



Veterans For Peace
2007 Board Meeting Minutes

(February, May, August)



VETERANS FOR PEACE BOARD MINUTES February, 2007

9:05 AM February 3, 2007 meeting called to order by President Cline

In Attendance:

Board members: Kenneth Mayers, Ellen Barfield, Sharon Kufeldt, Patrick McCann, Bill Collins, Elliott Adams, Wayne Wittman, Dave Cline, Michael Uhl, Frank Ackles, Frank Houde, Anita Cole, Mike Ferner
Staff: Michael McPhearson Executive Director

Oath of Office administered to new board members

Election of new officers: Elliott Adams, President; Sharon Kufeldt, V-President; Ken Mayers, Treasurer; Mike Ferner, Secretary.

At this point, President Cline turned the gavel over to Elliott Adams who presided for the rest of the meeting.

Motion: by Wayne Wittman to commend Dave Cline for his years of service on the Board and as President.
Passed by acclamation.

Agenda: Motion by Ken Mayers to move the Philadelphia discussion up to Saturday after lunch.
By consensus: modify the agenda.

Minutes: Motion by Collins, seconded and passed, to accept minutes of November 4, 2006.

Treasurer Report: Motion by Mayers to create a VFP Long Term Asset Fund into which will be deposited any revenue item that is greater than 10% of that year's approved operating budget, with earned interest from such a fund going into the general operating budget.

Seconded and passed.

Motion by Wittman, seconded and passed to accept Treasurer's report.

Motion by Mayers re: Proposal for VFP Special Projects, seconded and tabled.

Executive Director's Report:

Motion, seconded and passed to accept Executive Director's report.

Motion to form a Development Committee, seconded and passed. Committee to consist of Cole, Ferner and McPhearson.

Water Project: discussion and consensus to hold off sending a solicitation letter to the membership until after the development plan is adopted.

Break for lunch

Philadelphia discussion

Michael Uhl referred to a document titled "The Case Against Chartering VFP Chapter 144" submitted by 16 members of VFP Chapter 31, requesting the minutes reflect it be characterized as containing allegations of misconduct against Bill Perry.

A discussion followed which was extended twice by 15-minute increments, leading to the following Motion by Mayers, that a charter be granted to the forming chapter as Chapter 144 provided that Bill Perry apologize in writing to VFP Chapter 31, VFP Chapter 144, and the VFP board for the manner in which the charter application was originally sought. Seconded and approved 7 to 4.

2006 Convention Report

Moved, seconded and passed to send a letter of thanks to the organizers of the Seattle conference.

2007 Convention Report

2008 Convention Report by Wittman. The Board was informed that Atlanta is not a viable site for the 2008 VFP convention. Wittman reported that he has been asked to inform the Board to consider St. Paul-Minneapolis as a 2008 convention site location to co-inside with the republican convention in St. Paul. Request received"

Adjourn for the night

8:35 AM February 4, 2007 reconvened

In attendance:

Board members: Kenneth Mayers, Ellen Barfield, Sharon Kufeldt, Patrick McCann, Bill Collins, Elliott Adams, Wayne Wittman, Michael Uhl, Frank Ackles, Frank Houde, Anita Cole, Mike Ferner
Staff: Michael McPhearson, Executive Director
Guest: Dave Cline

President Adams appointed Wittman, McCann, and Cline to the nominations committee.

Cole moved to send a board evaluation survey to each member, to be returned within one week; seconded and passed.

Executive Director evaluation form: Collins moved it be accepted with modifications; seconded and passed.

Chapter numbering: Collins moved to keep numbering sequentially (that is, not to use the numbers of "defunct" chapters when assigning numbers to new chapters); seconded and passed.

Committee appointments: President Adams reappointed Frank Ackles chair of Zones of Concern and Struggle (ZOCS) committee; Frank Houde chair International Liaison Committee; Bill Collins chair of the Personnel Committee; Kufeldt chair of Membership and Chapter Development Committee; and appointed McCann chair of the Awards Committee.

Next Meeting set for May 5-6 in Minneapolis-St. Paul

Chartering new chapters: McCann moved to charter the Fairbanks chapter; Barfield moved to charter the Anchorage chapter; Uhl moved to charter the Saratoga Springs, NY chapter; each seconded and passed.

Newsletter: Cole moved to postpone the decision whether to have 3 or 4 annual issues until after strategic planning conducted; seconded and passed.

Philadelphia: Barfield asked the board to reconsider the motion passed the previous day in order to give principals involved time to engage in mediation. Mayers moved reconsideration; seconded and passed 6-3 with 1 abstention. Previous motion re: forming Chapter 144 was then placed before the board for reconsideration, was voted on again and failed this time 6-5.

