



Veterans For Peace

2014 Board Meeting Minutes

- January (Newark, NJ)
- February (Conference Call)
- March (Conference Call)
- April (Chapel Hill, NC)
- May (Conference Call)
- June (Conference Call)
- **July - Veterans For Peace 29th Annual Convention - University of North Carolina**
 - Business Meeting Minutes (University of North Carolina Asheville)
 - Board Minutes (University of North Carolina Asheville)
- August (Conference Call)
- September (Conference Call)
- October (Conference Call)
- November (Conference Call)
- December (Conference Call)

VFP Board Meeting
January 25& 26, 2014
Essex County College, Newark, NJ

SATURDAY

Members Present: Michael McPhearson, Margaret Stevens, Mark Foreman, Tarak Kauff, Barry Ladendorf, Ken Dalton, Doug Rawlings, Gerry Condon, Patrick McCann, Tom Palumbo, Willie Hager, Mike Prysner, Joey King

9:40 Patrick: Call to order, welcome.

9 am – 9:10 am Agenda Review

Officer Elections:

Slate of candidates:

President: Patrick

Vice President: Gerry

Treasurer: Mark

Secretary: John

Elections of officers by acclamation!

Doug: Oaths of office for new members.

Patrick: Outline 12 hour meeting.

Tarak: Doug, Ken and Margaret will be absent on Sunday.

Gerry: Barry can meet until noon on Sunday.

Mark: Has Treasurer's report to present.

Patrick: Sunday meeting at the Marriot at 9:00am.

Agenda approved

Barry: Presents proposal by NAPF (not ready for release.)

Patrick: Possible social event at Essex County College.

Tarak: Meet with Larry Hamm, Director of People's Organization for Progress (POP.)

Willie: Interested in discussion of " War at Home, War Abroad."

10 am – 11am Reports

Patrick: Propose exit interview for those members leaving the board.

Joey: Maintain records of interviews; how we can best salvage relationships with ex board members.

Barry:Info should be accessible to BoD.

Willie: Improve networking at national & chapter level (George Johnson example.)

Doug:Recommend BoD members inform BoD of intention to leave BoD; Doug will serve this year then exit.

Patrick: Regional development to bridge chapter & national; Tacoma regional meeting, Patrick, Gerry and Michael to attend; Prospective shift to the west.

Introduction: Michael Kramer, president of Chapter 21

Mike:Volunteers to host April BoD meeting in LA.

Doug: We could combine April meeting with local action.

Gerry: Can we use speaker phone or Skype?

Director's Report

Michael: Membership Committee to address loss of members.

Over 12 years' observations about membership loss:

Chapter infighting, chapter inactivity, disagreement with VFP positions, discomfort with support of Manning, perceived as protest group, not peace group.

Barry: Confirms Michael's perspective.

Doug: How do we make connections?

Tarak: It's a mistake to funnel new members to chapters; better to direct new members to interest groups.

Michael: We are organized as chapters.

Tom: Chapter rosters not up to date, personal contacts (BoD to chapter) are effective.

Michael: BoD needs more focus to leverage our VET power, national office needs to explain that we don't just protest.

Joey: Surprised that members leave because of objections to policy; it's difficult to get BoD members to call chapter contacts.

Margaret: President & ED reports are disjointed; itemize & prioritize our objectives; how can we move forward, build membership?

Ken: No current sense of urgency compared to 2003; US government is now better at concealing military interventions.

Willie: Launching chapter in Jacksonville, FL; When you get a member, refer to every connection available, the way to get someone to stay is to give chapters something to do. Circulate our issues to find consensus locally. Identify our capacities as well as ideological perspective.

Michael: Lack of consensus within chapters; Casey is now sending out action items 2 months in advance; national calendar will encourage greater chapter participation.

Fundraising: Email appeal in Feb on Iran; emphasis on grant writing & major donors.

Program Areas:

Full Disclosure

Christmas Truce

VFP legislative agenda

Zinn Fund

Capacity Needs:

Program coordinator

Communications

Development associate needed

Margaret: Envisioning (Rosa Parks)

Patrick: SOA and Manning (Ft Meade) examples of successful campaign; Boston chapter effective at rallying local activists.

Barry: Deeper emphasis on focus, build an organization and fund it; assign BoD members to work groups, incumbent more on BoD than staff; always refer to mission statement.

Michael: Trumpet successes;

Compare 2012 & 2013.

Barry: Edward Jones account; ING account interest rate?

Michael: Will check & report.

Barry: Zinn fund separate, interest bearing?

Michael: Yes.

Barry: Recommend separating ING accounts.

Michael: Will check on our fiduciary responsibility in regard to separation of accounts.

Will check on restricted funds.

Willie: Do we do Credo?

Michael: Not currently.

Approve financial report

Gerry: Good report & discussions, national office is raising the bar.

Barry:Recommend StL meeting site.

Gerry: Agitate, educate, legislate, where is our educational component?

Michael: Crises fade, we need to develop long term program that is not crisis driven.

Mike: Losing 400 members not a surprise; one thing missing from BoDmtgs, recommend discussion of current state of affairs; full scale invasions/occupations changing to shadow wars.

Doug: BoD members should commit to an area (committee.)

Tarak:We need to reach some consensus on issues.

Patrick: Agrees.

Willie: important to develop unified purpose, need more time to determine consensus.

Barry: Good to start meetings, with general discussion; could expand meetings beyond 12 hours.

Mark: Brother-in-law has retreat center in VA; could host a week long retreat; time to bond; as well as focus.

Margaret: WAH/WA as envisioning opportunity.

Committees

Communications Committee;

Patrick: No meeting since spring 2013; Michael has been managing communications...

Michael: Committee chair should be BoD member.

Gerry: What are the responsibilities of chair/committee?

Tom: Internal & external communications; leverage national actions and chapter activities; speakers' bureau; calendar; a little news locally goes a long way; develop relationships with local media.

Barry: San Diego has 34 media outlets & media coordinator; know who the friendlies are.

Willie: Need national profile media wise; set protocols & policies.

Barry: Communications Committee to make recommendation to BoD.

Patrick: 6 volunteers for Communications Committee: Tom, Gerry, Willie, Barry, Patrick, & Michael.

Joey: Bill Collins (CT) former communications chair.

Development Committee

Mark: Monthly phone conferences; main focus on fund raising; email, snail mail, major donor, bequests & planned giving, the latter taking off now; grant writing historically not a function of Development Committee; need project specific grant requests,

Willie: Suggests identifying grant writer who for 10% would write grant.

Mark: Grantors typically don't want to see application process farmed out.

Doug: Ken Mayers has been helpful with Development Committee; national should know about local grant applications; Barry new Development Committee chair: Margaret, Ken, Ken Mayers, Mark, Doug, Doug Zachary, and Matt Southworth as members.

Michael: Capacity issues, development person, communications associate.

Barry: We have grant opportunities for office move.

Doug: Targeted grant searches;

Michael: National grants require national oversight, work groups could be administered locally.

Barry: Advisory Board Process...

Willie: What is the function?

Barry: 35 +/- names of prominent prospective supporters identified thus far.

Doug: Motion to empower the Development Committee to pursue assembling letter & packet, with goal of establishing Advisory Board prior to July convention.

Motion seconded and approved by acclamation.

Membership Committee

Co-chairs Joey & Tarak

Tarak: Develop campaign to prioritize young vets & empowering; offer 2 years free membership; caucus to develop issues for national; need young people; also increase older vets' participation.

Mike: Will help draft.

Joey: International members not showing up on our rolls, there are some complications.

Michael: Membership Committee to also focus on what's wrong; plan to recruit AND retain; International complications, language barriers; recommend international association, not organization.

Willie: We need vesting (dues) ; Mexican expat vets; Toronto resisters.

Tarak: Money not the only type of investment; seek empowerment and engagement; events, brochures, attractive to younger vets, with reciprocity.

Barry: Ben Griffin & Virginia set up protocol, overseas chapters to pay for an affiliation per year in lieu of annual personal dues. Ireland; need follow-up with Ed Horgan.

Michael: Do we need a name change?

Gerry: VFP flags are flying before official affiliation.

Michael: What is the impact for national staff of new international chapters?

Working Groups

Gerry: See his report; need more systematic approach, overlap with staff time, can Casey help?

Barry: Inactive WG's notice to disband.

Willie: How do we constitute a WG?

Gerry: Requires interest and approval of BoD.

Willie: Need structure.

Joey: The proposal for WG's to provide 'white papers' on policy issues has faded away.

Margaret: We need centralized WG's; how do WG's relate to campaigns, relationship to national; research and do? Primary function?

Gerry: Any volunteers to help with WGs?

Michael: WGs are driven by what members want to do.

Tarak: We need quarterly reports from WGs.

Barry: 2nd Tarak's proposal.

Gerry: That's part of tightening up WGs.

Tom: Page 10 policy page; develop metrics & revise.

Gerry: WGs are ripe for revamping

Tarak: Willing to volunteer if face to face (as opposed to conference calls) Barry and Ken willing to participate with Tarak and Gerry

Conventions--Asheville

Patrick, Michael, Tom and John comprise program committee, with Chapter 099 reps John Spitzberg (host committee chair), Ron Harayda and Gracie Shahkroh; 099 Ready to Roll, overcoming a bumpy chapter history.

No contract with UNCA; no huge names for keynotes, but lots of good people; \$5 + \$1K for speakers & entertainment, Michelle Alexander, Rev Barber, Ralph Nader, Sam Wazan.

Barry: Still looking for speakers?

Patrick: Contact anyone.

Barry: John Dear, international following, Nobel candidate.

Willie: Michelle Alexander, a thing about getting past celebrity.

Patrick: Program meeting (conference call) on Wednesday, Jan. 29.

Michael: Not to worry too much about celebrity, missing military family members.

Willie: Recommend Margaret for speaker.

Gerry: Consider Under the Hood & IAWW report on inadequate health care, lotsof IAWW in TX, would like to do a plenary report.

Patrick: 2 workshop sessions,Thur PM, Fri AM, Fri PM X 7 rooms = 42 workshop slots.

Doug: Review workshop applications, sometimes double up; informal gatherings are more important than speakers, national outreach and support for local chapters.

Patrick:What issue merits a plenary or mini-plenary? Thinking about Manning/Snowden.

Tom: Looking at bringing young vets from Norfolk area; good plan for camp space & transportation, planning on community involvement; “come to the mountains!”

Joey: Shouldn’t plenaries be connected to theme?

Michael: Consistent work of IAWW, we should support as much as possible.

Margaret:Common theme every year that current active duty concerns, on practical issues for active duty on the way we resist, open to new ways of resistance, plenary speakers could be tied to theme.

Willie: We would be missing a golden opportunity to support Under the Hood; If they have a plenary it would attract them to the convention.

Doug: Think of plenary as a discussion of strategy.

Gerry: Agree with Margaret& Doug; little resonance with the plenary on Surveillance State, other people could do that better than us; David Swanson invited and accepted.

Michael: Surveillance State figures into our strategic plan.

John: Ray McGovern led delegation including Tom Drake, JesselynRaddach& Colleen Rowley to Moscow to present Snowden with the Sam Adams Integrity in Intelligence Award; could make for a dynamic mini-plenary.

Patrick:Convention book ad push.

Doug: We need a convention budget.

Michael: I drafted a budget.

Doug: Finalize budget in April.

Mark: Convention in Madison cost twice as much as Miami; how come?

Doug: We came in budget in Madison; question: "Is the convention a fund raiser or gathering of the tribe?"

