D.C. on May 30. Tarak discussed how the planning for the event commenced as a result of the VFP statement relating to “Trump’s budget”. Tarak informed the planned estimated budget is at 7,000 – 3,000 for travel; 2,000 for sound system/speakers; 300 for banners; 500 for miscellaneous items; 200 for water and snacks and the remainder for incidentals. Tarak reviewed the list of seven demands:

- a. Dismantle the U.S. Empire at Home and Abroad!
- b. Close all U.S. Bases on Foreign Soil – Bring the Troops Home!
- c. Decrease the Pentagon Budget – Money for Education, Infrastructure and Sustainable Green Energy
- d. Dismantle Corporate Control of our Government – End Corporate Personhood
- e. Dismantle the Electoral College
- f. Hold New, non-Corporate Funded Honest National Elections
- g. Dismantle the Prison Industrial Complex – Create Humane Methods of Rehabilitation

Tarak inquired if he should reach out to David Swanson from World Beyond War (WBW); there was consensus he should be included. Tarak will contact him. Tarak turned it over to questions and discussion.

- i. Monisha asked if point g. could be changed to “School to military pipeline” Tarak responded “we could think about that”.
- ii. Joey asked if the rental of porta potty’s were included in the budget; Tarak informed it is not necessary since there are plenty of bathrooms available throughout the venue area. Joey also noted point e. not being fully understood by the mainstream public; Tarak agreed with his observation.

- iii. Dan suggested Rachel Clark as a speaker; Tarak said, “let’s think about it.” Tarak explained the seven demands are “are all basic things and can be expanded on...we can further explain points.”
- iv. Barry stated, “we took an oath to defend the constitution and there’s nothing stated about the constitution...the concept of Peace at Home, Peace Abroad needs to be tied in.” He added, “people have to believe in their hearts Peace is Possible and then we have them...we need to weave it into the discussion.”
 - 1. Barry asked if we could potentially reach out the organizers of the Women’s March in D.C. and coordinate a partnership for the VFP event. Contacting Linda Sarsour was suggested as a potential contact person.
 - 2. Gerry pointed out what was “significantly absent from the Women’s March was an anti-war message.”
- v. Mark asked if the event would be recorded. Tarak responded yes. He expressed a desire to have Chris Smiley record the event and would like both his airfare plus a he be paid for his work. Mark inquired where the money for the event is coming from and Tarak responded, “that’s a good question”. He mentioned GoFundMe, asking others for donations. One member donated 1,000dollars. Tarak stated he would ask the board to cover the remainder. Mark informed, “we have a set procedure and we must follow it”. Tarak then stated “we won’t have to come to the board for supplemental funds.”
- vi. Michael observed “we are talking about several different points...and seven demands is too many.” He also suggested point d. be shortened. He also cited we are not working with other groups who are doing the work – no intersectionality. “Do we know who are the leaders of that struggle?” As we move forward as an organization, we have to build connections with other organizations who are doing the work. Tarak responded he has made a point of including a number of individuals in the Indigenous and black Live Matter (BLM) movement. Michael’s last point was to invite a Muslim American veteran – Nate Terani or Vincent Simon – was suggested. He also highlighted Chris Smiley’s plane ticket would be expensive and perhaps have him perform the editing instead. “As far as funding, we should go through our usual channels”.
- vii. Gerry highlighted the planning of the event involved many VFP members and congratulated Tarak for taking the lead on organizing the event and noted potential for it to become a huge event. Gerry added, “Ban the Bomb!” should be added to the list of demands and Tarak agreed.
- viii. *Monique suggested having a MASA organization as a sponsor and potentially a speaker. Monique will follow up with her MASA contacts to inquire if any organizations from the D.C. area are interested in sponsoring sponsor and for a speaker.* Brian added a Native American organization as a sponsor would also benefit. Tarak informed Lakota Law Project is thinking of joining as a sponsor.

- ix. Patrick stated, “fundraising is a key thing to making this a success.” And suggested we do a phone bank this weekend. Tarak informed a phone-bank is scheduled on Monday with the organizers of the event to fundraise.
 - x. Dan proposed we make a proposal to commit 20,000 to the event to ensure its success. Dan stated Jewish Voice for Peace, Physicians for Social Responsibility and Psychologists for Social Responsibility should be added as sponsors. He also suggested universities and colleges should be notified the event is happening; and including an Imam from a local mosque if possible.
 - 1. *Dan requested if Michael could supply a letter or letterhead so BoD members could approach potential sponsors. Michael and Barry will supply this to the board.*
 - xi. Joey agreed to Barry’s argument regarding the constitutional amendment but believes he would have to convince others as why the president has the means to declare war.
 - xii. Michael noted Sam’s Ride is scheduled the same week as the D.C. event and will touch base with Tarak on coordination.
15. Monisha discussed military rape culture and the fact the U.S. is the worse perpetrator of violence. She discussed this issue be included in the VFP-U.N. conference in 2018. She noted this subject and Military Sexual Trauma (MST) be included in the work “we do” and “part of the discussion” - tie in the “rape of the land and the intersectionality” of violence and the military.
- a. Barry suggested this discussion be part of the Women’s Caucus/plenary.
 - b. Joey suggested women veteran suicide be included.
 - c. Kourtney added he “would love to be a part of the effort outside of the women’s caucus”. He and Michael are working toward creating a Dismantling Patriarchy (DP) working group and would like to partner up and include this work in VFP.
 - d. Michael expressed hope that these issues will be discussed and worked on in the organization stating, “the intersection of male domination and wars” in our society.
 - e. Board members expressed gratefulness for Monisha’s presentation and for bringing the subject matter to the forefront.

Break at 1040 hours. Meeting re-commenced at 1058 hours

16. Michael commenced the **Sexual Harassment (SH) training**. He is looking forward to collaborating with Monisha and the DP working group with revising and making a comprehensive SH policy. He explained the importance of developing a committee to track and deal with such issues. Michael confirmed there is a policy but no formalized form and stressed the need to have a clear process. He also mentioned the policy should be visible on the VFP website and posted in VFP e-blasts periodically as a reminder.
- a. Kourtney noted on pages 27-29 of the Policy & Procedures, there is a form and explanation of the SH policy.

- b. Tarak suggested creating a sub-committee via the Membership Committee to deal with re-examining the SH policy; Kourtney agreed. Michael recommended the sub-committee reach out to the Women's Caucus to collaborate.

Board members discussed micro aggression(s), sexual harassment and the avoidance of creating a culture of harassment; the context of our actions, words and non-verbal behaviour(s); taking ownership of our actions/speech and non-verbal behaviours. Michael discussed the importance of men accepting responsibility for their actions/words.

- c. Monisha offered to help create some anti-oppression models and incorporate it into the training.
- d. Gerry addressed the SH Complaint form is not user friendly and noted some errors where it possibly places the responsibility back on the person who experienced the harassment (violation). Board member unanimously agreed the form needs to be revised.
- e. Joey suggested that each convention packet include the SH policy and the form.

It was decided the Membership Committee will coordinate and hold the space to collaborate with the Women's Caucus. The Personal Committee will focus on the staff aspect of SH. Michael suggested Kourtney and Adrienne connect to discuss steps on how to move forward. Monisha will post updates thru the VFP Women's Facebook page on active steps being completed to revise the SH policy.

17. Barry updated the members on the **Cuba delegation**. Monisha needs a place to stay Monday night. Michael will rectify it.

- a. Mark noted the Cuba delegation was not formally presented to the board – purpose of trip and costs – and expressed concerns about the treasury.
 - i. Patrick stated both he and Ann Wright have paid their own costs.
 - ii. Monisha briefed the board on the purpose of the delegation.
- b. Gerry explained it “was never put on the board agenda” and therefore it was a missed opportunity to have more members participate.
- c. Tarak informed he sent information regarding the delegation to the board “months ago”.

**Break for lunch at 1247 hours. Re-commenced meeting at 1340 hours. **

18. Gerry updated members about **Climbers for Peace**. The scheduled climb is tentatively scheduled for August 15th – 30th, 2017 in Iran. Climbers will be climbing Mt. Damavand, which is approx. 18,000 feet high. Per Gerry, although the climbers have expressed concern regarding the current U.S. administration's attempts to institute travel bans and the upcoming elections in Iran for May 2017, they remain “positive”. Gerry mentioned there is one VFP member (Vietnam era from the Santa Rosa chapter), who may submit a request for Travel Funds. Gerry suggested upon their return, members of the group could travel to VFP chapters to present on their experience. Gerry closed by stressing the need to publicize the climb to membership and beyond. Gerry shared the website for the climbers, which is <http://www.climbersforpeace.com>

- a. Barry mentioned it would be fruitful for one of the climbers to write an article to be written about the upcoming trip and forward it to him and he would submit it to InDepth News for possible publication. He also added that article could be submitted to PIOT.

- b. Dan suggested publicizing it to Democracy Now! and having a table for the climbers at the convention to raise money.
 - i. Michael noted “we generally have not fundraised at the conventions but it’s up to the board.”
 - c. Michael cited the issue with the travel ban and the possibility of “creating delegations to each of those countries” to bring attention to the issue if the U.S. administration blocks members of the group.
 - i. Barry suggested VFP could “use its status as an NGO and raise cain” and “pressure the U.S. Mission at the U.N.”
19. Barry briefed members on Willie’s request regarding **Justice for the Jax 5** and the incident which occurred three weeks ago. Two things are being requested:
- a. A statement addressing the incident; and
 - b. Fundraising to assist with lawyer’s fees, jail costs, etc.
 - i. Gerry informed he has spoken both to Willie Hager and Wells Todd, who are part of the Jacksonville 5. Gerry would like a letter written to the DA overseeing the case and mailed and a press release posted, both by Monday.
 - 1. Barry expressed concern regarding the “collusion charge” and the context of the statement.
 - 2. Michael explained that the letter can address the “police’s responsibility” in the incident.
 - 3. Patrick has also spoken to Willie and stressed the need for VFP to bring attention to the issue and noted “Willie has three felony counts against him.”
 - 4. Brian supports all of the aforementioned points. “We have a duty to speak about it”.
 - ii. Barry agrees to all of the aforementioned points discussed and asked for a consensus; the board agreed. *The Communications Committee will draft the statement (Brian, Monisha and Gerry will take the lead) and “fashion a press release” based off the statement.*
 - iii. Barry suggested encouraging members to donate to and is apprehensive about “opening our resources to fund legal defense”.
 - 1. Michael informed “we tell their story and encourage people to give”.
 - 2. Patrick stated “making a financial contribution empowers Tod and empowers Willie.”
 - 3. Dan pointed out a GoFundMe page has been created. He agrees with sending a financial donation.
 - iv. Barry reasoned if we give money, “we have to be very specific that it goes to legal defense.”
 - a. Barry said they are looking into the aspect of the colluders may be a part of white supremacist groups. He believes the Jackson 5 may have “good representation”.
 - 2. Gerry expressed that Willie’s “financial ask is a little over the top” and things are at a “different stage right now”. He does agree with a financial contribution as an act of solidarity and commitment and

a lack of response may be perceived “that we are not taking the problem seriously”. He is proposing 1,000 be sent. He also believes “we are not necessarily setting a precedent” if the board decided to send a donation.

3. Michael suggested we consider organizing a veteran contingent to show support and physically be present in Jacksonville, FL.
 4. Joey asked if we have ever provided money for a legal defense. Members could not recall any specific incidents.
 5. Kourtney suggested it “would be wise to go all the way - to create a legal defense fund” if we donate to the fund. He noted that it may be worthy doing so, because of the current political climate and chapter members organizing. The creation of a fund would also create some clarity.
 6. Monisha asked if anyone has been in touch with the Jacksonville Progressive Coalition (JPC) to inquire if they are doing any fundraising to support the Jacksonville 5. There was no clear answer to her inquiry.
- c. Gerry motioned 1,000 dollars be sent to the Jacksonville VFP chapter to support the Jacksonville 5; Dan seconded. The BoD’s unanimously supported to send the money.**

**Break at 1447 hours. Re-convened meeting at 1456 hours.*

20. Barry introduced the VFP office staff and expressed appreciation for all of the work they do and continue to do.
 - a. Shelly thanked everyone for their patience as she transitioned into Virginia’s job. She informed that if a re-imburement form is submitted, payment is made on Friday. Financially, things will switch to Quicken. The convention links will be up and going by next week. Shelly also manages the Donor Database which will be in transition in the late Summer.
 - i. She and Kourtney will be working together on the 6600 inactive individuals in the Donor Database.
 - ii. She provides chapter reports and assist chapters on IRS filings.
 - iii. She and Joey are working together on the Bereavement packages.
 1. They contain a certificate, a frame and a VFP flag and a chapter member delivers packet to family member.
 - iv. Once the switch to the new database is made, 3,600 dollars will be saved. Currently we used two database systems; Shelly would like the switch to happen approximately end of August 2017, after the convention.
 1. Michael explained the contract with E-Tapestry ends December 2016 but a 45-day notice must be sent. It will be a 3-4-month transition.
 - v. She is looking at a mobile app specifically for the convention.
 - vi. Barry asked about the Minneapolis chapter and their anxiousness to have things decided upon for the 2018 convention.
 - b. Casey updated members on the following:

- i. The Cuba delegation is good to go.
- ii. New chapters in Japan
 1. Gerry suggested they do a self-documentation of their military service and submit it to the board.
 2. Barry will meet with Casey about it.
 3. Casey noted it “will be a challenge to communicate with them because none of them speak English”. Rachel Clark (VFP Lifetime Associate member) has been the primary contact. Expressed concern about “the longevity of a chapter without a veteran voice” and only associate members “speaking for them”.
 4. Michael supported Casey’s observation regarding the dynamic of VFP Japan with no communication/interaction with the veterans.
 5. Dan suggested finding an interpreter to communicate with Japan members.
- iii. The other new chapter is VFP Dekalb, IL, which is close to the VFP Chicago chapter.
- iv. Casey noted “there doesn’t seem to be a good relationship between VFP Okinawa and VFP Japan”.
- v. Casey mentioned there has not been any movement forward with the formation of a VFP Australian chapter.
- vi. There are members-at-large interested in forming chapters in Canada, Little Rock, NY/Penn area, Flagstaff and Racine-Kenosha. Casey explained at the moment, “we have points of contact [P.O.C.]” in each area.
 1. Barry suggested having a board member visit the POC’s in those areas and discuss VFP.
 2. Kourtney asked if there is a way to involve the Membership Committee to allay the burden on Casey.
 - a. He also asked if Casey and Doug could be on the Membership conference call.
 3. Colleen suggested having info-sessions *before* they formulate a chapter. She also suggested having “chapter mentors” check-in with chapters to see how they are doing.
 4. Doug suggested committee involvement or projects for the members-at-large to keep them engaged.
 5. Tarak suggested including copies of the Membership brochures and PIOT.
 6. Mark suggested members-at-large could go to progressive organizations and they “often will find veterans there”.
 7. Michael informed there has been discussion to have the Membership Committee “take up the task of chapter formations”. The ability to have another veteran talk with another veteran is stronger. Michael noted all the suggestions mentioned above, are being done, the “problem is deeper”.
- vii. Casey explained it is more difficult to fundraise via social media and should not be relied upon. She also noted “exploring options” relating to

advertisements on social media platforms such as YouTube, Instagram and Facebook to target individuals who are not VFP members.

1. *Monisha asked “what is our cost for what we have now?” “Has Casey looked at other vendors and companies; and what kind of feedback does she receive from people who order?” Casey responded, union-based companies are preferred and is “open to looking at different companies”. Monisha offered to help in the aforementioned areas to explore options.*
- c. Colleen introduced herself and summarized her background in activism. She explained her vision for a three-year plan (as supplied with a handout).
- i. Streamline our data and improve obtaining stats from members.
 1. The mobile site is up and running.
 - ii. Update the VFP website
 1. Some of the content data is out of date, repetitive content and needs to be revised.
 2. Each Working Group needs to have a list of resources.
 - iii. Develop Programmatic Work
 1. Improve communications
 2. Internal vs. External messaging
 3. Speakers Bureau
 - iv. Cohesive National Messaging
 1. Position statements
 2. Our Work document
 3. PAHPA message
 4. Positive messaging “not shaming”
 - v. Coordinate Communications
 1. Assesses what the communications are – PIOT, e-blast, VFP Newsletter, The Golden Rule – and coordinate times of when they are sent.
 - vi. Curate a National Press List
 1. This will take some time to develop and establish
 2. Progressive vs. Mainstream Media
 - a. Develop relationships with reports and journalists
 - b. Suggested being on social media platforms such as Twitter.
 - c. Colleen suggested that if we and chapters know of anyone who has covered VFP to send their name to Colleen who is formulating a national list.
 - vii. Develop a Responsive Team
 1. Communications Committee
 - a. Develop a protocol on who approves statements
 - b. Increase response time to national events
 - i. Barry asked about RT News and whether it may be a positive thing. Colleen expressed the importance of reaching “beyond the choir” and to focus on how we relay our message and be strategic.
 - c. Have a list of individuals who can speak to media

- i. Collen has a list of basic speakers which was compiled from several years ago. She is re-working the list to represent true diversity.
 - ii. People who can “stay on message and be on point”
 - 2. “As we’re building capacity, our ability to respond with increase” and become more efficient.
 - viii. Social Media
 - 1. Possibly will be taking some of the work Casey has been doing
 - 2. Consistency with our “branding”
 - a. Monisha suggested the possibility of Colleen creating a webinar which could be accessible via the website for members and chapters contacts to access. Colleen agreed with her suggestion.
 - b. Monisha also asked about “train the trainer”.
 - d. Doug updated members on the following:
 - i. Lapsed membership emails will be “going out in six weeks”.
 - ii. He also deals with credit card expirations and bounced emails.
 - iii. Sells ads for the convention and program book
 - 1. Chapters and outside organizers
 - iv. “Banquet Pitch”
 - 1. Sponsoring someone for a Lifetime Membership
 - v. Attends Membership Committee meetings
 - 1. Discussed the possibility of increasing the membership renewal rate
 - 2. Recruitment and Retention
 - a. “Can be done and requires putting your heart on the line”.
 - b. He noted chapters in Maine, Humboldt County, Boston and Minnesota have reached an “unofficial agreement” that they (members) can pay chapter dues but not have to pay national dues.
 - 3. Mentioned Joey has been calling WWII and Korean era veterans from a list Jim has supplied. He is the only one on the board who is so doing.
 - 4. Shared he would like to see more “older veterans at the convention”.

