1st Armistice Day Planning Call

February 15, 2018

Agenda

Introductions

Purpose of Call

Santa Cruz Update

Discussion

Tabling Materials

Next Steps

Purpose of Call

Increase number of actions and activities organized around Armistice Day by connecting interested chapter members and chapters.

Update from Santa Cruz – Rico Baker

* Chapter putting emphasis on this being Armistice Year
* For all of 2018, doing something 1x per month, possibly on the 11th
* Events located in Santa Cruz central quad with town clock
* Met on 11th of this last month - had program of speakers and people reading poetry, musicians, decorated town square with banners and flags to draw attention
* Trying to get many churches and town clock to make a special showing of bells
* Currently planned – rather large event on Nov 11th, but for each month have something going. Working with three main groups – interfaith, veteran’s groups, and peace groups
* In order to avoid polarizing during Santa Cruz events, have been putting emphasis on 100th anniversary of Armistice Day and making it free of as much polarization as they can

Discussion – Main Points

November 11th on Sunday

* Potential complications as many churches are in session at 11am
* Having actions on both Saturday and Sunday, or all day Sunday allows faith groups to participate
* If churches cannot ring bells during services, ask them to include the info in publications and bulletins

Making Armistice Day International

* Would be great to make this international event, where we can say we are in tune with people all around the world that are doing the same thing
* Have a lot of potential to make this something that a lot of people would tune into

VFP Chapters

* Chapter 56 (Arcata / Eureka) – Do a vigil every Friday in Arcata and Eureka, meeting is first Thurs of every month. At next meeting will propose a special vigil on 11th of each month.
* Chapter 90 (Binghamton, NY) – will once again do a cemetery of Iraqi & U.S. tombstones along a parade route they were told they were not welcome to participate in. Will be at 1PM with music and veterans speaking and open microphone. That same day some will be across the street from the United Nations with VFP flags, banners declaring Armistice Day, music and selected speakers being filmed for a YouTube presentation.
* Chapter 63 (Albuquerque, NM)- Will try to plan to build activities to build up to Nov 11th, will ask churches that have bells to ring bells, for the last several years has borrowed bell from university of NM on wheels that weighs 200 lbs.

Trump’s Proposed Military Parade

* There are vetsorganizing for a counter demonstration with possibility of a parade
* VFP making motions to stop it and planning response in case it does happen
* Do not know where or when this will happen, or if it even will happen at all – since we don’t know for sure we are planning contingencies
* Jim Ch. 42 - Parade would be a good opportunity for VFP to organize
* Al Glatkowski - If Trump parade happens, proposing national peaceful demonstration and veteran’s peace march in DC on 11th.

International Veterans Peace Conference -

* Sponsored by VFP.
* Taking place this year in NY.
* Bring vets from different countries together to address 3 topics: 1. Abolition of war 2. Global nuclear disarmament 3. 3. War and the preparation for war impact on the environment and climate change.
* At least 1 of the plenaries will be at the UN.
* Currently thinking of having it from 13th -15th of November to have it around Armistice Day but not interfere with people participating local activities.
* More information will come as it develops.

Tie Armistice Day to Current Day

* Many young people don’t even know what armistice means
* Have a lot of education to do
* Kellogg Briand 90th anniversary coming up - came out of WW1 when nations came together and decided to make war illegal – can relate that to the world today and re-spark conversation
* Moji – Can connect ongoing war today and in the middle east with decolonization and **c**onnecting Armistice Day to Sykes–Picot agreement is a great way of extending our reach to Native brothers and sisters
* Rico – Santa Cruz invited spokesperson for local tribe to their opening ceremonies. Spokesperson mentioned that the veterans who showed up at pipeline in ND was extremely touching to them. That is something we can put more emphasis on.
* Emphasis needs to be on Armistice Day but at same time how do we honor the people who were killed in the war to end wars (people killed on both sides and civilians).

Tabling Materials

* Buttons
* Stickers
* Half Page Flyer with VFP Armistice Day Statement
* Developing T-Shirts

Next Steps

* Another call in approximately 1 months’ time - many people will be in Vietnam but we will work out timing conflicts
* Interested members developing informational brochure to give out about the arm centennial coming up, so that everyone is giving out same info
* Want to develop a handout specifically for high school students
* Discussion on whether or not there should be a listserv
* Proposal to get commitments on what people will do and that will allow us to gauge how many people are committed and keep track