



Veterans For Peace  
2008 Board Meeting Minutes

*(January, April, August, October)*

## Veterans For Peace Board meeting minutes January 26 & 27, 2008 San Francisco, California

Attending: Elliott Adams, Sharon Kufeldt, Gary May, Patrick McCann, Bill Collins, Ken Ferner, Michael McPhearson

Meeting called to order by Pres. Adams at 8:18am

Statement of purpose read by V. Pres. Kufeldt

New board members Varone, May and Brinson sworn in by Pres. Adams

Election of Officers:

Nominations opened by Pres. Adams

For office of President: Elliott Adams nominated. Elected unanimously

For office of V. Pres.: Sharon Kufeldt nominated. Elected unanimously

Secretary: Gary May nominated. Elected unanimously

Treasurer: Ken Mayers nominated. Elected unanimously

Agenda discussed

Foster moved approved as written. Defeated

McCann moved to move strategy session to Sunday morning. Adopted.

Amended agenda adopted.

Minutes from previous meeting approved.

Appoint committees:

Awards Committee - Frank Corcoran, Frank Houde, George McAnanama

Bylaws Committee – Frank Houde, Chair, George Adams, Gary May

Convention Committee Wayne Wittman, Chair, Jim Steinhagen, Barry Reisch and company

Trademark Committee – Woody Powell

Development Committee - Anita Foster, Chair, Mike Ferner, Michael McPhearson

International Liaison committee - Frank Houde, Chair, Patrick Bray, George McAnanama, Ellen Barfield, Peter Bronson

Korean Peace Campaign Committee - John Kim, Chair, Charlie Atkins, Jim Steinhagen, Ellen Barfield, George MacAnanama, Chuck Overby, Peter Bronson, Peter Shaw, Larry Kershner, Virginia Rodino, Patrick Bray, Ted Hughes, Tom Fox, Michael McPhearson, Woody Powell, Frank Houde, Wayne Wittman

Membership and Chapter Development Committee - Sharon Kufeldt, Chair, Doug Zackery, George Johnson

Merchandise Committee –

Newsletter Committee – Michael Uhl, Chair, Michael McPhearson, Elliott Adams, Gabriella Inderwise

Nominations Committee – Doug Zackery, Chair, Wayne Wittman, Patrick McCann

Personnel Committee – Bill Collins, Chair,

Public Relations Committee – Bill Collins, Chair, Mike Ferner

Resolutions Committee –

Speaker Bureau committee – Mike Ferner, Chair, Michael Uhl, Pat McCann, Ann Wright, Michael McPhearson and Bill Collins

UN NGO Delegation – Ellen Barfield, Chair, Al Jaccoma, Elliott Adams

Zones Of Concern and Struggle Committee – Thomas Brinson, Chair, Woody Powell, Paul Cox, Sharon Kufeldt, Frank Ackles

Project official and other wise

Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign - Paul Cox

Dave Cline Memorial – Dan Shea, Hal Muscat, Patrick McCann, Ben Chitty, Virginia Rodino,

Reconciliation Project -

Executive Director report given by McPhearson

Treasurer's Report

Foster requested that an Executive Director compensation review be placed on the agenda for the next meeting and that the ED prepare a report comparing current salary relative to other national orgs in St Louis, of similar staff size and budget size.

Mayers— to get reports form designated responsible individuals for each Special Project

Regional Communicator Director Position (Elliott)

Foster—personnel recommendations should come from ED

Who to report to

Question re title – leave room for upward mobility, maybe facilitator v. director

Job description

Adams—Area Communications Facilitator

Mayers—ED to develop position description including:

Lines of authority

Duties

Uhl—strong support for concept, can be modified as we go along

Foster—IVAW has an effective model for Communication Coordinators

Deploy one coordinator as a pilot project

Varone—directors bear some responsibility for chapter contacts

Foster—motion table 2<sup>nd</sup>

Didn't pass

**Kufeldt—motion ED develop full job description by the next BOD meeting 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Passed**

BOD accepts that position would cost \$

Establish Program Budgets

Adams—suggest establish board committee to develop parameters for the budget categories

Foster—ED and Treasurer should collaborate on this development

Mayers—BOD needs to establish priorities

Brinson—supports Mayer

Ferner—operation budget v. program budget—we need a clear definition of terms

Foster—establish membership and fundraising categories in future budgets

Mayers—too early to establish categories

Collins—break out postage & printing items in budget and report at next BOD meeting

ED—to break out items and report to BOD for feedback

Mayers—need to have program budget details for planning for 2009 budget-supports ED's offer

**Adams—does BOD want Michael to move ahead with presenting a detailed budget?  
Yes**

**Passed**

Board Vacancy

**Motion accept resignation, with regrets—Wayne Wittman Passed**

Brinson—motion made to appoint Eli Painted Crow for BOD vacancy based on previously identified skill sets. **Seconded.** Motion ruled out of order as board appointments are made by president, not board motion.