Meeting adjourned at 1700 hours. Group will re-convene tomorrow at the Pallotine Renewal Center

The retreat commenced at the Pallotine Renewal Center on Saturday, 29 April at 0900 hours and ended Sunday, 30 April at 1230 hours. The retreat was facilitated by Naomi Warren and Montague Simmons. Board members were introduced to a nonviolent dialogue acronym called L.A.R.A. and an active form of listening originating from a Chinese character Ting. Montague presented members with information relating to campaign and program planning - presenting materials from SCOPE Power Analysis and the Midwest Academy Manual for Activists - to assist our abilities with better executing future campaigns and programs to enable us to lead

Veterans For Peace to the next level. Although no concrete timeline was established as to when the board would touch base the received training, members of the VFP Disarmament Commitment have begun active planning utilizing the new tools.

**Retreat ended Sunday, April 30 at 1230 hours. **

APPROVED

Veterans For Peace
National Board of Directors Meeting
Location: Conference Call
Date(s): Sunday, June 25, 2017

Board members present:

Michael McPhearson, Executive Director
Barry Ladendorf, President
Kourtney Andar, Vice President
Brian Trautman, Treasurer
Monique Salhab, Secretary
Joey King
Monisha Rios
Mark Foreman
Tarak Kauff
Patrick McCann
Dan Shea – joined at 1610 hours
Will Griffin – joined at 1623 hours after the board vote

Board members not present

Gerry Condon – engagement with the Golden Rule
Jason Cardenas – resigned from the board
Adrienne Kinne – family engagement
Dan Shea - left call at 1709 hours due to a family engagement

Members and guests present

Miles Thomas – VFP member Peace Fest organiser

Motions and Votes in bold

Action Items italicized in red

Completed Items in blue

Agenda:

1. Resignation of Jason Cardenas from the board. Will Griffin submitted his resume to replace Jason's position.
2. Appointment of Jay Wenk as the new poet laureate of VFP on the recommendation of Doug Rawlings, current poet laureate who is stepping down. Vote to approve.
3. Convention/Music Fest update.
4. Golden Rule 2017 Ban Nuclear Weapons cruise.
5. UN/VFP conference update.
6. Vote on new VFP chapter DeKalb, Illinois.
7. Brief report on UNAC conference.
8. Approve minutes for May Board call.
9. Remaining items from St. Louis board meeting:
 - a. Monique – spirituality

b. Joey - moving to a peace economy

Commence taking of minutes at 1806 hours

Barry presides over the meeting; Barry reviewed the agenda and two additional items were added.

1. Barry informed Jason Cardenas sent him an email informing of his resignation. Per Barry, Jason mentioned the commitment to work, family and a new baby take precedent. Jason acknowledged his inability to maintain consistency with attending board meetings and conference calls. He submitted Will Griffin's name to be his replacement on the board. Barry followed up with Tarak, asking for his input on Will Griffin.
 - a. Tarak added, "My recommendation is ten out of ten". He cited Will's amiability and diverse background along with his participation on delegations.
 - b. Dan acknowledged Will's competency and social media skills are above par and "supports Will".
 - c. Monique stated, "I support Will" but asked "if we are under any obligation to look at the individuals who originally ran to replace board members who have resigned".
 - i. Barry responded, "No". He spoke with Michael and Tarak about their input
 - d. Patrick informed, "I've had the pleasure to spend a lot of time with Will...he is hungry for knowledge...he's like a sponge". Patrick also addressed Monique's question, citing a previous example of when the board had to appoint the next candidate who had garnered the most votes because the nominated board member had decided not to accept the board position.
 - e. **Barry proposed Will Griffin be appointed to the Board of Directors to replace Jason Cardenas. The following are the votes:**
 - i. **Barry Ladendorf, President - Yea**
 - ii. **Kourtney Andar, Vice President - Yea**
 - iii. **Brian Trautman, Treasurer - Yea**
 - iv. **Monique Salhab, Secretary - Yea**
 - v. **Joey King - Yea**
 - vi. **Monisha Rios - Yea**
 - vii. **Mark Foreman - Yea**
 - viii. **Tarak Kauff - Yea**
 - ix. **Patrick McCann - Yea**
 - x. **Dan Shea - Yea**

The board voted unanimously to have Will Griffin replace Jason Cardenas on the board.

2. Doug Rawlings submitted an email informing he would be stepping down as the VFP Poet Laureate. He nominated Jay Wenk to take up the mantle. There was discussion among board members via email and a majority of the board approved Jay Wenk as the next Poet Laureate. *Also, Adrienne proposed – via email – to draft a policy (process) as to how VFP selects its Poet Laureate. Mark offered via email to assist Adrienne with the drafting of the process.*

- a. Michael confirmed he will make the appropriate changes on the VFP website to reflect the change.*
3. Michael update us on the upcoming convention. “The convention planning is going very well”. Michael added “we are not where we want to be with people registering for the convention” but “our people tend to register late”. Reverend Yearwood is scheduled to be the keynote speaker for the public event. Danielle (last name unknown), has been hired to promote the convention. Michael is working on the workshop schedule and staff have been notifying the workshop presenters. The Women’s Caucus will present one mini-plenary versus the original scheduled two - Monique and Michael previously spoke about it and Monique made the decision. The Chicago chapter is working to contact additional individuals from the Chicago Public School system.
 - a. Barry expounded on who will be presenting on the Nuclear Disarmament plenary.
 - b. Four films will be screened at the convention.
 - c. Shelly is in discussions with the hotel to have outside food and drink donated for the President’s Reception.
 - d. John Spitzberg is organizing the Poetry Reading plus the poems to be included in the book.
 - e. The closing plenary is a work in progress; below are a couple of the possible topics:
 - i. Foreign Policy under Trump
 - ii. Crisis in Korea
 - f. Tarak discussed the organizing of the march. He has proposed the following theme: Education not Militarization: Support Our Communities and Children not War. He will be contacting Oscar Lopez Rivera as a possible speaker. The proposed time length of the march is 1-1.5 hour. If the theme is approved, both he and Ellen will design the banner for the march. Members of the Chicago chapter have walked and mapped out a route. Some discussion addressed the Trump building and possibly making that one of the stopping points; Barry noted the Chicago chapter investigated that possibility and discovered the security at the building would not permit it..
 - i. Barry suggested chapters from “around the country” bring their banners, which would illustrate the demographic diversity from stateside and international.
 - ii. Dan asked about Students for Peace.
 1. Barry informed they “are just not available this year.”
 - g. Per Michael, Jackson Browne’s “people have taken over” the organizing, publicity, etc. for the concert. They have asked for a VFP presence at the concert – possibly a table – which needs to be organized. He also mentioned the hired publicist will be able to assist with media exposure.
 - i. Dan asked, “What is happening there” regarding security and the threats to Jackson Browne and “will there be discount tickets for VFP folks?”
 1. *Tarak* informed White Nationalists have threatened Jackson Browne’s life; therefore, no backstage visitors will be permitted.
He will check into the ticket discounts for veterans.

- a. Joey's expressed concern of the bypassing of the Membership Committee for the second time. He noted a lack of consistency and asked, "Why we're going through the board" as opposed to the Membership Committee (MC).
 - i. Kourtney informed, "I see it as an unnecessary step". Kourtney surmised the MC does not consistently know about charter requests adding, "What do we gain from that?" He also mentioned if the board is able to review and vote, he does not "want to add more work to the committee."
 - ii. Michael stressed "we need to have a discussion on how we move forward with chapter formations" adding, we could be more proactive with cultivating new chapters and conducting the research to ensure the individual(s) forming new chapters are grounded and trustworthy individuals. He suggested formulating a discussion with the committee with Michael and Barry on the call.
 1. *Kourtney informed a call will be organized for July.*
- b. **Barry proposed the board vote for recognition of chapter 179 as the SSgt Michael C. Taylor chapter in Dekalb-Sycamore, Illinois as submitted by VFP member Cameron Hallas.**
 - i. Joey asked, "We have always had someone verify it is okay with the family, have we done that?". Barry read a letter submitted – with all chapter signatures – approving the name; but it did specifically state approval was obtained from the family.
 1. Michael clarified, "if it was a historical figure, we do not need permission, if not, we would make every effort to acquire permission from the family."
 2. Patrick suggested adding, "pending approval from the family".
 3. Barry requested the proposal be amended to read: The board votes for recognition of chapter 179 as the SSgt Michael C. Taylor chapter – pending approval from the family - in Dekalb-Sycamore, Ill.
 - a. Monique recorded the votes as following:
 - i. **Barry Ladendorf, President- Yea**
 - ii. **Kourtney Andar, Vice President - Yea**
 - iii. **Brian Trautman, Treasurer - Yea**
 - iv. **Monique Salhab, Secretary - Yea**
 - v. **Joey Kingy - Yea**
 - vi. **Monisha Rios - Yea**
 - vii. **Mark Foreman - Yea**
 - viii. **Tarak Kauff - Yea**
 - ix. **Patrick McCann - Yea**
 - x. **Will Griffin – Yea**
 - b. *The board unanimously approved the formation of the Dekalb, Ill chapter. It was left unclear as to who would follow up with the chapter members regarding obtaining family approval of the chapter name.*

9. Barry updated the board on the UU-VFP Conference. He met with the designated Lichtenstein representative and will follow up. He also spoke with two representatives from the Lubin Foundation regarding support for the conference. Barry will submit a letter of inquiry for financial support to the Lubin Foundation. Both Dan Saint and Jim Driscoll are contacting organizations regarding financial support for the 2018 conference.
10. Both Patrick and Will provided de-briefs of the UNAC conference. Eleven members of VFP were present at the conference. Several VFP members were a part of panels and presented. Per Patrick, people present at the UNAC conference were a “left wing crew”. Will informed “he was really impressed” and also suggested “we [VFP] support that coalition as best as possible.”
11. Joey suggested “an ad-hoc committee” be formed to examine the aspects of a formulation of a Peace Economy and what it would look like. He stressed “that we need to do it” otherwise how can Veterans For Peace translate its message?
 - a. Barry noted the information Joey cited is referenced from a study called, “The US Employment Effects of Military and Domestic Spending” which was conducted by the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.
 - i. Michael noted “if we are pushing for a peace culture and a convincing argument about a future”, we need to explain how people would fit into such a construct. He also noted it would be beneficial to have people assist with VFP with creating this argument.
 - ii. Brian added, www.nationalpriorities.org examines what it would like without a Military Industrial Complex (M.I.C.) and that they would be a good resource.
 - iii. Patrick added, “We have to talk about the devastated communities and how they find relief.”
 - iv. *Barry asked if Joey – or any additional board members – would like to start working on researching data. Joey stated, “I feel like I don’t have the credentials”. Barry suggested any interested board members to email him if they are interested.*
12. Monique requested the discussion regarding spirituality be tabled for the next call due to the desire to have a full discussion.
13. Will inquired if there would be any conflict with VFP being on a delegation with Jill Stein. Michael clarified the need to “be careful with our relationship with political parties”. As an individual person, he is fine.

Meeting adjourned at 1754 hours.

Veterans For Peace
National Board of Directors Meeting
Location: Conference Call
Date(s): Sunday, July 23, 2017

Board members present:

Michael McPhearson, Executive Director
Barry Ladendorf, President
Kourtney Andar, Vice President
Brian Trautman, Treasurer
Monique Salhab, Secretary
Joey King
Monisha Rios – left call approx. 1700 hours
Mark Foreman
Tarak Kauff – left call at 1900 hours
Adrienne Kinne – left call at (unknown) hours
Gerry Condon
Dan Shea - joined at 1659 hours

Board members not present

Patrick McCann – travelling (Columbia)
Will Griffin – travelling (Korea)

Members and guests present

Not Applicable

Motions and Votes in bold

Action Items italicized in red

Completed Items in blue

Agenda:

1. Two proposed bylaw changes and the 9 resolutions.
2. Convention update – postponed due to time
3. 2018 convention meeting update – postponed due to time

Commence taking of minutes at 1607 hours.

Barry reviewed the agenda

1. Adrienne reviewed the two submitted bylaws.
 - a. Chapter Dues
 - i. Per Adrienne, the Boston chapter expressed some displeasure regarding the term “voluntary dues”. Adrienne informed the “chapter was not thrilled” with her (Adrienne’s) response; therefore, Adrienne informed she would present it to the board.

- b. Barry reviewed the original bylaw - Article 4, Section VII - then the new proposed bylaw.
 - i. Joey thank Adrienne and the committee for the time and research. He recapped some of the historical issues regarding the Boston chapter and fellow VFP member Nate Goldshlag. Per Joey, “basically they’re using his bylaw and trying to use it against him”.
 - ii. Tarak stated the Boston Chapter informs new chapter members they must pay chapter dues but not national VFP dues. He does not support the actions of the Boston chapter nor their submitted proposed bylaw change. Tarak also suggested Barry have a discussion with them about their inappropriate actions.
 - iii. Barry asked Kourtney for some historical perspective of the chapter since he was a chapter member for a period of time.
 - 1. Kourtney confirmed he was a part of the Boston’s ExCom for just over a year and never “got the impression” they were advocating for people to not pay National VFP dues. He suggested “making it clear” that members who pay National VFP dues but not chapter dues should not be excluded from chapters.
 - iv. Adrienne informed the Boston chapter members “felt [Nate] should have recused himself from the discussion regarding the submitted proposed bylaw.
 - v. Mark expressed some confusion regarding the actual bylaw versus proposed submitted bylaw change.
 - 1. Barry re-reviewed the information.
 - vi. Gerry asked Adrienne for some clarity regarding not putting the proposed revised bylaw to membership for a vote.
 - 1. Adrienne informed the 2017 bylaw amendment was “overwhelmingly supported by the membership” and the current proposed one “conflicts with other bylaws”.
 - vii. *Michael offered to research the actual VFP vote of 2016.*
 - 1. **Barry Ladendorf, President - Yea**
 - 2. **Kourtney Andar, Vice President - Yea**
 - 3. **Brian Trautman, Treasurer - Yea**
 - 4. **Monique Salhab, Secretary - Yea**
 - 5. **Joey King - Yea**
 - 6. **Monisha Rios - Yea**
 - 7. **Mark Foreman - Abstain**
 - 8. **Tarak Kauff - Yea**
 - 9. **Adrienne Kinne - Abstain**
 - 10. **Gerry Condon - Yea**
- c. **The board voted 8 Yeas; 2 Abstentions and 0 Nays to NOT present the proposed submitted bylaw to the VFP membership.**
 - i. Barry asked if there is protocol to write a rationale when the board votes to not support a submitted bylaw and/or resolution.
 - 1. Tarak stressed the importance of writing a rationale, noting the possible harm of not completing one.

- a. Adrienne supported Tarak's sentiments.
- ii. *Barry requested Adrienne to complete the rationale.*
- d. Adrienne reviewed the submitted proposed bylaw regarding Electronic Voting. Since the original submission omitted important information, the Bylaw and Resolution committee elected to re-write the proposed submission, "unless the board received word the Maine statutes allow electronic voting" Adrienne stated.
 - i. Joey informed "we could pass it here and not implement it".
 1. Barry asked if he (Joey) supports the bylaw with the added proviso "that the board supports this bylaw until it becomes legal". Joey informed he would.
 - a. Adrienne informed she also would support it with the added above language.
 - ii. Michael asked, "couldn't we just add it under Section 2, paragraph E, 'and must be in accordance with all legal obligations'?" in an attempt to satisfy concerns.
 - iii. Barry proposed the board consider the revised bylaw sub=paragraph and all elements of it "to ensure it complies with which states VFP is incorporated; in accordance with the law". He also reiterated the numerous conversations he has had with younger veterans who have inquired about electronic voting.
 - iv. Mark asked if the National staff have the capacity "to make this thing run smoothly?"
 - a. Michael highlighted "that once we figure out the process and put it into motion, it shouldn't be much more" work.
 - v. Monisha stated, "we cannot have our bylaws reflect something that is not legal". She also noted Maine's Nonprofit statute - 604, Section 2 – stressing a need "to have integrity in everything that we do."
 1. Barry asked her if she would vote in favour of the language with the added proviso. Monisha expressed she would either vote no or abstain.
 2. Joey noted the other organization he is a part votes electronically using Survey Monkey and does not have an office staff.
 3. Gerry supports moving forward "rather than waiting". He also added, "putting a bylaw before the membership without knowing its legality would upset the membership" and requested it be clarified before it goes to them.
 4. Adrienne suggested adding the language of "in the state which we are incorporated" to the bylaw, which would circumvent the citing of Maine specifically in the proposed bylaw change.
 - vi. Joey suggested we postpone the vote until Chicago to ensure we have the correct language.
 - vii. **Barry re-proposed the board vote on the following - which would be in support of an amendment to Section 2 – "Section 2, as sub-paragraph f., Veterans for Peace will ensure all elements of this bylaw - to include electronic voting - are in compliance with the laws and**

statutes in the state in which we (VFP) are incorporated prior to implementation”:

- 1. Barry Ladendorf, President - Yea**
- 2. Kourtney Andar, Vice President - Yea**
- 3. Brian Trautman, Treasurer - Yea**
- 4. Monique Salhab, Secretary - Yea**
- 5. Joey King - Yea**
- 6. Monisha Rios - Yea**
- 7. Mark Foreman - Yea**
- 8. Tarak Kauff - Yea**
- 9. Adrienne Kinne - Abstain**
- 10. Gerry Condon - Yea**
- 11. Dan Shea - Yea**

The board voted 10 Yeas; 1 Abstention and 0 No’s in support of the amendment to Section 2.

2. Resolution 2017-01: Bring the Bells back to Balangiga, Samar, Philippines
 - a. Gerry expressed a desire for more history and also asked what are the efforts being made to move forward, noting there was reference in the proposed resolution to a movement or anything thereof.
 - b. Michael expressed concern regarding the Philippines new president (Duarte) and his known human rights abuses.
 - i. Dan also agreed with Michael’s observations.
 - c. Gerry asked if the board has the “right to ask the resolution [drafter] to strengthen the wording”. Michael confirmed the board does.
 - d. *Barry asked they - Dan, Nate and Bob (Resolution Committee) - address VFP member Aaron Davis to gain some clarity on the submitted resolution.*
3. Resolution 2017-02: End the war in Syria
 - a. Gerry stated, “this resolution is substantially the same resolution he submitted last year.”, which the board denied and was rejected by the membership in 2016.
 - b. Dan noted, “he [resolution drafter] does mention the U.S., Russia, Iran and all others”, adding, “it would be better having a resolution stating ‘a path to peace’” in its body.
 - c. Michael stated, “because it was turned down last year, does not mean he cannot bring it back.”
 - d. Joey expressed support for the resolution because of the added language and the “Russian’s meddling in our election.”
 - e. Barry suggested examining the resolution paragraph by paragraph.
 - i. Gerry informed “what’s missing is the language of the overt and covert war the U.S. has waged since 2011 and regime change.”
 1. Dan expressed agreement with Gerry’s statement.
 - ii. Barry asked if Andy Berman would agree to the proposed amendments and requested Gerry “at least try to ask him”.
 1. Gerry expressed a “highly unlikely” that Andy Berman would agree to any proposed resolution amendments.