Mark: We spent twice as much in Madison as Miami.

Doug: A/V services drove Madison costs.

Patrick: Local outreach, local low cost housing, engaging community.

Willie: Configure tabling space more carefully than Madison.

John: Do we have a strategy for Board lodging in Asheville?

Tom: There should be ample low cost/no cost housing & camping.

Ken: Transportation?

Doug: Walkable to town?

Tom: Friday drum circle 1.5 miles from UNCA campus.

3:00pm Agenda shift

San Diego 2015 Convention

Barry: \$119/room Aug 6-10, (\$79/room + 12.5 % tax + free conference room for Oct BoD meeting), Town & Country Hotel in Mission Valley, 1/50 rooms free; complimentary continental breakfast; \$4/night parking; good conference & break-out room space; A/V at good rate; 70th anniversary of Hiroshima/Nagasaki; 30th anniversary VFP.

Mike: Check out if there is a union drive.

Willie: Good job, Barry; good rates; move to approve site.

Mike: We need clarification.

Mark: Allowance for board travel?

Michael: Yes.

Doug: Contingent on BoD meeting in October.

Barry: 2014 is the 100th anniversary of San Diego world expo.

Gerry: Going to SD in April; StL in Oct.

Barry: Vote to provisionally endorse SD plan.

Approved by acclamation.

3:18 Michael reads 3 page letter expressing concerns about BoD culture, particularly in regard to sensitivity on issues of race and age. There ensued a roundtable of commentary from each member.

Margaret (Essex County College Professor Stevens) led a brainstorming discussion of the War at Home/War Abroad(WAH/WA) and prospective solutions.

Margaret: A Political approach to give leadership to the organization and our actions; choose certain cities? Deal with homicides (example of connecting the dots to WAH/WA.)

What are the key economic and political issues going on right now?

Gerry: Militarization of police; a lot of military equipment going to local police; drones, tactics; respond with excessive violence; pandemic; police killings; war abroad is coming home.

Margaret: Follow the money trail (cost of war.)

Gerry: Santa Rosa 13 year old boy with toy gun shot dead by police.

Doug: Military mindset of police and US culture.

Margaret: Vets joining police forces.

Ken: Cost of war; violence mindset.

Barry: US violence replaces diplomatic solutions.

Ken: Rush to war against Iran.

Doug: US leading exporter of weapons.

Current US military interventions: Syria, Egypt (tear gas) Honduras, Iraq...

John: US Military garrisoning the plant with policy of Full Spectrum Dominance.

Mark: Solution: Role of Communications Committee.

Margaret: Each committee will have a role; Advisory Board, too.

Tarak: Inordinate amount of violence against the oppressed, but contagious to other communities; government propaganda is failing because of rampant exploitation.

Margaret: Do we want a systematic analysis of education cutbacks; unemployment cutbacks; most pressing manifestations of WAH?

Tarak: War on Drugs; prison industrial complex...

Michael: House to house intrusions, abroad and at home.

Margaret: Connect war on drugs at home with violence abroad; use of government force in global drug trade; identify hot button issues.

Patrick: War on drugs; prison industrial complex; find that work and popularize; from Gitmo to Pelican Bay; unemployment...

Joey: Marines developing rapid deployment force; Georgia National Guard to deploy to Central & South America.

Margaret: Research + action for WG's

Barry: Militarization in education; ROTC's in high schools; schools forcing ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) on students.

Margaret: Attacking unions; attacking public education...

Barry:Poverty draft/unemployment; keeps their fingers in the schools.

Margaret: Who's "they?"

Tom: Ecocide; military number one user of fossil fuels and water, home and abroad; military perpetuates ecocide to secure resources.

Michael: Military Controlling access to resources...

Margaret:Geopolitical struggle over energy; water is the new frontier of resource wars...

Gerry:Global warming is reducing water supplies; military bases source of pollution; gun violence...

Margaret: Columbine started a new wave; example: last Friday VFP shows up at site of domestic murder...

Joey: How to recognize successes such as reducing the size of the military?

Michael: RE solutions: Bring something to communities special to VFP for peace building, to leverage local resources, sustainable and ongoing...

Patrick:Progressive left wing people of color mobilizing;Africom, SOAW, with global peace movement...

Barry: What do we take into a community other than VFP to speak against violence?

Margaret: Example, identify top 5 cities' gun violence & put together speakers bureau, power point...

Tom: Greenpeace does organizational infrastructure + action teams...

Willie: Transformational organizing, operation recovery...

John: World Beyond War (Hartsough/Swanson) campaign holds some promise for simultaneously addressing WAH/WA)...

Tom:HKonJ (Historic Thousands on Jones Street) in Raleigh, NC is a fusion movement of black/white, young/old, faith/labor, environment/peace & other groups addressing the WAH in the context of the current WA.

Mike: Truth in Recruiting campaign in schools...

Tarak:How can weaken the systems of oppression?

(Note from the secretary: Thanks to Margaret for leading a very dynamic exchange)

Adjourn: 5:53PM

SUNDAY

Call to order, 9:16am, 2nd Floor Lobby, Downtown Courtyard Marriott

Joey:Reading of VFP Mission...

Welcome: Nick Velvet, Toronto, Ontario, working with war resisters.

Patrick: Proposed agenda:ByLaws, budget, fundraising, bang the drums (members concerns).

Gerry: Expecting a visitor around 11:00.

Willie: Associate members can vote on resolutions.

Tarak: Propose the BoD revisit issue of rights of associate members.

Michael: "Veteran" v "full member" designation...

Patrick: Proposed bylaw change must be submitted to BoD at least 30 days prior to national convention (Jun3 23, 2014)

Tom: Representation on BoD from Assoc. Members?

Joey: We need a bylaws committee.

Patrick: Bylaws & Personnel now non-functioning committees; Removal of members policy...

Michael: 2 people have been expelled, one by BoD, one requested the by chapter, accepted by the board. An expelled person can appear at convention and appeal removal; should not be expelled for politics; we need to distinguish between behavior and politics...

Willie: Will volunteer to participate on bylaws committee.

Gerry: Agree with Michael that expulsion should be rare; consider bylaw change to prevent obstruction of VFP process.

Tarak:Recommend tabling discussion until April BoD meeting.

Barry: Any changes in bylaws reflected in policy book?

Patrick: Article IV RE dues waiver.

Gerry: Membership Committee can recommend dues waiver.

Willie:Recommends waiver for GWOT vets.

Patrick: Recommends waiver by chapter to sponsor young vets' dues.

Willie: Who to petition for waiver?

Gerry:Recommend local action on waivers.

Tarak: Offered to pay hardship dues.

Barry: Recommend that Michael (ED) make individual calls on waivers.

Patrick: Article V; Increase BoD to 15? Issue of finance for BoD travel.

Willie: Cost considerations.

Michael: Can we recruit candidates for additional BoD positions?

Barry:Suggest alternate BoD term lengths.

Patrick: Table discussion to April.

Michael: Proposed change in policy book RE member termination for missed meetings.

Patrick: Addresses quorum issues.

Excom to review financial statements if available.

Tarak: Endorse protocol, suggest Michael make the call.

Michael:Not comfortable with ED prerogative;

Patrick:We can request endorsement as directors.

Gerry: BoD ought to have privilege to go directly to (?)

Patrick:BoD Elections...

Michael:Think of the board in 2 ways to do candidate search.

Gerry:Revisit issue of elections.

Barry:Consider possible nomination of candidates during convention.

Mark: BoD member expectations...

Gerry:Online voting...

Michael:Opt-in to online voting; warrants careful look at pre-authorized travel; should go to \$25K for BoD, Pres.& ED.

Tom:Warrants careful look at pre-authorized travel expenses.

Northern California regional meeting: Proposed attendees include Patrick, Gerry, Michael & Barry.

Tarak: Gene Marx?

Tom:Suggest policy on BoD travel.

Tarak: Suggests no new rules; 3 ways to consider paying for travel.

Patrick: Look for ways to economize on travel.

Michael: Reasons for re-imburement...

Patrick:Suggest tabling remainder of bylaws for April meeting.

Barry:Propose NAPF campaign endorsement.

Willie: VVAW, OSS, potential of 3 workshops on vets claims, training, poised, need 501c3 cover for fundraising, Ray Parrish etc.; fiduciary sponsorship...

Michael:2 issues on financial pass thru, one issue of tension between VVAW, OSS, VFP, concerned that if we become fiscal sponsor, we could blow up.

Gerry:Deserves scrutiny, VVAW , OSS could apply for VFP national project.

Michael:Concerned that tensions between VVAW & OSS could seep into VFP.

Gerry: Recommend alternate funding source on vets' claims workshop.

Mark:Overlap with VVAW, VFP.

Michael: Experience tells that tension is too thick to melt right now.

Patrick: (Provides a brief history of VVAW split.)

Mark: We have an opportunity to do the right thing...

Tarak: There are other sources for VVAW workshop funding.

Willie: We have options for fiscal sponsorship, interested to integrate VVAW with VFP.

Patrick: Welcome Ankara Williams (sp?),

Next Meeting 2nd weekend in San Diego in April (subject to change).

John: Reads Declaration of Peace – organization (World Beyond War)

“We understand that wars and militarism make us less safe rather than protect us, that they kill, injure and traumatize adults, children and infants, severely damage the natural environment, erode civil liberties, and drain our economies, siphoning resources from life-affirming activities. We commit to engage in and support nonviolent efforts to end all war and preparations for war and to create a sustainable and just peace.”

Motion approved by acclamation.

Tom: Motion to endorse www.HkonJ.com

Approved by acclamation.

Tarak: Full Disclosure Toward an Honest Commemoration of the American War in VN, April 26 NYC. (Stay tuned for more on this event.)

March meeting proposed with VFP & POP

Patrick: Lifetime members need quality control, to follow up on lifetime membership commitments.

Mark: Inaccuracies in lists of lifetime and major donors. Doug Zachary has list of LT Members and volunteers.

Gerry: Aspires to LT membership; ED report wish list, capacity needs, staff increases...

Michael: Will adjust budget RE fundraising.

John: Full Disclose campaign: \$382,000 grant application to Catholic Campaign for Human Development; \$3,500 grant application to RESIST.

Michael: Concern RE competing for same funds, VFP and VFP projects.

Patrick: Travel for BoD & ED.

Mark: When are we going to have a contract with UNC Asheville?

Patrick: It would be an absolute disaster if we don't nail down UNCA.

Michael: FUNDRAISING issues deferred to April meeting.

We have an independent accountant plus annual auditor; recommendation RE leased printer; We need a policy limiting ED's ability to obligate VFP for multi-year or expenses above certain level.

Mark: We need to compose Personnel and Bylaws Committees.

Adjourn 12:30pm

Respectfully submitted, John Heuer, secretary

**VFP Board of Directors
February 27, 2014, 7:00pm Conference Call Meeting**

MINUTES

Present: Michael, Barry, Tom, Gerry, Tarak, Willie, Patrick, Margaret, Ken, John, recording

Absent: Mike, Mark, Joey

I. Agenda Review

II. President's Report (submitted prior to the call)

Barry: Why no contract with UNC Asheville?

III. ED Report (submitted prior to the call)

A. ED Search update

B. Office Search update

C. Other items?

Michael: We should have a contract 1st week in March; looking for an alternative to UNCA Banquet, cost prohibitive (\$72/person).

Tom: Possible alternative: banquet in a tent on the quad;

Michael: Reducing banquet cost would still run 62-65\$ at UNCA; Other UNCA costs seem reasonable;

Patrick: Other convention issues?