**Adams—appoint Eli Painted Crow**

**Collins—approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed (term expires January 2010)**

**May—motion to thank Mike Ferner for his term as secretary Passed Unanimously**

Convention 2009

McCann—met with U of Md. With Ellen Barfield preliminary proposal for August 9 – 13, 2009. (approximately \$100,000 all inclusive)

**Mayers—motion DC metropolitan area for 2009 convention. 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed**

Convention 2010

Postponed till Adams can get additional information to the BOD

Convention 2008 Report

ED—concerns about theme and some speaker selections

Varone—Convention Dates: three days August 27 – 31 committee meeting regularly

Foster—workshops should capitalize on/augment the National agenda

Theme and Workshops at Convention What is the Take Home Message & Skills?

Foster—IVAW will meet concurrently with VFP this year

Discussion regarding IVAW VFP relationship

Suggestions for local (Minneapolis) planning committee

Conference calls—Ellen, Thomas and John representatives of board plus IVAW members (Eli may wish to be involved)

Letter to local planning committee, IVAW leadership—McCann & Foster to clarify relationship

Suggested speakers—Rev. Lennox Yearwood, Eli Paintedcrow, James Yee, Maxine Hong Kingston (Brinson),

Current Committee selections: Keith Olberman, Seymour Hirsch

**Theme—Peace, Liberty, and Justice for All—Mayers-motion 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed**

Access to Membership Rosters (State)

Adams—Chapter rosters will be available for VFP purposes only to Chapter officers and chapter contact persons

**Mayer—when chapters are forming-give the chapter organizer the names of the at-large members who are closest to the forming chapter Moved Barfield 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed**

Privacy Policy/Mailing Services

Need to develop policies in this area

Personnel Committee

See written report

Salaries—ED will prepare presentation to the BOD

Appeals—Varone to get boilerplate language to Collins

Employment Policies—Varone to get boilerplate language to Collins

Collins to report back to BOD at next meeting

**Brinson—Board insurance—we don't have it. We should acquire it. Executive Committee & Personnel Committee to investigate options and report to the board within 30 days 2<sup>nd</sup> (February 25, 2008) Passed**

**Brinson--Have attorney review organization risk assessment. 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed**

Discussion

Board assessment of prominent activities, resource demands and results. Displayed on 12 x 14 table with ratings 0 – 3 (low to high)

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Guest Introduced

Michael Blecker, Exec. Dir, Swords to Plowshares

1060 Howard St.

San Francisco, CA 94103

415-252-4788, 415-252-4787, 415-552-6267

[mblecker@swords-to-plowshares.org](mailto:mblecker@swords-to-plowshares.org), [www.swords-to-plowshares.org](http://www.swords-to-plowshares.org)

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Y Axis (Vertical)

War Resisters

Truth in Recruiting

October Regionals

House Parties

15 September

Korea Peace Campaign

MLK Weekend

Arlington West

Veterans Day Activities

Vets Caravan

Walking to NOLA

Iraq Water Project

X Axis (Horizontal)

Initiation (local or national)

Funding

Staff time

Endorsement

Mobilize members

Fund raising

Web site

Media attention

Speakers

Logistics

Organizing

Planning

Networking

Convention attention

Web site

Discussion—

Two categories of effective activities

Activities that involve many people simultaneously



Activities that are more decentralized

Activities that draw resources:

Endorsement

Mobilizing members

Website

Media

Networking

Convention attention

Projects

Korea Peace Campaign

Vets Caravan

Walk to NOLA

Recess

5:03 PM

Sunday

Meeting reconvened by Pres. Adams 1/27/2008 8:23 AM

### Communications

Collins—should we establish a media pr presence in DC, etc.?

Ferner—working on soliciting bids from vendors. Vendors want a RFP. Components: placing op/ed pieces and news stories and getting vfp on national talk shows.

5 companies have been investigated

Recommend engage a consultant first, then re evaluate

Discussion—dc or other? Rfp must reflect nuances of our group and our work. More discussion needed.

Kufeldt—local chapters need training in writing/using press releases effectively (addressed in committee report)

**Consensus—we'll spend money on developing media/pr capacity**

**Committee will continue to develop information**

Mayers—committee should submit a proposal for a pilot project for EDs direction. Break in effectiveness between local and national coverage. Relationships important but not easily transferable.