2. Tarak asked if Gerry's resolution passed; which it did. He also stated, "it's kind of insulting with these simplistic solutions."
- iii. Barry proposed Andy Berman be approached and asked to re-write the proposed resolution, with the submitted board re-writes.
 1. Gerry informed United for Peace & Justice (UFPJ) has compiled a petition which "is much stronger" and "that VFP can get behind."
 - a. Brian suggested "it would be prudent" to take the suggested approach by Gerry.
- iv. Barry proposed the board vote on whether to accept the proposed resolution with the proposed suggested re-writes discussed.
 1. Barry Ladendorf, President – Yea
 2. Kourtney Andar, Vice President-Yea
 3. Brian Trautman, Treasurer-Yea
 4. Monique Salhab, Secretary- Yea
 5. Joey King-Yea
 6. Monisha Rios- Yea
 7. Mark Foreman – Yea
 8. Tarak Kauff – Yea
 9. Gerry Condon – Nay
 10. Dan Shea – Nay

The board voted 8 Yea's, 2 Nay's and 0 Abstentions to support the submitted resolution.

Although the board voted on the resolution, Gerry will attempt to contact Andy Berman to inform of the board's suggested edits.

4. Resolution 2017-03: U.S.-Democratic People's Republic of Korea Meeting
 - a. Gerry expressed excitement about the submitted resolution and "wants to do everything to support [it]." He suggested, "we may ask them to remove the editorial language", which could affect its success or failure when presented to the membership.
 - i. Barry agreed with Gerry's observation. He also expressed concern about the last paragraph referencing a "non-aggression pact versus a No First Strike".
 - b. *Barry asked for a board member to contact Doug Loomis to clarify the aforementioned language and omit the editorial language. Gerry volunteered to contact him for a revision.*
 - c. Brian agreed with both Barry and Gerry, adding it "would help to get it under the maximum of 300 words." The submitted resolution is currently at 308 words - which violates one of the parameters of resolution submissions.
5. Resolution 2017-04: Okinawa: Keystone of Peace
 - a. Barry inquired if there were any issues with the submitted resolution; None were voiced. Barry voiced his support for the resolution and **proposed the board vote on the submitted resolution.**
 - i. **Barry Ladendorf, President – Yea**
 - ii. **Kourtney Andar, Vice President-Yea**
 - iii. **Brian Trautman, Treasurer-Yea**

- iv. **Monique Salhab, Secretary- Yea**
- v. **Joey King-Yea**
- vi. **Monisha Rios- Yea**
- vii. **Mark Foreman – Yea**
- viii. **Tarak Kauff – Yea**
- ix. **Gerry Condon – Yea**
- x. **Dan Shea – Yea**

The board voted unanimously to support the submitted resolution.

- 6. Resolution 2017-05: WWII-Scale Mobilization to Restore a Safe Climate
 - a. Gerry cited, “some members will bristle at the comparisons of WWII and the failed Marshall Plan”.
 - b. Barry voiced support for the submitted resolution. Barry inquired if other board members had additional input; none was given. **Barry proposed the board vote on the submitted resolution.**
 - i. **Barry Ladendorf, President – Yea**
 - ii. **Kourtney Andar, Vice President-Yea**
 - iii. **Brian Trautman, Treasurer-Yea**
 - iv. **Monique Salhab, Secretary- Yea**
 - v. **Joey King-Yea**
 - vi. **Monisha Rios- Yea**
 - vii. **Mark Foreman – Yea**
 - viii. **Tarak Kauff – Yea**
 - ix. **Gerry Condon – Yea**
 - x. **Dan Shea – Yea**

The board voted unanimously to support the submitted resolution.

- 7. Resolution 2017-06: Stop the Deportation of U.S. Military Veterans
 - a. Gerry highlighted the call for an end of deportation and the repatriation of veterans.
 - b. Dan noted “we could write a separate resolution for returning veterans”.
 - i. Barry agreed with Gerry.
 - c. Joey stated, “What the resolution asks is already being done.”
 - d. Monique stated, “I know what you are saying Joey, but even though it’s the law does not mean it’s being followed”. She cited a current case affecting an Iraqi veteran in the Albuquerque area. Monique volunteered to contact Charles with the board’s suggested edits and input.
 - v. Barry noted adding another “Whereas” to the resolution would be helpful.
 - vi. Joey argued “what he’s resolving is already being done”. He also added, “the day you enlist, you are allowed to take the test.” Joey suggested the following language could be added to the proposed resolution: “Upon receiving of an Honorable Discharge, the service member immediately be granted citizenship.”
 - vii. Dan informed what Joey stated is not happening, citing Zahid Chaudhry’s (VFP member) current case.
 - 1. Joey argued once more “it is already being done.”

viii. Barry suggested to add a citation of the federal law (code) in the resolution to possibly strengthen it.

1. Joey will email Monique the exact federal statute.

f. The board postponed voting on the submitted resolution to permit Monique an opportunity to contact Charles Powell and inform of the board's suggested edits.

8. Resolution 2017-07: Stop U.S. Cyber Warfare Against North Korea

a. Gerry "believes what is written" but there are various ways VFP could become involved versus "demanding a direct apology." He also added, "we should be calling for an end to the war", suggesting VFP would become "a laughing stock".

b. Barry agreed with Gerry's points and would "rather see a proposal to start negotiations to end the war and a proposal for a peace treaty."

c. Michael asked for some clarification to both Gerry and Barry's concerns regarding "being a laughing stock". Michael noted that cyber-warfare is another method of war and asked, "Is it because we're not dropping bombs" that it's different?" Michael explained warfare comes in all shapes and forms "and to hurt people".

d. Gerry observed that the first demand of an apology "pushes a lot of buttons".

e. Barry asked if John Kim should remove the apology language from the submitted proposed resolution.

i. Barry asked Michael to contact John regarding the apology language.

The board postponed voting on the submitted resolution to permit Michael an opportunity to contact John Kim and inform of the board's suggested edits.

9. Resolution 2017-08: Resolution on Normalization of U.S. Relations with Hezbollah

a. Joey cited Article 51 of the U.N. Charter and the language referring to "Member States" informing Hezbollah is not a Member State.

b. Gerry cited, "it's a huge misuse of the label terrorism" and suggested we support it.

a. Barry supported Gerry's input and observation.

c. Joey informed "we shouldn't be quibbling over Article 51 because they use it every year."

d. Barry supports the resolution.

e. Brian cited the use of "aggression" which was used in the 2016 proposed resolution.

f. Barry proposed the board vote on the submitted resolution.

a. Barry Ladendorf, President – Yea

b. Kourtney Andar, Vice President – Yea

c. Brian Trautman, Treasurer-Yea

d. Monique Salhab, Secretary- Abstention

e. Joey King – Nay

f. Mark Foreman – Yea

g. Tarak Kauff – Yea

h. Gerry Condon – Yea

i. Dan Shea – Yea

The board voted 6 Yea's, 1 Nay and 1 Abstention to support the submitted resolution.

10. Resolution 2017-09: Board Participation in VFP's Annual Convention

- g. Joey noted the issue with the 3 years' stipulation, stating, "[the] dynamics which occur on the board" make it unrealistic for a 3-year tenure on the Convention committee.
- h. Barry cited the issue with 3 years and the stipulation "convention or event management experience" be a qualification for sitting on the VFP board. He also informed the submitted resolution is more of a bylaws change.
 - ii. Dan informed it was originally submitted via the Bylaws committee and was rejected.
- i. Gerry stated, "it's important to note where the resolution is coming from" and "sit down with them and identify some concerns they have".
- j. Monique agreed with Gerry's observation and the importance of "at least having a conversation."
- k. Michael advised it "should not go back as a bylaw" because of the possible restrictive nature of bylaws. He also suggested having a committee of past Convention committee members to compile a handbook for future Convention Committee members to utilise as a resource. Additionally, once the writers of the resolution are informed of this implementation, they may withdraw the resolution.
 - l. *Barry and Michael will convene a call with Denny Riley – one of the writers of the proposed resolution - to discuss the aforementioned proposed solution.*

The board postponed voting on the submitted resolution to permit Michael an opportunity to contact Denny Riley and inform of the suggested development of a Convention committee handbook.

- 11. Gerry informed the Golden Rule (GR) lost its rudder. Another one is being re-fashioned and the GR crew "postponed the scheduled journey". The GR is in the port of Redwood City in San Francisco Bay. Gerry shared it was "wear and tear" over the few years, but there was no traumatic event which caused the rudder to fall off.
 - m. Barry asked if "anyone has reviewed the insurance policy" to cover the cost of the repair.
 - iii. Gerry stated there is some hesitation about filing through the insurance company due to "scrutiny".
 - iv. The crew is looking to do some crowdfunding for the 4,000 expected to be for the new rudder.
 - n. There is an event in Santa Cruz tomorrow but no others planned until after the Chicago convention.

Barry proposed a follow up call for the next couple of weeks to update the board on the Golden Rule and the upcoming convention.

Board meeting ended at 1852 hours

Veterans For Peace
National Board of Directors Meeting
Location: Board CC
Date(s): Sunday, August 6, 2017

Board members present:

Barry Ladendorf, President
Kourtney Andar, Vice President
Brian Trautman, Treasurer
Monique Salhab, Secretary
Joey King
Tarak Kauff
Adrienne Kinne - left call at (unknown) hours
Will Griffin
Dan Shea
Gerry Condon
Patrick McCann – joined at 1617 hours

Board members not present:

Michael McPhearson, Executive Director – prior engagement
Monisha Rios
Mark Foreman

Members and guests present:

Not Applicable

Agenda:

Complete review of proposed bylaws and proposed resolutions

Motions and Votes in bold

Action Items italicized in red

Competed Items in blue

Commence taking of minutes at 1606 hours

1. Barry re-capped the board's discussion regarding the submitted resolution regarding Electronic Voting. Barry informed he examined Section 604 of Maine's Non-Profit Voting statute and also called Maine's Secretary of State, Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions office; he spoke to Heidi Stokerson (a representative in the office of the Secretary of State). Ms. Stokerson discovered VFP had not filed its bylaws with them and as a result, "can do whatever [you] want" relating to Electronic Voting. Barry reminded those on the call, board members on the July 23rd call had voted in favor to add a "sub-paragraph f" to Section 2 of the bylaws. Barry informed Ms. Stokerson cited there would be no issue of instituting Electronic Voting thus Barry stated, "we don't need to put that in there" – referring to adding sub-paragraph f in the bylaws.
 - a. Adrienne noted "I don't know if we have to vote to take it out, since we voted to put it in."
 - b. Barry asked if there were any objections to his proposal to omit "sub-paragraph f"; no additional input was given. **He then requested the board vote on the original proposed bylaw regarding Electronic Voting.**
 - i. **Barry Ladendorf, President – Yea**
 - ii. **Kourtney Andar, Vice President – Yea**
 - iii. **Brian Trautman, Treasurer – Yea**
 - iv. **Monique Salhab, Secretary – Yea**
 - v. **Joey King - Yea**
 - vi. **Tarak Kauff - Yea**
 - vii. **Adrienne Kinne - Abstain**
 - viii. **Will Griffin – Yea**
 - ix. **Dan Shea - Yea**
 - x. **Gerry Condon - Yea**
 - xi. **Patrick McCann – Yea (Patrick voted once he joined the call at 1617 hours)**

Barry informed he has had some discussion via email with both Nate and Gene of the Bylaw Committee. Per Barry, both have asked research be conducted regarding software, security issues and the possible work load that may be added onto the VFP National staff. He commented that no additional money should be used to conduct research on something which will be instituted.

2. Adrienne reminded fellow board members had voted *not* support the Chapter Dues bylaw during the July 23, 2017 conference call and to *not* present it to the membership. *She also*

reminded she had submitted emails of her drafting of the board's rationale and will have it completed.

- a. Tarak is not in favor of the bylaw but asked if it is “easier to let it come to the convention for a vote”, explaining the possibility of a lost opportunity for the board to supply clarification of the bylaw and the issues surrounding it to the membership.
 - i. Adrienne noted “It reads nicely” and if the membership doesn’t understand the consequences behind it, people may vote and approve it.
 1. Kourtney agreed with Adrienne’s observation and informed “there would be a whole lot of issues if it passed.”
 2. Tarak asked, “Is it our position to hold it back strong enough to hold muster?”
 3. Barry expressed the need to explain it and to be transparent. He read the wording of the current Chapter Dues bylaw and read the wording of the proposed submitted bylaw change.
 - a. Tarak noted, “It’s an attempt to weaken our current bylaw.”
 4. Adrienne expressed her understanding of the Bylaw Committee purpose, is to ensure submitted proposed bylaws do not conflict with current bylaws.
 - a. The writers of the proposed bylaws have stated the current bylaw has “Inhibited their ability to collect chapter dues as a revue stream”.
 - b. Gerry agrees with Adrienne’s argument regarding the conflict of the submitted proposed bylaw.
 5. Tarak asked if the proposed bylaw is an amendment or a change to an existing bylaw.
 - a. Barry explained it is conflict with Section 5 of Chapter 12.
 - b. Tarak exclaimed his understanding and stated, “Now I get it”.
 6. Patrick asked, “Who is putting forth this amendment?” Barry answered “the Smedley Chapter.”
 7. Barry asked if there has been constitutional protocol in the past to provide written rationales to the membership.
 8. **Barry proposed the board vote on whether to move forward with the submitted proposed bylaw change.**
 - a. **Barry Ladendorf, President - Nay**
 - b. **Kourtney Andar, Vice President - Nay**
 - c. **Brian Trautman, Treasurer - Nay**
 - d. **Monique Salhab, Secretary - Nay**
 - e. **Joey King- Nay**
 - f. **Tarak Kauff - Nay**
 - g. **Adrienne Kinne - Nay**
 - h. **Will Griffin - Nay**
 - i. **Dan Shea - Nay**
 - j. **Gerry Condon - Nay**
 - k. **Patrick McCann – Nay**

The board voted unanimously to *not* support the proposed bylaw change.

- b. Kourtney asked what “the plan is moving forward” and how the board vote will be articulated to the membership. Barry responded Adrienne will present the rationale and present it to the membership.
 - i. **Adrienne requested someone from the board – not her – articulate the rationale to the membership. She stressed the rationale be presented as “the board’s decision, not the Bylaw Committee’s”. Barry agreed with Adrienne’s statement. It was not decided who (other than Adrienne), would present the rationale to the membership.**
- 3. 2017-01: Bring the Bells back to Balangiga, Samar, Philippines
 - a. Dan updated the board on the possible changes to the resolution. He noted Duterte was not mentioned in the original proposed resolution, “perhaps on purpose”. He sent an email requesting further information – specifics as to who, why now – to the resolution drafter, but has not received a reply.
 - i. Tarak stated, “I think it’s a mistake to get involved with this.”
 - ii. Gerry mentioned if it were “coming from the Philippine progressive anti-war movement may be it would be a different story.”
 - iii. **Barry requested the board vote on the proposed resolution.**
 - 1. **Barry Ladendorf, President - Nay**
 - 2. **Kourtney Andar, Vice President - Nay**
 - 3. **Brian Trautman, Treasurer - Nay**
 - 4. **Monique Salhab, Secretary – Nay**
 - 5. **Joey King- Nay**
 - 6. **Tarak Kauff - Nay**
 - 7. **Adrienne Kinne - Nay**
 - 8. **Will Griffin - Nay**
 - 9. **Dan Shea - Nay**
 - 10. **Gerry Condon - Nay**
 - 11. **Patrick McCann – Nay**
 - b. **The board voted unanimously to *not* support the proposed resolution. Barry requested Dan draft the rationale of the board’s vote.**
- 4. 2017-02: End the War in Syria
 - a. Gerry stated, “[the resolution] insults the membership...that we should avoid simplistic conflicts”. Gerry and Dan were tasked to contact Andy Berman regarding the board’s suggested edits. Gerry explained before he and Dan could engage with him (Andy), discussion commenced on one of the VFP listserv groups among the membership regarding the submitted resolution. Gerry reminded he then emailed the board suggesting the body (board) draft a new resolution. Gerry also noted Monique’s (VFP Board Secretary) minutes from the July 23rd conference call incorrectly reflected the decision after the board had voted; rather, it was stated he and Dan would contact Andy Berman with the board’s suggested edits. He also suggested he board examine drafting resolutions next year, which reflect the truth of the wars in ongoing regions of the world and re-examine the existing resolutions to ensure they are current.
 - b. **Barry requested the board vote on the proposed resolution.**

- i. **Barry Ladendorf, President - Nay**
- ii. **Kourtney Andar, Vice President - Nay**
- iii. **Brian Trautman, Treasurer - Abstain**
- iv. **Monique Salhab, Secretary - Nay**
- v. **Joey King- Nay**
- vi. **Tarak Kauff - Nay**
- vii. **Adrienne Kinne - Nay**
- viii. **Will Griffin - Abstain**
- ix. **Dan Shea - Nay**
- x. **Gerry Condon - Nay**
- xi. **Patrick McCann – Nay**

The board voted 9 Nay's, 0 Yea's and 2 Abstentions to *not* support the proposed resolution.

- c. Barry asked members who abstained to comment (if they wished) on their vote.
 - i. Brian informed he understands Gerry's points but also agrees with the resolution as it's written.
 - ii. Will informed he's not familiar with last year's (2016) resolution and is also in agreement with Brian's points.
 - iii. Gerry annotated several points and differences from the 2016 proposed resolution mentioned. **Gerry will draft the rationale.**
5. 2017-03: U.S. Democratic People's Republic of Korea Meeting
 - a. Barry noted the issues regarding the superfluous language – i.e. “axis of evil”. Gerry admitted he has not had an opportunity to contact him. He will follow up with an email and contact him directly at the convention.
 - i. Barry cited to add the language of “an end to the Korean War” to the proposed resolution.
 1. Joey mentioned a resolution referring to end to the Korea War may already exist.
 - ii. Gerry highlighted the need to take “special care” as we communicate the suggested edits, so as not to compromise the new relationship with the new VFP Japan Chapter.
 1. Dan suggested using the language of “a friendly amendment” to help with communicating and maintaining a good relationship with the new chapter.
 - iii. *Barry suggested, “we table this resolution” until it is “hammered out”, to permit Gerry an opportunity to contact and work with Doug Loomis (resolution drafter).*
6. 2017-04: Okinawa: Keystone of Peace
 - a. Barry inquired if there were any comments and/or issues with the proposed resolution; none were voiced. **Barry requested the board vote on the proposed resolution.**
 - i. **Barry Ladendorf, President - Yea**
 - ii. **Kourtney Andar, Vice President - Yea**
 - iii. **Brian Trautman, Treasurer - Yea**
 - iv. **Monique Salhab, Secretary - Yea**

- v. **Joey King- Yea**
- vi. **Tarak Kauff - Yea**
- vii. **Adrienne Kinne - Yea**
- viii. **Will Griffin - Yea**
- ix. **Dan Shea - Yea**
- x. **Gerry Condon - Yea**
- xi. **Patrick McCann - Yea**

The board voted unanimously *in favor* to support the proposed resolution. Barry requested Will to draft the verbal rationale of the board's decision.

