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# VETERANS FOR PEACE

Thanks to our current President, Vice President, Board, Staff, and Members, VFP is headed in a positive direction. Underscores what we can accomplish when we work together.

## BALANCES

### BEGINNING 2024

|                          |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Commerce Bank Checking   | \$156,475 |
| Commerce Bank Restricted | \$22,205  |
| CapOne Zinn              | \$27,436  |
| Edward Jones             | \$35,609  |

### CURRENT

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Commerce Bank Checking   | \$88,345 |
| Commerce Bank Restricted | \$22,627 |
| CapOne Zinn              | \$19,449 |
| Edward Jones             | \$16,493 |
| Amalgamated Bank         |          |
| Checking                 | \$58,763 |
| CDs                      | \$60,200 |

The main difference between the beginning of 2024 and where we are now is the divestment of VFP funds into a socially responsible bank. Amalgamated Bank is such a bank, started and run by Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America in 1923. Issues that the bank cares about are Worker's Rights, Climate Justice, Immigrant Rights, LGBTQ+ Rights, and Gun Safety to mention a few.

Currently, we have \$118,963 in Amalgamated Bank (checking and CDs), and once the CDs in Edward Jones mature we will move an additional \$13,000 to Amalgamated. At some point, we would like to move VFP money out of Commerce Bank Checking into Amalgamated Bank Checking but that is a much larger task that will take time and work. Divestment of VFP funds is an ongoing project.

Thanks to VFP Member Anthony Donovan for bringing Amalgamated Bank to our attention.

VFP currently has a total of \$223,800 in savings, CDs, and checking accounts. It is good to be on solid ground, but we need to remain vigilant and make fundraising a priority.

## **VFP SUPPORT**

### **ZINN FUND AWARDS**

During 2024 ZINN funds were awarded to three VFP Chapter Projects for a total of \$12,000.

Podcast equipment for Fresno Chapter 180  
Support for Deported Veterans Advocacy Project  
Support for Peace Walk - 2024

### **GOLDEN RULE SUPPORT**

VFP continues to help support the Golden Rule, which is a VFP National Project.

### **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT**

Additional, but not all, support provided by VFP during 2024 includes:

Palestinian Children's Fund  
Legal help for active-duty Air Force Airman Larry Herbert's hunger strike for the children of  
Gaza.  
World Beyond War

## **VFP STAFF**

Mid-year VFP provided a well-deserved salary increase for all our staff. This is a far cry from when we were concerned if we could even make payroll.

Gail Aquino is now working full-time. Her hours increased from 24 per week to 40. Gail has lots of experience with VFP and this increase will provide member support and much-needed help for Shelly.

Beginning in 2024 Casey Stinemetz became the Membership Coordinator for VFP. Since then Casey has worked hard, focusing on resolving many persistent issues and problems around membership. Casey developed a plan for moving forward and addressing these issues.

## **BUDGET**

Over the last few years, we managed to trim our budget. Shelly Rockett and Paul Cox played an important role in that work.

Normally creating the budget is the responsibility of the Executive Director. However, given several staff changes, I was asked to create the 2024 budget. It was an enormous task, but one I am glad I did. I now have a much better understanding of VFP finances. Hopefully, I won't need to create the 2025 budget because we will have a permanent Executive Director, but if I need to, I will.

The budget, which includes up-to-date actuals, is shared with the board during every meeting. The Finance Committee, which is Paul Cox, Ellen Davidson, and myself, closely monitor the budget ensuring we stay on track.

Any current VFP member can request a copy of the budget by emailing me at [vfptreasuer@gmail.com](mailto:vfptreasuer@gmail.com).

Not included in the 2024 budget, but closely tracked through the restricted funds spreadsheet, are 14 Special Projects that VFP helps support. Those projects include:

Zinn Fund for Peace and Justice  
Iraq Water Project  
Deported Veterans Advocacy Project  
Save our VA  
Peace Sentinel  
Climate Crisis  
No War No Warming 2022  
Gamers for Peace  
Golden Rule  
Korea Peace Campaign  
National Campaign to End Korean War  
David Cline Memorial Fund  
Vietnam Agent Orange and Responsibility Campaign  
Peace Walk 2024

Thank you,

Mike Tork  
VFP Treasurer