Tom: Good people working on caravan, post 911 vets; get on the bus; working with Ryan Harvey on an anthem, a variation on "Going to the Country;" possible caravan down I-81 Charlottesville, etc., working on Michael Franti;

Barry: Almost talked to Cornell West.

Tarak: Time for board candidate discussion;

Michael: Matt Southworth coming to Raleigh meeting in April, maybe Ken Mayers too. Kim Carlyle will come Sat AM to talk about War Crimes Times;

What does Matt want to talk about?

Patrick: Fundraising;

Barry: Interested in what Matt has to say; fundraising is key;

Patrick: Propose up to 2 hours for Kim & Matt in Raleigh;

Tarak: Kim & Matt on the agenda, OK time wise?

Michael: What is our schedule in Raleigh?

Patrick: Saturday & Sunday 9:00—5:00, & Monday 9:00—1:00pm.

Michael: Announcement for Doug's replacement to go out tomorrow.

Patrick: Boston St Patrick's Parade: Mayors willing to march with us.

Michael: Board replacement for Doug;

Willie: Mark Runge will stand for board.

Patrick: Encourage candidates to run for 2015—2017.

Patrick: Is Mark an active dues payer?

Willie: Yes, checked with Casey

Patrick: What about April?

Michael: April recently mustered out of military—organizational secretary for 109 Olympia chapter

Barry: How long has April been a member? Other members' opinions?

Willie: We should request a bio.

Michael: Will follow up with interim (replacement) candidates.

Barry: Will talk to Olympia folks RE April.

Patrick: Call up chapter contacts.

Michael: OK with me.

Patrick: Agenda review.

Gerry: Discussion of Authorization to Use Military Force (AUMF).

Barry: Nonviolent Campaign.

IV. Treasurer's Report (Mark submitted his report to the Board prior to the call)

A. Board Fund-raising?

B. Other items?

Michael: \$50K grant from Craigslist Challenge giving to veterans & peace groups; \$145K over past 4-5 years thanks to Paul Cox. Reduce OH costs; Bring Zinn fund into development committee; Ken Barger will have a call with Ken Mayers & Mark Foreman.

Barry: Would like to be part of that call.

Michael: Plan to meet with Nader on April 25 or 28;

Barry: Would like to be involved in discussion with Nader;

Willie: Office move?

Michael: Resolutions Committee: Have contacted Bob Krzewinski chair of Resolutions committee (No response yet); Resolutions: Propose revisions as policy guidelines before convention elections (would not require Bylaws change); "Full" versus "Veteran" members;

Willie: Consolidated Bylaw notes; pretty good shape;

Michael: Boston & Iowa drone events; follow up phone calls & press announcements; working groups: Dave Lattimore, nuclear weapons: Mal Chaddock; Iran WG, Homeless WG, GI rights, Drones, Leah; will write draft response to budget proposal, Bruce Gagnon; GITMO leads – Close Gitmo contact in Obama admin; current & future wars—AUMF

Michael: Calendar to keep focused, UN Days for Human Rights, victims, CO's days; Iraq war twitter & social media, Michael Hoffman or other Iraq vet to write about commemoration; office proposals for program work;

Office move: Pool of people in St Louis will instruct feasibility of office move: Nader offered \$10K to move office to DC; we don't want to end up in DC bubble.

Barry: What is Elliot's view on prospective move to DC?

Michael: We would need to balance DC lobbying with other work

Tarak: Will Michael stay as ED? Unanimous support for Michael to become ED. What would he need to stay on?

Michael: Appreciate expressions of confidence, would like to work for VFP at least thru 2014. Clearly defined process for change; the more our program is defined, the better prepared we'll be for future ED's.

Tom: Move to keep Michael as ED to the end of year. Passed unanimously by acclamation.

Michael: Credo sent prepaid phone card to offer to vets who are hospital patients;

Michael: Appeal letter out today (8 emails, 4 snail mails/year).

Patrick: Financial? ZInn Fund?

Barry: Can we nail down Matt Southworth discussion on fundraising?

V. Newark board mtg. follow-up?

Patrick: Will distill Newark notes and send out.

VI. Strategic Plan?

Nonviolence campaign (CNV)

Barry: 2014 Campaign Nonviolence Sept 21—27 rallies for concrete proposals dovetail with our convention. Plan for integrating VFP in this campaign; move to endorse.

Motion passed unanimously; Barry will sign for VFP.

Michael: We should work on our focus on current & future wars. There are a lot of good campaigns; we need to differentiate our work as VFP.

Barry: Convention could be staging for CNV do you think it would help if board members could be more active?

Barry: We don't want to overload the staff.

Michael: Alignment? Survey campaigns and calendar, remembering, use strategic plan as a filter for proposals;

Patrick: Gitmo example;

Tom: Prioritize and focus;

Patrick: Will distill Newark notes and distribute.

Michael: AUMF, AFSC & FCNL working to repeal AUMF; strategic effort to repeal AUMF & close foreign bases; the reason we have foreign bases is to project power.

Gerry: I share your vision.

Michael: Working with AFSC & FCNL to lobby congress, agitate at key moments; help bring to the public RE repeal AUMF; put our own stamp on this campaign.

Gerry: Great idea, fairly easy to engage. IAWW engaged w/ AUMF repeal effort;

Tarak: This is a very clear issue, will bring large public support;

Patrick: Repeal AUMF unanimous consent;

VII. Important recent and upcoming events

- **Coffeehouse tour 14 cities in 2 ½ weeks; 4 cities done**
- **NY Peace Council 2/22 (get report fro Spring events**
- **Boston: St. Paddy's Day Parade – 3/16**
- **DC: SOAW Spring Actions – 3/30 to 4/1**
- **Raleigh: Board Meeting – 4/11 to 4/14**
- **NYC: Full Disclosure Event – 4/26**
- **CA Regional: 5/2 to 5/4**

Gerry: GI Coffee House Tour going great; 8 cities in 13 days 5 more venues in next 4 days, good fundraising, fantastic experience;

Tarak: March 10 NYC criminal case, pack the courtroom; jury selection starts on March 10 probably run 3-5 days, prospect of soliciting police sympathy, good public sympathy, win-win prospects, no community service or fines, will take jail sentences if convicted.

Patrick: to Michael: Include NYC trial in our email blast;

Michael: Can do!

Gerry: Ann Wright supports GI coffee house tour

Tom: Julian Assange seen wearing VFP T shirt

Michael: Assange or Snowden to join convention by skype?

Gerry: Will ask Ann Wright to recruit, Ray McGovern to ask;

Patrick to Gerry: Make the ask.

Gerry: Will do!

Barry: Ben Griffin gave Julian the T-shirt.

Michael: Prefer Snowden to skype into convention.

Tom: Will help with communications capabilities at UNCA end.

8:41PM Adjourn: Patrick will follow up on Newark notes.

Respectfully submitted,
John Heuer

Minutes from board call of March 18, 2014

Present: Barry, Gerry, John, Mark, Patrick, Ken, Tarak, Willie and Michael

Absent: Joey, Margaret, Mike, Tom,

The board...

- 1. Voted 5 – 3 not to accept Patrick's nomination of April Adams for the board seat vacated by Doug. Patrick declined to put forward another nomination.**
- 2. Approved Michael's request to move forward the Resolutions Procedures process.**
- 3. The board discussed the War Crimes Times and a possible presentation to our April board meeting by Kim Carlyle. The issue was raised that perhaps we need to make sure we have someone who will do it, otherwise Kim's presentation is moot. We designated Michael and Tarak as the ones to move this item forward.**
- 4. The board selected Barry, Gerry, Michael and Patrick as the leadership of a West Coast group to get to the bottom of the Golden Rule issue.**

The board did not discuss the following agenda items

A. Convention report - Still no contract, banquet off campus, BWFJ/Fruit of Labor, no major speaker yet, no decisions yet on plenary workshops or reimbursement of speakers, suggestion of matching grants, working on free and low-cost housing

B. Develop agenda for April Board meeting

- 1. By-laws/Board Policy Changes - prepare to take action in April**
- 2. War at Home, War Abroad with Margaret**
- 3. Conventions (2014 and 2015)**
- 4. Development with Matt?**
- 5. VVAW/OSS?**

C. Work on the Ground - Boston report, April 26th, NoCal regional 5/1

5 Barry presented a brief report on behalf of the Development Committee:

Charlie Clements, a VFP member, Air Force Academy grad, Vietnam Veteran, a physician who served in El Salvador during the Central American conflicts in the mid-80's has accepted a position on the National Advisory Board. He is currently the Executive Director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

6 John reported the following information presented by USAF Col. (ret.) Kimberly Olson during the “Soul Repair Journey—Healing from Moral Injury after War” conference held in Raleigh March 6 & 7.

300,000 women service member tours in Iraq & Afghanistan

157 women killed (the first was a Native American)

Women now make up 15% of active duty service members (the Iraq and Afghanistan wars could not have been conducted without women service members.)

25,000 amputees among returning women service members (including Tammy Duckworth, now a Congresswoman from Illinois who lost both legs when the helicopter she piloted was shot down—she was the only survivor).

Congresswoman Duckworth opposed Obama’s plan to attack Syria. There are now 12 women vets running for Congress.

There are 2.2 million women vets who, on average, have caregiving responsibilities for 6 extended family members.

Women vets are twice as well educated as non-vets, and twice as likely to be unemployed.

78% of homeless women vets are victims of military sexual trauma.

Col. Olson is director of “Grace After Fire,” a Texas based non-profit serving women vets. She is available to participate in the Asheville Convention, although expenses for travel & lodging would run \$1—\$2K.

####

April 12—14 Board Meeting Minutes

Saturday – April 12, Church of Reconciliation, Chapel Hill

Present: Michael McPhearson, Patrick McCann, Gerry Condon, Mike Prysner, Margaret Stevens, Willie Hager, Barry Ladendorf, Tom Palumbo, Mark Foreman, Tarak Kauff, Joey King; Absent: Ken Dalton; Guests: Howie Machtinger, Bill C, John Spitzberg, Gracie Shahroch, Ellen Davidson, Ken Mayers, Roger Ehrlich, Monica Tilhou; John Heuer recording

Reading of the VFP Mission--Joey

- I. Approval of March 18 BoD Minutes**
- II. President's Report, emphasized regional organizing – Patrick; Margaret proposed region specific strategies**
- III. Treasurer's Report--Mark**
- IV. Executive Directors Report –Michael; incl. Strategic Plan**
- V. Development Committee Report/Advisory Board—Barry discussed Nuclear Age Peace Foundation initiative, April 24 launch; Ken M presented Planned Giving Strategy**
- VI. Membership Committee Report--Tarak**
- VII. By-laws/Board Policy Changes – What's the process?**
 - Expansion of board
 - Associate members (approval to replace “full members” with “Veteran members” throughout Bylaws)
 - Two people running for each spot
- VIII. Zinn Fund Proposal – Mark: that a VFP budget line item for the Zinn Fund starting in 2015 (no specific approval was made)**
- IX. Convention Report/s – Patrick, John S., Barry; Margaret proposed a \$25 check-off for Convention registration scholarships (approved) Roger – Campground/Bell Tower**
- X. Full Disclosure Campaign Report—Howie Machtinger**

Sunday, April 13, The Lantern Restaurant, Chapel Hill

- 1. The international situation – Mike P.**
- 2. Strategic Plan –Michael McP**
- 3. War at Home, War Abroad – Margaret (discussion led to preference for “Peace at Home, Peace Abroad)**

Lunch

4. GI Coffeehouse--Gerry
5. Communications
War Crime Times – Michael to call Kim/Tarak: Combine with VFP Newsletter?
Communications Committee—Tom; Committee formed: Tom, Michael, Patrick, Tarak, Gerry, John
6. Golden Rule – Barry L.; Golden Rule Committee formed: Barry, Patrick, Michael, Gerry
7. April 26th in NYC - Tarak
8. VVAW-OSS – Willie
May 1st NoCal regional - Gerry

Sunday - Organization Revisited

9. Finding Board Candidates – Patrick; April Adams approved on a 12-0 (one abstention) vote to fill remainder of seat vacated by Doug R.; current nominations: Joey, John, April, Mark Runge, Ash W. Proposed June 3rd deadline for board nominations, Resolutions and Bylaws amendments; Nominating Committee: Patrick, Willie, Mike, Gerry, Doug Zachary; Proposed “opt-in” online voting. Article III, Section 5: “Restrict or Expel” flagged for revisit by Bylaws Committee for next conference call.
10. Meet w/BWFJ when? – based on their schedule
11. Presentation by Ahmed Selim, producer of FILMS FOR WORLD PEACE
12. 2015 Convention—Barry; proposed dramatic entrance by Golden Rule Ketch into San Diego Harbor; Proposed convention theme: “Peace in the Pacific”; convention site: Town & Country Resort, August 6—10.