Adams—Motion requested—committee to do a proposal for a pilot project—none offered

Committee will continue to work on develop information for the pr

### Reports on Projects

(Jeff Mackler) National Antiwar Conference to Stop the War in Iraq! Bring the Troops Home Now!

Request—VFP endorsement, VFP keynote speaker, VFP members (2 – 3) to serve on national planning committee. Conference in Cleveland June 28 -29.

(Robert Manning) request VFP outreach to members via flash email, display on VFP on front page of web, ask other partners to publicize Molly Ivins Memorial, January 31 in San Francisco, ask allies to have their members to join the blog (Blog Fest)

Strategy Discussion (continuation from last night) how to proceed...we spent several minutes talking about what to talk about!!

### Trout Lake Retreat Follow-up

No additional contact/services from the Trout Lake facilitators (Michael hasn't been clear enough about the intent/direction from Trout Lake.)

Collins—pushes Tool Kit for use ASAP

Mayers—Tool Kit work hasn't moved forward. Will work to disseminate the information to the Tool Kit Committee

Foster—Tool Kit, Message Formulation & Regional Coordination—high priority for follow-up and to develop at the National Convention.

Mayers—wants to have Tool Kit v.1 on CD for National Convention

Brinson—establish three caucuses that focus on three high priority items for National Convention

Tool Kit Creation (Convention)

Mayers—Tool Kit Committee to make monthly reports to Executive Committee.  
**Commitment to be done by March 30.** Publicize in newsletter, on web, invite feedback. Launch as a beta. Solicit feedback for specific elements of Tool Kits from convention attendees.

Foster—present Tool Kit in 30 minutes or less then entertain discussion for 60 minutes: repeat x3 (1 for each of the three priority areas).

Kufeldt--Introduction to tool kit in plenary then have workshops delve into the details and debrief at a second plenary (BOD to develop workshops)

Brinson—Message Formulation & Tool Kits warrant threads throughout the convention. Regional Coordination warrants more focused, discreet discussion involving the six administrative sectors of VFP.

Regional Coordination (Convention)

Launch current regional areas as a beta and develop in workshops—invite participants to select their own “regional group” (Model—plenary (30” + invite participant division + invite report back = refinement of Regional Coordination model)

Message Formulation (Convention)

Brinson—will work with Eli Painted Crow and Will Covert to develop the message

Foster—may be wise to defer message formulation—too broad, may dilute the overall effectiveness of the convention

Adams—will contact Trout Lake facilitators for follow up involving ED, Foster, Varner

### **Next Meeting**

**Minneapolis April 19 & 20 to coincide with IVAW meeting there at this time**

Sick of It Day

**Ferner—Motion & 2<sup>nd</sup> VFP sponsor and contribute not to exceed \$3,100. Passed**

RNC

Varone—VFP endorsement requested for a “Huge March” Three MN VFP Chapters have committed to the Huge March.

Varone—David Harris, VFP Chapter 115, Red Wing, MN requests VFP endorsement for “A Proposal for Nonviolent Action with Civil Disobedience Options” in conjunction with the RNC in Minneapolis.

**Brinson—motion 2<sup>nd</sup> reject proposal of David Harris, VFP Chapter 115 Passed**

Credit Card

**ED—to procure a VFP credit card**

**ED—bequests—grant ED authority to sign**

**Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> (both) Passed**

Vietnam Chapter

Barfield—should draft a policy to establish chapters in countries of American expatriates’ residence.

Fifth Anniversary of Iraq Invasion

Brinson—March 10 – 19 “Stop Loss Congress” (10 – 12), Civil Disobedience, want vets to be part of action. Organizers want VFP endorsement of action.

Brinson—Organizer’s taking Winter Soldier testimony to Congress March 17 – 19.

Adjourned 12:34 PM

Submitted by

Gary E. May, Secretary

February 11, 2008

Draft BoD Meeting Minutes  
19-20 April 2008  
Minneapolis, MN

President Adams 4/19/2008 8:40 AM  
Call to order

Present: Elliott Adams, Mike Ferner, Bill Collins, Ken Mayers, Patrick McCann, Anita Foster, Ellen Barfield, Thomas Brinson, Gary May, ED, Michael McPhearson, GUEST: Steven McKoewn.

Thanks to Anita & John for breakfast & transportation.

