2nd Armistice Day Planning Call

March 19, 2018

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Purpose of Call

Report on actions by chapters so far this year. Information on upcoming plans from chapters/members. Sharing ideas for possible actions. Increase number of actions and activities organized around Armistice Day by connecting interested chapter members and chapters.

Update from Santa Cruz – Rico Baker / Claire Joy

* Planned Veteran's March for Peace on the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day" - has many diverse groups willing to be involved
* Planning major event with great speakers and entertainers
* Have applied for use of the Civic Auditorium, the Vets Hall and for Parade down the main street of Santa Cruz (Pacific Ave.)
* Have contacted several local representatives (mayor, city council member and county supervisor) about city and county proclamations in support of the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day / Year
* Started dialog w/ various local veteran's organizations asking for their support in Armistice Day / Year events
* Reached out to peace groups to ask for their support and for help in planning in creating mini events leading up to Nov. 11
* Good number of faith community leaders have shown interest and offered their facilities for events
* Attending meetings of appropriate groups to offer a few words and flyers about the monthly events so far / to ask for possible ideas for final parade
* W/ election coming up in 2018 - stressing the slogan, "Live Peace -- Vote Peace."  Several of the Peace candidates have been willing to speak at events
* Looking at various groups to be in the 11/11 parade including besides veterans, other "veterans" like the Peace Corps members, parents, teachers, fire fighters, peace officers, etc. very inclusive but focused on Peace
* Working with schools and students and a group including a high school teacher and a couple of her students were on the program of our last event on 3/11 to tell about their "walkout" in support of the students killed in the Florida shooting
* Have had an event on the 11th of every month so far and would like to continue to do so

Past Actions/Plans From Other Chapters

* Los Angeles –
  + First of next month having two Korean groups coming to memorial in Santa Monica, going to try and do one big event per month
* Minneapolis –
  + Had major event (World Storytelling Day) in St. Paul at Landmark Center - used to be courthouse where WW1 war resisters were tried – opened event with ringing of Armistice Bells
  + Working on getting churches that don’t have bells anymore to restore them
  + Put out a press release that will go all over the state and saying what they’re doing with the bells ringing again and then mentioning the origin of Armistice Day
  + Having a crescendo for Nov. 11th, want to integrate Christmas Truce w/ Armistice Day
  + May 5th - kyong juhn, Korean American photographer walking over 330 miles to replicate the 323 mile walk that her mother did from North Korea to South Korea. VFP Minneapolis will be walking with her from time to time and joining her with their peace education school bus, collecting signatures for nuclear disarmament and handing out flyers about Armistice Day
* Moji / Boulder –
  + Trying to get his chapter involved
  + Connect Armistice Day to Sikes Picot / decolonization / what happened back then to today / connect struggles across the planet
* Bellingham –
  + Planning community peace potluck on the Saturday night before Armistice Day
  + Reaching out to four high schools
  + Tabling at farmers market planned for a few days leading up to Armistice Day
* Seattle –
  + Have vigil they attend on Tuesday - want flyer to distribute
  + Talking to churches about ringing bells on Nov. 11th
  + Setting up movie night with Meaningful Movies to show film about Armistice Day
  + Looking into speaking opportunities at local schools / enhance Armistice Day talks at those schools
* Buffalo –
  + Rang bells at cathedral downtown 11 times
  + Want to expand and involve several churches and the local college
* Smedley Butler –
  + Inspired by Minneapolis, have 30 churches involved this year for 100th anniv.
* NC Triangle –
  + For the past four years have had 24-foot Swords to Plowshares Memorial Belltower up for a week leading up to Armistice Day
  + Doing that again this year, but hope to also be present in DC
  + This year state has reached out to VFP to have bell ringing in each of the 100 counties in state
  + Through emphasizing history first we can leverage and get input and maybe also convince gov to come out with strongly worded proclamation

