Veterans For Peace
2009 Board Meeting Minutes

(January, April, July, August, September, October, November)
January 17, 2009

Called to order President Adams 9:09 AM


Statement of purpose—Kufeldt

Introduction of new BoD members
   Eli PaintedCrow refuses her office before the oath
   Per ByLaws, next high vote getter (Adams) takes refused office
Administration of oath for new BoD members—Adams

Elections BoD officers
   Treasurer— Kenneth Mayers
             Anita Foster
             No other nominations for Treasurer
             Nominations closed
             Statements from nominees
             Kenneth Mayers Elected

   Secretary— Gary May
             No other nominations for Secretary
             Nominations closed
             Gary May Elected

   Vice President— Sharon Kufeldt
                 Leah Bolger
                 No other nominations for Vice President
                 Nominations closed
                 Statements from nominees
                 Leah Bolger Elected

   President— Mike Ferner
             Elliott Adams
             Nominations for President closed
             Statements from nominees
             Mike Ferner Elected
President Ferner Presides

Agenda

Motion to approve agenda-Brinson, 2nd Adams—passed

Approval of minutes of Conference Call December 6, 2008 passed
Approval of minutes (correction-remove Ken Mayers’ name from incorrect committee assignment) of October meeting--passed

New BoD member orientation
  Presentation by first year BoD—deferred
  Buddy system for new BoD members
    Pairing new BoD members with BoD in last year of term
    Adams & Viges; Kufeldt & Bolger
  Manual for new BoD members
    Add policy file to manual
  Update BoD contacts list—Michael McPhearson

Committees-re-appoint current committees except as noted
  Kufeldt withdraws from Outreach Committee; Bolger added to Outreach Committee

Foster—suggests we reexamine committee structure and select 3 -5 committees to forward the organization’s overall missions/goals
  McPhearson—ED & BoD representatives to revisit committees with the development of a prioritized list of committees that are related to programmatic initiatives

Brinson—ED & Executive Committee to refine Committee list by end of business today.

Uhl & Viges to work with ED on this prioritization this weekend to differentiate between committees & working groups.

ED Report—
  Written report submitted
  Discussion—
    Foster—staff update
      Betsy—webmaster, support of media efforts
      Virginia—office manager, bookkeeping, supplies, operations manager, assists with writing grants
      Chrissy—administrative assistant, membership renewals,
      Gabriella—membership database
      Doug Zachary—solicitation memberships
      Woody Powell—chapter development, 990 compliance
    Uhl—Case for Support—many editorial suggestions-willing to work with others on refining the document
    Newsletter—proposal carry lapsed members for a period of time to encourage them to renew (policy included in EDs Budget and Fundraising Description 1/14/09)

Chapter contacts list—deferred as it’s on the agenda
Treasurer’s Report (written report filed)

Discussion—
  Kufeldt—shift money from Ban the Torture project to Bring the Guard Home Now project (Leah Bolger)
  Bolger—very concerned about IVAWs financial status—what have we done to ensure that necessary changes are made?
  Foster—total of funds from projects? ($69,000)

Recess for lunch

Some BoD members caucused to discuss committee status

Reconvene 1:50

Camillo Mejio-IVAW update
  Report on last IVAW meeting
  Leadership is aware of concerns
    Salaries being reviewed/reduced
    Some positions being eliminated
    Changes reflected in new budget
  Accounting
    Committed to hiring an agency to do bookkeeping and issue regular reports
  More aggressive fundraising
  Regional fundraising
  Decentralize organization with emphasis on members
  Engagement of members
  Received recent grants
  Loan retirement a major commitment
  Examining all aspects of the organization’s existence
  Fiscal policy to shield VFP from IVAW creditors and to establish a minimum cash reserve
    Repayment--4 payments of $12,500 plus interest

Discussion—VFP policy on administrative fee for managing funds (10% up to $100 per occurrence)

Collins—accept the Treasurer’s report, second Passed

Board & Chapter Communications (Regional Communication Coordinator)
  Policy has been proposed (Report Submitted)
    Foster—why a separate function for the BoD v. the Membership Committee?
  McPhearson—topic has been in play for months. The policy will make BoD more accessible and engaged with the membership
Kufeldt—supports BoD engagement with other chapters besides their “own”

Adams—move to accept Policy proposal to be included in the policy book. Second Mayers passed

Foster—motion to divide the house seconded Brinson—didn’t pass

ED Succession

Collins—proposed succession plan was sent to BoD for feedback, amended and moved for adoption—Seconded Brinson—Passed

Evaluation of ED

Collins—evaluation format for ED—issue is role for BoD in evaluation. Succession plan includes evaluation standards. Foster will develop specific indices for ED evaluation to report to BoD by February 1.

Grievance Committee—(Report Submitted)

Collins—move adoption of grievance procedure. Second Brinson. Passed

Convention Committee Process

Adams—process of alleviating the burden on local chapters to host/organize conventions. Suggestion to empanel national committees to oversee specific convention topics and activities. E.g., workshops, speakers, motion

Uhl—national committees unnecessary, history doesn’t support need.

Viges—agrees with Uhl—previous year’s committee communicate with next convention committee

McCann—agrees with Viges

Adams—feedback is that recent local committees are “burned out”

Varone—local committees need more guidance on what they are authorized to decide re: conventions

McPhearson—if the goal is to lighten the burden on local chapters, we need a paid convention coordinator—coordination is the essential element—include BoD members

Foster—convention committee is a viable BoD-level committee, coordination needed

Mayers—identify topical area resource persons on the BoD

Uhl—BoD appoint individuals to comprise a national convention committee. Seconded Foster. Withdrawn

Convention Committee Appointments by President Ferner

Michael Uhl
Patrick McCann
John Varone
Michael McPhearson
Leah Bolger

Passed
Luncheon Committee Caucus Report

Board Business Committees
   Convention See above
   Awards
   Resolutions
   Membership Bolger, McCann, Kufeldt, Adams
   Development ($) Mike, Foster, Mayers
   PR/Communication, Ferner, Collins, Uhl

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Nominations, Adams, Viges
Personnel, Collins, Varone
   Grievances
   Evaluations
Bylaws (same as last year)
Program, Brinson, Viges, Adams
   International liaison
   Zocs
   UN/NGO
   Korea Peace Campaign
   SOA
   Speakers Bureau
ED (Michael)
   Trademark
   Merchandise
   Support/Oversight

Adams—Move to accept committees as proposed, seconded Mayers Passed

(Names of members not part of the motion. They are Presidential appointments.)