Monday 9am – noon, Next Level Veterans Outreach Campus, Hayti Center, Durham

Committees and Working Groups

**VFP Board of Directors
May 19, 2014 7:00pm Conference Call Minutes**

Present: Ken, Gerry, Mark, Mike, Patrick, Michael, Tom, Tarak, Barry, John, Willie; Absent: Joey, Margaret

Agenda Review:

- 1. Michael: Financial Report: We have raised \$159,170 so far this year, and spent \$108,627, \$ 50,543 Black ink, better job this year holding expenses down**
- 2. Motion for board to approve/appoint Doug Rawlings as VFP's 1st Poet Laureate; June 12 book opening in Farmington, ME, second Tarak, unanimous approval.**
- 3. Preliminary discussion of increasing board seat to 15 members.**

Barry:What's the problem to be fixed, or advantage to be gained?

Willie: Second Barry's questions.

Ken: How much would it cost?

Tarak: How many seats are open in January?

Patrick: Currently 4.

Tom: Reason for expansion?

John: How much per Board member travel?

Patrick: National budget: \$25K for travel—\$12K for President & ED, \$13K for BoD members (approx. 1K per member); demographic concerns; not enough hands on deck for BoD responsibilities.

Willie: Expanding BoD might not solve demographic issues

Barry: Recommend better distribution of committee assignments to BoD members and others:

Mark: Excom needs to prioritize for action and fundraising.

3. Convention Report - includes call for someone to take on Awards responsibility and discussion of \$\$ to bring post 9-11 vets to convention

Patrick: 9 weeks away, calling every panel participant. Working to merge workshops. \$8.3K pledges for convention books; July 6 deadline for handbook. John McKutcheon concert is scheduled for Friday, Rebel Diaz concert still in negotiation.;

Tarak: Letter of invitation to GWOT vets (attached as Amendment 1)

Barry: Ben Griffin + 2 GWOT vets coming from UK; it would be good to cover their room costs; 6 young vets from San Diego might need assistance.

Tarak: Who approves travel assistance for GWOT vets?

Patrick: Don't need to go thru formal application process; limit \$500 per person for assistance; most GWOT vets local to southeast

Michael: applicants should go through process; post convention analysis requires documentation; how much will it cost us?

Barry: Agree with Michael; can't play favorites; \$500 cut-off reasonable; recommend carpool for travel;

Mark: Agree with Michael & Barry RE record keeping. Who is going to do the analysis of need?

Tarak: Agree with Barry & Michael, but put it in detail, sent to board; preference to VFP members; students & unemployed; those without means; those underrepresented groups; \$500 a lot for any one person; membership committee prepared to evaluate applications

Mark: Designated time frame? (Tarak: June 30)

Tarak: Longer we wait the higher the airfares

Tom: Charlotte 125 miles from Asheville, airfare cheaper to C'lotte; need shuttle to A'ville

Mark: Funds for travel only?

Tarak: Roger's farm free housing

Patrick: Fair number of homestay opportunities; June 30 too late to tell people we can help with travel

Tarak: Need to know what funds are available for assisting GWOT vets; motion that VFP establish \$5K for separate funds for GWOT vets' travel to convention.

Willie: permanent allocation?

John: 2nd Tarak's motion

Patrick: Raise money for scholarship roll over for next year's convention fund.

Patrick: Encourage book ads and T-shirts, turning \$6 to \$10K

Tarak: We're on raising \$\$; important that national make a conscious investment;

Michael: General agreement on \$5K; but as of now it's unfunded, where do we take it from?

(Discussion)

Tarak: This is a campaign; \$5K start-up from national

Willie: How do we measure success?

Tarak: Numbers, quality; solid caucus; strong commitment from some GWOT vets.

Barry: Call for motion

Tarak: establish \$5K for GWOT Travel fund with rollover to 2015

Motion passed 5—0, with 4 abstentions (see subsequent email exchanges).

Tom: Monica's pins are selling for campground expenses.

4. Continuing discussion of broadening demographic of VFP board (and membership)

Patrick: Outreach to under-represented demographics: veterans of color, women, young vets and poor:

Mark: Will be in minutes to re-evaluate Tarak's motion?

(Note from John Yes!)

Patrick: seek out younger vets, women, people of color to ask for names.

Michael: Board culture; defensive reaction;. We need a policy and a plan; What does "criteria" mean?

John: NC Moral Mondays seems "post racial"; Brian Grimm's documentary film: Racial Taboo addresses our hidden history of racial oppression.

Mark: Can we get a facilitator to conduct a conversation following a screening of Racial Taboo?

Patrick: Maybe Margaret could do this, before she leaves the board

Adjourn, 8:30pm

VFP Board of Directors
6.23.14 Conference Call
Meeting Minutes

Present on call: Joey, John, Michael, Patrick, Ken, Mark, Barry, Margaret, Tarak
Absent: Gerry, April, Mike, Tom, Wille

Barry: New members of the VFP Advisory Board: Daniel Ellsberg, Ann Wright, Jackson Browne, Dalia Wasfi

A. Agenda Review

Joey: Golden Rule update?

Michael: We are not prepared to handle the issue during the convention.

Patrick: We should check with Skip Oliver

Barry: VFP to support indiegogo funding campaign; \$40—50K needed to float; anticipate being in water in time for SD convention; we need a position. We need to decide our next steps.

Patrick: We need a common response to questions about the Golden Rule.

Barry: We have some responsibility; need to determine scope. We need trained crew, Coast Guard inspection, policy manual; legal clarification.

Patrick: Do we need legal representation?

Barry: Yes. Need to raise funds for maintenance and program.

Joey: Is the alternative to spin it off?

Barry: We need someone familiar with maritime law. VFP has adopted this project, but face a wide range of potential lawsuits.

Mark: We need to form a committee for a presentation to the convention.

Barry: Propose a committee with BL, Joey and Mark (perhaps others) to consult with Skip Oliver. Mark will take the lead. Add Michael & Patrick.

B. Convention report/Call for fund-raising

Patrick: Convention Report (see Patrick's convention update under separate cover)

Tarak: 30+ 9/11 vets signed up.

Patrick : Another week to finalize ads, then push for 9/11 fund

Tarak: We're down to about \$1K from allocated funds for 9/11 vets

Patrick: Focusing now on handbook/schedule publication. Book Doug Rawlings, Poet Emeritus, Doug will donate 60% of book sales to VFP, and will speak at President's reception;

Tarak: Need a room for one or two nights for Klee Benally.

Patrick: Will share lists of reimbursements; west coast arrivals, Patrick will be responsible for coordinating travel from Charlotte & Greenville.

Tarak: Charlotte to Asheville shuttle costs \$85.

Patrick: Award nomination form on website

Tarak: Kim Carlyle deserves an award. Tarak will submit a nomination.

Patrick: Will provide convention update, including bylaws submission.

Michael: Will talk to Shelly about registering for a dorm room for Tuesday night. 3363 membership, uptick for last 3 months; outcome for year, decrease 416 members over the last year. (need report)

C. Review of Iraq War and VA work

Patrick: Six major media; actions in SD, LA, DC, NY, Madison, Albany.

Ken: Event in Teaneck, NJ

Mark: 2 events in WI

Patrick: Coordinated events in multiple cities.

Michael: Quick response RE VA and Iraq; good coordination with IVAW & MFSO; issues remain, staff out of practice with national press conferences; 7 or 8 months of news releases has prepped the media to look to VFP for perspective; still need follow-up to connect issues in consultation with VFP and allies; not just VFP mission.

Mark: Do we have enough staff and time to spread our media initiatives?

Michael: We can do better internally; Amplify our voices with major events.

Michael: Bracket 9/11 to challenge narrative to examine what happened and our response.

Patrick: Full Disclosure comparable to media narrative on Iraq

D. Announcement of Personnel committee (call for volunteers?)

Patrick: Mark volunteered to chair committee

Mark: Today sent notice to staff to provide greater voice to the board; any other questions from staff to the personnel committee?

Michael: Staff would prefer to wait until after the convention. Board needs to remember that the ED manages the staff, including recommendations on raises. Board should maintain oversight of ED's staff evaluations.

Joey: Bill Collins chaired Personnel Committee previously. Screened applications resulted in hiring Dennis Lane and Mike Reid.

Mark: Will pick up after the convention.

Patrick: Who wants to be on the committee? Mark, Gerry and PM.

E. Board Nominees (have only 5 for 4 spots; s/b at least 8)

Patrick: We have 5 nominees for 4 openings; April, Joey, John, Mark Runge, Ash Wolfsin

F. October and January meetings (suggesting MLK weekend in Miami in Jan.)

San Diego: October 24, 25, 26, 27; free conference room and \$79 room rates. Construction scheduled, uncertain dates. Barry will follow up.

Patrick: Miami: January MLK weekend

Tarak: When was the last LA meeting?

Joey: 4 ½ years ago.

Patrick: Can we agree on 2 ½ day meeting?

Consensus: Yes

Barry: St Louis?

Patrick: 3 candidates for January meeting: Miami, LA, St L.

Mark: Looking at the expense of 4 or 5 nights lodging

Barry: Advantage of extended meeting time provides opportunity for committee work

Patrick: Committee follow-up necessary.

Adjourn at 8:27pm

Respectfully submitted by John Heuer

Convention revenue as of 6.23 (from Shelly)

	(\$)	Number
Full Registration	7,800	39
Reduced Registration	4,500	45
Banquet Only	165	3
2-day Registration	225	3
Advertisements	7,375	
Tabling	1,075	
General Convention Donation Funds	1,940	
Post 9-11 Donation Funds	3,280	
Dorm Registrations	15,578	

VFP Board of Directors Meeting, Wednesday, July 23, 2014

University of North Carolina Asheville

Comments: Mark, Joey, Gerry

Present: Patrick McCann, President, Michael McPhearson, Executive director, Barry Ladendorf, John Heuer, Secretary, Tarak Kauff, April Adams, Willie Hager, Tom Palumbo, Ken Dalton, Gerry Condon, Vice President, Mike Prysner, Mark Foreman, Treasurer, Joey King; **Absent:** Margaret Stevens

Guests: Doug Zachary, Ed Sacco, Virginia Druhe, Michael Sullivan, Ellen Davidson, John Spitzberg, Russell Johnson, Richard Finn, Alice Ritter (Tuscon), Patrick Dougherty, Eric Bender, Doug Ryder, Jason Hurd, Monique Salhad, Hart Viges, Nate Goldschlag, Charles Powell, Tom Searcy, Chuck Searcy, Ron Hawthorne, Casey Steinmetz, Suel Jones, Paul Cox, Dan Shea, Howie Machtinger

Agenda Review - morning

9:12am **Read Statement of Purpose—Patrick**

John S: Ask indulgence for grievance hearing;

Barry: propose executive session to review grievance; Mark second

Willie: propose open discussion of grievance;

Patrick: propose conducting investigation of grievance

John S: cites Roberts Rules to advocate executive session

Gerry: Already had a lot of discussion;

Joey: call the vote

Patrick: 7 vote up; 2 vote down; 3 abstention for calling Executive Session [deferred until later in the meeting].

