



President's Report

VFP Business Meeting
August 14, 2021

Submitted By: Adrienne Kinne

CONTENTS



1

**Membership
Survey**

2

**Strategic
Planning
Update**

3

**Transformative
Justice**

4

Closing



1 Membership Survey



Membership Survey

The goal of this survey was to gauge member support and involvement with Veterans For Peace in six areas:

- **Membership and Participation**
- **Conventions**
- **Intergenerational Leadership**
- **Internal Health**
- **Racial Justice**
- **Fundraising**



Membership & Participation

- **88.3% current dues payment members of VFP**
- **83.1% Veteran Members and 16.9% Associate Members**
 - ❖ **23.8% of responses were from post-9/11 Veterans**
 - ❖ **12.1% from Gulf War/Post Gulf War Veterans**
- **57.7% are chapter members**
- **42.3% are not members of a chapter**
- **19.9% are involved with national projects, standing committees, or working groups**



Conventions

- **55.4% have never attended a convention**
- **73.6% did not attend the 2020 convention**
- **82.1% supported the 2020 convention being online**
- **82.7% support the 2021 convention being online**
- **61.9% support future conventions being online**
- ❖ **IF we continue online conventions, we will use funds and resources to support alternative ways for members to gather such as trainings and outreach events in support of organizing**



Intergenerational Leadership

- **86.9% feel it is important to reach out to post-9/11 Veterans to keep VFP going**
- **94.1% are comfortable with the increased roles post-9/11 Veterans have in VFP**
- **75.5% would be interested in participating in an intergenerational VFP discussion**
- **53.4% would be interested in participating in leadership development trainings or mentorship**



Internal Health

- **15% have experienced a hardship in VFP as a result of other members**
- **61.2% are aware of the Code of Conduct**
- **98.4% support efforts to ensure VFP is a safe space**
- **91.9% support compassionate accountability / transformative justice**
 - ❖ **For a copy of the VFP Code of Conduct, please visit: <https://www.veteransforpeace.org/who-we-are/governance>**



Racial Justice

- **89.2% feel that peace and social justice are linked**
- **89.9% feel racism is used to support wars and militarism at home and abroad**
- **90.6% support VFP calling for racial justice as part of our work toward peace**



Fundraising

- **86.9% have or would consider donating to VFP**
- **26.4% would like to learn more about becoming a sustaining donor**
- **5.9% would like to learn more about leaving VFP a bequest**
- **32.2% would like to learn more about bequests at some point in the future**
- **3.3% (+8.5% maybe) would like to get involved in fundraising teams**