2011 Convention Call
   Adams—convention call to include one page host responsibility
   Easy transportation access
   Geographic representation
   Mayers—move to refer to Convention Committee—call to be ready by next
   conference call, Second Viges—passed Committee will issue the call before the next
   BoD conference call Passed

Adams—proposal for Special Project (Report submitted)
   To award funds to organizers of non violence training
   Move to approve the Special Project Second Passed

Break 4:18 PM
Reconvene 4:30

Adams—Budgets (Report submitted)
   Planning budget
   Adams—Move to have ED produce a planning budget for BoD by next BoD
   Meeting. Seconded Collins Passed
   Foster—who do we need a motion v. asking ED to submit the desired report?
   Mayers—it helps clarify what’s requested

VFP Presidential Budget Expenses
   Adams—$6,000 receipts. What does BoD want president to do? Do we/how do we
   support it?
   Foster—25% of Leadership Travel for ED, 25% for President

Membership Committee/Organizing Committee Report (Submitted)
   Organizing Committee roles, responsibilities and guidelines
   Adams—approve the policy. Seconded Mayers. Passed

Chapter Contacts
   McCann—who can serve?
   Kufeldt—what should they do?
   Refer to membership committee to submit recommendations to BoD

Chapter Contacts Listserve Improvements (Report submitted)
   Adams—move to accept committee’s recommendation
   Adams—accept recommendation of committee, but to change the name to
   exclude references to VFP &/or leadership
   Tabled

Membership Tracking Committee (Report Submitted)
   Adams—Membership Committee Chair provide Membership Trend Reports
   based on monthly data on a quarterly basis. Seconded Kufeldt. Passed

Revocation of Organizing Committee Status Eugene Oregon (Report Submitted)
   Adams—accept committee report, seconded Mayers passed.

Appeal for reinstatement for expelled members-motion Mayers, refer to Membership
   Committee, Brinson Seconded Passed

Iran Trip
   Past president to make trip to Iran (had planned to go as Prexy). Brinson motion
to endorse Adams’ trip Viges second. Passed.

Next Quarterly BoD Meeting April 25 & 26, Atlanta

Recess until 8:00 AM Tomorrow Morning
January 18, 2009 8:21 AM
Reconvened by President Ferner

Meeting Schedule
  McCann—suggests Los Angeles for April meeting passed
  Ferner—October 17 & 18 Portland, ME

Legal Issues
  Organization implications for civil disobedience—Mayers will acquire legal
  opinions re: liability; ED to contact Sandy Kelson (VFP member)

Resolutions Committee Proposal (Report Submitted)
  Thank committee for its work

Mayers—Charge Convention Committee with developing screening process for
  proposals to ensure they’re tied to statement of purpose, limit time for considering
  resolutions @ business meeting. Report due to BoD by next BoD conference call

Fundraising Consultant—Mayers—recommends acquiring services of fundraising
  consultant to assist with funding source development.

Question as to the paid fundraiser goes to development committee

Bring the Guard Home Campaign
  Bolger—wants VFP involvement—higher visibility on website…etc.
  May—move to submit to Program Committee to make recommendations to BoD
  by next BoD conference call. Seconded—Passed

No Bases Campaign Report
  Uhl—conference American Univ. February 27 – March 2—VFP co-sponsor

2009 Convention Report—McCann
  character of convention (e.g. involvement of IVAW)—refer to Convention
  Committee

2010 Convention Report—Uhl

Outreach Policy (Report Submitted)
  Plan ready by end of February (Outreach to organizations of diverse
  constituencies)
    Form ad hoc committee by end of February
      Establish 2 chapter pilot programs with reports back to BoD
    Refer to Program Committee
Foster—establish a robust, lively Outreach Committee as a freestanding committee of the BoD. Seconded Brinson. Brinson—change name to Diversity Committee accepted by Foster. Foster proposes Diversity and Outreach Committee Passed.

Advertising Policy (Report Submitted)
Move to pass advertising policy. Seconded. Passed

Ferner—Appoint Diversity & Outreach Committee
McCann, Kufeldt, PaintedCrow, Brinson & May—McCann to be group convener

Eli PaintedCrow Addresses BoD
Pachamama—organize indigenous peoples in Rain Forest. Founded Awakening the Dreamer (AtD)—Global Program—facilitate discussion re: peace, justice, ecological responsibility. AtD wants veterans involvement. (Can post veterans narratives on their website.)
Proposal—BoD undergo training for AtD facilitation (4 hour), then consider making it available to the chapters. Pachamama alliance
Brinson support BoD favorable consideration
Foster—proposes streamline BoD meeting process to conclude business in one day and devote the other day to BoD training
Brinson—devote 4 hours @ Los Angeles BoD meeting Sunday morning to AtD training. Second Viges. Passed. (Added efficiencies of committee structure expected to free time for this.)

Note taking duties assumed by Viges

Feb 23rd @ 7:30 eastern conference call set by board

Change of policy regards to officers to remain on listserve till new officers are appointed

October board meeting Sunday the 18th facilitators of strategic planning be sent to executive committee

Motion - President will compose letter to the institutional offices to introduce VFP - focus - homelessness and torture – PASSED

Respectfully submitted for BoD review,
Gary E. May, Secretary
Hart Viges, Secretary pro tem
January 21, 2009
VFP BoD April 25, 2009

Present: Mike Ferner, Elliott Adams, Bill Collins, Sharon Kufeldt, Patrick McCann, Hart Viges, Anita Foster, Kenneth Mayers, Leah Bolger, Michael McPhearson, Gary May.

Guests: Tina Richards, Lane Anderson, Clay Claiborne, Michael Lindley, Michael Cervantes, Kathleen Hernandez, Elizabeth Colon, Dave Wiley, Will Covert, Al Holtz, David Troy.