Barry: Propose Howard Zinn chair within Advisory Board.

Michael: (See ED Report) Discuss office move in St Louis due to current building being sold.

Barry: Space need?

Virginia: current 1,800 sf, optimum 1,200 sf.

Mark: Issue of chapter dues v national dues.

Patrick: if members only pay chapter dues they are not VFP members.

Ken: Do we still get chapter member reports?

Virginia: Yes: let me know if you aren't receiving them.

Mark: Have we identified source for Zinn Fund?

Michael: No

Mark: 2 options: Target Budget line item or % of any annual budget surplus.

Tom: Follow up with Ben & Jerry's? [following denial of grant request]

Michael: Not yet

Barry: Do we have sufficient staff for our mission?

Michael: We need more staff.

Barry: Do we know our specific staff needs?

Michael: Not yet; however looking for greater use of internships.

Patrick: Aren't we working with less staff than prior years?

Michael: We have lost one position in recent years.

Patrick: Will announce closure of BoD nominations at beginning of Saturday business meeting. Encourage 3 more nominees to meet our target of 2 candidates per open positions. Affirmative action in recruiting particularly women, people of color and young vets.

Michael: Distribution of Policy & Procedures revised January 2013. Propose outside facilitation for discussion of race & gender issues within BoD during next meeting.

Gerry: appreciation for ED report; intro for Russell Johnson

Mark: (See Treasurer's Report)

Tarak: Appreciation for Mark's efforts

Joey: Question about special projects

Michael: Provide status of special projects

Barry: Cites policy RE special project reports

Mark: propose policy change from quarterly reports to biennial reports:

Joey: Motion: "The board may request additional reports as it deems appropriate."

Passed unanimously.

Barry: Who is responsible for updating policy book?

Patrick: preview policy book & make recommendations during October meeting.

Barry (See Development Committee Report) Focus on Advisory Board: about 17 have agreed to serve, including Andrew Bacevitch, and Jeremy Scahill; special thanks to Joey, Tarak, Ken Mayers, Doug Rawlings & others to recruit prospective Advisory Board members; Matt Damon recruited for new honorary Howard Zinn chair.

Willie: Who are Advisory Board members responsible to?

Barry: Members serve on honorary basis.

Mark: Can we request AB members to a speaker's bureau?

Barry: Yes.

Tom: Affirmative recruiting?

Barry: Yes: will follow up with Marian Wright Edelman

Gerry: 75% of Vietnam era vets are still living

Patrick: Focus on Planned Giving & recurring contributors

Doug Z: RE Major donors require personal relationships.

Richard Finn, Palm Springs, CA, musician interested in traveling & fund raising: Would like to run for Board

Tarak: Barry, Ben, Casey, Doug Z, Ellen Davidson, Gene Marx (See Membership Committee Report) will be contacting local chapters to attract new members with script and brochures, focusing on young vets; evaluate post convention RE outreach to young vets; campus outreach. Desert Storm vets included.

John S: Recommend board consider identifying people to work with local chapter issues, dispute mediation, etc.

Ken: Recommend changing address to PO Box prior to office move.

Michael: Will do.

Barry: Recommend executive session for discussion of discipline for list serve abuse.

Willie: Cautions against excessive secrecy. [Clarification: Executive Session refers to entire board meeting in private, not to the Executive Committee.]

Patrick: Abolish War Program [closing plenary]: David Swanson, Leah Bolger, Black Workers for Justice, Miles Megaciph, April Adams, Christmas Truce, VFP Chorus, Sam Winstead, need Emcee.

John S: 8:30 breakfast; walk to City Hall; vans back to campus

Patrick: Swanson suggests Q&A during closing

(After lunch break)

Willie: BYLAWS change 1, 2 & 3 [insert proposed Bylaw amendments]

Concerning changing director nomination processes, tabled until October meeting.

Bylaw change 4

Patrick: oppose

Joey: endorse

Mike: oppose

Tarak: oppose

Ken: endorse

Barry: endorse

Call for vote 6 up; 6 down

Michael: Recommends full discussion of proposed changes

Chapter 14 change #1

Unanimous opposition

Change # 6

Patrick withdrew amendment to increase BoD from 13 to 15 members.

Change #7

Direct election of VFP officers by membership

John S: (author) "increase democratic process"

Tarak: opposed

Joey: opposed

Ken: opposed

Wille: endorse

Near unanimous rejection of change

Change #8 Associate member eligibility for board

Joey: Language unclear.

Michael: Who objects to the spirit of including associate members on the BoD? No one objected.

Barry: Motion to table passes 7—4—1

RESOLUTIONS

Barry: Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Article 6: Nuclear Age Peace Foundation supported Republic of Marshall Islands lawsuit against nuclear powers.

Unanimous endorsement

Gerry: Resolution in support of Chelsea Manning.

Unanimous endorsement

Gerry: Resolution against US intervention

Table to Saturday BoD meeting

Thomas Paine Recognition and Annual Celebration/Observance

Unanimous endorsement of corrected Resolution

VFP Memorial; David Weiss, Chapter 45; To provide VFP flag and framed Mission Statement on occasions of memorial services for deceased members.

Joey: Fund raising opportunities

Patrick: opposed, too much work for national, too much cost

Virginia: Could be furnished "Upon request"

Gerry: Ken Mayers could combine with planned giving

Paul Cox: Would need quick turn around

Ken: endorses Patrick's opposition

Tarak: Like the spirit, Chapter responsible for implementation

Call the vote: One in favor; 9 opposed, 2 abstentions

John S. Medical MJ

Unanimous endorsement

John S: Restino Resolution on Impeachment

Mike P articulates reasons to oppose resolution.

Tarak: Can we resolve to rescind 2011 resolution? [narrowly passed res. to call for impeachment of Obama at Portland, OR Convention]

Ken: motion to reject; Joey 2nd

Unanimous rejection

Gerry: Palestine Resolution

Tarak: propose substitute "encourages its members" for "Pledges"

Michael: Does this Resolution favor one Palestinian group over another?

Gerry: Can we modify Resolution?

Tarak: read cease-fire proposal, proposed adding to Resolution

Barry: separate current siege statement from Resolution

Joey: Resolution as stated is too specific

Gerry: remove red language and other objectionable language & replace with board statement; propose taking original Resolution minus statement about unified Palestinian government.

Wille: Haven't we already done this?

Gerry: Table until Saturday; will work on language

Gerry: End US interventionism

Barry: delete Pieces & peace

Mike motion to approve, Tarak second

Approved 11—0—1 [with further discussion]

Trillions dollars, countless thousands deaths

Wipe out 5th whereas

Barry: October 24-26 meeting in San Diego

Patrick: options for January mtg. Miami, LA,

Tentative LA BoD meeting last week of January

Richard Finn, "we can and we must heal both sides" [reference unclear]

Gerry: move to endorse Aug 2 DC mobilization on Gaza; John 2nd

11—0—1 abstain

Dan: Support BDS {Boycott, Divest, Sanction Israel}

Chuck Searcy, VP Hoa Binh Chapter and international consultant to Project RENEW

(UXO in Vietnam): US AID is offering \$21 million to non-profit organization(s) working on UXO and Agent Orange remediation in Vietnam.

Question: Would VFP consider acting as fiscal agent for this grant? Discussion tabled to October BoD meeting.

Adjourn to Executive Session

Saturday, July 26, 8:00am

Gerry: MFSO Resolution on Iraq

Decline for tardiness, lack of time to review

Gerry: Statement Calling to End US military interventions

Approved

Gerry: Statement on US/Israel

Approved (Joey abstains)

Gerry: Statement against assault on Gaza

Approved (Joey abstains)

Adjourn 8:45am

Respectfully submitted,

John Heuer

VFP Business Meeting Saturday, July 26, 2014

University of North Carolina Asheville

Patrick: Call to order, 8:35am

Agenda Review

Joey: Statement of purpose

34 members present at 9:15; all board members present except Margaret

Board intros [we intended staff intros, but that didn't happen.]

Patrick: Art 14: Bylaw Amendment Proposals

Change #1; Minimum 12 month VFP Membership before eligibility to join BoD;
no board recommendation

Ken: author of proposal

Nate Goldschlag, CON; appointed person could be more known to the board.

Leah Bolger: PRO; Demonstrate devotion to VFP for a year

Mike P: CON; too restrictive

Barry Reisch: ditto to Leah

VOTE

PRO 25

Con 24

Abstain 5

Amendment proposal straw vote defeated; Approval requires 2/3 AYE vote

Change #2; Require BoD & staff to act on VFP Resolutions

Board recommendation: unanimous opposition

Bill Warrick: author: resolutions have no teeth

Nate Goldschlag: CON

Phil Restino Chapter 136: PRO if something is passed it should be acted on.

Ken Mayers NM: CON The board bears a heavy burden & must exercise judgment

Ron Saeger, ND: PRO

Michael McPhearson: CON

VOTE

PRO 8

CON 45

Abstain 6

Amendment proposal fails straw vote.

Change #3—Associate member eligibility for BoD service

John Spitzberg, author: recommend table motion

VOTE

PRO 51, CON 3, Abstain 6

Amendment proposal tabled for future discussion

Change #4; Direct Elections of VFP Officers

John Spitzberg—author

Nate Goldschlag CON

Leah Bolger PRO & CON

Phil Restino: PRO

VOTE

PRO 3

Con 50

Abstain 6

Amendment proposal fails straw vote.

Vicki Ryder: Urges use of peaceful language during discussion & debate.

Bill Gilson NYC 034, Announces Sept 21 climate day & IDOP:

peoplesclimatemarch.org

Tarak: VFP BoD has endorsed Sept 21 event/campaign.

Jason Hurd: Regenerative farming & gardening workshop offering \$200 discount.

George Mac: Christmas Truce

Gerry: Statement on Gaza.

Tarak: Letter to Israeli Embassy

Ben Griffin: Discourage sanctions as acts of war.

Leah: already on record, Palestine/Middleeast work group consulted?

Gerry: yes

Steve Senswee (sp?) central PA: statement could be more comprehensive

Barry: VFP should not condone killing of Israeli children.

Michael Kramer 21 NJ: include Israeli CO's and distribute widely.

Jim Krichener, Rochester: remember the 1967 Israeli attack on the USS Liberty.

Dan Shea, 72 Portland Oregon: Israeli divestment campaign similar to ANC
campaign that brought down South
African Apartheid regime.

Ken Mayers: move that statement be presented

VOTE

CON 1

Abstain 2

PRO 56

VFP statement on Gaza approved

Mike P: Aug 2 mobilization in DC on Gaza

RESOLUTIONS

1 John S: Jay Wenk—Tom Paine January 29, 1737

Unanimous board approval (Feb 9th)

Non-aristocrat

VOTE

Approved by acclamation

[Need clarification on anniversary date.]