President Adams read Statement of Purpose

Approve Agenda  
Add No Bases, ILC  
Motion: approve minutes and agenda Anita, second Passed

#### Executive Director's Report

McPhearson—handout—Re: membership—special mailing to member inactive status to notify of inactive status and invite to reengage. Staff working on strategy to notify inactives of current or pending inactive status regularly. Goal to ensure that all inactives have received reminders/invitations to renew. Ideas include have “dedicated” members to write personal letters to inactives, encourage chapter contacts to follow up with their members re: reinstatement.

Anita—offers to call 100 current inactives  
Bill—offers to call inactives

Budget—bad fundraising year—not appreciably better for April.  
Three grants submitted this year—Democracy in Action declined to fund our operations request.  
Unitarian Universalists Service Committee will grant \$10,000 for torture initiative.  
Two more pending—recruiting

Salaries—no increases so far this year—budget issues.  
FTEE 6.5

Fundraising—raised \$62K for Winter Soldier—this is a model for future fundraising initiative

Convention Workshop—assemble members to do phone calls as part of the workshop  
Targeted fundraising appeal mailing—through St. Louis Post Dispatch.

House Parties as fundraiser for specific activities. Patrick McCann to host party for Engagement—pledges \$2,000.

Treasurers Report including status of 501(h)  
Mayers—handout distributed.  
Budget shortfall continues—staff complimented on budget discipline.

#### Development Committee

Foster—handout

Transition to new database—going smoothly eTapestry—this is a priority item & office staff committed to mastering new database. Very powerful.

Staff engagement in staff development & fundraising—impressive. Good progress  
Case Statement—pending Mayers emphasizes its importance for chapters. Foster—case statement will be done no later than National Conference. ED to send draft of contents of case statement to Ferner & Mayers.

Giving Circles—ED redefined giving categories and donated amounts. Designations build on theme of building construction, e.g., bricklayer, touchstone. Branding and collateral benefits very important.

Next board meeting—agenda item—100% Board Give/Get policy

ED Salary Survey—Handout summative data from Payscale.com

Foster—motion Fall mtg. Mayers, Second McCann—passed to have annual ED evaluation at the Fall meeting.

#### Board Role in Budget Shortfall—Adams

Foster—calling inactives (see above) can be done absent the fully functional database—calls deal with currently available information/capacity

Adams—immediate issue is current budget shortfall—calling inactives will bolster commitment to the organization and sharpen board fundraising skills that can be built upon. We can do this now. Target Veteran inactives only.

Foster—to get phone call script and data collection form by close of business today.

Adams—chapter level Membership Coordinator should be appointed. McCann recommends competition & acknowledgement with “Successful Chapter”. Mayers—what’s the incentive for the chapter—suggestion give the chapter Membership Coordinator a toolkit to use. Mayers to assemble toolkit ASAP. As decided at January meeting, and add asking toolkit workshop participants to give feedback about reporting mechanisms, report to’s, etc. (Link to national office) BoD agreed with chapters’ designating Membership Coordinator.

Varone—will work with Foster on script & forms for calls to inactive members.  
Proposal to engage BoD in calling, soliciting comment and providing feedback to national office/board. All board members are expected to participate in call initiative.  
Foster—recommends segmenting implementation to judge effectiveness and modify effort beginning as soon as possible. Half to be done before e-Tapestry database is available, half after.

#### Vietnam Chapter—Adams

Motion: In order to encourage veterans of other countries to develop their own organizations for peace, VFP generally does not charter chapters in foreign countries.

However VFP chapters of U.S. expatriates are acceptable and may be chartered in the nations where they live.

Nonetheless, even when an expatriate chapter has thus been chartered abroad, we encourage our members there to support efforts by veterans of that country to create their own local peace organizations and to collaborate with them. Seconded. Passed

McPhearson--Area Communications Facilitator position—Position Description distributed—discussion why is BoD looking at/approving position description? Shouldn't this be a responsibility of ED? We have a personnel committee. They have responsibility to confer with ED.

Action: refer back to Personnel Committee.

Ferner—ED to submit budget draft to BoD at August meeting. At November meeting, budget will be considered and voted on by BoD. Seconded by Collins.

Passed

Collins—Personnel Committee

Appeals process for Employees—suggestion—if there is a dispute that can't be resolved that there is an appeal procedure to the Personnel Committee. If not resolved by the Personnel Committee, it goes to a committee of the BoD. Proposal to charge Personnel Committee to draft Appeals Process—moved and passed. Varone and Collins to draft language.

Collins—Personnel Committee

Liability Insurance for BoD—still investigating

Recessed for lunch

12:12 PM

Reconvened—President Adams

2:23 PM

Adams—Agenda Review

Which elements on the agenda do we need to address?