Call to order, President Ferner 09:19 AM

Welcome by LA chapter President, Mike Cervantes

Statement of Purpose, Hart Viges

Agenda, Bill Collins moved approval, second Kenneth Mayers Passed

Minutes of last meeting (January 18 & 19 Miami)—Bill Collins moved approval, seconded Kenneth Mayers Passed

Minutes of last Conference Call (March 30), Anita Foster moved approval, second Sharon Kufeldt, Passed

Treasurer’s Report—Kenneth Mayers—report sent to BoD this week. Mayers will add supplement re: IVAW after he assesses latest input.

VFP in good shape financially (Reports on file). There is apparent ambiguity re: standards for designating various categories of “Projects”.

McPhearson to compile written descriptions of each Project and distribute to BoD.

Charge to Program Committee: (Adams to send the draft of the charge)

McCann—requests graphic depiction of revenue streams.

Treasurer’s report has been heard and is appreciated. BoD encouraged to read the report.

Executive Director’s Report

McPhearson—written report distributed to BoD (hard copy). Electronic version to be sent

Endorsements made since last board meeting—to be emailed to BoD.

Collins—feedback from chapter contacts suggests problems with formatting of chapter rosters—Adams says to have Chapter Contacts call him if they are having a problem. McPhearson will talk with Adams and Woody Powell to solve the problem.
IVAW Report

Signed agreement of loan document between VFP 7 IVAW on file at National. IVAW’s new president Alex Bacon has requested a new repayment schedule. Foster—table discussion till next BoD conference call by which time McPhearson will have thoughtfully examined the repayment schedule change request.

Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement with IVAW

New proposal sent to new IVAW leadership who is considering the new proposal (our proposal has been sent to VFP Executive Committee)

McPhearson heard guidance from the BoD re: negotiating Sponsorship agreement

McPhearson distributed “The Sword that Heals”, Geo. Lakey and CPA report

President’s Report

Policy Proposal—Kenneth Mayers—handling negative fund balance accounts
Proposal sent via email—seconded Adams, passed

Expenditures by Executive Committee—Mayers—authorize Executive Committee to authorize up to $4,500 without full BoD approval. seconded Collins, passed

Filling Vacancies on the BoD

Possible Candidates submitted by BoD and others (20 total) 16 questionnaires sent—9 returned—2 selected Pierre Williams & Nate Goldschlag for nominated by President (Williams replaces Varone; Goldschlag replaces Brinson) seconded Adams, passed.

Compliments to President Ferner, who will send out a summary of the 9 candidates. Will also send a suggested process for filling future BoD vacancies to be placed in Policy Book in the Procedures Section.

“Board Buddy” for Williams & Goldschlag—McCann to be buddy for Williams; Collins to be buddy for Goldschlag.

Preparing for Strategic Planning Meeting in October—Ferner, Foster & May comprise a Search Committee for a new Strategic Planning Facilitator

Ferner & McPhearson to draft baseline of organization as platform for planning. Facilitator candidate (Dave Beckwith) has proposed a framework and outcomes for October meeting.
Kufeldt—historically, VFP had three meetings/year. The October meeting was instituted for the explicit purpose of strategic planning.

Five-Minute Soliloquies Re: Organizational Direction

Collins—March 19 & April actions in DC & NYC.—“tried and true” actions for mobilizing have “run out of gas”. We need to review methodology and identify new methods.

McCann—attended both rallies, agrees with Collins. Suggestions movement from margin to center, collaborate with other historic “out groups”, i.e., people of color. This should be addressed at the Convention. Chapter development, fundraising and collaboration strategies critical.

Kufeldt—need to give members tools to creating cultures of peace. Culture of peace is a vehicle for building chapters. Commitment to walk the talk is critical.

Foster—changes in BoD functions necessitates care in informing new BoD members about responsibilities and duties. Maybe allow time for committee work

McPhearson—process orientation to functioning. 1.) Integrate functions of chapters with National re: Statement of Purpose. We need better relationships with more and different groups. Flexibility is key.

2.) We must determine the areas that support war and areas that build peace and decide interventions accordingly.

Adams—levels—organizational, monetary, organizing. We are not losing the movement. We are moving ahead. We confuse ourselves in assessing “where we are” without clear benchmarks. Recommend Movement Action Plan. We need to prepare for peace with the same intensity that was used to prepare us for war. We are building the foundation for a movement. We should consider a Spokes Council-type model. (Lateral model, affinity groups send reps to present at a group.)

Mayers—calls to chapters—performance uneven, little connection to the National BoD and/or National Office. We need to promote the National to Chapter relationship better. We are at different stages of a “movement” re: various components of our statement of purpose. How do we address the current involvement in AFPAK? Promote peace or oppose war. Our potential is to be a “trim tab” (nautical device to move the rudder on a ship). Would like to see us move in the direction of the Trim Tab.
Ferner—“War is a force that gives us meaning”. Generally interpreted negatively. It also gives our movement meaning. We must work better with different elements of society. What’s the common denominator? “The Populist Movement”.

May—commitment to networking and avoiding “pillarizing” the effort.

Bolger—what type of organization is VFP? We try to be all things to all people, but we’re not successful in doing that. Our statement of goals is more about macro policy, but not much about personal change/issues. Our organization is not about “personal peace”, but political power. We need to focus on the goal of ending war and like-minded people will come to us and join with us. We need to focus on our vision (who are we? What do we want to accomplish?) and strategies. Exception to “bottom up” characterization of the organization. We were elected to lead, to provide structure, to give direction for the organization.

Viges—waging peace not substantially different of waging war. We need to see ourselves as a smaller force in the peace-war struggle. We should strive to interrupt the supply line for supporting war. The principal supply lines are money and personnel. (war tax resistance and counter recruitment).

Discussion from Guests—Will Covert—joined VFP because of Name and Statement of Purpose. We must maintain our commitment to Non Violence per our Statement.

Lane Anderson—suggests posing “Where is the rage?” as a strategic guide per our statement of purpose.

Dave Wiley—President of San Diego Chapter—non-violence is not just about the absence of war. The current outrage about economic issues is really a reflection of the cost of war.

Arlington West Presentation—Peter Dudar & Sally Marr

Thanks to Peter & Sally for the excellent presentation

Thanks to Kathleen Hernandez, et al. for their fine work to host this meeting.