#2 End of life kit

Board approved unanimously with amendment

“upon request and at the expense of the local chapter”

Joey: Agreed to be BoD contact with Mr. Wise (resolution author) & staff

Ellen Barfield 105 Baltimore: CON; should not wordsmith, good idea, but not ready yet.

VOTE

PRO 56

CON 4

Abstain 6

Straw vote on resolution passes.

#3 Medical MJ

Tom Palumbo, author:

Unanimous approval of board

Unanimous consent of members

Straw vote passes.

Board of Director Candidate Nomination Speeches

April Adams, Rachel Corrie Chapter, Olympia, WA

Richard Finn, Palm Springs, CA

John Heuer, Eisenhower Chapter, 157, Chapel Hill, NC

John Ivens, Iowa

Kourtney Mitchell, Buford, Georgia

Joey King, Chapter 89, Nashville, TN

Willie speaks for Mark Runge, Tampa, FL

Monique Salhab, Albuquerque, NM

Michael Sullivan, Boston, Smedley Brigade
(Ash Woolsin) withdrew nomination

RESOLUTIONS (continued)

#4 Statement on Israel/Palestine

Board vote 11-0-1 for approval

Leah Bolger, CON or amendment

Mike Prysner: PRO; reads 10 year 10 point ceasefire proposal

Nate "call the question"

VOTE

33 PRO

33 CON

Vote to close discussion fails.

Will Thomas: we need a parliamentarian

Patrick: agreed

Barry: What US law is Israel breaking

Ellen Barfield: arms control export act

Bill Perry: PRO

Michael Kramer: PRO

VOTE

62 PRO

1 CON

9 abstain

Resolution straw vote passes.

#5 Promotion of 2011 Resolution to impeach President Obama

Board unanimously opposed

Phil Restino, author

Charles Powell, CON

Barbara Scott, PRO

Geoff Millard, CON

POI David Wiley, San Diego/Asheville, resolutions are non-binding

Call the question

VOTE

7 PRO

62 CON

9 abstain

Resolution straw vote fails.

#6

Barry: Support for Republic of Marshall Islands lawsuit against nuclear powers

Unanimous board approval

Unanimous members consent

Resolution straw vote passes.

#7

Gerry: End disastrous US interventionist policies

Unanimous board approval

Unanimous member consent

Resolution straw vote passes.

Barbara Scott: appeal for redress for excluded Bylaw amendment proposals

Willie: We tried to contact you to re-submit proposals in required format.

Michael: I personally tried to call you for advice on re-submission.

Patrick: Invitation to Barbara to resubmit proposals in 2015.

Barry Reisch: give me names of members who have passed for recognition during the banquet.

Bill Gilson, NYC Sept 21 people's climate march

Bill Warrick: SB 2277 US make Ukraine an ally status

Mark Foreman 102 Milwaukee, Buzz Davis on don't privatize VA

Mike Prysner: it's already happening.

Michael: ED Report

Leah, office move? Interim status?

Michael: Office move study underway in St Louis; will stay on as acting ED at least through January, will not leave VFP in the lurch.

Mark is new chair of personnel committee

Nate: Concern about 12% membership drop

Bill Gilson: Honorary memberships

Michael: Need to make sure those nominated for honorary memberships are willing to accept them.

Tupper 166 Knoxville; can't find VFP in Charity Navigator

Michael: We're working on that, although VFP is not typical charity.

Tarak: See new membership brochure

Mark: Treasurer's report

Adjourn 3:15pm

Respectfully submitted,

John Heuer, Secretary

August 4 2014 VFP Board Meeting, 6:00pm EDT Conference Call

Comments:

Barry: Vote was 7-1-1; loan terms are 6 month with possibility of renegotiation for longer term (8.5)

Present on call: Michael, Joey, John, Gerry, Tarak, Barry, Willie, Mark, Ken, Tom

Absent: Patrick, Margaret, Mike P, April

1. **Agenda Review;** Barry: focus on convention evaluation while it's a fresh;

Motion to approve Veterans For INNER Peace Work Group, 2nd, approved by acclamation

2. **Convention evaluation** [Gerry chairing meeting in Patrick's absence]

- **Quick summation (strengths and weaknesses)**

John: Black Workers For Justice sent "BIG thanks;" we need to follow up w/ photos & video;

Tarak: pleased w/ convention; liked the venue; a lot of work on the part of host chapter; encouraged w/ young vets participation and their appreciation for our efforts to get them there; recommend more diversity if we hold another public concert;

Joey: Too much walking for some; John S: helpful to have more clear delineations between local & national;

Gerry: heard the same issue RE local v national roles & responsibilities; A lot of praise for the convention; possibly transformative in bringing 1st Nations, young

vets, BWFJ; huge victory considering achieving our objectives going into the convention; a lot of details warrant our attention;

Michael: Convention went well despite lack of communication between national & local; regular calls essential;

Willie: develop a “how to” packet for convention planning; workshops are the meat of the convention; pare down to a more reasonable number; match workshops with VFP mission & agenda;

Gerry: 10 simultaneous workshops are too many;

Michael: we already have a convention template; we still need to talk to each other (local & national);

Gerry: Veterans For INNER Peace could make a big difference next year;

Barry: Our convention planning template needs a lot of work; revisit workshop schedule (repeat popular workshops); look at Chapter 099 report; great feedback from young vets in San Diego.

- **Identify areas of convention-related follow-up/responsibility;**

John: follow: up on press filings, photos & video posting;

Michael: working to get video from Jeff Keating; John Penley posted his photos to FB, Shelly working to post those to our site; will take some time; BoD elections, resolutions, Bylaws, etc.; not sure of quality of audio taken during business meeting;

Barry: No. of Registrants?

Michael: 337 registered; Concert raised about \$500; overall, have not received final bill from UNCA; estimating a break even, possible small loss ~ \$4,000;

Willie: No. of post 9/11 participants?

Tarak: 40-50 post 9/11 attendees.

Willie: any IVAW signed up for VFP?

Michael: will include in next report;

Gerry: young vets thanked us for our encouragement and help in participation; a lot of enthusiasm; need to follow up with young vets;

Michael: 46 post 9/11 vets actually registered;

Mark: process question: How was financial support determined?

Tarak: individual need; everyone got help but also contributed individually, some willing to camp, some needed rooms;

Michael: Post 9/11 caucus, tossed some attendees; really good caucus, strong opinions about what to call themselves in regard to relationship to VFP; IVAW preparing their convention; what do we do in the next year? Where do we want to go next? Our recruitment of 9/11 was a success, but needs follow up;

Tarak: 4 younger vets running for board (actually 7) huge! Maggie et al consumed with their own convention; Ben Griffin & Mike Prysner also key.

Joey: Who's leading the IVAW caucus?

Michael: Maggie & co. coordinating;

Willie: will participate in IVAW Denver Convention this weekend; Prysner, too;

- **Procedures for evaluating conventions, keeping records;**

Gerry: form committee to carry on detailed evaluation for planning SD convention?

Barry: was our template followed, ignored?

Willie: volunteer to serve on evaluation committee;

Barry: digest Chapter 099 Convention Evaluation;

Tarak: recommend put on hold for now;

Michael: evaluation in his bailiwick;

Barry: wait for Michael's report; discuss in SD;

Gerry: forward recommendations to Michael.

3. **Financial Report/Discussion ;**

Mark: not sure what expectation is; gets financial info from Virginia middle of the month; recent \$88K bequest; Caution; lack of long term strategy for spending; excom should bring issues to the board, what we mean to accomplish with a long term plan; full disclosure? Pah-Pa initiative? We need a plan.

Michael: 265K cash + 88K, keep a reserve; bequest money is unpredictable; Michael will draw a prospective future financial plan;

Barry: Bequests are notices of intentions, not money in hand; how do we respond with acknowledgement; follow-up with bequest offers.

Mark: difference between bequest and letter of intent; Ken's advice that we can expect more bequests from our aging membership;

Willie: Seed projects and encourage them to become self-funding;

John: Motion to review staff compensation: (second, but motion deferred with Michael's statement of intent to include staff compensation in 2015 budget proposal)

4. **\$10K Loan to IVAW;**

Willie: is the repayment schedule realistic?

Barry: this is IVAW's proposal;

Joey: took a lot of time to negotiate repayment of previous loan;

Tom: support IVAW, nurture IVAW go from there;

Michael: 1 year might work for IVAW, but they have offered a 6 month repayment; we should help them because we're family; the right thing to do;

Gerry: motion to grant the loan with option for 6 or 12 repayment, John 2nd;

Barry: see promissory note; Accept IVAW terms;

Gerry: accept as friendly amendment;

Tarak: Did it take IVAW over a year to repay \$50K loan? In favor of loan; a grievous mistake to deny this loan;

Mark: disagree;

John: call the question

Roll call

Gerry: Aye

Mark: No

John Aye

Willie: aye

Tom: Aye

Joey: Aye

Barry: Aye

Tarak: aye

Ken: abstain

7 Aye's, zero No's, \$10K loan to IVAW passes with friendly amendment, 6 or 12 month repayment schedule.

5. Gaza – developments there and here

Tarak: 4 vets speaking at DC rally on 8/2, Ann, Ray, Mike & Tarak speaking to 15K, great participation, stay in touch with protests, thanks to Will Thomas; Willie: Rally in Jacksonville, marched on Congressional office, props to VFP for organizing the march & good diversity, future prospects, 4 new VFP sign ups; Gerry: put together a report & figure out next steps, initiatives & support Israeli refuseniks;

Barry: great “no war” banners;

Tarak: Washpo covered the protest (middle pages) Cornell West (advisory Board) “put me on”

Barry: contact for CW”

Tarak: email for CW;

Gerry: call for 6:00 EDT call on Aug 18;

Adjourn 7:43

The following agenda items tabled:

6. Fall – External

(PAH/PA, First Nations, Sept. 21 Climate March /Int'l. Peace Day, VA, Full Disclosure, Christmas Truce, Shut-down Gitmo, etc.)

a. “War is Ecocide” contingent on Sept. 21st?

b. Gaza Mobilizations

7. Fall –Internal (Key Foci and Tasks)

a. Developing protocols (list serves, e-mail exchanges, fund-raising/fund-keeping, etc.

- b. Voting process for by-laws and resolutions, and nominations and elections to the Board of Directors.

Respectfully submitted, John Heuer, Secretary

September 15, 2014 VFP Board Meeting, 7:00pm EDT Conference Call

Minutes

Post call Comments:

Willie:

Basically my comments were to make the point that I had painstakingly researched all things USAID in a scholarly fashion, as it applies to this project. I have discovered language that insures that USAID has modified their criteria and prerequisites - I think I recall, in 2001. It also clearly states that USAID no longer had provisions regarding requirements for contracted interaction with USAID, or any other agency, outside the purview of the project administrator, who is the sole determinant regarding all matters pertaining to personnel and contractors. The only requirement being maintenance of proper reporting in accordance with governmental oversight of funds usage, to assure they are being used for what they were requested for. A general practice with all governmental funding agencies, and I might add; banks, credit unions, and trusts, when it comes to business or venture investments. A business plan.