No Bases Initiative—discussion, range of options, relative value of proposal, absence of framework (VFP) for evaluating proposals

Brinson—establish a Strategy Formulation Track at National Convention

Foster—question is not only what do we support, it's what do we do? We always supporting others, who supports us? We lack a vision? Gets to the heart of our fuzzy identity. We should have another facilitated meeting like the one in the Ozarks to complete Ozarks initiatives.

Collins—we have been effective of selecting targets of opportunity, maybe we don't need to have a clear long term goal. We should continue to be a short-term responder organization with a clear mission.

Foster—we need a clear vision and long term plan. We can then evaluate proposals in context of this plan.

Ferner—doesn't want to continue to be reactive. We need to define goals and move toward those.

McCann—proposes 5 strategic objectives to organize our efforts

Foster—movement on specific strategies is contingent upon capacity building within the organization.

McPhearson—critical issues of developing a plan to move forward; follow through & creating a framework for determining future direction.

Foster—engage facilitator to complete and extend the work begun in the Ozarks—motion (Mayers proposes facilitator be referred to the National Advisory Guru—NAG) moved, Second Ken, Passed.

Adams—key workshops for National Convention  
Truth in Recruiting  
Diversity  
Activist Training  
Current Crises  
Gender Issues

Collins—motion move these five workshop topics to the committee as areas of very high priority by the BoD for inclusion in the workshop schedule. Second Ken. Passed.

National Board Track (Directed Workshops)  
Regional Coordinator Beta (from January BoD meeting)  
Toolkit (from January BoD meeting)  
Brinson—establish a Strategy Formulation Track at National Convention (tentative, based on input from facilitator)

Adams—training—working to make these available through the web  
History supports important need to train members to carry on mission and fully capitalize on special cachet that they have. VFP is in the unique position to lead the peace movement. Areas: basic non violent resistance, basic training, direct action, non violence, organizing, planning, third party non violent intervention, community, coalition building, leadership, diversity.

ED—we shouldn't limit what BoD wants in a workshop. If not submitted as a workshop proposal BoD responsible for ensuring that the content is included.

BoD committee meetings with local National Convention Planning Committee ideal.



Fall BoD meeting is in the city hosting the Convention 20 months hence. Passed.  
BoD committee should do a Convention host site visit prior to executing contract.  
Mayers, McCann. Passed. (Has already been done for College Park, MD site.) Passed.

Recess to reconvene at 8:00 AM in Arapaho Suite  
5:24 PM

Reconvene—President Adams  
April 20, 2008 8:30 AM

Present: Elliott Adams, Ellen Barfield, Anita Foster, John Varone, Ken Mayer, Thomas Brinson, Bill Collins, Mike Ferner, Patrick McCann, Michael McPhearson.  
Guests: Wayne Wittman, Steve McKeown, Bruce Berry, Barry Riesch, Jim Steinhagen.

Report from Minneapolis Convention Committee (Abbreviated version)

8/27—BoD Meeting All Day

8/28—BoD 8 – 10

Thursday Evening—Nicollet Island Inn—Downtown Minneapolis—transport via motor coach (5 – 10PM)

Friday—Workshops

Friday Evening Program 7:30

Saturday—Business Meeting; 11:45 Buffett Lunch (Continue Speakout through lunch)

Saturday Evening---Social Hour & Banquet

Sunday AM—Sacred Heart Catholic Church—24 Hour Fasting & Reflection—speakers from various religions and spiritual communities will speak on peace issues at the church

Monday—March

Tuesday—

Committee will provide housing for VFP attendees AFTER convention (Republican Convention). Must be registered for VFP Convention to request this accommodation.

Intermix poetry/entertainment during breaks

Late night movies

Adams & ED to work with committee on finalizing/plans

2009 Convention—McCann

College Park, MD (August 7 – 11)

Cost—meeting rooms & facilities excellent—9 breakout workshop rooms, plenary session rooms (combining of breakout rooms)—cost-meeting rooms, continental breakfast, \$57,000. Dorm room cost \$85,000 (based on 400 rooms x 4 nights-- \$50/night/person). Facility wants 10% of total by May 31. Motion commit to 2009 Convention in College Park, MD. Mayers, second Varone. Passed

Communications Position

Brinson—we've discussed and provided input, let's turn it over ED for his decision/action

ED—current pressing need is assessing office operations since recent reduction of staff

due. Money is an issue re: expanding staff

Adams—as we move toward policy board v. manager board, “How do we want to handle the possible new position?”