Committees

Updated committee list distributed electronically by President

Convention—Patrick McCann, Chair—Conference call—program:
Wed. after BoD meeting reception. Thursday—plenary & two workshops—90 minute with 30 minute breaks (statement of purpose & regions) 36 total workshops. Thursday night—ballroom with stage—small acts on stage and audience interaction. Friday—4 workshop sessions. Church event 7:30 Plymouth Church Rev. Yearwood—veterans meet the community. Saturday—Plenary. Saturday night banquet. Sunday, 9 AM, passing of flame to Portland, ME. 11:00 Nagasaki Memorial, possibly 3 PM event. VFPConvention.com website for registration (registration by June 1). Housing—July 6 housing registration deadline.

McPhearson—mailing for Convention going out Monday or Tuesday.

Membership—Leah Bolger—written report sent via email—

1 chapter ready for charter--Mule Creek Prison in CA. Sacramento Chapter to sponsor. Committee recommends approval, seconded, passed.

Recommendations—acknowledge new members immediately. Handling At-Large members to promote greater involvement—designate up to 1 State At-Large leader. Advantages—conduit for communication, encouragement to develop own chapter, greater involvement.

Updating list serve database. We need to get the current chapter leaders to Woody Powell to complete the shift to the new list serve. We need to delegate the responsibilities for the chapter calls of Varone & Brinson to the two new BoD members.

Resolutions Committee—Bob Krzewinski.

Accept recommendations of the Resolutions Committee, moved, seconded, passed.

Modified Document (to be added to Policy Manual—submitted by Bob through President Ferner)

“V. Resolutions received by the committee by 30 days prior to the convention business meeting will be either

a) Accepted as written and promptly acknowledged.

b) Returned to sender with suggestions for rewriting.

c) Returned to sender with an explanation of why they are inappropriate.”
“VI. Resolutions received by the committee after 25 days prior to the convention but prior to ten days prior to the convention will be handled as above insofar as time constraints and the volume of work permit. Otherwise, committee members will simply acknowledge receipt and do appropriate editing and screening.

“VII. No resolutions will be accepted by the committee after the deadline. If, and only if, events occur after this deadline, of sufficient impact to require a resolution, no fewer than fifty (50) copies of any relevant and appropriate resolution(s) should be submitted to an officer of the board before the convening of the plenary session at which resolutions are to be considered. The Board of Directors has the final authority with regard to this exception to the rules.

“VIII. All resolutions received by the deadline will be assigned numbers and forwarded to the board of directors for consideration prior to the opening of the convention. The committee will also provide the board with its rationale for rejecting any of the resolutions which have been submitted. (adopted)

Can Associate Members submit resolutions? Action—No. Have such Associate Members partner with a Full Member.

Nominations—Sharon Kufeldt to join Committee

Personnel—Collins--report has been emailed to BoD.

At last Executive Committee phone call before the October meeting, the Committee will discuss the Executive Director’s evaluation, finalize it prior to the October meeting, discuss with the Executive Director and report to the BoD for action at the October meeting.

Treasurer’s Recommendation--Mayers

Reimbursement for BoD member travel to BoD meetings—has been email to BoD. Proposal to reverse the default to VFP paying for travel. Members may pay, but should submit invoice to VFP for the historic record. Moved, seconded by Adams, Passed.

Development Committee—Foster (content covered in E.D. report)

Diversity and Outreach—McCann

At least two members who volunteered from Miami BoD meeting have resigned the BoD. Current members: Kufeldt, May, Williams, McCann, chair.

Program Committee—Adams
Reported on deliberations of the Committee—discussion included who/how charges to committee should be created. Conclusion—Ferner and/or E.D. will work with Committee chairs to clarify the charges by the next BoD conference call.

ZOCS—Written report submitted

Updates

Bring the Guard Home—Leah Bolger

“10 Excellent Reasons to not Join the Military” recommended ($1/copy) move by Adams to buy all remaining copies, up to 1000, of this booklet, second McCann; amended by Adams to make available to the chapters for purchase from National at cost. Passed.

National campaign 22 States have a campaign, 12 States have introduced legislation/resolutions. California is the next preferred to State to initiate legislation. Help needed. Encourages VFPers to become involved.

Depleted Uranium—Lane Anderson on behalf of Dr. Albert Holtz (has a website)

Nominated for VFP BoD at S.F.—extensive military & VA experience, VFP member. Looking for a veteran who can be taken through the adjudication process to prove health affects of depleted uranium. His attorney son will represent vet pro bono. Ideal profile, exposure to radiation and with lymphoma or leukemia.

Dr. Holtz arrives to answer questions—seeking vets exposed to DU with cancers and/or PTSD. A NY study seems to demonstrate the presence of DU in the urine 20+ years after exposure.

Nonviolence Training--Adams

Next BoD conference call Monday, June 1 @ 7:00 PM ET

Tonight Workman’s Circle 6:00 PM for dinner

Tomorrow 9 – 1:30 this location (auditorium) for Pachamama training. After training BoD is invited to come to Arlington West.

Adjourned 3:46 PM
VFP BoD Conference Call
July 20, 2009

Present: Ferner, Bolger, Goldshlag, Kufeldt, Williams, Adams, Viges, McPhearson, May, Collins

Absent: McCann, Foster, Mayers, Uhl

Meeting called to order by President Ferner
6:10 PM

Agenda:
Convention Update—McCann (20 minutes)
Report given by McPhearson—meeting minimums re housing, registrations meeting expectations, IVAW & MFSO registrations on target.
Convention booklet to be submitted to printer tomorrow
RAWA representative has been approved, travel being arranged.
Williams—volunteers, solicitation of welcome statements from public officials, local planning committee meeting all deadlines.
McPhearson—media outreach underway

Ferner—Award for local convention planning committee
       May—proposal for special award or routine award for local planning committees?
       McPhearson—proposal local committee to recognize noteworthy effort by local committee members at Awards Banquet. Ferner ordered

Post Convention Action—Bolger (10 minutes)

Strategic Planning Consultant—Ferner (5 minutes)