7. 2017-05: WWII-Scale Mobilization to Restore a Safe Climate
 - a. Barry inquired if there were any comments and/or issues with the proposed resolution; none were voiced.
 - b. **Barry proposed the board unanimously vote to support the resolution; there were no objections. Barry will present a verbal rationale of the board's decision to the membership.**

8. 2017-06: Stop the Deportation of U.S. Military Veterans
 - a. Joey updated his email conversations with Charles Powell (drafter of the resolution) regarding the board suggested edits "did not go well." He also reminded he had sent an email volunteering to draft a new resolution with stronger and precise language citing the federal statute relating to immigrant service members, reiterating, "the government is doing" what the proposed resolution is requesting.
 - i. Tarak stated, the "government is stonewalling" and noted an article which cited testimonies by immigrant service members and veterans.
 - ii. Monique reminded she emailed the article Tarak referenced to the board. She also reiterated that although there exists a federal law guiding the process for service members to become citizens does not mean "it is happening."
 - iii. Gerry asked, "Is there a need for new laws or for current laws to be enforced?"
 1. Joey suggested to add the wording of "honorably discharged veterans" to the proposed resolution.
 - iv. Barry asked, if the board were to vote in favor of the proposed resolution as it is written, what is/are the downside(s)?
 1. Gerry highlighted it does not specifically call for an end to the deportation of veterans and the repatriation of Deported Veterans.
 - a. Barry agreed with Gerry's observation.
 - v. Dan suggested, "when they finish their service, they are automatically made U.S. citizens" language should be added to the proposed resolution.
 - vi. Tarak read an excerpt from the article Monique had shared with the board relating to immigrant service members suing the Pentagon for delaying their citizenship applications.

vii. Gerry, suggested the board confer with the Deported Veterans Chapter and Charles, to possibly come to an agreement. Monique and Joey will assist Gerry with the task. The board vote on the proposed resolution was tabled until the Wednesday, August 9th board meeting.

9. 2017-07: Stop U.S. Cyber Warfare Against North Korea

- a. Barry updated that John Kim agrees with “dropping the apology” language and requested “condemns the attack” language to be added.
 - i. Tarak mentioned “it seems cyber-attacks are standard operational procedure”, and “is hypercritical” that we ask other countries to cease their actions and the U.S. not cease their actions.”
 1. Barry expressed some agreement.
 - ii. Gerry reminded board members of Michael’s opinion from the July 23rd conference call and the agreement to table the vote based upon the suggested edits and whether John Kim would agree to them.
 - iii. Dan cited the danger of individual’s abilities to hack weapons leading to nuclear war.
 - iv. Will voiced satisfaction with the wording of the proposed resolution; citing the U.S. continuance of cyber-attacks upon North Korea to halt their nuclear program.
 - v. Brian reminded the board of the email communication from Bob Krzewinski (Resolution Committee) citing an issue with the submitted resolution. Per the email, the resolution’s original “Therefore” statement read “Therefore, Veterans for Peace (VFP), meeting at its national convention in Chicago, Illinois, August 12, 2017”. Bob further explained, “it means that if [the resolution] is sent out to the membership to vote on in October, members are voting to confirm that at the convention...[b]ut you have to consider too, what happens if at the convention straw vote on Saturday the members turn down the proposed resolution? The whole resolution would be mute.” Bob explained he communicated this to Doug Lummis but Doug responded a “convention resolution” that “sounds more important than just a V[FP] resolution”, thus refusing to the omission of the resolution wording. Lastly, Bob cited “If the resolution maker insists on no deletion of the words “meeting at its national convention in Chicago, Illinois, August 12, 2017, the resolution is considered improper”.
 1. *Barry suggested tabling the board vote on the proposed resolution to permit Michael an opportunity to follow up with John Kim’s apprehension to omit the wording of “VFP Convention resolution”.*

10. 2017-08: Resolution on Normalization of U.S. Relations with Hezbollah

- a. Joey reiterated his disagreement with the continued use of Article 51 of the U.N. Charter, referencing “Member States” and that “Hezbollah is not a state”.
 - i. Gerry countered, “Hezbollah should be recognized and is equivalent to a state actor”.
 - ii. Barry read Article 51 of the U.N. Charter

1. Barry offered, "One could read it as a collective self within the nation." **Barry proposed the board vote on the proposed resolution.**
 - a. **Barry Ladendorf, President - Yea**
 - b. **Kourtney Andar, Vice President - Yea**
 - c. **Brian Trautman, Treasurer - Yea**
 - d. **Monique Salhab, Secretary - Abstain**
 - e. **Joey King- Nay**
 - f. **Tarak Kauff - Yea**
 - g. **Will Griffin - Yea**
 - h. **Dan Shea - Yea**
 - i. **Gerry Condon- Yea**
 - j. **Patrick McCann - Yea**

The board voted 8 Yea's, 1 Nay and 1 Abstention to support the proposed resolution. Barry directed Will verbally provide the board's rationale.

11. 2017-09: Board Participation in VFP's Annual Convention

- a. *Barry informed he has not spoken to Denny Riley and Barry requested the board vote be tabled until Wednesday, August 9th at the board business meeting.*

Call ended 1803 hours

Veterans For Peace
National Board of Directors Meeting
Location: Chicago, National VFP Convention
Date(s): Wednesday, August 09, 2017

Board members present:

Michael McPhearson, Executive Director
Barry Ladendorf, President
Kourtney Andar, Vice President
Brian Trautman, Treasurer
Monique Salhab, Secretary
Will Griffin
Monisha Rios
Gerry Condon
Dan Shea
Tarak Kauff
Mark Foreman
Joey King

Board members not present:

Patrick McCann (travelling)

Members and guests present:

Steve Sinsley, Penn State Chapter
Ellen Barfield, Associate Member, Woodstock, NY
John Spitzberg, Chapter 099
Bob Krzewinski, Chapter 93
Stan Levin, Chapter 91
Doug Zachary, VFP National Office
Additional members present (coming and going throughout meeting)

Motions and Votes in bold

Action Items italicized in red

Competed Items in blue

Proposed Agenda

1. Complete work on tabled resolutions. Final review of bylaws and resolutions.
2. Convention and concert updates.
3. PIOT
4. Peace Caucus of the American Public Health Association.
5. Report on Minneapolis/St. Paul Convention 2018.
6. Look at Calendar between now and end of the year and plan.
7. Update on The Golden Rule and “Ban the Bomb Campaign”.
8. Late candidates who want to run for the board.
9. Contact from CBS about the Veterans Program.

10. Schedule dates for the October in-person board meeting.

Commence taking of minutes at: 0827 hours (Eastern)

1. Barry reviewed the agenda. *He informed he spoke to Denny Riley regarding the submitted proposed resolution – 2017-09 - who has agreed to withdraw the submitted resolution. Additionally, Barry informed a committee will be formed to examine how future conventions could be planned and improved upon; some thoughts were, would it involve hiring a professional event planner? What would be the cost, etc. Thus far, Denny Riley, Gary Butterfield and Barry Ladendorf have been named to be a part of this forming committee.*

a. Joey asked if anyone on the board was opposed to the idea, none was stated. Tarak voiced gratitude for the Chicago chapter's efforts with organising the convention. Joey King read the VFP Mission Statement; then board members and guests introduced themselves.

2. **Joey proposed the board approve the June 2017 and July 2017 minutes. The board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.**

3. Barry commenced the review of the two submitted proposed bylaws. Adrienne confirmed she will present the rationale for the Electronic Voting to the membership. It was confirmed the board voted unanimously to *not* support the proposed bylaw regarding Chapter Dues. Barry will present the rationale to the membership.

4. We commenced the review of the submitted proposed resolutions.
 - a. 2017-01: Bring The Bells Back To Balangiga, Samar, Philippines
 - i. Dan will present the rationale to the membership
 - b. 2017-02: End The War In Syria
 - i. Gerry will present the rationale to the membership.
 - c. 2017-03: U.S. - Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea Meeting
 - i. Gerry has sent an email to Doug Loomis with the suggested board edits:
 1. Removal of the "Whereas"; clarification of the "Therefore" clause of non-aggression and No First Strike; request an addition of "To end the Korean War" in the proposal. Doug is attending the convention and the hope is to resolve it before the business meeting on Saturday.
 - a. Gerry informed Doug is in agreement with the board's suggested edits and "because it's co-sponsored with VFP Japan" both he and Doug "will sit down with chapter members to review the new revised resolution."
 - b. The board will vote on the revised resolution on Saturday (12th) morning. Barry requested board members arrive at 8:40am Saturday morning to conduct the vote.
 - ii. Gerry will present the rationale to the membership.
 - iii. Michael informed during the Wisconsin Convention, there was a resolution submitted to End the Korean War.

1. Barry stated, "I believe [this] distinguishable from that one".
- d. 2017-04: Okinawa: Keystone of Peace
 - i. Will confirmed he will present the verbal rationale to the membership.
- e. 2017-05: WWII-Scale Mobilization To Restore A Safe Climate
 - i. Brian will draft the written rationale and present it to the membership.
- f. 2017-06: Stop The Deportation Of U.S. Military Veterans
 - i. Gerry has emailed both Willie Hager and Charles Powell regarding the board suggested edits. Thus far, either person has not responded.
 1. Once again, the proposed resolution was tabled from a board vote, until Gerry could speak to Charles and or Willie directly.
- g. 2017-07: Stop U.S. Cyber War Against North Korea
 - i. Michael received a revised version of the resolution from John Kim (resolution drafter). Michael informed he explained to John once a resolution "has gone before the convention, it must be present[ed] on to vote" to the whole membership. He stressed John's desire to have the wording
 - ii. Adrienne asked, "I don't see us condemning the U.S." for its cyber-attacks..."is it too lopsided?"
 1. Barry and Tarak agreed with Adrienne's observations.
 - iii. Monisha stated, "I don't know if that is cause to not support this."
 - iv. **Barry proposed the board vote on the submitted resolution. The board voted unanimously in favour of the proposed resolution.** Tarak and Monisha will draft the rationale; and Monisha will present it to the membership.
- h. 2017-08: Resolution on Normalization of U.S. Relations with Hezbollah
 - i. Will shall draft the rationale and present to the membership.
- i. 2017-09: Board Participation In VFP's Annual Convention
 - i. The resolution was withdrawn

Bob Krzewinski (VFP Member and Resolution Committee Chair) highlighted the Resolution "deadline is also the editing deadline"; therefore, VFP National needs to stress the importance of having proposed resolutions submitted early. He also noted some of "the more poorly written" resolutions need more work with wording. Bob also mentioned he would "do more" to be more streamlined with submitted resolutions regarding format, language and grammar.

5. Barry commenced discussion of the Chicago Convention stating, "Everything will work out."
 - a. Michael informed "just over 200 people have registered so far." He expressed concern but was optimistic about additional registrations today and tomorrow.
 - i. Michael also noted those who did not book a room before the deadline, will "get the market rate" for the rooms. Shelly has a list of attendees who are looking for roommates.
 1. Tarak expressed concern for Post 9-11 veterans and those possibly needing rooms and/or roommates.
 - ii. Michael informed the "ticket sales for the Power to the Peaceful Fest (PttPF) are dismal". One thing he attributed the low sales to, were the

taxes and fees added to the total ticket price when people have attempted to purchase tickets online. He and Miles Thomas (VFP Member and organizer of the PttPF) have been conducting radio interviews and “hitting the streets”. Yoko Ono also pinned the PttPF event to her Twitter page.

1. Michael informed a post-convention an After-Action Review would be completed.
- iii. Tarak suggested, “We sell as many tickets as we can during the convention” and the “last resort is give [tickets] away.”
 1. Michael agreed and noted the importance of having individuals “show up” who have received tickets.
 2. Dan suggested offering a discount for convention attendees – i.e. 20\$.
 3. Barry suggested conducting a raffle and is in favour of reduced ticket prices.
 4. Adrienne suggested having the radio stations offer ticket giveaways.
 5. Monisha inquired to the price of the Peace Fest tickets – which are 25\$. She also asked, “What is the lowest price we would accept people to pay?” Consensus was 10\$. *Per Barry, Monisha will work on the raffle idea and ticket prices.*”
- iv. Dan inquired about transportation to the event for those with physical challenges. Discussion ensued regarding a sign-up sheet at the Registration Table. Barry also mentioned Lyft and Uber.
6. Barry informed the Business meeting starts at 9:00 am Saturday morning. All reports will be presented at that time. He reminded Monisha, Kourtney, Joey and others who are running for the board, they will present themselves to the membership and explain why they wish to run for the board once more.
 - a. Joey mentioned “someone needs to volunteer to be the timekeeper and vote counter” during the meeting and requested someone take his place since he would not be present.
 - b. Tarak stressed the need for board members to be punctual for the Business meeting.
 - i. Barry agreed with Tarak’s statement.
 - c. Barry inquired “who is moderating the Sunday plenary and the Veterans Speak-Out?” It was not decided who would accept responsibility of the task.
 - d. Tarak expressed the need to have a song for the march scheduled on Sunday.
 - i. Joey concurred and mentioned Barry Reisch (Minnesota Chapter) has a collection of songs.
 - e. Barry mentioned the need to have board members hand out awards during the banquet. Joey informed there is no Associate Member of the Year.
 - i. Board Members will present plaques to winners of the below categories:
 1. Gandhi (two winners this year) – Adrienne
 2. Chapter of the Year - Monisha
 3. Stewardship - Monique
 4. Lifetime – Will

5. A plaque will be presented to the keynote speaker - Barry
- f. Joey again mentioned there is no Associate Member of the Year category “but they are eligible”.
- g. Barry (Reisch) also noted, “It’s important to conduct the Presente! early”, citing that last year it was conducted at the end of the banquet and most attendees had departed.
- h. *Adrienne reminded the board that it needs to finalise the process for the Poet Laureate. She did email the board members a proposed process for the transition.*
 - i. *Barry noted it would be added to the board agenda for today (August 09). Adrienne will re-address the email at that time. Once completed, the procedure will then “go into the Policy book.”*
 - ii. Barry informed Doug Rawlings and Jay Wenk will both conduct a reading at the banquet.

Monisha informed, “One of her people is unable to make her workshop” and requested a flipchart. Michael answered, “I will get [you] one.”

Board break at 1100 hours; reconvened at 1134 hours

8. Kourtney updated board members on the “Safe Space” statement.
 - a. Joey asked about the wording referencing “usual channels” and “Do we want to make a statement about drinking to excess?” He explained “every year during convention” people drink and that is where most of the issues originate.
 - i. Kourtney answered, “I don’t know”.
 - ii. Tarak responded “not all incidents occur due to drinking...would rather judge according to behavior.”
 - iii. **Barry asked if there was agreement to *not* include Joey’s point into the statement; unofficially the board vote to *not* include Joey’s point; Monique and Adrienne abstained and Joey was a Nay.**
 - b. Monisha made a few suggested edits to the statement. Kourtney agreed to them.
 - c. Adrienne cited the use of “anonymous” in the statement; and suggested a box be set up to allow space for individuals to utilise if needed during each convention.
 - i. Tarak suggested to “not even include that” in the statement. Kourtney countered stating, “I think we should offer people that choice”.
 - ii. Michael clarified the language regarding anonymous versus confidentiality; further suggesting future convention evaluations could contain a space for individuals to report an issue.
 1. Michael informed regarding the Chicago Convention, “we’ll get the box if we can.”
 - d. Joey asked, “Have we ever had a convention in the last five years where it hasn’t come up?”
 - i. Michael responded, “I can’t say where it hasn’t happened.”
 - e. John Spitzberg (VFP Member) asked, “Would it be advisable to have a grievance committee where someone has a name and face they could go to?” “Would you accept a grievance committee from within the board?”
 - i. Kourtney answered, The Membership Committee could possibly be an avenue.”

- ii. Mark stated, “A grievance committee is a great idea but if you have members of the board who are changing every year, it would be difficult” to maintain consistency.
- iii. Michael expressed agreement with John’s observation but stressed the need to complete the letter so it may be included in the packet immediately for the Chicago Convention.
- iv. Monisha asked John to “connect” so the two could discuss his points further.
- f. Gerry asked, “Do we want to identify a few people who people can come to?”
 - i. Kourtney, Adrienne, Monisha and Gerry expressed willingness to be the individuals of the Grievance Committee.
 - ii. Monisha expressed concern limiting the selection to three people who individuals may contact.
 - iii. Adrienne suggested including both options in the “Safe Space” Statement.

The board agreed to unanimously voted *in favour* of the statement with the aforementioned discussed amendments.

9. Barry discussed the Peace Caucus held by the Peace Caucus of the *American Public Health Association (APHA) scheduled in Atlanta, GA November 4th-8th 2017.*
 - a. Adrienne informed she has attended two of the APHA conventions and “found them to be incredibly informative and an excellent networking opportunity.”
 - b. Monisha added, “there’s a lot of value to this.”
 - c. Gerry suggested to “publish it to the membership”.
 - i. Monique noted Susan Schnall (VFP Member) will be presenting.
 - d. Tarak stated, “When we have things like this come up, I think we should support them.”
 - i. Gerry mentioned, “We have funds available for the board meetings but I don’t necessarily think its limited to that.”
 - e. Adrienne will inquire with her work and report back to the board.

Barry suggested more research be conducted for cost – registration and hotel – and “see if we can get one or two” to go. Additionally, both Barry and Dan will confer with Susan.

10. Barry reported on the trip to Minnesota-St. Paul to meet with the MSP Chapter regarding the 2018 VFP Convention. Barry expressed satisfaction about the hotel adding, they are “willing to throw in a lot of extras”. Both he and Michael were “impressed...and the rooms are fabulous.” The property is owned by an Indigenous tribe and is union organized. The 2018 convention will acknowledging the 90th Anniversary signing of the Kellogg-Briand Pact.
 - i. Joey asked if it “is an appropriate time to talk about our October meeting.” Barry responded it wasn’t.

Board broke for lunch at 1225 hours; board reconvened at 1346 hours.