Collins—has reviewed position description.

Communications Committee will continue to work with ED on refining position description.

ED succession—Adams—sent out (via email) principles/practices in succession planning. Key elements summarized.

May—recommend have Personnel Committee—Varone volunteers to help Personnel Committee.

Mayers—recommend have Personnel Committee make recommendation to Executive Committee who can issue tentative decision

Adams—accountability

Collins—can have report in one month.

May—Motion: charge Personnel Committee with developing a succession plan to present to the Executive Committee within six weeks. Second Ellen. Passed

#### Marketing Committee

Adams—pull committee back since BoD moving toward Policy BoD. Marketing currently is essentially a merchandise management activity.

ED—let’s table discussion pending further work on refining strategy/message, etc. (per continuing work from Ozarks retreat)

#### Logo—Adams

We have an application to register logo as a trademark.

Possibility of registering VFP (initials) warrants further discussion.

#### Finance Committee

Adams—do we need one? Will discuss further.

#### Program Budgeting

ED—will submit in August 2008

Next meeting—August 27 – 31, 2008 National Convention Minneapolis

Next Quarterly meeting—October 25 & 26, 2008 University of MD

#### New Chapter Approval

ED—two new chapters; Chapter 155, Washington State & Chapter 154, Red River, ND.

Barfield—approve pending providing City of Record. Seconded. Approved

Tour of National Convention Host Hotel—Jim Steinhagen & Local Planning Committee members.

ILC-actions asked for in ILC report.

Refer to Executive Committee

Appointment of Delegates is President's responsibility.

The recommended endorsements are the Executive Committee's responsibility.

Collins—refer to Executive Committee. Passed.

Motion: Mayers—when a BoD appointed committee recommends expenditure of funds, it goes to BoD for comment for two weeks, if no BoD objection, the recommendation becomes a directive for the ED. If (s)he objects, (s)he will give feedback and solicit guidance from the group. Seconded Brinson. Passed.

International Peace Bureau & World Veterans Federation

Will be considered in context of motion passed above.

Voting on Yahoo Poll

Adams—we cannot have a voting process that excludes anyone. May to do another test of Yahoo Polling with confirmation of who votes. Will follow up with non voters. Policy issue—“Do we need to have votes between quarterly meetings?”—Adams.

Minutes & Policy Book Update

Minutes—Adams—continue to send out as an email attachment and simultaneously post on Yahoo groups under file. Approved by consent.

How do we support Projects

Mayers—policy manual currently addresses the issue of linkage to the BoD through the individual BoD project “sponsor”.

Requires additional thought.

Collins—Public Relations

Communications Facilitator Position

Outside media Consultant

Mayers—defer to process re: BoD Committee recommendations (see above). ED will discuss with Committee.

Toolkit—who's the chair? (Mayers says Woody Powell) Send toolkit material to ED.

Winter Soldier—A wonderful event that went unreported. Upcoming op-ed lamenting poor reporting. Orange Revolution a la Ukrainians—if we could collaborate with other peace groups with coordinated effort branded by same apparel.

Staff reports are not public information—moved and passed.

Adjourned

4/20/2008 1:49 PM

Compiled by

Gary E. May, Secretary

Submitted after Board Review & Corrections May 6, 2008

Business Meeting—Minneapolis, MN  
Call to order—President Adams  
8/30/2008 9:16 AM

Statement of Purpose Read by—Vice President Kufeldt

BoD Introduced by Adams—Thomas Brinson, Ellen Barfield, Eli PaintedCrow, Mike Ferner, Anita Foster, Bill Collins, John Varone, Elliott Adams, Sharon Kufeldt, Ken Mayers, Michael Uhl & Gary May

Adams—thanks to Jim Steinhagen

Treasurer's Report reviewed by Mayers

- Balance sheet good, revenues down

- Question—how much \$ did we get from members' donations of rebate checks

- Dues—ours are very low compared to other national organizations—allow local chapters to have more control over vetting and completing applications

- Life Memberships should be encouraged

- Membership levels—Foster—sustaining membership is very helpful—members can sign up at the convention

Thanks from floor to Newsletter Committee (Michael Uhl, Chair)

Announcement—Adams—Announced Legal services phone number for Parade (651) 356-8635

Executive Director's Report

- Thanks to Convention Planning Committee

- Slide report presented

- Floor suggestion—consider an award for chapter that increases membership by largest %

New Chapter Charter was announced—Rogue Valley Chapter, Oregon

Break 11:05 AM

Reconvene 11:32 AM

Bylaw Amendments—Houde, Committee Chair

- Amended Bylaws will be posted on the National website

- Adams—suspend consideration due to time constraints

- BoD tentatively recommended against all bylaw amendments except one addressing stylistic changes to mission statement.