Additions to Agenda
Adams—approve charge for Program Committee
Williams—Nominations for National Convention
Goldshlag—Resolutions Committee Procedure
       Ferner—proposed resolutions to be posted for members only for comment
       Bolger—feedback from members that more time needed to peruse proposals prior to voting
       Kufeldt—paste proposed resolutions on board in public areas for members to read.
       Goldshlag—we should have paper copies available, many of our members have trouble reading from a screen
Ferner—will work with McPhearson to effect efficacious printing of resolutions handouts. If not feasible, post in public area at convention site.
Adams—make resolutions available for review on the web, display on screen, and give individual handouts if they can be arrayed on or fewer pages front & back. Seconded Goldshlag
  Goldshlag—proposed amendment to up to 3 sheets of paper (be it resolved). Seconded Williams
  Bolger—when do bylaw changes take effect?
    McPhearson—changes need to take place with the next program year
Goldshlag—volunteers to bring sufficient copies for all registrants
  Offer to volunteer withdrawn
May—call the question on amendment. Passed.
Ferner—motion as amended. Passed.
Ferner—committees will be identified in program booklet with invitation to join.
Goldshlag—what can we do to streamline consideration of resolutions in BoD deliberations? No useful strategies offered. Ferner will send resolutions to all BoD and get them posted on web ASAP.

Bolger—Post Convention Action. We should take advantage of location. August 10, 9:00 AM action to target DNC. Bolger will send a summary of this action prn. Next planning call 7/23 @ 4:30 Pacific Time. Same call in # as this call.
  McPhearson—sent e-blast and announcement to Chapter Contacts.

Ferner—Strategic Planning Facilitator. Collins moves to take motion off the table. Seconded Adams. Passed.
  Motion: Dave Beckwith to be engaged as our facilitator for the strategic planning meeting for $2,000.
  Adams—amend motion to quash the motion if McPhearson doesn't agree with the contract.
  Vote on amended motion. Passed.

Ferner—approval of no refund policy for membership dues. Recommended by the Executive Committee. Collins moves to implement recommendation. Seconded Viges. Passed.

Adams—Program Committee Charge—submitted to BoD prior to call.
  McPhearson—asks that Committee make recommendations to focus the staff for strategic planning purposes.
  Viges—we need to pass the charge to establish the foundation for the Committee.
  Viges—moves to approve the charge. Seconded Kufeldt. Passed.
Goldshlag—what’s the status of the regional meetings at the Convention? There will be regional meetings at the convention. Adams to chair the regional meeting committee established at the last conference call.

Bolger—make sure IVAW members know they’re invited to the August 10 action.

Adjourn 7:05 PM

Compiled for BoD review/feedback by
Gary E. May, Secretary

Submitted with changes by
Gary E. May, Secretary
July 28, 2009
August 5, 2009
University of Maryland
College Park, MD

Called to order—Ferner 9:10
Statement of Purpose Kufeldt
Introductions

Present: Ferner, Kufeldt, Mayers, Uhl, Viges, Williams, Goldshlag, McCann, Bolger, Collins, Foster, Adams, McPhearson, and May. (Staff members: Virginia Duhre, Doug Zachary)

July 20 Conference Call minutes approved
Adams moved to have Secretary & President to confer to ensure that posted minutes are correct and up to date.

Treasurer’s Report—Mayers
PowerPoint Slides
   Historical perspective (5 years)
   Current data are in distributed Treasurer’s report
   (Full treasurer’s report on file)
   Foster—kudos to Mayers for his excellent work over the years of his tenure

ED Report
Written report submitted
Williams—what is the average number of bequests? No average—very random. Foster—Planned Giving program is in its infancy.
McCann—report points out need to rationalize the fundraising process
Uhl—re: membership, if peak in membership was 2007, what can we learn from that year to distinguish it from preceding or following years?
Goldshlag—we need to do more fundraising outside our organization, e.g., entertainers, concerts, benefits; within membership, we should consider raising the dues.
McPhearson—we should consider sharing dues with chapters
Kufeldt—should emphasize recruiting new veteran members.
Druhe—we are working our membership well to solicit money. Next phase is moving to large donors, both inside and outside. This can’t be successful without the support of the BoD.
Bolger—agree with Druhe re: relying on membership; troubled that just over ½ of members are paid up. Chapters who allow local members to pay local dues only are a disservice to others.
Zachary--most time has been spent regaining lapsed members, in spite of “fundraiser” designation in position description and title
(written support submitted)
Uhl--fundamental misunderstanding about our membership; our members are activists; they seem to be moving away from their “activist” designation and adhering to their “veteran” status, specifically their veteran’s peace activist orientation
McPhearson--most of our members don’t attend local/national meetings; most just pay their dues with occasional involvement
Adams--re: membership--there are liabilities in sharing dues--unnecessary competitiveness for members; re: local v. national dues--we learn about this from our national chapter contacts; re: levels of dues--charge more for Associate Members than Veteran Members;
Mayers--we have supporters we don’t know who make/arrange for donations to VFP
Kufeldt--suggests new membership category, “Supporter of Veterans For Peace”
Foster--direct mail usually ineffective @ first occurrence especially--we may go back to this strategy; re: Hollywood names & fundraisers worth considering in the context of an overall fundraising strategy; recruiting v. non recurring--new members have been the most generous, but generosity wanes as time passes. Opportunities--grants are an opportunity, need to separate IVAW from VFP; National Office is developing a Chapter Activity Scoring Scale. This will be used to focus outreach activities involving chapter large donor visit by ED or President; bequests--we should urge consideration in estate plans--should do more BoD training; thanks--should call donors to thank them; membership--splitting dues with chapters is appealing, should learn from others’ experience;
Zachary--core membership has changed since the early days of VFP.