Respectfully submitted
Mike Ferner

D
R
A
F
T

VFP Board Meeting
May 5-6, 2007 Minneapolis

Attendees

Board: Elliott Adams, Sharon Kufeldt, Ken Mayers, Ellen Barfield, Pat McCann, Frank Houde, Wayne Wittman, Anita Cole, Mike Ferner
Staff: Michael McPhearson, Doug Zachary,
Guests: Wil Covert, Andy Anderson, John Varone, Jim Steinhagen, Gary Sorensen, Woody Powell.

Agenda approved

Minutes approved from February board meeting

Report on '07 convention from Woody Powell.

Board members Barfield and Wittman, and Executive Director McPhearson appointed to serve on Convention committee with Powell.

Wittman moved to commend St. Louis convention planning committee. Approved.

Chapter Development Committee: Report from Kufeldt and Covert re: "Each One Bring One" campaign to double VFP membership between '07 and '08 conventions.

Treasurer's Report:

Mayers began with his appeal for better Special Projects accounting.

Mayers moved that Executive Committee be empowered to deal with Special Project "dormant funds." Approved.

Motion to approve report, subject to review. Approved.

Mayers moved to amend previously adopted policy on "long term assets" to allow 10% of eligible funds remain in the general operating fund. Approved.

Cole moved to refer Working Assets/Tides grant to Development Committee for policy recommendations about whether it was one grant or two. Approved

Executive Director Report

Submitted in writing by McPhearson, and included Doug Zachary's oral report on membership renewal work. Wittman moved to accept Executive Director report. Approved.

Development Audit and Recommendations

Presented by Cole and Ferner followed by discussion.

Wittman moved to adopt Development Plan recommendations as amended (see Audit and Recommendations, attached). Approved.

2008 Convention Report

Wittman, Jim Steinhagen and John Varone reported that a variety of community/peace groups have formally endorsed having convention in MN for potential dates of Aug. 27-30. Gary Sorensen, chair of Chapter 80, Duluth also expressed support. Houde moved to hold '08 convention in Bloomington, MN August 27-30. Approved.

New board member

Discussion of criteria for board member to fill the Board vacancy. The needs identified by the Board assessment for new board members are: human resources, fundraising, database, diversity, media expertise. President will fill the current board vacancy from candidates identified by the Nominating Committee. Members of Nominating Committee who wish to run for the Board will step down.

Iraq Water Project

Discussion re: request to mail a fund raising request to general VFP membership. Kufeldt moved that a fundraising mailing to the membership for projects not be done until the Development Committee develops policies and procedures for such mailings. Approved.

Michael Uhl's proposal

Mayers moved the Development Committee review proposal from Uhl and incorporate appropriate portions into the Development Plan. Approved.

Discussion with Andy Anderson from Duluth chapter re: relationship between chapters and national VFP.

Action on the Board Policy Book

Changes made to Board Policy book as per recommendations of President Adams in “Action on the Board Policy Book.” Motion by McCann to accept those changes (see Bd. Policy Book v3 5-07, Attached). Approved

Motion made at 5:30pm to recess meeting until 8am, Sunday.

Meeting called to order 8:27 AM Sunday

(resumed) Action on the Board Policy Book

Remaining changes made to Board Policy Book re: VFP listserv, U.N. liaison positions, delegation of duties to the Executive Director. (see Bd. Policy Book v3 5-07, Attached) Approved.

Meeting reconvened Sunday morning.

Israel - Palestine / June 10 demonstration

Barfield will represent VFP and participate as one of the speakers.

Philadelphia

Discussed, no action taken.

Strategic planning

Wittman moved to set aside Oct. meeting for strategic planning. Approved.

Executive Committee will take the lead in planning it.

Membership/Chapter Report

Kufeldt moved chartering chapters #148 Itasca, MN and #149 Memphis, TN. Approved

Korean Peace Campaign

Mayers moved KPC's request for Board approval for the KPC plan to present a plaque or banner, with “We condemn all war crimes and offer our sincere apology, as veterans of the U.S. military and as American citizens, to the victims of the No Gun Ri massacre. (Date) Veterans For Peace (US)”, to the museum for No Gun Ri victims, which will be built in ROK. Approved

Cole moved to invite Korean VFP to convention and waive registration fee for three people. Invitation to be written by International Liaison Committee. Approved

UN NGO conference

Mayers moved to purchase a quarter page ad in the program book. Approved.

Nominating Committee

Discussion was held re: above criteria (listed under “New Board Member” section) for new members and how to recruit them, including what kind of questionnaire to use. Nominations committee members are Wittman, Zachary, and Sandy Kelson.

Adams adjourned the meeting at 12:20 pm to participate in the Minneapolis May Day Parade.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Ferner, Secretary

VFP Board Meeting
August 15-16, 2007 St. Louis

Attendees

Board: Elliott Adams, Sharon Kufeldt, Ken Mayers, Ellen Barfield, Pat McCann, Frank Houde, Wayne Wittman, Anita C. Foster, Mike Ferner
Staff: Michael McPhearson

Call to Order 8:11 am

Agenda approved

Statement of Purpose and Moment of Silence

Minutes approved from May board meeting

Each One Bring Committee Report

Kufeldt reported a lack of progress organizing a committee for the project. Adams appealed to Board members for assistance finding members to serve on committees in general.