11. Tarak and Ellen updated board members on the status of Peace In Our Times (PIOT). The editorial staff conducted an in-person meeting to examine the future and financials of PIOT. Ellen informed the editorial staff examined how “we could make [PIOT’s]

sustainable.” She also noted that out of 130 chapters on average, fifty chapters order bundles of PIOT. The group examined three things:

- a. Current levels of pricing, staff and/or volunteer time.
- b. Future PIOT price increase – which would include pay to volunteers; and
- c. Projected growth.
 - i. Barry mentioned expanding distribution to college and university campuses and public libraries.
 - ii. Joey reminded the board about using the fundraising tool purchased two years ago.
 - iii. Will suggested, “Possibly looking at an easier ordering form” citing individuals who may not be tech savvy having issues with ordering PIOT’s online.
 1. Michael informed his preference of not changing the ordering form because of possible additional costs each time VFP has to change/amend the website.
- d. Adrienne mentioned the possibility of having “stands” for people to pick up copies of PIOT’s.
- e. Barry suggested advertisement space.
 - i. Tarak answered, “No”. He explained it would “disqualify [PIOT’s] from ‘Media Mailing’” rate. Tarak also explained he does not want deal with the decision making of “saying yes or saying no” regarding advertisements.
 - ii. Michael expressed some understanding with Tarak’s point but also expressed why chapters could not be included as a way to “support the paper”. Michael also suggested the possibility of better and more efficient options for paper delivery.
 - iii. Kourtney also agreed with Michael’s points and stressed offering chapter’s opportunities to place “ads” in PIOT.
 - iv. Ellen noted, “We left a space for chapters to stamp their contact information on [the bundles].” She also stated the editorial staff are “looking at ways to farm out” responsibilities of sending bundles.

General discussion continued to have a separate discussion and Michael meeting separately with the PIOT staff.

12. Discussion turned to board meetings, specifically conference calls and in-person meetings.

- a. Adrienne inquired if “other days would be explored” to have conference calls.
- b. Joey expressed Tuesday evenings are best for him.
- c. Barry mentioned per the Policy and Procedures, the third Monday of every month is designated for board conference calls.
- d. Dan informed the 1st and 3rd of each month he is unavailable due to his chapter meetings.
- e. *Barry took a poll to see people’s availability for Tuesday evenings. It was “tentatively scheduled for the 12th of September” 2017.*
- f. Barry then discussed the October meeting 26th-29th (fly in on the 26th).
 - i. Monisha informed she is teaching an ethics class that weekend.

- ii. After discussion, it was decided to schedule the in-person meeting in Minneapolis. Additionally, it was decided the ExCom will not meet Thursday, 26th.
 - g. Discussion turned to conference calls. The board agreed to schedule the remainder of the year's conference calls to:
 - i. Tuesday, November 21 2017 and Tuesday, December 12 2017.
 - ii. The board also agreed conference calls would be 4:30pm (PST)/5:30pm (MDT)/6:30pm (CST)/7:30pm (EST).
 - h. Barry discussed the January in-person board meeting and the possibility of it occurring in the third or fourth weekend of the month. Joey requested the meeting be in a warm climate to avoid winter delays and storms. Gerry suggested San Diego due to the Golden Rule (GR) being in port.
 - i. The board agreed to hold the January 2018 in-person board meeting in San Diego.
13. Both Gerry and Helen (Jaccard, VFP Associate Member) gave their report to the board on the Golden Rule (GR). Helen informed the hiring of Samantha (Ferguson, National VFP Staff) has been helpful. Sixteen events have transpired during the GR's season. Sailing, nuclear issues and Non-Violence trainings were conducted. Helen recounted the story of the Phoenix of Hiroshima; and the work being conducted to "bring her out of the water". The GR Committee is not involved with the project but is in support (solidarity) of it. The GR is able to "support herself with regards to food, diesel and moorage" but boat repairs – engine mount and rudder - have hampered the availability of money.
- a. Barry informed Helen is a part of the "Ban the Bomb" plenary.
 - b. Joey inquired, "Where are we with ownership?" Both Barry and Gerry confirmed "we are a lot closer than we were."
14. The U.N.-VFP 2018 Conference planning continues. Canada officially turned down VFP's request to sponsor. Barry highlighted the need to "at least get one country" to sponsor.
- a. Will inquired if other countries were approached for sponsorship. Barry informed he has spoken to representatives of Lichtenstein and Costa Rica.
 - b. Barry also mentioned once we obtain sponsorship, a staff person will be needed to staff an office as the conference grows near. This person would work out of the U.N.
 - c. Mark inquired about a grant. Barry confirmed he is "working on that".
 - d. Adrienne suggested the "possibility of having a one-day conference" during the U.N.-VFP Conference.
 - i. Barry expounded on the need for VFP to become more involved with work being done at the U.N. Ellen Barfield (VFP Member), has maintained a consistent and continuous presence there and has stressed the need for more VFP involvement.
 - ii. Adrienne pointed out the need to "outline the various positions (a.k.a special appointments)" in the VFP Policy and Procedures (P & P) handbook.

1. Barry noted the Policy and Procedures handbook needs to be re-examined with possible re-writes.
 - a. Kourtney suggested the board first review the P & P handbook; then the board “come up with a list of the items which need to be re-examined and supply those recommendations to the Policy and Procedures Committee.
 - i. Barry agreed with Kourtney’s suggestion. There is no clarity regarding which board members are on the Policy and Procedures committee.
 - ii. Joey suggested, “Assigning each board member two pages” and they recommend their changes.
 - iii. Mark stated, “I can’t imagine it wouldn’t” turn into a long process.
 - b. Dan suggested “we need another retreat and it’s a good place to go section by section.”
 - c. *Barry decided each board member read the Policy handbook, “make notes and we’ll talk about it in October.”*

Discussion shifted to an email Michael received from Saif Khan (Executive Director of American Veterans Federation (AVF)), which is a sub-group of the World Veterans Federation (WVF). Mr. Khan extended an offer to have a board member sit on a newly formed steering committee called Peace and Diplomacy. Barry has asked Brian to join and Brian accepted.

- e. Brian updated the board on the conversation he had with Saif. He has submitted his resume and once it’s reviewed, should be appointed to the committee. Brian expressed hope to extend VFP’s involvement and exposure with being a part of this new organization.
 - i. Monisha asked if AVF has “an active role in conflict healing?” There was no known answer.
 - ii. Joey asked if anyone knows “how we got onto this organization?”
 1. Michael informed maybe about ten years ago.

Monisha requested board members attend her scheduled workshop – U.S. Military Rape Culture in Society and stressed “it would be good to have board presence” to help reinforce the need to change the environment in VFP.

- f. Joey asked if there would be representation of a male voice. Monisha informed she does have a male individual who will be a part of her discussion.

15. Kourtney updated the board on the Membership Committee. There is a pending approval for a new chapter based out of Fresno, CA. They have five members - one of the founding members still needs confirmation - but according to Casey, she is “99.9% sure” of the chapter formation. Kourtney motioned for the board to vote; Mark seconded. The board unanimously voted to approve the formation of the new chapter.

16. Adrienne reminded she would like to have a meeting with the staff, referring to the incident of the shooting a couple weeks ago. Barry agreed.

Closed Session starting at 1545 hours; closed session ended at 1628 hours; meeting adjourned at 1628 hours.

Veterans For Peace
2017 Chicago Convention Business Meeting
Location: Chicago, IL, The Palmer Hotel, Wabash Room
Date(s): Saturday, 12 August, 2017

Board members present:

Michael McPhearson, Executive Director
Barry Ladendorf, President
Kourtney Andar, Vice President
Brian Trautman, Treasurer
Monique Salhab, Secretary
Dan Shea
Mark Forman
Will Griffin
Monisha Rios
Adrienne Kinne
Gerry Condon

Board members not present:

Patrick McCann
Joey King

Members and guests present:

VFP membership et al

Motions and Votes in bold

Action Items italicized in red

Completed Items in blue

Agenda

1. President's Report
2. Membership Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Zinn Report
5. Golden Rule Report
6. Executive Director's Report
7. Bylaws
8. Resolutions

Commence taking of minutes at: 0817 hours (Eastern)

Barry introduced himself to the VFP membership and guests present, reviewed the agenda; and then introduced the ExCom and the remaining board members present.

1. Barry commenced with the VFP Board President report. He outlined three goals which are important: outreach and messaging, financial support and membership.
 - a. Outreach and messaging
 - i. Barry informed the budget for this year's Chicago convention was 65,000. He stressed the importance for membership to pay national dues. He discussed the upcoming U.N.-VFP Conference scheduled for 2018. He asked, "how can [VFP] use its position as an NGO to its advantage?" Three issues were highlighted of which VFP has in common with the U.N.
 1. Abolition of war
 2. Abolish of nuclear weapons
 3. Climate change
 - a. Barry, Ellen and a few VFP members met with the Director of the Department of Public Information (DPI) at the U.N. who supports the proposed 2018 conference.
 - ii. Barry also mentioned the new partnership with United Veterans Council (UVC). Brian Trautman (VFP Board Treasurer) will be the VFP liaison to the council.
 1. Lastly, Barry stated a purpose of this new relationship with the UVC is to help "Institutionalize a network of veterans" throughout the world to work within their countries to decrease and abolish nuclear weapons.
 - iii. Barry also discussed the importance of the Golden Rule and the work it conducts. Its current budget is 60,000.
 - iv. The Veterans Challenge Islamophobia (VCI) campaign.
 - v. The various VFP delegations
 1. Jeju/Okinawa, Cuba, Japan, Palestine
 - vi. Positions papers published and statements drafted by board members.
 - vii. Peace In Our Times (PIOT) publication
 1. Distributing PIOT to libraries, universities and colleges.
 - viii. VFP Newsletter
 - ix. VFP Board member travel and assistance;
 1. Four (4) in-person board meetings and additional speaking engagements
 - x. VFP Support Staff
 1. Barry stressed the need to have more staff to continue the work.
 - b. Financial donors are an area "we need to develop more", Barry stated. He highlighted the programs and campaigns which need money.
 - i. Barry informed his wife, Rhonda Ladendorf, will be conducting donor searches and completing grant requests.
 - ii. Wills, bequests and Letters of Intent are another method which assists VFP to accomplish its mission and vision.
 - iii. Lifetime memberships
 1. Members sponsoring another member with a Lifetime membership
 - iv. Annual Dues
 1. Barry stressed the importance of members paying National VFP dues.

c. Membership

- i. He announced the following new chapters: VFP Japan, Dekalb, IL and Fresno, CA.

Barry concluded “let’s not break the bond” and thanked the membership for “all they do.”

2. Kourtney Andar (VFP Board Vice-President) commenced with his Membership Committee report.

- a. Per Kourtney, “inside the numbers, we’re doing pretty good” but noted there has been a decrease in membership since June 2016. He cited congressional sessions, key times of the year and the economy as being possible contributors to the decrease of membership. The following are membership issues Kourtney highlighted:

- i. Increasing enrollment for Post-9-11 Veterans
- ii. Lapsed members
1. Someone who has not paid for two (2) years; after that period, the individual becomes “Inactive”.
- iii. Three expulsions this year
1. A VFP member present, inquired to the details of one of the expulsions. Kourtney explained it was due to the falsification of several pieces of documentation. The issue led to an investigation and then the decision to have the individual expelled from VFP.
- iv. Kourtney highlighted the high number of VFP Donors.

- b. Conversation turned to the Membership Recruitment campaign and the target demographics. Kourtney also stressed the importance of “giving [chapters] the tools to be successful” and meeting [individuals] where they are.

- i. Post 9-11
- ii. Veterans of Colour
- iii. Female Veterans
- iv. LGBTQ Veterans
- v. Currently Enlisted/Commissioned Veterans
- vi. Associate Members and Allies

- c. Kourtney presented a visual schematic which represents how “to bring together all the branches together” toward a specific goal.

- i. One point of the schematic Kourtney highlighted was Cultural Development
1. Regarding behavior, how we “present ourselves to the public” and how we treat each other in our chapters.

Kourtney ended by encouraging members to contact him with any ideas or comments regarding membership.

3. Brian presented his Treasurer’s report to the membership.

- a. Brian noted he, Michael, Shelly and Angela Hudson (of Davis & Associates) review the financials on a monthly and quarterly basis.
- b. Brian noted the YTD budget is 32,000\$ in the red. Michael followed up citing the money is being “spent on program things...and we do have to increase how we raise the donor monies.”

The committee has shared responsibility for fundraising, repairs, etc. Discussion continues with the transition of ownership to VFP. The crew visited the site of the Phoenix of Hiroshima – the sister ship of the GR. Gerry discussed future of the GR mentioning Cuba, the Mississippi (Gulf Coast area) and Japan. Gerry shared the GR’s website with the membership (<http://www.Vfpgoldenruleproject.org>)

- a. A VFP member suggested coordinating the GR be in NY Harbor in 2018 for the U.N.-VFP Conference.

Business meeting broke for lunch at 1200 hours (Eastern); return from lunch at 1315 hours (Eastern); meeting re-commenced at 1330 hours (Eastern).

6. Barry commenced with reviewing the submitted proposed bylaws.
 - a. **Article VII Elections (Electronic Voting)**
 - i. Barry recapped Maine’s Non-profit statute 604 - since VFP is incorporated in that state. Barry informed the membership of the board vote, which was unanimous. Adrienne presented the rationale.
 1. A VFP member from the Smedley Butler chapter asked if there would still be a paper ballot. It was confirmed there would be.
 2. Reese Forbes of Chapter 61 (drafter of the resolution) expressed he has had some concern regarding hand counting and said, “it’ll be safe, secure and accurate.”
 3. **Barry proposed the VFP membership vote on the proposed bylaw change; Nate Goldslag (VFP member) seconded.**
 - a. **VFP membership voted 56 in Favour; 0 Nays and 0 Abstentions**
 - b. The proposed Chapter Dues bylaw was withdrawn.
 - c. Barry explained the Business Meeting parameters regarding VFP members only voting and the protocol for members to argue their sides. Each member in favour or not in favour will have one (1) minute to state their reason(s). Another VFP member will be the time-keeper. One (1) member has volunteered to supply the mic to each speaker.
7. **2017-01: Bring The Bells Back To Balangigi, Samar, Phillipines**
 - a. Barry summarized the resolution. Dan Shea (VFP board member) read the rationale to the membership. Dan explained research was conducted on the Bells of Belangiga. He further explained the drafter of the resolution resides overseas and did not respond to Dan’s email.
 - i. Dan could not find language referring to HCR 481 (referenced in the resolution).
 1. Dan also asked, “why is the timing right to renew efforts?” – language which is used in the resolution. He also mentioned the human rights violations of both the U.S. and the Philippines.
 - ii. Discussion commenced
 1. Jay Wenk (Chapter 058) expressed “a slightly different approach needs to be made” since the board does not have enough information. He encouraged the board to table the resolution.

2. Steve Sinsley, Woodstock Chapter expressed, “I am split. I don’t believe in taking war trophy’s.
3. Michale McPhearson, Chapter #61 expressed “if it had language about people to people” then I could support it.
4. Paul Cox, Chapter #69 expressed, “it’s the return of a war trophy” and supports it.
5. Willie Hager, Chapter #164 “likes the spirit” of the resolution but does not support it. Additionally, “it’s a total contradiction of what’s going in the Philippines.”
6. Maurice Martin, Chapter #162 stated, “it’s there, we should give it back” it doesn’t matter who’s in charge in the country.
7. Ellen Barfield, Chapter #105 stated, “it is not the job of the board” to find out more information...we need to say no to this.”
8. Jan Reuben, Chapter #91 stated, “is poorly drafted” and does not support it.
9. Dan Lummis, Okinawa Chapter stated, “I vote and move that it be tabled.”
10. Dan Saint, Chapter #171 asked, “Is Aaron M. Davis a citizen of the Philippines?” Barry answered he is not.
- 11. Barry asked the VFP Secretary (Monique Salhab) if a motion has been made to table the resolution; the VFP Secretary informed it was made by Doug Lummis (Okinawa Chapter).**
 - a. Barry asked the membership who is in favour of the submitted proposed resolution: 17 in Favour; 32 Nays and 30 Abstentions.**

8. 2017-02: End The War In Syria

- a. Barry announced the board vote to the membership. Gerry read the rationale to the membership and explained “it is what is not in the resolution.” He further stated, “it does not mention regime change...the continued bombing...U.S. ground forces in Syria.” Barry asked for members who are in favour or not in favour to approach.
 - i. Bill (last name unknown), Chapter #96 and #16 stated, “I would like to congratulate the board for voting correctly.”
 - ii. Marry McNellis, Chapter #27 expressed, “the U.S. needs to get out of Syria.”
 - iii. Skip Oliver, Chapter #39 “agrees with the board.”
 - iv. Barry called the resolution to a vote; Keith Orchard, Chapter #92 seconded.**
 - 1. 1 Yea, 60 Nays; 6 Abstentions**

9. 2017-03: U.S. - Democratic Peoples’ Republic of Korea Meeting

- a. Gerry expressed “overwhelming support for this resolution”. He also noted both the VFP Okinawa and VFP Japan Chapters co-sponsored the resolution and supported the edits suggested by the board.
 - i. Board voted unanimously to support the revised resolution.

- b. VFP Japan Chapter member – translated by Rachel Clarke (NY Chapter and VFP Japan) - a message from Japan’s Defense Minister stating, the leader of Japan would bring arms against to the U.S. He further stated, “dialogue is strongly recommended” and requested VFP National to draft a response to the Defense Minister’s statement.
 - i. Richard Gilchrist, Chapter #26 asked “Where as’ are supposed to stand alone correct?” Barry answered “Yes”.
- c. **Barry called the resolution to vote; Sally-Alice, Chapter #63 seconded.**
 - i. **73 in Favour; 0 Nays and 3 Abstentions**

10. 2017-04: Okinawa: Keystone of Peace

- a. Will Griffin (VFP Board Member) clarified the “people of Okinawa are not Japanese but indigenous to the island.”
 - i. **Jesse Perrier, Chapter #9 motioned the resolution to a vote; Paul Cox, Chapter #69 seconded.**
 - 1. **73 in Favour; 0 Nays and 1 Abstention**

11. 2017-05: WWII-Scale Mobilization To Restore A Safe Climate

- a. Brian Trautman (VFP Board Treasurer) read the rationale to the membership.
 - i. George Saylor, Chapter #35 announced, “our chapter thoroughly supports this resolution.”
 - ii. Nate Golshlag, Chapter #9 stated, “number 2 is a unachievable goal.”
 - 1. Jim Driscoll, Chapter #16 (drafter of the resolution) responded, “you can’t negotiate with mother nature...the problem is political will.”
 - iii. Elen Barfield, Chapter #104 informed, “I sympathize and I have a problem with the language” referring to WWII and the Marshall Plan. Jim answered, “it is worth keeping.”
 - iv. Ben Griffin, Chapter #1001 stated, “it’s calling for the American government to initiate its global plan upon other countries.”
 - v. Another VFP Member (name and chapter unknown) stated, “If what it says is clear then it should be supported.”
 - vi. Doug Lummis, Okinawa Chapter “agrees with the gentlemen from Britain.” He also noted it’s unclear who would be deciding things.
 - 1. Jim Driscoll, Chapter #16 informed, “[I] placed it in the resolution it’s not enough for the United States to get something going.”
 - vii. Dan Saint, Chapter #171 asked, “is it possible to change the language?” He was informed no.
- b. **Barry Binks, Chapter #87 motioned the resolution to a vote; Jesse Perrier, Chapter #9 seconded.**
 - i. **41 in Favour; 16 Nays and 18 Abstentions**

12. 2017-06: Stop The Deportation Of U.S. Military Veterans.