Lunch

Speak Out

## Resolutions

Motion-Adams, Seconded & Passed. Consistent with Resolutions Section of Board of Director's Policies File (May 2007), establish rule for considering resolutions—if approved by BoD and no opposition—no comments entertained. If opposed, opponents & proponents will alternate speaking. No more than 15 minutes per resolution.

Res. 2008-01

Input received.

Membership rejected

Res. 2008-02

Passed

Res. 2008-03

Passed

Res. 2008-04

Passed

Res 2008-05

Referred to Bylaws Committee

Res. 2008-06

Passed

Res. 2008-07

Rejected

Res. 2008-08

Combined with # 2008-11

Passed.

Res. 2008-09

Passed.

Has been referred to the Bylaws Committee

Res. 2008-10

Input received. (2/3 vote required)

Rejected

Res. 2008-12

Passed.

Res. 2008-13 (2/3 vote required)

rejected.

Res. 2008-14

Passed.

Res. 2008-15

Passed.

Res. 2008-16 (2/3 required)

Input received.

Rejected.

Res. 2008-17

Passed.

Res. 2008-18

Input received.

Passed.

1 abstention

Res. 2008-19

Input received.

Passed.

Res. 2008-20

Passed.

Res. 2008-21 (2/3 vote required)

Input received.

Passed.

Res. 2008-22

Passed.

Res. 2008-23 (2/3 vote required)

Input received.

Passed.

Res. 2008-24

Passed.

Res. 2008-25 (2/3 vote required)

Input received.

Rejected.

Floor request—urge BoD to consider a statement on torture

Motion, second to reconsider—rejected.

Res. 2008-26 (2/3 vote required)

Input received.

Rejected.

Candidates for BoD

Each has three minutes to speak.

Leah Bolger—chapter 132, Corvallis, OR

Nate Goldshlag—chapter 9 (Smedley Butler), MA

Adams—suspend action on Bylaws till next annual Conference.

Adams—reviewed election protocol

Nominees continued

Bill Collins, Chapter 18, Norwalk, Connecticut

Eli PaintedCrow (through Sharon Kufeldt), Merced, CA

George Johnson, Chapter 69, San Francisco, CA

Regionalization—Barry Rush

NE

SE

SW

NW Winnebago

Attendees dispersed to regional meeting rooms.

De facto adjournment-- 4:28 PM

Respectfully submitted by Gary May

September 1, 2008

Open to BoD corrections/additions till September 15, 2008.

Draft with recommended changes September 16, 2008

Corrected edition posted September 17, 2008

## **VFP 10/25/08 Board meeting**

**Brought to order** at 8:55am by Pres. Adams

**Present:** Elliott Adams, Sharon Kufeldt, Ken Mayers, Patrick McCann John Varone, Anita Foster, Mike Ferner, Ellen Barfield, Michael McPhearson, Thomas Brinson

**Absent:** Eli Painted Crow, Michael Uhl, Bill Collins, Gary May. Absences excused.

**Statement of Purpose** read by VP Kufeldt.

Ellen Barfield presented a VFP logo made of inlaid wood, given to the organization by the Ho Chi Minh City Assoc. for Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin

### **Agenda adopted**

**The case of each absent Board member was reviewed all were ruled excused absences**

**Minutes** from last meeting approved

### **Treasurer's Report**

Although working capital reserve remains, declining revenue trend continues.

### **Executive Director Report**

- **Need to appoint a committee to oversee tabulating ballots which have been sent out.**
- McPhearson reported on membership renewal efforts and discussed a proposed position in the 2009 budget. Moved and approved to adopt 2009 budget by December 31.

**Area Communication Coordinator position** discussed. Moved and approved to have board members perform the duties of this position on an interim basis. McPhearson to Adams, McPhearson and Woody Powell to develop a form for recording information from chapter contacts by Nov. 28

**Moved and approved** to schedule a Board conference call for Saturday, December 6, noon EST.

**Moved and approved** to direct McPhearson to take out Board of Directors' insurance policy.

**Case statement** has been redrafted. Deadline of December 6 for submitting testimonials and photos.

**Organizational Development** – ED reported on and Board agreed with agreement with Daniel Hunter to continue the planning.