Report on '07 convention

Last minute plans reported.

Executive Director Report

Submitted in writing by McPhearson, Wittman moved to accept Executive Director Report. Seconded. Approved.
Ideas discussed re: ideas for Membership Committee for consideration. Uhl moved that VFP extend a free membership to members of IVAW, amended to "for a period of one year." Seconded. Approved.

Awards Committee Report

Houde gave the report. Wittman moved to approve the committee report. Seconded. Approved.

Nominations

Zachary submitted the following list for nominations to the Board
Lane Anderson, Gary May, George Johnson, John Varone, Patrick McCann, David Cline, Thomas Brinson, Dan Shea.

Motto Proposal

Motion to decline but thank Sam Coleman for his suggestion. Seconded. Approved

Recessed for lunch

Soderberg Appeal

Motion to reserve 30 minutes during the annual meeting for any appeals. Seconded. Approved.

Resolutions

The Resolutions Committee reported the following resolutions to the Board for approving/disapproving and referring to the Annual Meeting:

2009 Convention

No proposal for a site at this time.

2008 Convention

Report from Wittman on plans in St. Paul

Representative to "No Bases" Campaign

Uhl requested he be designated a representative to the "No Bases" campaign in Italy. Moved. Seconded. Approved.

Bylaws Review Committee

Adams reported on the proposal and requested members for the committee

Proposed Revisions to Board Policies

Adams presented the following changes to the Board Policy Manual for adoption:

Additional rules pg 25

Drop the section that delineates examples of documentation leaving "Record of Separation from Military Service (DD 214 or WDAGO) or some other appropriate document." *referred list of approved documentation to membership committee to remove documentation which are not appropriate*

Chapter Organizing page 28

Drop it we use forming chapter typically now, but we don't have to define the term. No action.

Chapter Formation Process page 28

Says a 000 number will be used, change that to a 900 number because that is what we are using. Passed

An Application for Chapter Charter page 28

Change location to closest post office location. Passed

Note: Intended to mean post office closest to where the forming chapter meets.

Chapter Name page 29

"The National Office will prepare a Certificate of Acknowledgement for the family." add
"and issue a new charter with the new name." Passed

Hiring Policy page 30

Change "give right of first refusal" to "give hiring preference" Passed

Executive Committee Approval of Endorsements page 18

Change 5 days to 2 days No action

Proposed New Board Policies

Records

The national office shall be the repository of Board records. Passed

Discussion and Approval of Resolutions at Annual Meeting:

All resolutions will be voted on as they are submitted, there will be no amendments or changes to resolutions. Each speaker will have two minutes to speak. Speaker will be called on alternating between those speaking for the resolution and those speaking against the resolution. A vote will be called on any resolution after 15 minutes even if there are more who want to speak. Passed.

Unfunded Resolutions

The Board will not approve any resolution that draws on national funds not already authorized for that purpose or that calls for unfunded expenditures. Passed

Recessed until Thursday 8:00am

Thurs morning

Resolution "On Civil Disobedience" discussed. Motion to approve. Seconded. Passed.

Project Reports

SOAW

Wittman gave report.

International Liaison Committee

Barfield gave report.

Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign

Wittman gave report.

Public relations committee

Collins gave report.

Committee Reports

Chapter Development

Kufeldt gave report.

UN NGO Committee

Barfield gave report.

ZOCS

Ackles gave report.

Development

Foster gave report.

adjourned 10:35

Treasurer's Report:

Mayers moved: The national office will respond to unsolicited earmarked contributions by informing the contributor that no existing project appears to match the intent of the contribution. The contributor will be informed that unless a request for a return of the contribution is received by a specified date, the funds will be applied to current use.

Seconded. Passed.

Houde moved that the following list of dormant funds be placed on the VFP website, in the newsletter and other appropriate places for review, set a 60 day comment period after the mailing of the newsletter, and if no information is received from donors, the funds will be placed in the general fund. Seconded. Passed

Palestine Ambulance Fund: \$770.00

National Ad Campaign: \$297.00

Emissary Fund: \$7.60

Afghanistan Fund: \$17,742.83

Global Peace Project: \$7,808

Prisoners of Conscience: \$50

My Lai Project: \$785

Motion to approve the treasurer's report. Seconded. Approved.

Discussion about number and function of committees

Foster moved to refer committee discussion to Ex. Com for recommendations on establishing committees and working groups.

New Chapters

Kufeldt reported several new chapters are ready to be chartered: Chapter 151 Big Bend

(Alpine) TX; Chapter 150, Charlotte NC; Chapter 153, Northwest WI; Chapter 152, Lehigh Valley (Bethlehem) PA; Chapter 138, Long Island NY.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Ferner