Military Parade

* We are working on stopping this military parade but if worst case scenario it takes place there is a coalition of groups working on a response
* Al Glatkowski has been working w/ many other national groups to organize a Veterans Peace March in DC
  + Facebook page - Veterans Peace March #N11 (<https://www.facebook.com/events/199226197326956/>). Twitter - VETSPEACEMARCH
  + Hashtags: #PeaceNotWar ; #N11 ; #VETERANSPEACEMARCH
  + Have 50 endorsements from organizers and different campaigns
  + OSS committed to attending a Nov 11th Armistice Day memorial march
  + Currently trying to get endorsement and signs on
  + March will touch at most memorials to war, then there will be a rallying point after and a potential peace concert
  + Website not public yet
  + Still looking to find fiscal sponsor
  + Currently have permit for area around Washington monument, and then have other permits out right now - Permits applied for last fall, way before government announced parade
  + Groups on national call have suggested that vets might want to petition to be involved in the parade and every one said no
* Moji- we can emphasize that similar parades are third world dictatorship ideas, used by dictatorships to show how tough their regime is

[Swords to Plowshares Belltower Project](http://www.newsobserver.com/opinion/op-ed/article183787821.html)

* Inspired by WW1 Belltower to mourn the dead and wounded and renew public want for peace
* Kinetic sculpture where anyone can add their stories of war
* Allows you to meet people where they are
* Received new grant, will be releasing 3 ½ minute intro video soon
* Making a set so that others can have mobile Belltower of their own - portable and can be set up quickly, lends itself to all sorts of possibilities, creating exhibit and doing writer workshops, drawing in new people
* Contact Roger Ehrlich (progerehrlich@gmail.com) if you or your chapter are interested

Tabling Materials / Merchandise

* Buttons
* Stickers
* Half Page Flyer with VFP Armistice Day Statement
* T-Shirt design included at end of notes – looking for quote suggestions for the back
* Looking into creating a poster
* [Link to Request Tabling Materials](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdxwZyFQdGQml8rK2arBgRlOjSbgAIIUx7oi1W73oLthWvUZg/viewform)

Planning Tips

* Build momentum for Nov. 11th actions by planning smaller actions/events on the 11th of each month leading up
* Auditoriums and parade routes are usually first come first serve, so put in your applications now and you will most likely be the ones to get it
* Start dialog w/ various local veteran's organizations asking for their support in Armistice Day / Year events
* Reach out to peace groups to ask for their support and for help in planning in creating mini events leading up to Nov. 11
* Reach out to faith groups - usually have large facilities for events

Ideas of Actions

* Contact local representatives (mayor, city council member, county supervisor) to create city and county proclamations in support of the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day / Year
* Potential idea: Cell phone can have ringtone of bell, anyone on train or bus can ring the bells on there rather than ringing physical bell
* Community peace potlucks are great ways to get the community involved and work together with other peace organizations

Other Various Ideas / Suggestions

* Creation of curriculum on Armistice Day created/discovered to send to teachers for use in their history and other classes
* PIOT special Vietnam issue was great resource, distributed at multiple events would be great to have special Armistice Day issue, support them to get that out early, can use it effectively, can include the resources and ideas
* Thunderclap last year, idea that we can have organizations and individuals pre-register and agree to have message sent out to contacts at given time – can tie more directly to have a call to action surrounding Armistice Day
* This year is 100th anniversary of Armistice, next year is 100th anniversary of Armistice *Day* - 
  + Can have whole year of educational talks and actions focused on how history is being played out today and connect the two
  + Related to Armistice Century – 100 years of militarization that brought us to this point. We would like 100 years going in the opposite direction, 1% reduction per year in the military spending in for the next 100 years.

Requests – If you have any of the below, please send to samantha@veteransforpeace.org

* Quote ideas for the back of the Armistice Day t-shirts
* Fact sheet/resources about the history of Armistice Day or others that may be useful as handouts or additional tabling materials
* Any other suggestions for tabling materials / merchandise
* Santa Cruz - Suggestions for potential speakers/performers for large event – please email Rico Baker
* Action ideas for a list of 11 Things to do on the 11th
* If you would like to be on the next call, please fill out this [Doodle Poll](https://doodle.com/poll/kd8zhmpr6auumtw4) with times that you are available
* Submit any planned events here: <https://goo.gl/forms/rDAXZeC1rcsjV5Oz2>

Next Steps

* We will have another call in approximately 1 months’ time

Armistice Day T-Shirt Design

Please send quote suggestions for the back of the t-shirt to samantha@veteransforpeace.org

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