- a. Gerry explained “the board struggled with this” and noted Joey King (VFP Board Member) does not favour the resolution because “the government is already doing what [the resolution drafter] is asking them to do and the resolution does not

match the title. In other words, it's not asking the government to do what the title asks." Gerry also added, "the board supports this resolution in spirit and recommends the body vote yes on this resolution."

- i. Tommy Griffin, Chapter #170 is in favour of the resolution.
 - ii. Maurice Martin, Chapter #162 is in opposition and "concerned because it does not deal with veterans who are deported" and "incomplete."
 1. Charles Powell, Chapter #63 (drafter of the resolution) stated, "I see this as the ultimate solution...focused on stopping the problem."
 - iii. Jan Rumen, Chapter #91 and #176 is in favour but noted nothing is written about "repatriation" and informed three (3) bills will be introduced pertaining to Deported Veterans.
- b. Barry called the resolution to membership to vote; Rick Staggenbore (Douglas County, OR) and Cara Bissell, chapter #13 seconded.**
- i. 74 in Favor; 1 Nay and 1 Abstention.**

13. 2017-07: Stop U.S. Cyber War Against North Korea

- a. Monisha read the rationale to the membership.
 - i. Cameron House, Dekalb, IL Chapter informed "the hostilities against North Korea is overhyped." He stated the isolation will be their downfall.
- b. Barry Ladendorf (San Diego Chapter) stated, "chair ruled it's unanimous" calling to question the resolution to vote. Barry Binks, Chapter #87 and Dan Shea (Portland Chapter) seconded.

14. 2017-08: Resolution on Normalization of U.S. Relations with Hezbollah

- a. Will Griffin (VFP Board Member) read the rationale. He also stated the board acknowledged the language referring to "member states".
- b. Will Thomas, Chapter #62 spoke on behalf - "unofficially" - for the drafter of the resolution (Jack Dresser). He noted the named of them as a "terrorist"
- c. Ben Griffin, Chapter #1001 is in "full agreement" but the submitted resolutions need to be "tightened up."
- d. Ellen Halsey, Chapter #99 called the resolution to vote; Tommy Griffin, Chapter #170 seconded.
 - i. VFP voted Unanimous with 4 Abstentions**

15. Discussion turned to the upcoming VFP board election and those who are running for the board. Each candidate was granted two (2) minutes to present to the membership.

- a. Stanley McCoy, Chapter #61
- b. Kourtney Andar, Santa Fe Chapter
- c. Monisha Rios,
- d. Daniel Craig, Santa Fe Chapter
- e. Will Griffin, Chapter #170
- f. Maurice Martin, Chapter #69

Barry made an announcement regarding the banquet
Meeting adjourned at 1458 hours (Eastern)

Veterans For Peace
National Board of Directors Meeting
Location: Board CC
Date(s): Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Board members present:

Michael McPhearson, Executive Director
Kourtney Andar, Vice President
Brian Trautman, Treasurer
Monique Salhab, Secretary
Joey King
Tarak Kauff
Adrienne Kinne
Dan Shea (signed off at 1950 hours)
Mark Foreman
Gerry Condon

Board members not present:

Monisha Rios – family emergency
Patrick McCann – reason unknown
Will Griffin – Hurricane Irma evacuation
Barr Ladendorf, President – family emergency

Members and guests present:

Not Applicable

Agenda:

1. Approve Minutes from Chicago Mtg.
2. Poor People's Campaign: Michael
3. Update Golden Rule
4. Update UN/VFP Conference.
5. Issues we want convention committee to consider.
6. Korea and other Hotspots. What are we doing?
7. Committee Report: Delegation Protocol Status.
8. Okinawa Delegation. Strategic Plan?
9. SOA Watch/Armistice/Veterans conundrum.
10. WVF. Brian anything to report?

Motions and Votes in bold

Action/Follow-up Items italicized in red

Completed Items in blue

Commence taking of minutes at 1806 hours (Eastern)

Kourtney facilitated the board conference call due to Barry dealing with a family emergency. Kourtney reviewed the agenda.

1. **Dan motioned for the Chicago in-person board meeting and Business meeting minutes to be approved.** Kourtney asked if there were any objections; none were stated. Monique noted she made the one correction of omitting Joey King from the board members present during the Chicago Board Meeting. **The board unanimously approved the minutes.**
2. Michael updated the board on the Poor People's Campaign (PPC) – its mission and purpose. He noted the PPC utilizes MLK's "Three Evils" speech adding a fourth "evil", environmentalism. He explained starting in 2018 - beginning on Mother's Day - through the Summer Solstice, dozens of Non-Violent Direct Actions will take place at state legislatures throughout the country. The main goal is to insert poverty into the "national conversation". *Michael informed he will "reach out" to the various locations of which he is aware VFP members are working on the PPC, to form a VFP-PPC Working Group. Out of that group, he will request someone to be "the convener" of the working group.* He noted, "we need to be able to help the campaign talk about the military" piece and effect.
 - a. Monique supported Michael's input and his idea to form a working group.
 - b. Joey mentioned "he was thinking of ways we could get civil disobedience" through "voluntary poverty" actions.
 - c. Dan asked, "Is this a VFP initiative?" and suggested the tenant rights initiative in Portland should be a part of the PPC.
 - i. Michael explained the PPC is an "umbrella effort" and "does not belong to any one organization". Monique seconded Michael's statement. Michael supported Dan's suggestion and encouraged he consider contacting a Portland organizer - if one exists.
 - ii. Michael informed the PPC stresses the importance of following the foundation of the organizer basics of the PPC to maintain a level of consistency in messaging.
 - iii. Mark informed Rev. Barber came to Milwaukee a few weeks ago and he spoke; which "went beautifully and there's a whole lot of support." He also informed "Milwaukee VFP is going to be very involved in the PPC."
 - iv. Tarak mentioned he had been in touch with the Kairos Center in the past and asked do "we have anyone in NY who would be in contact with them?"
 1. Michael informed none that he is aware of currently.
 - v. Kourtney asked if there any additional questions. None were expressed.
3. Gerry updated board members on the Golden Rule (GR). The crew arrived in San Diego, with twenty-one events this season. He mentioned Samantha Ferguson assisted the GR

crew for several weeks. There has been “good media coverage” of the events. The crew also met with the San Diego Tribune upon docking in San Diego “today”. Ann Wright (VFP Advisory Board Member) accompanied the crew for several days; John Heuer’s ashes were also spread. The GR’s operating expenses totaled 16,800\$ and had 18,700\$ of incoming revenue due to sales. They also received payment for the accident incurred because of the Portland Police “ramming into” the boat earlier in the season. The GR will winter over in San Diego. The crew has several events planned in conjunction with the San Diego chapter, along with completing needed repairs. *Gerry mentioned a fundraising strategy is needed of which will be discussed among the GR Committee and VFP Board members.* The GR will be “exploring the idea of going to Cuba” and will be conducting conversations. He and Barry will be meeting to discuss and finalize the language regarding the memorandum and hopes “in the next month to get that done.”

- a. Mark thanked Gerry for the report and asked, “When did the rudder go bad?” Gerry explained the boat was “docked two weeks” while the rudder was repaired. He added the “new rudder is working terrific.” Mark also asked, “Does the committee seem pretty definite to get to the Gulf next Summer?” Gerry responded, “several want a solid plan” before deciding on whether they will.
 - b. Michael asked, “How many email and paper appeals have you done this year?” Gerry reported three – two email appeals and one newsletter appeal – were mailed this year. Michael requested “the [VFP] National office to be the one to send out the appeals.” He also noted details would need to be discussed regarding how the funds would be maintained. Additionally, he informed just over 6,000\$ plus Samantha’s and Helen’s salaries have been taken out of the VFP National budget.
 - i. Gerry asked, “Do you and I, Helen and Barry need to sit down and work out the budget?” Both Gerry and Michael agreed they would like to “maximize” the avenues available to fundraise by “not robbing other areas of the [budget] to pay for the Golden Rule”.
 1. Gerry thanked both Michael and Barry for their continued support of the GR.
 - ii. Kourtney thanked both Michael and Gerry for clarifying details of the budget relating to the GR. Kourtney asked, “What is your sense of getting [repairs] done relating to labor and cost?” Gerry responded almost 100% regarding labor will be free and “don’t anticipate more than a few thousand dollars” for material costs.
 - c. Gerry mentioned while they are docked in San Diego, the GR crew will meet with Deported Veterans chapter (Tijuana) members and Mexican activists.
4. Brian updated the board on the U.N.-VFP Conference and the three goals:
- a. Abolition of war;
 - b. Elimination of nuclear weapons, supporting the U.N.’s Nuclear Ban treaty; and
 - c. Impact of war on the environment and climate change

The committee met via conference call on August 28th. Several members are working on reaching out to island nations to inquire about sponsorship. Barry, Ken Barger (VFP Member) and Brian will be organizing the “strategic plan” for the conference. The committee will be meeting in person October 4-6th in New York. The next committee conference call is October

18th. He also noted Col. Wilkerson has offered to possibly facilitate contacting some connections in Cuba to inquire about potential sponsorship for the conference.

- d. Joey asked, “Has anyone has contacted Costa Rica?” Brian responded “Yes...they were one of the first countries.” Brian mention Barry is possibly following up.
- e. *Michael asked Tarak “if he and Ellen have finished the brochure. Tarak mentioned “all the copy is done and just have to get a picture.” Tarak informed he and Ellen will have it done by this weekend.*
- f. Gerry suggested Nicaragua as a possible sponsor, mentioning that Brian Wilson (VFP Member) has “a close relationship with Daniel Ortega [President]” and could possibly act as an intermediary. Gerry also offered to ask a fellow activist – connected with the Phoenix of Hiroshima Project - for “his contacts” with individuals in the Marshall Islands.
 - i. Gerry also asked, “What [is] the vision, goal and expectations of this conference?”
 1. Brian answered, “to convene veterans internationally” and “to bring veterans together internationally.”
 2. Michael added, “to develop something that is ongoing”, citing that any relationships formed during this process with other countries, permits for greater relationship building in the event an international incident occurs. If an international incident were to happen, we could possibly utilize those established relationships to call for diplomacy versus military intervention.
 - ii. Dan asked for the date of the conference. Brian mentioned November 2018 but noted no specific date has been chosen.
 1. Joey asked, “Could we not have this conference on November 11th?” Michael responded, “I cannot definitely say no...and it may be more of a reason to have it on that day.”
 2. Tarak informed, “It is the one-hundred-year anniversary of Armistice Day.”

Kourtney noted forty minutes remaining for the board call and requested items 6 and 7 be postponed for a conversation within the sub-committee and the ExCom, to permit time to have a more detailed conversation. Tarak noted, “I am not on the protocol committee and suggested the committee members “run [the outlined protocol] by me.”

5. Kourtney asked are there any “pressing questions” to be directed to the Convention Committee. Adrienne noted Barry requested she be on the committee but has not received any follow up information.
 - a. Tarak stated, ‘I think we should put the issue of the keynote speaker to the convention committee.’ He also asked, “a straw poll” be taken to test the temperature of where the board stands on the issue.
 - i. Gerry stated, “it would require a substantial discussion and table it for now.”
 - ii. Kourtney asked, “Could we possibly organize an email vote?” pointing out the need to save time on the board conference call.

1. Tarak agreed with Michael's statements and noted the language barrier with VFP Japan. He suggested "bringing in Rachel Clark on the call" who speaks fluent English to facilitate with discussions.

Kourtney noted the time – which is 2000 hours Mountain Standard Time.

7. Brian updated the board on the World Veterans Federation (WVF). His first call is tomorrow, Wednesday, September 12th. *He will also be meeting with Saif Khan (WVF) in-person during the World Beyond War Convention in Washington D.C.*
8. Michael informed the board on the upcoming School of the Americas (SOA) Watch and the events which transpired that resulted in the date being moved to November 11th (Armistice Day). He informed VFP member, Mike Tork, who is the VFP liaison to the SOA Watch Committee was not a part of the decision-making regarding the event date change. Michael asked, "How can the board be more involved?" and support Mike Tork who is the liaison? He suggested reports/updates by Mike Tork on SOA Watch Committee meetings and possible more board member involvement.
 - a. Gerry noted although it is "falling on Armistice Day, we can be in more than one place at once" suggesting we "approach this proactively."
 - i. Michael responded, "There are three days when our voice" can be amplified and "be visible in our communities"; highlighting the importance of VFP Chapters organizing Armistice Day activities in their communities.
 1. Gerry responded that the San Diego chapter has planned to organize Armistice activities and attend the SOA Watch Convergence.
 2. Kourtney agreed with Michael's points and asked, "What does support look like beyond social media and e-blasts?"
 - a. *Michael answered he would talk to both Mike Tork and Colleen Kelly (Communications).* He noted the Departed Veterans chapter has planned to attend the SOA Watch.
 - b. Kourtney suggested expanding the discussion via email.
 - i. Tarak suggested, "We can make the best of it by encouraging a massive return to Armistice Day by converging on the boarder."
 1. Michael mentioned "it's a great idea" but "we need to have people in their communities" organizing and talking about it.

Kourtney inquired if there was any additional information to add and asked if Monique (Board Secretary) needed any clarification on points mentioned during the call.

- a. She asked Brian for clarification on the three U.N.-VFP Conference goals, of which she corrected.

The conference call ended at 2023 hours (Mountain).

Veterans For Peace
National Board of Directors Meeting
Location: St. Paul
Date(s): Friday, 27 October 2017

Board members present:

Michael McPhearson, Executive Director
Barry Ladendorf, President
Kourtney Andar, Vice President
Brian Trautman, Treasurer
Monique Salhab, Secretary
Adrienne Kinne
Patrick McCann (departed early Sunday 29 Oct)
Dan Shea
Mark Foreman
Tarak Kauff
Monisha Rios
Gerry Condon
Joey King (arrived Friday, 28 Oct)

Members and guests present:

Dave Logsdon, St. Paul Chapter
Steve McKeown, St. Paul Chapter
Craig Wood, St. Paul Chapter
Steve Gates, St. Paul Chapter
Mary McNellis, St. Paul Chapter
Barry Riesch, St. Paul Chapter

Agenda

Friday

9- 9:15 Agenda/Events Review
9:15-10:00 International Veterans Peace Conf. Update;
10-10:45 GR Rule Update-Gerry
10:45-11:00 Morning Break
11:05-11:30 VCI Update Monique, Michael.
11:30-Noon Armistice Day Activities
Noon-1:30p Lunch Break
1:30-2:30 Tour of Hotel by Hotel Staff.
2:30-3:00 Board Discussion regarding Hotel
3:00-3:20 Treasurers Report Brian.
3:20-3:25 Afternoon Break
3:25-4-15 Membership Committee Report, including status of complaint by Nate
 Goldshlag against Smedley Chapter (Kourtney)
4:15-5:00 Aaron Davis and VA Working Group Proposal

APPROVED

Saturday

- 9:00-10:30 ED's Report, including: Convention Report, Music Fest, budget status for the remainder of the year and status of Ballots/Voting.
- 10:30-10:45 Morning Break
- 10:50- 11:30 Rapid Response Team (Tarak)
- 11:30-Noon OTF Funding
- Noon-1:30 Lunch Break
- 1:30-3:00 Meeting with the St. Paul VFP chapter
- 3:00-3:15 Afternoon Break
- 3:15-3:45 People's Treaty with North Korea (Gerry)

Sunday

- 9:30a-Noon Complete agenda items not finished
Strategic Planning for Board and Purposed Projects
Review our process for Nominations Committee and Awards Committee
Policy Manual

Motions and Votes in bold

Action Items italicized in red

Completed Items in blue

Follow/up Items italicized in purple

Commence taking of minutes at 0909 hours (Central). Tarak read the VFP Mission Statement. Patrick executed a Presente! for Orlando Collado – Korean War Veteran who died approximately one month ago and was a chapter member of the VFP Miami Chapter. Barry reviewed the agenda with board members.

1. Barry commenced the update regarding the 2018 International Veterans Peace Conference (IVPC). He informed several committee members – Barry, Michael, Ellen Barfield, Chris Antal and Brian - met in person in New York from October 4th-6th to complete strategic planning and meetings for the 2018 Veterans Peace Conference. Michael developed a flowchart which illustrates committee members' responsibilities planning and organizing the conference. The Republic of Vanuatu (a group of island nations near Fiji) has agreed to officially sponsor the IVPC. Barry and the committee finalized the strategic plan and wrote a letter to the newly elected President of the U.N. General Assembly – of which both the letter and the conference proposal – will be mailed.
 - a. Tarak asked, "Can we get a hard copy of the letter hand delivered?" explaining he "probably gets a ton of mail."
 - b. Brian summarized the meeting with Ambassador Odo Tevi of the Republic of Vanuatu which "went very well."
 - i. *Brian "is drafting a letter to Ecuador" to request for additional sponsorship.*

- ii. Dan asked, “When you send these letters out to these nations are you asking them to send their veterans?” Both Brian and Barry informed, it is a follow up item.
- c. Adrienne expressed, “I hope we are letting our international chapters know about this.” and “Are we having other veteran’s groups or other organizations a part of this?”
 - i. Brian informed he is “in discussion with Saif Khan of the World Veterans Federation (WVF). According to Saif Khan, WVF would not sponsor and/or endorse the conference due to the “varying views and disagreements” among veteran’s organizations who are a part of WVF regarding nuclear weapons and policy.
- d. Kourtney asked, “Will this conference result in a joint paper to the U.N.?”
 - i. Barry confirmed it would, in addition to a broadening of networking with other organizations and veterans’ groups.
 - ii. Barry also informed VFP applied to the NoVo Fund; “They are looking for groups which think outside the box.” He additionally stressed the long-term goal of obtaining “ECOSOC status” (Economic and Social), which “gives you consultative status” within the U.N.
- e. Dan asked, “Have we contacted Brian Wilson in Nicaragua?” Barry informed not that he was aware. Gerry echoed it would be beneficial to follow up with him.
- f. Michael reviewed the *International Veterans For Peace Conference Flowchart of Responsibility*.
 - i. An Event Coordinator position will be created to assist with organizing and logistics of the conference. Michael noted it may be a paid position.
 - ii. Michael expressed, “The biggest challenge will be getting a diverse group of veterans” to attend the conference. He also stressed the importance of “having a chairperson to oversee the planning until we get an Event Coordinator...someone who is looking at this every day.”

Michael also reminded “we haven’t announced this to our membership”. It was suggested a conference call be organized for chapter contacts and/or presidents to call-in and ask questions, which would then facilitate the details of this conference to then be disseminated to chapters and members. He will connect with Ken (Barger) to expedite the information to the membership before the end of the year. Michael seconded Adrienne’s point regarding international VFP chapters and members.