So, my comments were to the effect that I trusted that folks would stick to the facts, and put ideology and rhetorical thinking aside on this game changing step-up for VFP matter, and the relief that it can bring the Vietnamese people that live out in the provinces; and that anyone who had any hard evidence, such as a USAID directive on the topic rather than speculation, needed to send it to us attached for our committee review. Objective evidence being documented and supported evidence that VFP would or could somehow compromise it's principles or it's current practices by moving forward and supporting this project, for all of the right (well documented) reasons. And lastly to say, that there is no requirement to "open" VFP books to USAID; only that VFP provide a copy of the results of annual internal audit, which would certify that they manage their money properly and in keeping with current standards of exchange. If we are not currently doing one annually, given the increasing amounts of revenue coming our way, we should be. Or, something to that effect :-)...

Present on call: Patrick, Michael, April, Margaret, John, Gerry, Tarak, Barry, Willie, Mark, Ken, Tom

Absent: Joey, Mike P

1. **Agenda Review**
2. **Review & Approval of previous meeting minutes -- Unanimous approval**

3. ED Report - list serve protocols, convention review, update on Ferguson campaign, ballot preparation;

Michael: Do we want to post the minutes on line?

Gerry: What is our requirement? Warrants consideration.

Patrick: We will discuss protocols in October.

Michael: Google groups not easy to find. When we meet in October he'll show us how to post and navigate.

Willie: Google drive or google docs?

Michael: Migrating to google drive; easier to navigate;

See ED Report

Mark: What notice will we get before having to move office?

Michael: 4—6 months.

Note to board: I missed the context & details of this segment. Please provide those if you can. -- JH

Patrick: We're looking at listserv protocols

Tarak: Who is interested

Gerry: He's out of Tuscon; Oct 7 & 22?

Michael: Yes.

Patrick: Hands Up Coalition in DC; Codepink hosting potluck event.

Michael: StL leading the Ferguson effort; Shelly looking into final convention bills from UNCA.

Patrick: Make sure we get candidates' responses returned.

4. Financial Report summary --See ED Report

Tarak: Need new creative ways to get the word out about VFP.

Gerry: Need advertising budget (\$10K?)

Barry: We grew well after 2003 without an ad budget. IVAW recruitment; decent response from online advertising.

Patrick: Causes for dropping memberships? Cultural questions...

Michael: Need to map out reasons for non-renewals.

Barry: Resuming war on Iraq should be fertile territory if we can get the word out.

Mark: Zinn Fund, procedures for funding?

Michael: Excom will make recommendation;

Barry: Do we need a regular presence in DC?

Michael: Yes.

5. *Other Reports

Patrick: Does Nader's offer to support VFP move to DC still stand?

Barry: Maybe he's still interested.

Patrick: San Diego meeting logistics:

Barry: Need flight info; preview convention venue & process, probable Saturday morning tour of venue; confirm travel & lodging preference; David Kreiger, NAPF possible convention speaker.

Patrick: Aug 5—9 convention date; 70th anniversary Hiroshima & Nagaasaki, 30th anniversary VFP; Patrick wants to be on convention cmte; SD meeting Fri—Sun, Oct 24—26; Schedule tour for Friday am?

Barry: Recommend Saturday tour but flexible.

Patrick: Send travel info & room (single or double) preference to Barry. VFP will reimburse for half a double room.

Barry: Development cmte; focusing on Advisory Board;

Patrick: When to announce?

Barry: Request photo & bio; proposed Veterans Day roll-out

Patrick: End discussion.

Barry: Call the vote on Advisory Board recommendations: Entire list approved by acclamation.

Golden Rule: Ann Wright a booster, potential for boosting VFP, insurance not an issue, crew members from as far as Germany volunteering; \$20—30K short of finish line (see GR Report) opportunity to raise our profile;

Patrick: Call the vote: approved by acclamation

Tarak: Sept. 21; 77th St & Central Park West gathering point; VFP is in front of Peace & Justice component to march with blimp, Margaret in front with banner; climate convergence at 80th Street, Tarak will speak there.

Patrick: will send further details;

Patrick: SOAW, Nov. 21--23 recommend Camilo to speak for VFP; working on Atlanta to Columbus carpool; Encourage VFP members to participate.

Mark: Project RENEW (see report) MOU just received.

Gerry: We need to make a careful consideration of an association with US AID

Mark: RENEW cmte will make a recommendation to the board; Mark, Gerry, Willie, John, Patrick.

Patrick: These guys need to answer our questions; can Paul Cox come to SD?

Barry: conference call?

Patrick: better in person;

Barry: We are planning to have conference call capability in SD.

Mark: Personnel cmte: questionnaire to staff, in person interview with each staff member.

Patrick: Michel Patrick, Gerry, Mark (chair)

January meeting in LA, April in StL

Committee Reports due a week before SD.

Gerry: More on Ferguson?

Michael: will send out call info Oct 10—13

Gerry: Is VFP providing national representation?

Michael: yes, we got good visibility so far, featuring PAH-PA campaign.

Patrick: Centerpiece effort & visibility to a new crew.

Barry: Good news from Tarak? (Tarak had already left the call.)

Motion to adjourn 8:56

*** Active committees include - Membership & Chapter Development,
Communications, Development, Personnel,
(Awards, Bylaws, Convention, Newsletter, Nominations, Program &
National Projects, and Resolutions)**

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Respectfully submitted, John Heuer, Secretary

2014 October 24-26 Board Meeting; San Diego, Town & Country Resort
Friday 10am – 5pm,
Minutes

Present: Patrick, Tom, April, Willie, Ken, Mark, Margaret, Gerry, Michael, Barry, Tarak, John

Absent: Mike, Joey

BOARD ACTIONS

MOTION: Patrick: VFP will not associate itself with any contracts associated with USAID; APPROVED

MOTION: Patrick: VFP supports the valuable work of Project RENEW with fiscal sponsorship with mutually acceptable, project specific MOU. (paraphrase) TABLED

MOTION: Barry: 30 day review/comment/approval/posting of minutes; friendly amendment: substitute “next VFP Board meeting” for “30 day...” APPROVED

MOTION: Joey: Rescind Policy excluding ED Role in Board Elections, Appendix 1, page 16, APPROVED

MOTION: John: Nominate Margaret to serve on VFP Advisory Board, APPROVED

MOTION: Ken: Approve 2015 budget, Mark 2nd, APPROVED

MOTION: Ken: Delete “interim” from ED title, APPROVED

MOTION: Joey: To approve Sept. meeting minutes, APPROVED

FRIDAY

10:54: Project RENEW Cmte Report—Mark Gerry, Wille, John, Michael—discussion

Lunch

Friday 1pm –

Patrick: President's Report; A) Campaign of mutual board respect; B) Campaign to change demographics; C) PAH—PA; Recruitment of diverse members and leaders; Chapter development; Regional development;

Ken: Our membership numbers are likely to fall with waning ground wars.

Tarak: 50-60 VFP action team members and steady; Good recruitment at Ferguson; IVAW from convention.

Willie: Give new recruits something to do; building from Occupy to build the JAX chapter;

Barry: Hammer PAH PA home, recruiting active young vets requires active chapters.

Michael: PAH-PA as a lens, not an initiative;

Gerry: credit Patrick; PAH-PA—don't polarize too soon—let other members learn as we have; this is an appropriate focus for communication team;

Barry: Need speakers bureau development;

Gerry: Opportunities abound for acts of solidarity; democratize process for hosting conventions;

Mark: We need to develop local action teams;

Tarak: 60 members of VFP Action Team; 20 or so solid to show up on short notice; recommend Lisa Fithian to provide nonviolent training;

Patrick: Follow-up critical; joining the struggle of others; caution about post convention host chapter collapse; Camilo or Victor to represent VFP at SOA; Police brutality; prisoner release; Minnesota interested in hosting convention in 2018

Barry: We need a cut-off date on selecting convention site;

Tarak: 2015 San Diego will be good;

Willie: Alert Chapter contacts RE 2016 convention hosting opportunity;

Michael: Notice will be sent to VFP all, chapter contacts;

Barry: 2015 San Diego Aug 5—9, \$119 for double, including 3 days before & after at Town & Country Resort;

Michael: ED Report – (See Michael’s report on elections/bylaws voting process, office move, financial report, staff pay);

Mark: Treasurer's Report (see Mark’s report);

Friday 3pm – Convention (facilities tour)

SATURDAY 9am - Mike and Joey join meeting—all board members present. Project RENEW Comm. report – Paul Cox, Chuck Searcy (by skype from Vietnam), Mark;

Executive Session

MOTION: Patrick; VFP will not associate itself with any contracts associated with USAID;

AYE: Gerry, Tom, April, Patrick, Ken, Joey, Margaret, Tarak,

NAY: Mark, Willie, John

Abstain: Mike, Barry

Motion approved.

MOTION: Patrick: VFP supports the valuable work of Proj. RENEW with fiscal sponsorship with mutually acceptable, project specific MOU. (paraphrase)

Mark: table issue to Project RENEW committee (no vote taken)

Full Disclosure—Discussion with Paul, John;

Patrick: 2016 Convention, welcome chapter bids by end of March;

ED Report – Michael

Office Move-probable move by Dec 31;

Recommend that a portion of year-end surplus to seed Zinn Fund; Michael & Mark will recommend a percentage option;

**Barry: MOTION: 30 day review/comment/approval/posting of minutes; friendly amendment: substitute “next VFP Board meeting” for “30 day...”
Motion passed by acclamation.**

Michael: Working to migrate to googledocs to share documents, including meeting minutes;

Looking for interns to expand communication between national and chapters.

Treasurer’s Report – Mark (see report)

April: How to address needs of impoverished members?

Patrick: Encourage chapters to help indigent/low income members;

Willie: Gainesville chapter holds annual fundraisers to raise member dues.

Personnel Committee Report – Mark (see report)

Joey: Doug Z has recruited board candidates in the past;

Michael: recommend revising policy prohibiting ED from participating in board candidate recruitment process;

Joey: MOTION—rescind Policy on ED Role in Board Elections, Appendix 1, page 16, passed by acclamation;

John: MOTION—Nominate Margaret to serve on VFP Advisory Board, passed by acclamation;

Break

2015 Budget Report – Michael; See Report

Tarak: Membership cmte needs to be notified when new members join

Barry: Is there a new member welcome?

Michael: yes, with an invitation to order a free T-shirt;

Willie: Membership cards?

Michael: Will check on welcome process;

April: New member survey included in welcome “How did you learn about VFP?”

Barry: Info could be useful RE advertising opportunities;

Margaret: Store revenue?

Michael: Intention to keep closer records

Margaret: Recommend new store inventory RE PAH-PA apparel;

Tom: Recommend we open design competition for new store products;

Ken: Go back to hoodies?

Patrick: “de-militarize the police”

Michael: Lauri Arbiter designs;

Mark: Suggest 2015 budget reflect recent trends, rather than optimism;

Michael: We’re putting faith in our future;

Gerry: Address the disconnect between national & chapters;

Willie: Recommend learning about chapter initiatives;

Tom: Focus on coordinating social media;

Patrick: Chapters need stronger communications within ; highlight active chapters;

Margaret: Moving budget? Postage and mailing service?

Michael: We separate printing and mailing costs;

Moving costs: landlord offering \$5K donation + \$5K for moving costs, plus rent reduced to \$1/mo for Nov & Dec ;

Year-end appeal after Thanksgiving;

Patrick: Recommend ‘thank you’s’ combined with ‘ask’ to raise recurring contributions;

Ken: MOTION to approve 2015 budget, Mark 2nd, approved by acclamation;

Margaret: Request staff evaluations for criteria to justify staff increases;

Michael: Working on clarifying staff responsibilities;

Ken: MOTION to delete “interim” from ED title passed by acclamation;

Michael: Destiny in St Louis; plans to stay on as ED for the foreseeable future;

Mark: The sky is falling; budget plan B?