Membership Survey – Conclusion

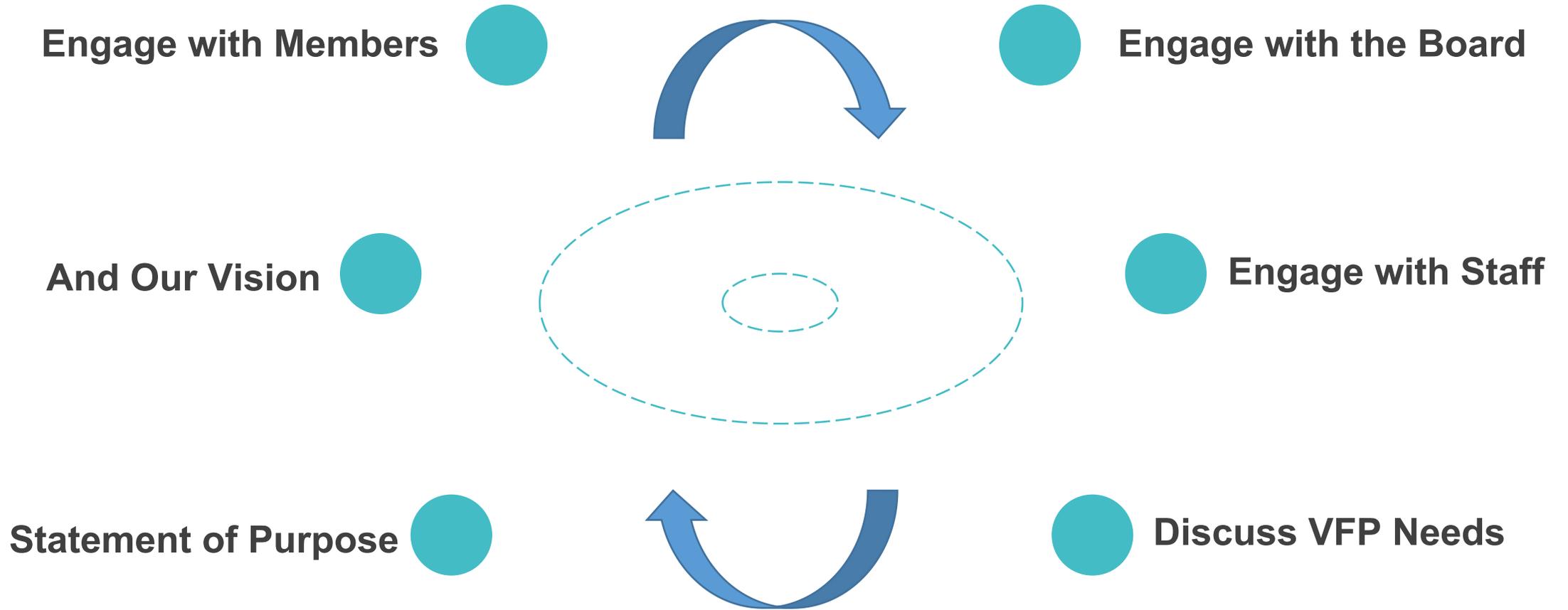
- **We appreciate the 300+ members who participated**
- **We continue to engage with members and get them connected with ongoing organizing**
- **If you would like to get involved with a National Project, Standing Committee, or would just like to discuss possible options, please reach out to us**
- **We plan to continue engaging with our membership to ensure that we are meeting your needs and expectations**



2 Strategic Planning



Strategic Planning - Involvement of All





Strategic Planning - Visioning Process

We started by asking our members:

“What do you want the world to remember Veterans For Peace for?”



Strategic Planning - Visioning Process

Based on your responses, we came up with:

“Veterans For Peace worked amid the intersections of class, racial, gender, and environmental justice to end global war and foster a kind, safe, compassionate and loving world where individual and social transformation are paramount.”



Strategic Planning - Visioning Process

What would that world look like:

- **No More War - AND -**
- **Universal Basic Needs Are Met**
- **Fair and Just Economic System**
- **Environmentally Aware**
- **Freedom of Movement**
- **Investment in Public Arts**
- **Transformative Justice**
- **Individuals and Society Insightful & Ever-Learning**
- **Open Communication and Horizontal Decision Making**
- **Support Structures in place to support all of the above**



Strategic Planning - Visioning Process

What Does This Have To Do With Veterans For Peace?

Our members are already engaging in this work!



Strategic Planning - Visioning Process

No More War - Militarization:

- **Public Education about the causes and costs of war**
- **Reclaim Armistice Day**
- **Truth in Recruiting**
- **Gamers For Peace**
- **Resisting Drones & War Exercises**



Strategic Planning - Visioning Process

Universal Basic Needs:

- **Save Our VA**
- **Healthcare Not Warfare**
- **Homeless Veterans Working Group**
- **And More**



Strategic Planning - Visioning Process

Fair and Just Economic System:

- **People Over the Pentagon**
- **Addressing Social Costs of
Outrageous Military Spending**
- **and others**



Strategic Planning – Visioning Process

Environmentally Aware:

- **Climate Crisis & Militarism Project**
- **Abolish Nuclear Weapons WG**
- **Golden Rule**



Strategic Planning – Visioning Process

Freedom of Movement:

- **Deported Veterans Advocacy Project**
- **Engagement with the United Nations**
- **Addressing Military Sexual Trauma**
- **Veterans For Black Lives**
- **Veterans Against Islamophobia****



Strategic Planning - Visioning Process

Investment in Public Arts:

- **VFP highlights Veteran Poetry**
- **We are creating space to support Veteran visual arts and music**



Strategic Planning - Visioning Process

Horizontal Decision-Making and Open Communication:

- **Supporting Whistleblowers**
- **Demanding an Accountable Government**



Strategic Planning - Next Steps

Connecting Visioning Process and Current Work with Our Statement of Purpose - Identifying Gaps

How do we connect the external goals and internal culture of VFP?