- g. Patrick asked, “Do you have a scale of an estimate of attendance and your cost?” and “Have you done any beginning discussion of a timeline?” Michael informed he is working on the budget.
- h. Will asked, “For promotion, when can we go public about this?” Michael proposed “by the end of November” and requested Will’s assistance, since he’s on the Media Committee.
 - i. Dan expressed, “We need to do a video” which would help “promote and explain what the conference is about.”
 - ii. Brian noted, “The language in the IVPC Brochure is very specific and can be referred to” when talking about the conference.
 - iii. Mark suggested the video could be “used for fundraising purposes.”

- iv. Tarak informed, “We have contacts within the country.” He also suggested “we look at the Indigenous people” linked at the U.N. as important organizing contacts.
- i. Monisha asked, “Are there veterans from other countries involved with decision-making?”, stressing the need to be inclusive and broaden the “power structure”. She also suggested Johnnie Aseron with the International Initiative for Transformative Collaboration (IITC) be involved. Barry answered, “It was a point of outreach to [WFV] to reach out to international veterans.” Brian expressed “optimism”.
 - i. Adrienne stressed the need to “reach out to [VFP] chapters for their input.”
 - ii. Kourtney seconded Adrienne’s point and asked, “What is the reach of our international veterans?” ...we want non-VFP veterans to come to this conference.”
 - 1. Barry confirmed the intent is to have non-VFP veterans to attend but noted there is the possibility to have a larger percentage of VFP Veterans in attendance due to the dynamic and organizing.
- j. Gerry stated, “We would benefit to have an on-going discussion of our vision and political orientation. He also mentioned the need to recognize the conflict of the message regarding a U.S. veterans group organizing a conference and publicizing a brochure which “not once mentions the U.S. and its role in war making and that it should be.”
 - i. Michael suggested, “we should re-look the brochure.”

Break at 1045 hours; reconvened at 1109 hours.

- 2. Gerry commenced his update on the Golden Rule (GR). The GR is docked in San Diego Bay and the VFP San Diego chapter has been hosting the boat and members of the crew. He discussed the San Diego Fleet Week action of which members participated; previous Fleet Week actions were in Portland, Seattle, San Francisco and LA. The GR crew since being docked, has been conducting trainings and crew trainings the 1st and 3rd weekends. The GR Committee agreed to offer a 500\$ monthly stipend to the current captain, who is “committed and there for the long haul.” Gerry informed several individuals proposed the GR conduct the “original voyage” to Japan. The proposal was presented to the GR Committee and received overwhelming support and “gave the green light to explore the proposal.” Gerry outlined the vision below:
 - a. In 2018 remain in the West Coast and fundraising, in addition to commencing “serious training”.
 - b. Japan and the Marshall Islands in 2020

Gerry announced Helen (Jaccard) – who has been the GR Project Manager for two years - informed she “wants to terminate her position as Project Manager as of December 31, 2017. Additionally, the GR Committee and VFP are in the final steps of finalizing the MOU. The boat’s registration expires at the end of December 2017 and requested some expedition of finalizing the MOU, so the boat is registered in VFP’s name. Gerry explained the monthly fee of mooring the GR is 650.00\$ monthly; just under 2,000 is remaining in the bank. A newsletter and fund appeal will “go out” in addition to a fundraising appeal organized in February 2018. Gerry

informed some “new fundraising initiatives” must be organized. Helen has requested the board approve 3,000 to cover costs for the remainder of 2017.

- c. Tarak stated, “I think this is one of the most important projects VFP has and would like to publicize it more in “Peace In Our Times.” Tarak proposed, “Veterans For Peace funds be used to support this project...an infusion.”
- d. Patrick proposed a fundraiser specifically in New York with Michu Okako (renowned astrophysicist and a veteran) and/or Yoko Ono (VFP Advisory member). Patrick informed he could research the people who “know Michu Okako” and enlist the VFP NY chapter for help.
- e. Gerry mentioned three issues:
 - i. A replacement for Helen;
 - ii. Discussion regarding approval of the requested funds; and
 - iii. The Golden Rule Committee examining the possibilities of sailing to Hawaii and the Marshall Islands.
- f. Will informed www.Patreon.com as a possible avenue for sustained fundraising for the GR.
- g. Barry asked, “Is there a way of going to the public dock?” Gerry informed the public dock is not free and boats can dock there a maximum of fifteen days per month.
- h. Mark asked, “Who owns the boat? What is the Golden Rule Project?” Mark stressed, “we need a plan” referring to the financial stability of the GR boat and its monthly expenses.
 - i. Gerry informed, “The pink slip is in the Golden Rule Project[‘s]” name and explained the necessity to finalize the MOU. He also explained “we don’t really have a fundraising program, we’re not writing grants.”
 1. Michael mentioned “I’ve talked about [fundraising] with the [GR Committee]” but has received in-depth feedback from them regarding this issue.
 - ii. Gerry motioned the GR board is interested in the possibility of a Pacific voyage and exploring the possibility of a tour to the Marshall Islands by 2020 and will update the board in a few months.

Broke for lunch at 1200 hours; reconvened at 1130 hours.

3. Adrienne updated the board regarding Volunteers for Peace based out of Burlington, VT. They approached the Vermont VFP chapter proposing possible collaboration – i.e., younger veterans, the 2018 Peace Conference and broadening connections.

- a. *Barry asked, “Do they have issues with what we’re involved with?” He also suggested coordinating a meeting with VFP to further discuss and explore possibilities.*
 - i. *Kourtney stated, “I think it’s something we can involve the Membership Committee” and requested to be included in the conversation/meeting.*
 1. *Barry suggested Kourtney update the Membership Committee on Volunteers for Peace.*

- b. Monisha asked, “How are we budgeting and how are we creating our line items, does that restrict our freedom to move money?” Michael explained, “These are restricted funds” designated for the National Projects and the “board can decide if those budgeted items can/should be moved to other projects”, if a project has ended.
 - i. Monisha further asked, “What is our process to decide what moves when?” Michael answered, “A board discussion.”
 - ii. Barry asked, “Is it the status of a National Project which determines which line budget items are shifted?” He added National Projects should be providing quarterly reports to the board.
 - 1. *Monique informed she will request from the National Project Coordinators reports. Both Brian and Monisha offered to assist with this effort.*
 - 2. Tarak suggested a “form” for individuals to complete, to make it easier to file reports. There was general agreement to his suggestion.
 - 3. Will stated, “I think we should convene in January and clean this up.”
 - 4. Kourtney suggested, “Maybe we should wait until we get the reports back in January” before decisions are made.
 - 5. Monisha stated, “I would like have the information on these projects before making a decision” and “How are we empowering our members involved with these projects?” and how are they in line with our mission?
 - iii. Mark expressed joy about the Peace In Our Times budget “being at a surplus.”
- c. Patrick motioned for line items, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 16 to be consolidated into a Delegation Fund.
- d. **Barry motioned to reconsider the previous motion to add line item #5. Patrick motioned for 5, 7, 8, 9 and 16; Adrienne seconded. The board voted unanimously for line items 5-9 and 16 to be consolidated into Delegation Fund.**
 - i. Monisha asked, “Who does the War Economy [line item] belong to?” Michael answered, “John Amidon”.

Break at 1639 hours; reconvened at 1654 hours.

- 6. Kourtney commenced his Membership Committee report. he informed the Douglas County, OR group is the newest proposed chapter.
 - a. **Kourtney motioned for the new chapter be approved; Adrienne seconded. The board unanimously approved.**
 - i. *Barry requested Kourtney send him the contact information of the new chapter, so he can send them a letter.*
 - ii. *Kourtney will inform Casey of the decision.*

Moved into Executive Session (ES) at 1705 hours; ES ended at 17:30 hours.

Reconvened Saturday, 28 October 2017 at 0916 hours.

Barry assigned members donor calls requesting they be completed by this weekend and an email confirming its completion to Barry.

7. Michael commenced his Executive Director's report. The national office is currently two positions short – Casey's position and an Administrative Assistant (AA). Shelly has received resumes for the AA position and both she and Michael will commence interviews in the next two weeks. The intention is to hire a replacement for Casey's position in the new year and to intentionally hire a veteran. Helen Jaccard – current GR Program Coordinator – has submitted notice of her resignation from the position effective December 31, 2017; additionally, funding for Sam Ferguson's position – GR and VCI Campaign, Event Coordinator – runs out at the end of December. Thus, funding for both positions must be acquired and a replacement for Helen must also be found. Although membership is in a positive trend, Michael noted "I am more concerned about expired memberships and those members not renewing...we need to have a more honest in-depth discussion about why we are losing members". "We are in the red by 20,000 due to convention expenses, increased store inventory, lack of fundraising and lack of major donors". Additionally, a 64,000 check was not cashed in September from the hotel; which will increase the negative loss to 84,000\$. Two appeals will "go out" Black Friday and Giving Tuesday (November 28th). Major donor (MD) calls will be conducted by Michael, Doug Zachary and a couple board members to make the calls to MD's who contributed in the last three years. The ballots have been sent to the printer and then will go to mailing; Collen will have the bylaw information posted to the website for members knowledge.
 - a. Tarak commented, "There are some people who don't know we have a paper!"
 - b. Barry noted, "There are some chapters who do not encourage payment of national dues."
 - c. Adrienne suggested, "Veterans For Peace developing an app."
 - d. Gerry commented, "taking projects and resources to the chapters."
 - i. Michael agreed, "that's right and why it's important to have a clear strategic plan."
 - e. Patrick asked, "Was that an expensive hotel?"
 - i. Michael responded "Yes...and I have to complete a more detailed report" encompassing detail expenses and comparing the costs of the last three conventions.
 - f. Brian asked for clarification regarding the 25\$ VFP member promotion to lapsed members. Michal informed, "lapsed members are however long they've been lapsed."
 - g. Dan asked, "What's the advantage for Giving Tuesday?" Michael and Kourtney informed, "it's the counter to Black Friday that non-profits have come to use" to counter Black Friday.
 - h. Barry asked, "Do you have a cut off for the list [of Major Donors]?" Michael informed he is going to look at the timeline.
 - i. He also asked, "Have we ever done any debriefing letters...feedback from the membership about programs?"
 - i. Mark asked, "When do we want the end year appeal in people's mailboxes?" Michael answered, "The first week of December." Mark also mentioned the

importance of contacting members expressing, “these lapsed members are goldmines.” Michael agreed and reiterated the possibility of “leadership conducting calls”.

- j. Tarak thanked Michael for the report and noted, the comment regarding “we’re not doing an adequate job” of relaying our message. He proposed “a mass mailing of one copy to each of our members including our lapsed members” to help inform and remind members of the work VFP is doing.
 - i. Michael agreed with Tarak’s suggestion “and we have to see how much it would cost.” He also mentioned “a long time ago we sent lapsed members a partial newsletter”, which helped reduce the cost of bulk mailing. He also suggested a “sample group” could also receive the mailing versus the entire membership.
- k. Monisha stated, “Where is [Jim Driscoll’s] report to the board?” What is our return investment so far?”
 - i. Michael explained he was originally hired for the VCI Campaign and noted the amount of money he brought in for the campaign. “In January [2017] he was hired to help the board be more effective with fundraising...but now he’s not doing that anymore...he felt he was not being effective with that.”
 - ii. Monisha suggested “bringing on an intern...maybe asking Jim to assist.” She also asked, “Are we tapping into the talent within our membership?” Monisha stressed the need to be very specific with the “asks” and “needs” of our membership, further proposing “we have that conversation” regarding how we can engage our membership – suggesting the possibility of a virtual chapter.
- l. Joey informed, “we would have to do bylaws change to have a virtual chapter...but we have considered it”. He also asked, “have we made an effort to contact second-year members...do we have the current number of people who renew the second year?” Doug calls individuals to renew, “but it’s not an [intentional call] to” renew for the second year.”
- m. Patrick suggested, “a chapter to do a phone bank...because we are just overwhelmed.”
- n. *Kourtney reminded board members “we have a Membership campaign...and spread it out among the organization” and stressed the need to pursue the campaign as laid out and as presented to the membership. Kourtney will set up another committee call with members to follow up.*
 - i. Michael suggested, “no later than January” due to the timeline.
- o. Will stated, “What we need is ‘creative tension’” mentioning MLK. He mentioned the Peace Report which was created two years ago and looking “at creating a video of VFP’s work and message.”
 - i. Barry suggested “some of [Will’s] suggestions can go to the communications committee.”
 - ii. Gerry asked, “How would we do that?”
 - iii. *Will is going to follow up with creating a proposal – budget, plan*
 - 1. *Per Barry, “the implementation will be via the Communications Committee.”*

- a. Will offered, “How about we coordinate together?”
- p. Adrienne stated, “I just really want to make a push for creating regional coordinators” explaining her work with IVAW...”and regional coordinators lighten the load.”
 - i. Gerry requested this “be added to the Sunday agenda”.
 - 1. Barry asked, “What would be the job description?”
 - a. Adrienne explained, RC’s reached out to new members, connected members together, helped chapters get established, held regional meetings...and helped take the load off the [IVAW] National Office.” She also suggested “they could work in tandem with the Membership Committee.”
 - ii. She proposed sending bumper stickers/t-shirts; chapter kits – suggesting lapsed members receive a t-shirt when they renew.
 - 1. Michael responded new members do receive a t-shirt.
 - iii. Her second suggestion is, setting up automatic membership renewals - akin to DMV, 2, 4-year increments.
 - q. Michael updated on the progress for merging both databases – Etapestry and Salsa – has been moved back 6 months.
 - r. Monique “thanked Michael for updating us on the merging of databases...and I would be happy to send an email to candidates on the January 2018 meeting, because I think it’s very unfair for us to expect new board members be present a few weeks after being notified of their election.”
 - i. There was agreement about this suggestion.

Break at 0957 hours; reconvened at 1010 hours.

- 8. Michael continued his E.D. report which focused on the Chicago convention. The 64,000\$ loss was due to banquet, board and speaker accommodations and audio-visual costs. Michael suggested both convention concerts “were budget failures.” Michael added the model needs to be much more collaborative and include local community organisations – i.e. “asking the local chapter to approach” other social justice groups to inquire if they would be interested in collaborating. “We have to be intentional and thoughtful”.
 - a. Barry stressed the importance of “knowing what events” in the surrounding community are happening during our convention(s).
 - b. Tarak clarified, “the Jackson Browne concert promoted Veterans For Peace...and Jackson Browne mentioned Veterans For Peace many times.” Additionally, “I think we really gotta start thinking outside of the box...retreat centers which are much cheaper.”
 - i. Michael reminded Barry “is constituting a committee” who will look at costs, planning, locations, venue, etc.
 - 1. Convention Review Committee members are Michael, Adrienne, Patrick (McCann), Barry, Garry (Butterfield), Denny (Riley).

- c. Monisha commented, “Last year was my first convention ever...and I was really shocked that an organization with our socio-economic concerns would have gone with a place as expensive as [the Palmer Hotel]”.
 - i. Michael explained “we only have the conventions in cities where we have chapters...it helps to energise and bring attention to those chapters.”
- d. Joey asked, “Do we have an indication why our [attendance] numbers were down?”
 - i. Michael suggested Chicago as compared to Berkeley does not “have a lot of chapters nearby...and I don’t think we got on the calendar soon enough.”
- e. Kourtney suggested, “knowing the numbers of other membership-based organizations regarding convention costs” – i.e. loss, revenue, etc. He also said other organizations “routinely ask us for money and [we] support their actions, why aren’t they coming out and supporting us and our convention[s]?”
 - i. Michael agreed with Kourtney’s points.
- f. *Will suggested the processed Social Network Analysis (SNA) audit conducted proposed by Justin Loza, adding “I would like to contact him.”*
- g. Gerry stated, “It’s unacceptable we lost that much money...never again.” He believes “we need to come up with a plan to make these conventions sustainable” and look at other revenue streams.
- h. Adrienne stated, “We should look at conventions historically...and we’ve just been picking places which are crazy expensive.”
- i. Patrick agreed with Adrienne’s sentiment about “examining our history”. He also stressed, “we need to get speakers from the local community...too much money on speakers.” “What is the cost to VFP [versus] the cost for our members?”
 - i. Barry responded, “no honourariums were paid” for the Chicago convention speakers.
- j. Brian stated, “I absolutely agree with Tarak’s suggestion” regarding retreat centers, “starting with the 2019 convention.”
 - i. Michal stated, “We do have to determine our priorities.”
- k. Dan “is opposed to the idea of a retreat center”, explaining the importance of reaching out to the local community and the positive impact the Public Event can have within the local community. He also mentioned the possible omission of the keynote speaker and “the idea to have a sustainer ahead of time from the general public”, which would help fund the convention.
- l. Monique stressed “having the hotel information published as soon as possible so members can start making arrangements early enough.”
- m. Gerry suggested “a wild idea, [such as] a peace walk in the future rather than a convention.”

Broke for lunch at 1208 hours; reconvened at 1335 hours.

- 9. Tarak commenced his discussion regarding the Veterans Rapid Respond Team (VRRT) proposal. His inspiration originated from Greenpeace and their peace boats. He stressed the positive impact delegations have had on “young vets.” Tarak has proposed an increase the Outreach Travel Fund (OTF) by 5,000\$. A trainer for the VRRT has been

recruited and suggested the trainer be paid 1,000\$ for a “day and a half of training.” He has also reached out to both Maggie Martin and Matt Howard – of About Face - to increase collaboration. Tarak is proposing to “starting the project” now and follow up later with the completed plan. He stated, “I would like to have Monisha, Adrienne, Matt Hoh (VFP Advisory member) and About Face” a part of the process.