Michael: Serious revenue shortfall would require staff reductions;

Margaret: Need help from national on GWOT caucus program;

Patrick: Need to emphasize maximizing income;

Ken: Propose media campaign;

Willie: Showing our colors; showing up for community events/protests;

Barry: increase visibility; consider media campaign, advertise in military journals etc.

Tarak: Be visible and carry brochures: recommend all weather VFP gear;

Joey: MOTION to approve Sept. minutes—approved by acclamation;

Barry: Recommend financial support for Golden Rule; they have in-chapter grant writer;

Patrick: GR not likely to be ready for San Diego convention;

Barry: Need \$25K to put GR in the water;

Willie: Skip Oliver chair of GR cmte, Ann Wright is a strong supporter;

Gerry: Working Groups (see report)

Willie: Drones, drones, drones & More Drones facebook page;

Joey: Add Veterans For Inner Peace to Work Groups;

Margaret: PAH PA not making its way into VFP work groups; could ally with domestic anti-drone campaign;

Michael: CodePink also active with de-militarize police;

Patrick: PTSD workshop at convention;

Tarak: Recommend MST work group;

Mike: WG leadership issues; feedback for problematic behavior; learn from Asheville convention; recruit capable WG/workshop leaders;

Patrick: January Board mtg Jan 31—Feb 1 in LA;

SUNDAY 9:00am

Peace at Home; Peace Abroad (PAH PA)

Joey: Report on Latin America; Refugees; election observers in El Salvador; corporate supremacy v national sovereignty; sainthood for Romero;

Joey: upside down world.org for Latin issues

Barry: Oliver Stone's "untold history of America"

Ken: See antiwar.com

Mike: Report on Afghanistan, Syria & Iraq

Discussion...

April: Arts communication initiative;

Mark: Recommend cmte to flesh out PAH PA;

Barry: Golden Rule update;

Lunch

Michael: Presentation on strategic framework (see report)

Patrick: No. 5 add close the SOA;

Gerry: No. 4 add demilitarize the police;

Barry: No. 2 does GI resistance have national attention/action?

Gerry: Coffee Strong & Under the Hood are struggling:

Michael: Launch GWOT Resister amnesty campaign?

Willie: Amnesty 2.0 already happening: deserves more attention;

Gerry: No. 3—what actions?

John: FiLMS for World Peace;

Michael: Willie, John, and Patrick will help with revising strategic framework;

3:00 Adjourn for meeting with Hugh Thompson Chapter for discussion of 2015 San Diego convention.

**Respectfully submitted,
John Heuer, Secretary**

**Proposed Agenda for October 24-26 board meeting in San Diego
Friday 10am – 5pm,**

**Protocols:
Listserves;
Board Reimbursement;
Communications Work Team;
Bylaws & Policy
Care & Feeding
Procedures for approving and posting Minutes
Board Meetings**

Friday 1pm – Review Agenda/Approve Minutes - 10 min

President's Report - 25 min; A) Campaign of mutual board respect; B) Campaign to change demographics; C) PAH—PA; Recruitment of diverse members and leaders; Chapter development; Regional development;

**ED Report – 60 min (elections/bylaws voting process, office move, financial report, staff pay)
Treasurer's Report - 25 min**

Friday 3pm – Convention (facilities tour and follow-up discussion)

Saturday 9am - Committee, Working Group, Project Reports (evaluate work)

- 1. Project RENEW Comm. report- (90 min) – Paul /Chuck/Mark**
- 2. Golden Rule (30 min) – Barry**

3. Development Comm. (30 min) – Barry
4. Working Groups (30 min) - Gerry
5. Personnel Comm. (15 min) - Mark
6. Communications Comm. (15 min) – Tom
7. Bylaws, Nominations, others? (30 min) – Willie, others
Policies and protocols - List serves, by-laws/BoD procedures review, reporting of minutes, reimbursement, associate member on the board by-law amendment?

Saturday 1pm - Lunch

Saturday 2pm - Peace At Home, Peace Abroad - platform OR lens to view our work?

National situation (PAH) – What does this mean, what do we do? (e.g. Ferguson)

International Situation (PA)

Presentations: Joey (Latin America), Mike P. (Afghanistan/Syria/Iraq), Ken (Ukraine)?

Response to Genesisio

Sunday 9am - Demographics Discussion

Sunday 11am - Strategic Programmatic Plan priority activities

Drones, resisters, stop new wars/end present ones, cost of war, Gitmo, PAH/PA)

Full Disclosure

Ferguson weekend report

SOAW (Columbus, GA) - November 21 - 23

MLK parade involvement (multiple locations) – January 19

St. Patrick's Day (Boston) – March 17th?

Drone actions?

Sunday 1pm Lunch/meeting with local chapter folks?

Sunday 3pm Finances

Income, esp. bequests and their expected impact on VFP

Priorities for expenditures (Staff, Funds to continue demographic development, Website, etc.)

Next meetings – January 24-25 or January 31/Feb 1 in LA; April in St. Louis (which weekend?)

(Gerry and Patrick expressed preference for Jan. 31/Feb 1 weekend)

“Racial Taboo” in January w/ demographic training - Friday/Saturday training?

November 17, 2014 7:00pm BoD Minutes

Present on call: Patrick, Mark, Barry, Michael, Ken, John

Absent: Joey, Gerry, Margaret, April, Willie, Tarak, Tom,

BOARD ACTIONS: None taken (no quorum)

Patrick: Do we have a must move date?

Michael: Dec. 31; \$10K contributions for the move;

Ferguson: Governor has declared state of emergency; Grand Jury announcement expected within 24—48 hours;

Mark: Who is threatening violence?

Michael: Police

Patrick: Convention theme; raise Latino issues along with Pacific Rim focus;

Barry: Asian population equivalent to Latino population in San Diego; Panama Canal centennial observance;

Mark: Lens of PAH-PA; focus on injustice;

Barry: good recent local press on VFP—homelessness, veterans court; VA health care; nurses unionized to improve services to vets;

Mark: recommend that the convention theme reflect PAH-PA

Barry: Propose convention plenaries to promote PAH-PA; nuclear issues; Marshall Islands lawsuit;

Patrick: Convention committee; let's move; 3 locals, Dave Patterson,

**T & C 365 room nights min for free rooms; \$8K concession minimum;
John: Golden Rule loan?**

Barry; tangible, visible product

Mark: Waiting on attorney to review MOU with RENEW

Patrick: Blanket MOU with specific proposals

Patrick: Support livestream of Convention?

Barry: Projected audience?

Patrick: Will explore.

Barry: Is there a threshold for ED prerogatives for expenditures without BoD approval?

Michael: Yes.

Barry: Motion to adjourn, 8:20pm

Barry: Where are our press releases sent? Michael will follow up. We need a protocol for contacting Advisory Board members. Discussion of possible keynoters in San Diego. Oliver Stone?

Office Move: Michael: Year end appeal; Back to Iraq; Ukraine crisis;

Michael: 3 potential locations for office move;

Barry: Motion to adjourn, 8:20pm

I. Agenda Review

II. San Diego board meeting

Review and approve minutes (John just sent these.)

Convention Report (Theme, negotiations with Town and Country, convention committee)

Discussion/Decision on Project Renew (MOU?)

III. Mass work (in chronological order)

A. Ferguson report

- B. Veterans Day reports?**
- C. National Days of Action on Iraq and Syria**
- D. SOAW**
- E. Christmas Truce (NYC event)**
- F. Anything else?**

IV. Organization-building - where do we focus? what are our key tasks?

- A. Media**
- B. Committee responsibilities**
- C. Fund-raising**
- D. Open public presence**
- E. Investing in staff, website, etc.**
- F. Chapter and Region-building**
- G. Anything else?**

VFP National Board Conference Call

12-15-14

Present: Patrick McCann, Gerry Condon, John Heuer, Tarak Kauff, Mark Foreman, Tom Palumbo, Barry Ladendorf, Michael McPhearson, Willie Hager

Absent: Mike Prysner, Joey King, Margaret Stevens, April Adams

1. Agenda review

PAH PA moved to end of agenda

2. Approval of October minutes

Approved

3. Next meeting in LA on Super Bowl Sunday (2/1)

Mike Prysner can't host it. Kathleen Hernandez has done research and has 2 possibilities, including hotels close to the airport, Peace Center available Saturday & Sunday and houses available in Topanga Canyon. Gerry suggested we consider moving the meeting to San Diego to be able to meet with the convention chapter in person again. Michael – why were we going to meet in LA in the first place? If we want to meet with the LA chapter or have another reason, we might want to keep it there. Arlington West could be visited. Mark already has plane tickets to San Diego. Barry will check price with Town & Country. People can book plane tickets once we know price.

Ex-Com will work with Barry and make a decision.

4. War Abroad (Iraq/Afghanistan/ISIL, Gitmo, etc.)

What's going in the world and how should we respond?

Afghanistan mission extended, Iraq rekindled with troops, Gitmo force feeding continues.

Tarak – spring teach-in is good, we're responding as best we can. Social movements are in waves, and the current anti-war wave has died down. Ending war is needed – peace, sustainability, end of war, climate change, are all connected. Our position is articulate and on the money. The current wave is social justice, police brutality,

Gerry – our job as VFP is to bring the anti-war perspective TO the wave. How to do that and make that link?

Tarak – our presence (and on-hand membership brochures) is how we do that.

Patrick – we're there in Clayton, Michael is co-chair of don't shoot coalition. But what do we still need to do? Gitmo is raging right now, is huge!

Michael – 5 areas of concern – drones, gi resistance, war \$ to human needs, future and current wars. How shall we approach each one? Torture is hot right now. Shall we up our effort to hold people

accountable – hold mock trials? ISIL and return to Iraq – April 8 is anniversary of the start of the Iraq war – do we want to plan actions? Creech AFB Action March 4-6, Winstead bike ride (\$ spent on war), Congressional visits, etc.

Patrick – PAH-PA academic conference in DC in March/April idea. Cindy Sheehan and Deedee Miller have contacted me recently about a spring mobilization. I can go to the planning meeting on Dec 20. Tarak and Ellen are also going. “Dire Distress” internal VFP and friends academic conference at American University downtown in 2003 was very successful – maybe we should do something like that.

Michael – “Dire Distress” was not exactly an internal event, but an opportunity for the vet voice to be heard about the intended invasion of Iraq. VVA and other groups were involved as well as VVAW, MFSO was just starting then. One day was a teach-in, we went to war monuments and the VA. This is a chance for our voices to be heard. An opportunity to review the last 10 years and project the next 10. We could lobby, go to other targets, etc.

Barry – advisory board involvement would be good, have a panel discussion, there are several people who would be good for this. They are ready to work. Let’s plan and advertise it.

Gerry – we could spend several days in DC with our allies. When are Senate and House in session then? Both will be in session during the week following Sam’s arrival in DC, Sat May 16 – beginning Monday May 18.

Patrick – explore March 20 or other date for Spring Action.

Willie – we have a collection of the best minds right here – why would we diminish our job and pass it on to the advisory board?

Agenda items not covered:

5. War At Home (Ferguson report, anything else we are doing?)
6. Internal discussion around PAH-PA
7. Campaigns (proceeding from strategic tasks) - Gitmo, spring action
8. Convention - opportunity to check in b4 Thursday's initial call
9. Zinn Fund
10. Expenditure requests (Golden Rule, Sam Winstead, Project Renew, GI resistance)