Adams--suggests action on Treasurer’s Report items
Disposition of Special Projects funds
Some decisions are not being captured in the minutes
BoD needs to develop more oversight of Special Projects
Ferner--next BoD meeting will be short...
Adams--move to constitute a standing finance committee to include Mayers & others with financial skills to submit reports.
Motion withdrawn--will come back from lunch with a revised motion

Strategic Planning Preparation—Ferner
Planning subcommittee
Kufeldt—previously such committee included members who are active, represent diverse constituencies and have knowledge in relevant, but diverse areas
Bolger—BoD was elected to represent the interests of the organization
Viges—inviting too many may be cumbersome
Mayers—BoD elected to use judgment, if outside help is warranted, get it
McCann—include outside persons if proposer can justify the rationale
Williams—Supports Bolger's position
Foster—Strategic Planning typically involves persons outside the organization's immediate management/staff.
McPhearson—supports inclusiveness with people who have relevant knowledge & skills & a stake in the organization and mission
Collins—supports involvement by people with particular expertise/illustrious experience
Ferner—summary—sense is to involve outside interests as long as their involvement will be purposeful and helpful

Bylaws Committee Report
Ferner—will entertain motion to reapprove BoD bylaw changes previously approved at August, 2008 BoD meeting (Time did permit action on these items at the 2008 business meeting.) None offered.

ED Report Continued
IVAW loan status--$31,277 repaid to date. Remaining balance is unknown. They have been paying more than the agreed-to $2,000.
Goldshlag--we should have a better idea of the status of IVAW's IRS standing.

Engaging Consultant for Planning Meeting
ED has spoken with David Beckwith and agrees to engage him as strategic planning consultant
Ferner--entertain motion to reapprove By-Laws amendments
Moved by Collins, Second Kufeldt to approve the recommendations for By-Laws from last BoD deliberation. Passed.

Adams--By-Laws Committee report
Resolution 1. Add Associate Member to BoD. Committee Recommend not pass. Moved to approve committee recommendation by Mayers, seconded Kufeldt. Passed.

Moved Adams & Seconded Bolger--Form a standing Finance Committee to support the treasurer primarily by reviewing reports from accountant and look for significant trends and anomalies in the numbers.
Foster--amendment to charge--committee members need not be members of the BoD. Original motion Passed. Motion as amended Passed.
Adams-- Appoint a committee to draft a proposal for more rigorous procedures for oversight of donor designated funds and special projects, to summit a report to BoD by January. Passed.

Adams--recommended changes to the policy re: inappropriate resolutions. (see file for complete resolution) Passed.

Adams--make Treasurer’s report, Executive Committee minutes, annual meeting minutes, BoD meetings available to all members if requested. Passed.

Adams-- This motion will be put before the assembly prior to any discussion of proposed amendments:
All proposed bylaws amendments will be voted on as they are submitted, there will be no amendments or changes to proposed amendments. Each speaker will have two minutes to speak. Speakers will be called on alternating between those speaking for the amendment and those speaking against the amendment. A vote will be called on any amendment after 15 minutes even if there are more who want to speak. Strike the last sentence of the first draft re: if no one opposes the amendment, no one for the amendment will be heard. Passed. Amendment as amended Passed.

Resolutions--Bob Krzewinski, Chair, Resolutions Committee
Procedure--resolutions were logged in in order received.
Committee members considered all proposals
Filters--statement of purpose
Repeat of previous resolution
Legal and not harmful to organization

Resolution 2009-1. Veterans Outreach--Committee recommends pass. Motion & second to accept. Passed.


Resolution 2009-4. Stop Aid to Israel--Committee recommends pass. Motion & second. Passed.

Resolution 2009-5. IVAW Funding--Committee recommends no pass. Move & second to declare the resolution inappropriate as an unfunded resolution and not bring it to the body for a vote. Passed.


Resolution 2009-8. Resolution to Sanction Israel--Committee recommends no pass. Motion & second to call the question. Passed. Motion & second. Passed. Adams--divide the house Committee’s recommendation stands.
Resolution 2009-10. Impeach Obama--Committee recommends pass. Motion & second. Didn't pass.
Resolution 2009-11. Agent Orange--maker withdrew the resolution. (Committee kept as a placeholder for formatting expediency)
Resolution 2990-14. Malfeasance--Committee recommends no pass. Motion & second. Didn't pass.
Resolution 2990-15. Medical Marijuana Awareness Week--Committee recommends pass. Motion & second. Didn't pass.

May--Kudos to Chair & his Resolutions Committee. BoD applause.

Foster--move & second to return to agenda. Passed.

Calls to Chapter--Key Contacts & Leadership List
Bolger--what's the status of this activity? Suggests staff continue contacts if many remain to be completed.

Foster--poll BoD members now to learn who's completed their calls. Seconded Adams. Passed.

Reports
Foster--made no calls, will call ½ of list and give balance to Membership Committee.
Collins--made all calls, found diversity among chapters
Bolger--made all the calls, learned a lot
Goldshlag--called 4 of 6, varied results
Williams--sent emails to all, responses from 10 of 25
Viges--called 8, discouraging lack of responses
Uhl--no calls
Mayers--emailed and called, reached 2/3 of list
Kufeldt--called/emailed all but 3 of 23, some chapters inactive
Ferner--assigned 6, reached 5, mixed results
May--reached most of list, disbanded chapters, one member chapters
Adams--reached most of contacts, spotty results, wide variety

Annual Meeting--Ferner
Needs for Meeting
Vote Counter--Collins volunteered
Timer--Adams volunteered
Security--Viges volunteered

Endorsement of National Action on October 17.
Move & second to endorse National Action on October 17.

Funding of Projects
Bolger--Bring the Guard Home (BTGH)--endorsed by VFP BoD at January BoD meeting.
Financial support needed for an upcoming conference for Bolger to attend. Requests $500.
McPhearson--at vote at endorsement, BoD allocated funds for VFP’s
Involvement in BTGH.
Ferner--we need a process for considering & evaluating requests for
activities in pursuit of our endorsements, etc.

New Business
Annual Convention
Adams--Breakout sessions organized to build community, gather
information and prepare for strategic planning. Each group will focus

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on one component of statement of purpose. Debriefing and information will be
harvested.
BoD briefing/training to be held tomorrow.

Mayers--move to ask Woody Powell to submit report of results of chapter
contacts/key contacts to BoD 30 in days (September 5, 2009). Passed.

October Meeting 16, 17 & 18 Portland, ME.