Strategic Planning - Visioning Process

Internal Work - Ongoing:

- **VFP Code of Conduct**
- **Transformative Justice Committee**
- **Be The Change Book Club**
- **Engagement with Membership**
- **Member-Board-Staff Collaboration**



Strategic Planning - Next Steps

- **Supporting Members, Chapters, and National Projects = Supporting Our Statement of Purpose and Vision**
- **VFP has increased staffing**
- **Committees are increasing focus and capacity involving Board, Members, and Staff**
- **Working to Identify Campaigns with specific and attainable goals*****



3 Transformative Justice



Transformative Justice

- **Veterans For Peace has been exploring multiple ways to help ensure a healthy and safe internal environment to support our members in the work that will help us achieve our mission and goals as an organization**
- **Code of Conduct**
- **Transformative Justice Committee: a resource for any person or group to reach out and ask for help to include mediation**

t j c @ v e t e r a n s f o r p e a c e . o r g



Transformative Justice

Community Circles - A Facilitated and Voluntary group activity where members can come together to heal and grow:

- **Making space for yourself**
 - **Sharing the air**
 - **Patience**
 - **Nonverbal Cues**
 - **Speaking Our Truth**
 - **Listening Honestly**
 - **Confidentiality**
 - **Compassion**
- ❖ **Please bring an object as a talking piece; the person holding the talking piece has the floor while everyone else is invited to listen**



Transformative Justice

VFP Be The Change Book Club - Transformative in Nature

The purpose of this group is to **explore** with others, via discussion on various books and other media, in a **safe and open** social space, the ways in which colonization, racism, gender bias, and other biases show up on our lives and in our activism. **Growing our awareness** of how our words and actions affect and are related to the society we live in, and how our personal behaviors **contribute** to the culture of Veterans For Peace, allows us to be more accountable to ourselves and others, increases our individual agency. Learn more about yourself and others by coming together for meaningful discussions geared toward personal and organizational growth, in a mutually supportive atmosphere reflective of the VFP mission of “building a culture of peace.”



4 Closing



Personal Reflections

Veterans For Peace is an amazing organization whose very existence ensures that any Veteran who longs for peace is not alone and any Person can join us in our Quest



Personal Reflections

Veterans For Peace is an amazing organization whose very existence ensures that any Veteran who longs for peace is not alone and any Person can join us in our Quest

We have to call upon one another to be better and we are finding new and meaningful ways to support one another in this quest



Personal Reflections

Veterans For Peace is an amazing organization whose very existence ensures that any Veteran who longs for peace is not alone and any Person can join us in our Quest

We have to call upon one another to be better and we are finding new and meaningful ways to support one another in this quest

We cannot expect the US, let alone the world, to be a kinder, more peaceful and socially just place if we do not practice this ourselves



Personal Reflections

Veterans For Peace is an amazing organization whose very existence ensures that any Veteran who longs for peace is not alone and any Person can join us in our Quest

We have to call upon one another to be better and we are finding new and meaningful ways to support one another in this quest

We cannot expect the US, let alone the world, to be a kinder, more peaceful and socially just place if we do not practice this ourselves

No one is perfect, but we need to listen to each other and be willing to think differently especially when members take the time to address the racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and all other prejudices that impact our thoughts and deeds without us necessarily even realizing it

THANK YOU!

Questions or Want to get involved, please email:
Adrienne@veteransforpeace.org