**Tool Kit** – it is out as a beta model and available on web page, but Mayers has not received much feedback.

**Regional Collaboration** – the office is sending out a chapter newsletter

**Messaging and Case Statement** – Paintedcrow has completed the tip sheet she committed to.

**Outreach - Communications:** Armistice Day op ed was prepared and submitted to American Forum by Ferner. Deadline of Nov. 3 for Ferner to get it to VFP office if AF is not going to use it and the office will distribute it to chapters with a cover letter suggesting they submit it to their local papers. Kufeldt identified three times of opportunity for op eds: a) recurrent events like Memorial Day, b) anniversary events such as Hiroshima/Nagasaki, c) current events.



**Media** – there are two uses for media consultants. One is to get better coverage for a local event or action. The other is getting media visibility to for the organization and its specific message.

**Training** – Adams commits to getting a nonviolence training web page ready for review by Dec 6. In conjunction with this there is a need for an annotated resource list.

**2011 convention:** When announcing the results of the board of directors election, include a request for hosting the 2011 convention. This should include a one page or less description of what is required of a chapter to host a convention.

**Annual convention:** Discussion re: planning for annual convention, including general agreement that it would be beneficial to create a national standing committee to organize specific portions of conventions, e.g. speakers, workshops. There is a need for a written document to define what the local chapter and the national respectively will do.

Time for discussing Annual Convention will be on each agenda of future board meeting.

**2009 Maryland Convention:** Gary Hosey, Pat McCann, and Jim Baldrige reviewed plans for the '09 convention to be held at the University of Maryland.

### **Sunday morning**

**Advertising policy:** Barfield and Ferner will have a draft policy ready by the board conference call Dec. 6.

**Executive Director succession:** Varone, Mayers and Collins will produce a 1-page succession plan based on Collins' letter by Dec. 6 conference call.

**Revoking Organizing Committee 929 status:** Based on request from members of organizing committee 929, the Board agreed to review revocation of organizing status. The board had previously suspended this group's Organizing Committee status, that revocation was appealed. Chapter and Membership Development Committee will gather further information about the case and submit the report by the next board meeting. Out of this discussion it was decided that the Committee will also make recommendations for policy revisions for organizing committees, including possible sunsets (if they have not formed a chapter after some time limit) for organizing committees, and possible additional qualifications or review for granting organizing committee status

**New Board Orientation:** Discussion on what this orientation should consist of. Moved and approved that a committee consisting of first-year board members in consultation with Executive Committee be established to prepare new board orientation presentation to be given at the January board meeting. Moved and approved that buddies will be assigned to newly-elected board members after each annual election and before the January board meeting.

**Chapter Contacts Policies:** Committee of Kufeldt, Brinson, Barfield to propose a policy for how people qualify to be on Chapter Contacts and how it is used. The current Chapter Contacts is supposed to serve several functions which may even be best divided. 1) a person people who are interested in contact VFP locally can call, this info is on the web site (some chapters have more than one and some chapters do not have any 2) The chapter contact listserv is a way for national to send information to the chapters. 3) the chapters contact listserv is supposed to be a way chapters can share their experiences and coordinate actions together. Currently 1) the use of chapter contacts listserv by some has driven other chapter contacts off the list serv., 2) there is a confusing mix of people on the listserv and not on the list and visa

versa and no way to figure out who belongs where, 3) the list serv does not seem to work for chapters to share their experience or for chapters to coordinate actions 4) some chapters do not have any designated chapter contact

**Members Who Can't Afford Dues:** Kufeldt reported on how a chapter does it through voluntary member donations to a Sunshine fund set up for that purpose. Board policy states that chapters are invited to pay dues for members who can't afford them. In the absence of that, National organization will entertain a request from a member for waiver of dues. National should tell chapters when they are paying for members as recognition of part of what national does, but the names of members requesting waivers will remain anonymous. A new request will have to be made for waving each year's dues.

**Next Board Meeting:** Jan. 17-18, 2009 in Miami.

**New Chapter Chartered:** Moved and approved to charter NC Triangle Area Chapter of Raleigh, NC.

**Executive Director Evaluation:** Moved and adopted that Foster will work with McPhearson to develop a more appropriate description and detailed evaluation to submit to the Personnel Committee, which will review and approve prior to the Dec. 6 conference call, with an evaluation to be done in January. Even though it put off the evaluation, the Board wanted to and did give the ED an interim evaluation.

**Board acknowledged the conclusion of Ellen Barfield's service** to VFP as the longest-serving board member in the organization's history.

**Adjourned** 1:10 pm

Mike Ferner Secretary Pro Tem.

Submitted to National for Posting with Correction to Membership in Chapter Contacts Policy Committee from Brinson

Gary E. May

November 17, 2008