

## Poor People's Campaign - Chapter involvement and moving forward

- Upcoming Actions - Rally in DC this weekend (Michael and other East Coast members will be there so we have a good VFP presence), civil disobedience actions were June 20, activities all week in DC - Michael will talk about intersectionality and how we can talk about how things are important to other things, how working on war helps fight poverty, focus on peace at home,
- Partner call (VFP is partner) in two weeks – looking at national future of campaign, and then locally what we did well, what we didn't do well, trying to strengthen local infrastructure and bring on more local organizations to participate
- VFP involved chapters and members
  - LA – Kathleen Hernandez has been very active in campaign – Memorial Day had about six people from chapter there - chapter involvement is difficult since they are all involved on Sundays and tough to get up there on Monday – hoping to be able to do something at Arlington West, not much going on locally since it's focused in Sacramento
  - Baltimore – Ellen Garfield has been only one involved, was invited to speak at the delegates building in Annapolis in February, attending weekly gatherings, was a speaker during (and arrested during) war economy weekend, trying to get people to DC this weekend, have been various rallies at churches
- Motivate local people / organizations to travel to state caps by educating about various issues / partner with orgs around their issues and show intersectionality of campaign
- DO plan to have VFP continue to be involved and build more members involved in campaign, great opportunity to get involved with other organizations

## Armistice Day Planning

- Not very many updates- will soon have report that has list of what chapters are currently doing
- *Question for chapters* - What materials do you need that haven't been developed yet, start thinking about local messaging / ideas about national messaging, now is time to go to churches or other orgs for bell ringing or other joint activities
- Chapter Plans
  - Seattle – Has held Armistice Day vigil for past five years at main cathedral in town outside the church. Since Armistice Day is on Sunday this year, asked them to incorporate Armistice Day program into their Sunday service.
    - *Are there people who want to put together an Armistice program or liturgy that can be used?*
      - Asheville chapter – have relationship with Baptist peace fellow likes to do liturgical arrangements around social action themes
  - Binghamton – Same event as last year - set up microphone and introduce cemetery that constructed of Styrofoam tombstones. 100 tombstones for Iraqi dead, and 1 tombstone of US dead (statistically). Many vets groups focus on US dead, trying to let people know that the number of Iraqi people dead is far larger than ours. Encourage churches to ring bells, last year only had 5 or 6 but hope to have more involved and would like to incorporate Seattle idea.
  - Kansas City plan on tabling at WWI memorial
- Jack Gilroy has a reserved space across from UN for Nov 11<sup>th</sup> – Initially did it for 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, since IVPC wont be this year, if anyone in NY wants it they're welcome to take it
- Trump's Military Parade – No updates for this call about VFP role in that, VFP members are planning counter and we will provide info when we have it

**VFP Convention** - August 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> in St. Paul, MN.

- REGISTRATION NOW OPEN – [Link to Convention page on VFP website](#)
- Resolution and Bylaw submission deadline is July 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Workshop deadline passed already
- Only 1 confirmed speaker – Ann Wright at banquet, working program out now, will also be a riverboat cruise on Thursday night, \$25 and there will be some food and entertainment
- Plan is to have people notified of workshop approval by July 9<sup>th</sup>

**Chapter Updates** – Time to tell about chapter activities or share knowledge across the country

- LA Chapter - Planning on doing something on Aug 5<sup>th</sup> on Hiroshima, there's a memorial chain-link atomic bomb that the chapter spent money helping restore – having ceremony during day and then having vigil at night, planning on lighting 73 candles indicating 73 years, still working on it – looking for ideas
- Jack Gilroy – for years VPF has been having Hiroshima or Nagasaki event, haven't decided on which of those two days. Will probably have Native American and African American speakers talk about experiences of their ancestors. Relate horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to horrors we have done to those in our own country - showing intersectionality.
- Ashville – 3 hour stand-out at local VA critiquing current law changes about to be implemented, planning another in July
- Chapter 160 in Vietnam – Will take informal poll at Convention on interest in another tour of Vietnam. Last year was going to be the last trip, but there have been a number of inquiries from people asking for one more tour. Had 40 people on trip this past year.

**Moving Forward**

- Want to have a call once a month
- Want to build up chapter participation and discussion so people can see work chapters are doing, hear about national organizing, and share advice/ideas/knowledge. Want to do more organizing for Poor People's Campaign as well.
- Sam will be sending out link for Peace is Patriotic tabling materials, as well as forms for Chapter Contacts to fill out!