4:13 PM Recessed until Thursday, August 6 @ 9:00 AM.
Membership Committee--Kufeldt

Current profile 69% veteran 31% non veteran
Concerned about slippage of veteran members
Suggestions--allow chapters to nominate an associate for membership due to
exemplary service to organization (e.g., Proud Supporter Designation)
Discussion--balancing credibility with membership demands; concerns
about alienating current valued Associate Members; focus on
organizational standing as a veteran’s organization;

**Conclusion: put topic on agenda for next meeting.**

Adjourned 10:42 AM

Draft Respectfully Submitted by
Gary E. May, Secretary
August 10, 2009

Draft submitted after BoD comment period by
Gary E. May, Secretary
August 17, 2009

(BoD comment-Collins. Change “infantile” to “in its infancy”. P. 1, ED Report, line 3.)
VFP Board Meeting Minutes - Phone Conference Call
September 21, 2009

Present: Ferner, Bolger, Goldshlag, Kufeldt, Williams, Adams, Collins, McCann, Mayers. And ED McPhearson

Call meeting to order 7:05

Review agenda
ED report
Motion to archive our records with Swarthmore College Seconded and passed
Consent motion to continue policy to sell corporate stocks as we get them.

Development Committee
Pull together an Advisory Committee
McPhearson will draft a statement of what we want
Amazon on home page
Motion not to add a disclaimer to the Amazon button reminding people to support independent bookstore. Motion Failed
Staff to make some suggestions about how to remind members to support local and then buy Amazon

October Planning Meeting Agenda
Friday 4:00 walk through facility and 7:30 short business meeting
8:00 – 5:00 Sat
Host chapter will provide some kind of a box lunch Sat
Host chapter presentation 8:30 AM Sun
Motion to invite IVAW & MFSO to our planning meeting. Seconded and passed
Motion to invite VVAW to our planning meeting. Seconded and passed
ED will be responsible for sending the Guidelines for hosting a VFP Board meeting to host chapters
Motion to offer any non board members and non staff members who are invited to attend will be offered the same consideration we offer board members. Seconded and passed

Clarifying of Charters of Chapters
President will move ahead with this (from April 09)

Formation of Finance Committee
President will move ahead with forming this committee (from Aug 09)
By consent motion, have new finance committee take on drafting of more rigorous oversight of donor-designated funds & speed special projects to submit report by Jan

Membership committee
Motion to accept the following policy regarding "Charge of Misconduct":
A charge of misconduct may be applied to all categories of membership: full, associate or honorary. Generally speaking, misconduct is characterized as conduct injurious to the organization or its purposes, conduct tending to injure the good name of the organization, disturb its well being, or hamper it in its work, and conduct unworthy of a member of this organization. The following are examples of grounds for disciplinary action (including revocation of membership), but are not inclusive:

1) Falsification of a document verifying veteran status;
2) Affirming the VFP Statement of Purpose under false pretenses;
3) Public advocacy or actions contrary to the VFP Statement of Purpose;
4) Malfeasance while serving in an official VFP capacity at the chapter or national level;

Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised may be employed as a guide during the following procedure where appropriate in the opinion of the Board of Directors.

Procedures for investigating and hearing claims of misconduct.

The case for disciplinary action will be prepared by the Membership Committee and presented to the full Board with a recommended course of action. If the Board votes to proceed further, the member in question will be notified by certified mail by the President of the grounds for disciplinary action. The person under investigation, or his/her representative who may be someone outside the organization, will be given the opportunity to reply in writing and/or appear before the Board at a regular Board meeting. The Board will then discuss the case in closed session and reach a conclusion by motion and vote on the disposition of the case.

Motion that the staff is tasked with completing the chapter contact calls.
Seconded and passed

**Discussion membership recruitment**

We will all send our member recruiting experiences, techniques, and ideas to Bolger

E-blast to have a recruiting corner

Can national track potential members for us

Call adjourned 9:11

Submitted by Elliott Adams Secretary pro tem
Present: Mike Ferner, Elliott Adams, Bill Collins, Sharon Kufeldt, Kenneth Mayers, Leah Bolger, Nate Goldshlag, Pierre Williams.
VFP Staff: Michael McPhearson, Virginia Druhe, Betsy Reznicek.
Guests: Cherie Eichholz,
Call to order, President Ferner 08:55 PM

**Read Statement of Purpose**

Board Policy Book – Motion made and seconded, amended and passed: To make the Policy Book available through the “On Line Forum”.

Organizing Committee- Motion made and seconded, and passed: Refer the question of how long an organizing committee may continue to membership committee.

Afghanistan - Motion made and seconded, and passed: While the President has the power to do this without Board direction, the Board directs the President to put out a call and work to bring together a working committee on Afghanistan.

Making chapters more effective - Motion made and seconded, and passed: Direct the President to pull together a committee to study how we can bring training to our chapter officers.

Boardpersonship - Motion made and seconded, and passed: Direct the president to pull together a committee to study how we can bring training for Board members.

Motion made and seconded, and passed: recessing until 8:30 PM.

Elliott Adams, secretary pro tem

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**Veterans For Peace October 18, 2009 Board of Directors’ Minutes**

Present: Mike Ferner, Elliott Adams, Bill Collins, Sharon Kufeldt, Kenneth Mayers, Leah Bolger, Nate Goldshlag, Pierre Williams, Hart Viges, Anita Foster.
Staff: Michael McPhearson, Virginia Druhe, Betsy Reznicek
Guest: Cherie Eichholz Jack Bussell, Dud Hendrick.

Call to order, President Ferner 8:40 AM
Presentation on National Convention – by Jack and Dud

Accessibility – will be addressed at next convention committee call
Need to work with hotel for what can be done, need to figure out what we can do, need to do better informing host chapters ahead of time

10:12 break
10:31 called back to order

**Announcement by Executive Director of resignation effective last day of February 2010.**

Convention –

**Treasures Report -**
Challenge: Between now and next board meeting, once a week, invite a chapter member for a cup of coffee. Tell them you are buying them a cup of coffee because you want them to buy VFP a cup of coffee once a week.

Motion made seconded and passed: Board directs the membership and, development committees to bring back reports exploring the variety of options for membership dues with up side and down side prior to the January board meeting.

Motion made seconded and passed: Ask the ED to spend one full day per week on fundraising.

**ED Report –**

**Membership Committee Report -**

Motion made seconded and passed: To charter the Eugene Oregon Chapter. Including that they may add a few more members to the charter.

Motion made seconded, amended and, passed: To pilot a Proud Supporter affiliation at SOAW. Designate Adams to draft initial steps, and communicate with national office to minimize impacts.