- a. Monisha “enthusiastically supports it...and cultivating a culture of peace.” She mentioned fundraising and asked, “how can [I] contribute?”
- b. Joey mentioned, “The line-item
- c. Kourtney voiced his support citing it is “a prime recruiting tool.” He is “not totally on board with just starting the project...we need a strong strategic plan for starting projects.” He also added, “We need to come up with a list of priorities for the board and see how special projects fit into those priorities...we need a more formalized proposal and not just a letter.”
 - i. Tarak agreed with Kourtney’s comments.
- d. Will noted, “the delegations are imperative”, naming the creation of both the Okinawa and Japan chapters.
- e. Gerry stated, “I think it’s a great idea.” He also added, “fundraising is key...a fundraising package” would make a difference.
- f. Michael stated, “I think clearly it’s a great idea.” He asked, “How will we show up as veterans? It’s never clear how is the strategic goal with the delegations.” Identifying the goals and path to those goals...”and would like to see more of that”.
 - i. Tarak asked Michael “to think about what these objectives” regarding delegations could be.
- g. Adrienne suggested, “Picking [VFP] brains about how they organize and plan their delegations. She also suggested a Patreon account specifically for VFP delegations.
 - i. Tarak asked Adrienne if she would be willing to work with Will on this.
- h. Patrick suggested a “Rubric” – an and planning document - assessment process to delegations.
- i. Brian agreed with all sentiments and stressed the “need to have a comprehensive plan directed at:
 - i. Fundraising, goal(s) and targets
 - ii. He also would like to see selection criteria and “the need to be transparent”.
 1. Tarak stated the people who have been involved have “criteria”, citing the need to have “good physical, emotional shape.” He is in “favour of creating written” criteria.
 - iii. *Brian once again requested an accounting of the OTF FUND for the last twelve months.”*
 1. *Both Kourtney and Tarak with follow up.*
- j. Dan informed, “a lot of that criteria is shared and planned” among members of the delegation.
- k. Barry reiterated that strategic planning was discussed among the ExCom and reminded board members of the training received in St. Louis in April. *He stressed Tarak complete a strategic plan and submit it.*

- l. Monique discussed two points:
 - i. The original board discussion during the January 2017 board meeting on a form for members to submit (or apply) for delegations. She noted the concern John Spitzberg (VFP Member) raised referring the possible bias of delegations and how people are selected. She stated, “We have to think about the optics of *how* this looks. We may know how individuals are selected but if we do not have a formal process that’, then the membership is going to believe it’s bias.”
 - ii. Monique also stated, “I would like to see us complete the task [of completing the form] before moving on to another thing.”
 - iii. Michael stated, “It has to be open and for everyone to apply...and we don’t know” what types of skills set our membership may have and “we have to rely on the organizational networks.”
 - m. Mark agreed with Michael and a non-bias approach.” Mark asked, “Is there going to be some limit for what VFP pays and the VRRRT pays? Suggesting a “written percentage of what will be raised.”
 - i. Tarak responded, “My goal is to make these delegations and VRRRT self-sustainable.”
 1. Mark stated, “I just want to have a structure in place...a process that addresses the strategic plan and illustrates what we can afford.”
10. Chapter 27 members presented their plan for the 2018 Convention.
- a. Barry (Riesch) gave an overview of the decision to have the convention in MSP, hotel accommodations and housing options, transportation and “a scholarship to help members attend.” They realize it’s a partnership with the chapter and the VFP Board. The following points were covered by chapter members:
 - i. The chapter is planning the Opening Plenary
 - ii. Thursday evening is a river boat ride along the Mississippi River
 - iii. The Public Event is Friday
 - iv. Acknowledged “controversy about the banquet” and the keynote speaker. They are brainstorming on options.
 - b. The chapter will conduct regional outreach to Duluth, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Chicago and the Dakotas, acknowledging the proximity of these areas and the lower cost of travel for individuals in these areas. A chapter member asked, “How much responsibility does national take care of and how much [does] the chapter do?” Chapter members stressed the importance of the Indigenous community within the MSP area and the need to have such a presence at and in the convention.
 - i. Patrick suggested the chapter “reach out to the family of Philando Castille...it’s an opportunity to reach out”, reminding of his death and the impact of it within the community.
 - ii. Monique reminded individuals of the presence of the Muslim community within the MSP area.
 - c. Chapter 27 members informed discussions has commenced regarding the convention theme/title. They stressed the importance of one which captures all

topics discussed and area and represents the regional aspects of the Minneapolis-St. Paul.

- i. Monisha suggested “Decolonization Now” as the theme.
- d. Barry informed Convention Committee will start conference calls soon and will collaborate with Chapters members on the theme.

Break at 1440; reconvened at 1308 hours.

11. The board resumed the discussion regarding VRRT. Tarak motioned for the board to approve the increase the OTF by 5,000\$ this year (2017); Dan seconded. Discussion commenced... 11 Yeas; 1 Nay; 1 Abstention; Motion passed.

- a. Michael stated, “[The money] would come from the general fund.”
- b. Will asked, “What about the money from the line-item compression” which was voted on the day prior.
 - i. Tarak explained “It’s not for the OTF” rather, “to cover Will’s and Enya [Anderson’s] expenses...Nogales [SOA Watch] ...if there’s money leftover then great.”
- c. Mark asked, “It the Golden Rule going to need any money from the General Fund?”
 - i. Gerry confirmed it is on the agenda for tomorrow (Sunday, 29th).
- d. Monisha expressed, “I’m curious about other priorities we have.”
 - i. Barry responded, “The Veterans Peace Conference and hiring a staff person for that.” Barry also reiterated the previous point regarding the creation of a procedures for delegations and other projects which have not been completed. He stated, “I think we need we have to have a realization” of what we can and cannot do “and be mindful”.
- e. Adrienne stated, “I think this is already one of the more dynamic things” which can bring in members.
 - i. She suggested the creation of a giving campaign recruiting 500 members who give 5.00 monthly as sustaining money to fund the OTF.
- f. Tarak stated, “I get a lot, a lot of positive feedback.” Fourteen members are on the Okinawa delegation.
- g. Mark countered, “I’m trying to wrap my mind around expenses for next year”. He discussed the hiring of an individual for the Peace Conference in NY and the daily cost of living there in NY.
 - i. Dan stated, “A budget is an imagination of what we’re looking for...if we don’t have the money to spend, then we’re just not going to do it.”
- h. Michael reminded “that we’re just talking about the 5,000\$ right now.” He further explained the target audience for Adrienne’s proposal cannot be from the same audience “otherwise we’re cannibalizing our own source.”
 - i. *Will informed he, Dan and Tarak will return to the board with letters from individuals whom participated in previous delegations.*

12. Monisha informed, “Recently she was contacted from members who were concerned National is not doing anything [on Puerto Rico].” She and Dave Kashmer (VFP Chapter #51) have been personally impacted by the crisis, due to family in PR. She has requested

“help on drafting an appropriate statement” regarding the crisis in Puerto Rico. A letter written by Dave Kashmer was read to board members. Monisha explained the “U.N. has a special committee on the Decolonization of PR and referenced the issue of Depleted Uranium in Vieques, PR; citing the personal impact both issues have had on her and her family.

- a. Mark stated, “Immediate help and addressing the long-term consequences of the U.S. government.... I can help with some time and maybe some money.”
 - i. She stated Dan connected her with One Love Collective – who is actively doing work in PR - and Water Protectors have gone to the island.
- b. Barry agreed with “writing a statement of support”.
- c. Adrienne stated, “I think it would be important for us to get a letter out to members to call their representatives and congress” to possibly increase pressure on government representatives to possibly end the Jones Act.
- d. Dan stated the “Jones Act should be in the statement.” He also suggested Ann Wright (VFP Advisory Board Member) could be enlisted to speak out about the crisis; or a group could go to Washington, D.C. or a peace team deployed to Puerto Rico.
- e. Gerry stressed the “dire situation in Puerto Rico” referring to “no clean water” and overflowing of superfund sites, etc.
- f. Barry proposed the possibility of “getting the people involved with the Iraq Water Project...and go out to Puerto Rico” to help.
 - i. Barry (Riesch) - who’s been involved since the beginning of the project’s inception - stated “it’s a possibility”.
 1. Monisha said, “It’s a wonderful idea to look into.”
- g. Joey stated, “I’ll help you with the statement and we can work on the language.”
- h. Patrick added, “we can make a statement...we can have a demonstration somewhere...what do we think gives us the best bang of those options?”
 - i. Mark answered, “triage...there are people who can survive immediately.”
 1. Patrick asked, who are the groups doing ‘triage’?”
- i. Gerry agreed with Barry’s suggestion regarding “clean water” and putting out a statement adding the statement should call for the complete forgiveness of the Puerto Rican debt.
- j. Michael informed he called Art Dorland (Iraq Water Project) while people we in discussion. Per Art:
 - i. “The filtration systems don’t filtrate all the contaminants...and need to have someone on the ground” to monitor and oversee what is working and “the filtration systems need electricity” to work.
- k. Dan also mentioned he and Gerry’s “connections to Pastors for Peace” and Doctors Without Borders.
- l. Tarak suggested “Contacting International Medical Relief” as a way of partnering up.
- m. Will mentioned, “Team Rubicon.”
- n. Mark suggested forming a committee “to prioritize and get help as fast as possible and go from there.”
 - i. *Monisha informed she “is happy to lead peripherally if necessary.”*

1. *The following individuals offered to assist with immediate response and drafting a statement: Joey, Mark, Dan and Barry (Riesch). Monisha will email the group call-in information regarding scheduling a conference call for Monday, 30 October.*

Monisha stated “it would be impactful to try to reach out to our members there” through a Facebook post. Barry agreed with her request.

13. Joey gave a brief history of SOA Watch. He expressed “I don’t think they have a clear vision of where they’re going.” Since the resignation of the previous executive director – who was there 17 years – no steps have been made to replace him. Per Joey, “they’re in a rebranding process...and don’t know what their rebranding to.” He added Mike Tork (VFP member) and VFP/SOA liaison to the SOA Watch Committee – has not had clear information coming from the group. Michael expressed his concern regarding the committee’s decision to move the SOA Watch to Armistice weekend, noting the level of involvement and participation from VFP. Michael expounded on the presence of the Deported Veterans who will be present at this year’s SOA Watch. He also reviewed the email update drafted by Casey regarding Armistice Day actions and the social media platforms being used - Thunderclap, Facebook, Twitter, etc.
 - a. Gerry asked, “Couldn’t they potentially apply for the Outreach Travel Fund?”, referring to the Deported Veterans who will be travelling to Nogales, AZ.
 - i. Both Kourtney and Tarak agreed.
 - b. Mark suggested making a physical banner from the banner posted on the website to be used at the SOA Watch.

14. Gerry updated members on the “ad hoc committee” which has formed regarding the issues” occurring in Korea and the Pacific region. John Kim (VFP member), Gerry (Condon), Becky Leuning (VFP member), Madea Benjamin (CODEPINK), Ann Wright (VFP Advisory Board member) and more individuals participated on the call. Out of the discussion, work commenced on crafting the “People’s Peace Treaty” petition. It is posted via rootsaction.org and VFP’s webpage. *There is a press conference on November 7th and Michael asked, “who is going to represent us?” Michael suggested Matt Hoh, Will Griffin, Gerry or himself.* Gerry stressed, “I really think we need a VFP approach” to maintain a presence on the collaborative team.
 - a. *Mark requested Gerry “send the board the call-in information.”*
 - b. Michael requested the committee “think about the language” and its narrow scope on the Korea-U.S. dynamic and it not be expanded to the Pacific region.

Adjourned at 1605 hours.

Reconvened at 0913 hours on Sunday, 29 October 2017

Monique requested the board approve the September minutes. All were in favour and unanimously approved the minutes.

15. The meeting commenced discussion regarding VA Privatization Working Group (VAPWG). Barry stated, “Adrienne has agreed to be the board liaison with the VAPWG.”

- a. Mark informed he also is a part of the VAPWG and updated members on the purpose and goals of the working group. He explained the private health industry is “focusing on the downfalls of the VA system” and amplifying the negative perception of the VA. He added, “I think we should support Buzz’s efforts.” He also informed the working group has a scheduled conference call on Monday, 30 October and will inform the board on the outcome of the call and the input of individuals on the boards’ suggested additions to the submitted proposal.
- b. Monique asked, “Is there a plan [to deal] with the” opposition from Concerned Veterans of America (CVA)...will there be a need for a budget” for the working group?
 - i. Mark stated, “[Buzz] is waiting for approval from the board.”
- c. Gerry commented, “It’s all of their agenda and an uphill struggle but we should be involved.”
- d. Will stressed, “working with other veterans is very important”. He also noted, “for future reference we have to ask people to source their information”, referencing a statistic in the VAPWG’s proposal.
- e. Dan stated, “I think we should be supporting them.”
- f. Barry highlighted some of the pervasive issues within the VA – i.e. under staffing, lack of medical supplies, lower pay – “and it’s clearly a deliberate plan to defund the VA.” He also suggested the possibility of networking with Hawaii Sen. Tulsi Gabbard and Brian inquiring with WVF to discover what their views are in the event a collaboration can be garnered.
- g. Monisha cautioned, “against generalizing [the VA] works for everyone...and there are many complexities there.”
 - i. Adrienne agreed with Monisha’s statements and highlighted some of the disparities women experience and receive through the VA. *She offered to email the working group her points and thoughts.*
- h. Michael explained the importance of “us not looking at it as an uphill battle.” He also suggested other VFP members who are interested in this issue, “should think about joining a traditional organization” to work in collaboration with those organisations who are working against VA privatization.
 - i. Dan agreed with Michael’s statements.
- i. Will suggested adding (lack of) women’s care at the VA and “possibly all healthcare” to the objectives and goals of the working group.
- j. Joey agreed with Michael’s suggestion about “joining a traditional group” ...explaining why he joined AMVETS.
- k. Monisha stated, “we are also not serving our non-cis veterans well at all.” She suggested “opening up a listening session...and invite [the working group] to listen to other veterans” who are non-cis/LGBTQ.
- l. Barry motioned for the board support the plan of the proposed VAPWG. Adrienne stated, “I think discussing issues pertinent to women veterans and non-cis veterans” is important and requesting the ; Barry suggested “we write a letter supplemental to Adrienne’s statements.

- i. Michael also requested, “clarification regarding top-down management and their need to understand that the board oversees policy and messaging.”
- ii. “with the proviso we want further explanation of top down management” and if the working group agrees to the amendments of women’s care and non-cis/LGBTQ.
 - 1. Both Adrienne and Gerry suggested a postponement of the board’s decision, contingent upon input from the board.
- iii. Monique reminded the need to have “a quarterly report.” Discussion ensued regarding “maybe an annual report” or some level of accountability.
 - 1. Michael questioned, “Is this the time to clarify what data is necessary?”
 - 2. Barry reviewed the policy written on VFP Working Groups.
 - a. Gerry stated, “The policy has never really worked and needs to be revamped.”
 - b. Kourtney asked, “Can we agree on how we’re moving forward from this?”
 - i. *Monique re-iterated her proposal to contact WG’s and National Projects with the help from Brian and Monisha. This item will be placed on the January Board Meeting agenda.*
- m. Tarak asked, “What is the advantage of people creating a working group.”
 - i. Michael answered, “Garnering assistance from national, information being put on the website.”

16. Gerry returned to the discussion on the GR by recapping the board’s discussion on Friday. **Gerry motioned 5,000\$ for the GR for operating costs through the end of 2017; Dan seconded.** Discussion commenced on the motion.

- a. Joey stated, “This thing was supposed to be self-funding and it’s not.”
 - i. Gerry answered, “We’ve largely proved to be sustainable during our voyages...but right now we need help from VFP.”
 - ii. Tarak exclaimed, “It’s proven to be amazing...and it’s a no brainer.”
 - iii. Will stated, “Gerry is going to start a Patreon Fund and the cost is for this year only.”

The board voted: 11 Yeas; 1 Nay; Motioned passed.

17. Gerry commenced discussion regarding Rachel Clark’s (VFP Japan) proposal that “Veterans For Peace propose a *Statement of Apology* to the people of Japan.” A second Japan tour has been arranged for both Rory Fanning and Michael Hanes – who were a part of the first - and “has requested this statement be presented to the mayor and governor of Japan...in a large public way.”

- a. Will explained, “Both Mike and Rory gave an apology last year...my point is that if we do it again, this could make national news...if we do it the right way and focus on reconciliation.”

- b. Monisha stated, “This is a good example of something to do in Cuba...to move forward [with] building the people to people” work.
- c. Tarak stated, “Rachel is doing terrific work and asked, “Who is the apology coming *from*?”
 - i. Gerry answered, “On behalf of peace-loving people in America.”
- d. Barry suggested, “If you want to maximise the effort, the time frame is August 5th and 6th...when the bombs were dropped...we could have a major media impact.” He also posed a delegation travel to Nagasaki and Hiroshima and to the U.N. Mission to Japan, to present the *Statement of Apology*.
 - i. Tarak asked, “Could we do both?”
 - ii. Gerry “likes the idea”.
 - iii. Dan stated, “All our chapters could supplement the action with engaging within their local communities.”
 - iv. Brian “supports the effort” and proposed the Communications Committee draft the letter.
- e. Gerry added, “Rachel proposed two experts who will provide a background in conjunction with the Statement of Apology.”
- f. *Michael suggested “we talked to both Michael and Rory” the decision. Gerry will follow up with an email.*

Break at 1048 hours reconvened at 1104 hours

- 18. Michael recapped the strategic planning training which was taught to board members during the board meeting and retreat in April 2017. He reviewed the Goal sheet, the Midwest Academy Strategy Sheet and Power Mapping. He reiterated, “a lot times we start out with a goal instead of the strategy.”
 - a. Kourtney suggested “We could modify the 10 goals to fit VFP’s Mission.”
 - i. Michael suggested, “Be very thoughtful to what your changing them *to*.”
 - b. Monisha stated
 - i. Michael stated, “This is something we want to make standard” for the board and those who propose projects and/or working groups.
 - c. Kourtney said, “It might be worth exploring which [points] are most important.”
 - i. Will stated, “We should explore that at least.”
 - d. Brian noted the Power Mapping sheet could be revised with the “Spectrum of Allies” “in our case.”
 - e. Barry reviewed the strategic plan the Veterans Peace Conference committee created while meeting in NY.
 - f. Kourtney asked, “Is it better in this form or create a template off those documents?”
 - i. Michael answered, “Well those other documents are tools to help [members] fill this out.”
 - g. Tarak stated “I think this is terrific and I’m willing to do this for the [VRRT proposal] ...but don’t want us to get bogged down in bureaucracy”.
 - i. Michael explained “It’s to make sure we have a plan.”

- ii. Kourtney added, “the bottom line is if we’re going to promote [national projects and working groups] to our membership and invest money”, we have to have a format on how those items are proposed.
 - h. Monique asked, “Is the next step then for the board to complete a Strategic Plan?...Michael has talked about this, in the January board meeting based off the “Our Work document?”
 - i. Barry answered, “Well we’re gonna have to see what’s on our agenda.”
19. Monisha briefly addressed the two Parking Lot items which had been written on the board.
- a. “How do full VFP members value/de-value associate members and spouses/significant others?...real problem”
 - i. Monisha expressed several spouses approached her during the convention regarding how they are treated *and* have been treated. “How can we model...how can we intervene through Bystander Intervention?”
 - b. “Professionalism in leadership”
 - i. Monisha stated, “We don’t respect each other...it’s important for us to model” leadership.
 - ii. She requested, “How are we hindering a safe environment” with alcohol at our conventions...our credibility matters...what does it mean to be peaceful?”
 - c. Will agreed, “that we need to keep talking about this...and addressing it immediately.”
 - d. Adrienne stated, “I think it is something we need to be more thoughtful of”.
 - e. Monique recapped her experience at the Business meeting from Dan Saint, stating, “How would I have been treated or looked at if I had reacted as he did?”

Board members agreed on January 25th - 28th 2018 for the board meeting in January (San Diego). Monique will follow up with an email to the prospective board candidates to inform of the dates of the board meeting, so candidates may plan accordingly.

Meeting adjourned at 1205 hours (Central).