Motion made seconded and passed: Next meeting 23 & 24 January in Saint Louis.

Motion made and seconded, and passed: adjourn PM.

Elliott Adams, secretary pro tem
VFP Board Meeting Minutes - Phone Conference Call
November 16, 2009

Present: Goldshlag, Bolger, Williams, Ferner, McPhearson (Executive Director), Mayers, Adams, Collins, May

President Ferner—call to order 6:00 CST

Agenda approved.

ED Report:

Last week attended Black is Back meeting in DC—purpose was to show that Blacks are critical of Barack Obama. “Obama is white power in Black face” was a popular theme.

Cindy Sheehan—Peace of the Action—encampment on the ellipse to disrupt traffic around White House & Capitol Hill in conjunction with ANSWER’s action in DC. Recommend endorsement of action. Mayers wants to see more information about the action before endorsing. ED will send additional information to the BoD.

Network for Responsible Global Policy event--Progressive organizations working in 2 – 3 states to mobilize progressive activists in “non progressive” states. Idea is to network with disparate organizational operatives who feel/are isolated. Network subscribers would get regular emails to update on current activities. Outcome is to push congress when a critical issue is pending through grass roots advocacy. Network organizational members expected to provide names of their members in the target state or to commit to send e-blasts to members in the state. No solicitations or other use of email names. Citizens for Global Solutions with Ford Foundation and UN funding. ED will send additional information about the project.

Ferner—give update on Portland Hotel. Tim Blanchard local chapter member working with BoD planning committee on securing accessible meeting site. Locals are surveying other resources to find a suitable hotel. We’ll break the contract with Eastland because they don’t meet access standards.

Williams—chapter wants to move quickly to secure a Convention location. They have identified at least two alternatives that are accessible.

ED—Foster spent a few days helping to bring E-Tapestry up to speed in National Office. Staff is inputting information into the databank to facilitate fundraising, etc. Everyone who has not renewed membership will be given one final opportunity to renew. If they don’t they will be expunged from the active database.

Continuing to work on developing the fundraising calendar

ED—Strategic Planning Work Plan Committee still trying to meet.

ED—end of year fundraising appeal to go out without within two weeks.
Goldshlag—what’s up with mix up with name and address on snail mail sent out?

Most BoD members didn’t get appeal, even with incorrect name. Back to the drawing board.

**Treasurer’s Report—Mayers**

Summary of October financials sent out to BoD via email. Requires careful examination. $36K drop in one month, but substantial amount transferred per mandate from funder, UU Foundation. We are still $12K+ short for month. Discretionary spending capability is currently $110K (refund from U of MD not included). ($170K with U of MD refund). Donations from major donors and grant $ seriously deficient. Convention nearly broke even.

Bolger—re Case for Support status? Has been sent, but no systematic follow up. ED identifies fundraising as his responsibility and that of the BoD.

Goldshlag—we need to be serious about fundraising in light of our budget shortfall. Recommend consider asking each chapter to host a fundraiser for National VFP in addition to finding major donors.

Bolger—what about shifting effort to following up with major funders? Foster is planning to do 2 day training for fundraising at the January meeting.

Ferner—we do not need to wait to approach major donors, but BoD needs training before being unleashed on unsuspecting potential donors. Calling on known contacts okay.

Goldshlag—projections for major donors are very conservative. Combined major donor and grant funding totals approximately $35K/Mo.

January Fundraising Training—BoD desired outcomes...Ferner--Each BoD member is able to do individual solicitation of major donors and has a short list of major donors on which to practice.

Williams—critical time for fundraising. We should consider using social networking resources such as FaceBook (many organizations are using this)

Goldshlag—renewed commitment from each BoD member to fundraising

Bolger—Why not go to follow up with Case for Support mailing? What’s our priority?

Collins—needs names of targets, then training, then follow up with Case for Support.

Mayers—we need to know how to develop a campaign plan for a major fundraising action. Resource demands? Resource availability? Timelines?

Ferner—will get information to Foster for January training preparation.

**October BoD Meeting Updates**
Proud Supporter Pilot for SOA—Goldshlag & Adams—Goldshlag has constructed a three-panel display with pictures and captions with VFP activities. T-shirts ($40 donation) and informational packets being sent to organizers.

BoD Training—Williams—in the process of gathering suggestions from BoD members and staff. Primary topics fundraising, technology training, strategic planning. Mayers suggests investigate webinars, etc. Williams to follow up.

Chapter Training—Ferner—no progress on this so far.

Information & Action Teams—Ferner—previously suggested Afghanistan Team—to become informed on this issue and be readily available resources for breaking developments. Other options War Tax Resisters, Latin American Issues.

Adams—how do we solicit engagement? Many members are self-identified “experts” who may not be able to provide useful information for the organization. We need to recruit good thinkers and prudent contributors.

Mayers—that’s why a forum is useful. It can help avoid distractions.

Proposal—BoD members take 5 chapters each to call with guidance from National Staff. Ferner will recruit volunteers to call the chapters.

Mayers—BoD needs to do the work vs. relying on volunteers. To do otherwise is to shirk our responsibility.

Collins—calls were ok, but need current #s for chapter contacts.

Adams—use chapter rosters to find a local person who knows what’s up with the chapter. Problems with member database noted. Staff to send database (full roster) to BoD with assignments of chapters to call with revised questionnaire.

ED Selection—Ferner—Job description draft to be sent to BoD. Selection Committee will select 2 – 3 top candidates. BoD asked to send suggestions for where to send the job announcement.

Goldshlag—Foster sent list of several organizations/publications to send recruitment info.

Adams—Trip to Gaza—two forms of oppression in Gaza: 1) 3 year siege; 2) attacks. Siege is incredibly complete and attacks are ferocious. Speaking engagements scheduled and more welcome.
The Good Soldier Screenings—McPhearson—going very well. Attended screening in NYC. The piece was very well received. Sande Zeig szeig@artlic.com for additional information. See the Good Soldier website for schedule of screenings.

Adams—the question for folks who might be inclined to take action is, “What am I going to do”? Adjourn

11/16/09 8:04 PM CST

Gary E. May, Secretary

11/19/2009