**VFP US Board of Directors**

**January 2020 Board Meeting Minutes**

**Las Vegas, NV**

Saturday, 25 January

Present: Adrienne Kinne, Jessie Medvan, Daniel Craig, Joshua Shurley, Ben Schrader, George Johnson, Michael Dempsey, Patrick McCann, Joey King, Marti GuyDowning, Wille Hager, Garrett Reppenhagen, Executive Director, Colleen Kelly, VFP National Office.

Absent: Gary Butterfield, Rory Fanning

Meeting began at 9:00 a.m.

* Marti read the VFP Statement of Purpose and Jessie read the VFP Code of Conduct
* Adrienne administered the Oath of Office to newly elected board members Ben Schrader & Joshua Shurley.
* Adrienne presented meeting norms which the board members agreed to adhere to for the course of the meeting.
* Board Meeting Agenda approved unanimously; discussion on the status of executive session notes (where documented)
* Introductions by each board member & orientation discussion for the two new board members
	+ Review of orientation packet
	+ Discussion of linking up a new member with a standing member as liaison for information and orientation
	+ Explanation of how members are recognized to speak (“stack” procedure)
	+ Discussion of utilizing a parliamentarian for meeting oversight (to be continued)
	+ Agreed upon monthly ZOOM meetings last 90-120 minutes as the standard (extended as needed in certain situations); ensure the listing of time zones is clear; what constitutes an unexcused absence; discussion of cost savings in our endeavors; the importance of meeting regularly in person to build a cohesive, inclusive team and foster trust in each other and in the board’s process

Elections

 President: Adrienne Kinne

 Vice-president: Jessie Medvan

 Secretary: Daniel Craig

Motion to approve the candidates: Patrick; seconded by Marti

Vote count: 10 for, 0 against, 1 abstention, 2 absent for the vote

Treasurer: Gary Butterfield—vote held in abeyance until Gary is present and participating in the board meeting for this vote

Executive Director (ED) Report

* shared the results of the 2020 organization-wide poll; analysis of the results will be ongoing and utilized to continue the growth and strengthening the organization as a whole, addressing the changing demographics and using the experience of all members in order to meet our needs in carrying out our mission
* reported on the efficacy of conducting daily national office staff meeting both in person and remotely
* ED and each staff member prepare a weekly goal sheet
* search for a Resource Development Director; received a resume and spoke to a military veteran who has Development education and experience as a possible candidate. ED will seek approval from the Board to set up a this new position.
* Casey moved to assist on organizing and member coordination with additional administrative tasks; her wage is increased to $10/hr.
* 2% Cost of Living adjustment for national office staff as of 1 Jan ’20
* Based on available funding ED is considering an Outreach/Program Organizer later in 2020; more information to follow

 Budget

* ED drafted the 2020 budget with the assistance of the Board Treasurer and the Business Manager;
* ED will request full approval by the Board the move to Quick Books is near completion and once implemented this will clarify some errors seen in the reports and clean up the method of analyzing the organizations financial situation
* 2020 budget - looking to gain net income from the 2020 Convention

Board Support

* continued participation in board meetings; offering support and perspective on issues as well as creating tools in the conduct of board meetings and business management
* presented the possibility of housing Board Meeting Minutes on Google Documents for access and editing in order to facilitate access to finalized and approved version of the Minutes
* suggestion of creating a platform to track endorsements and listing the vote count on these items

Chapter & Member Support

* Chapter contact emails continue to go out; looking at shifting monthly Chapter Contact calls to Organizing Calls that may help chapter participation and activity locally around the issue/ situation
* Chapter contacts have been updated and new reports are being completed
* Organization Member Retreat in Las Vegas on the prior weekend to this Board Meeting was successful. The group formed a Caucus which will focus on internal change, it will work on establishing goals for the organization in the transformation process to become a more inclusive body and assist in intercultural transformation as well as create a stronger more efficient accountability process throughout the organization

Communications

* ENews is being disseminated regularly
* ED has identified at a potential Managing Editor and Layout/Formatting person to take up the creation of a quarterly publication to take up where Peace In Our Times (PIOT) left off
* The hard copy of the News Letter is prepared for distribution in February
* The input to Social Media is steady
* Developing a strong Communications Committee will help support media operations by having skilled social media members and strong writing and editing members involved

Fundraising

* VFP has purchased 6 years of Foundation Search to utilize in our ongoing search for grants and other sources of financial support
* national office has given Helen access to the database in order for her to work with the Treasurer and the ED to find noncompetitive grants to fund the Golden Rule Project
* Fundraising toward the end of the year helped reduce the 2019 budget deficit but we still fell short of the budget. ED and Treasurer are looking for greater participation of both the National Board and the Advisory Board in fundraising in 2020 and beyond
* The Arctic Wilderness League will offer $15k to stop fossil fuel development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Miscellaneous

* ED will attend the SOVA Convention; the SOVA MOU requires approval
* engagement with About Face and other allies to push for peace policy with democratic presidential candidates. There is strong encouragement for local chapters to engage in People Over Pentagon questioning in local town and city board meetings
* the Afghanistan Accountability Group is moving forward to form a video testimonial campaign
* Members in the national office are working with the National Iranian-American Council (NIAC) and coalition members to take action to stop the escalation of hostilities between the U.S. and Iran
* A compromise was made by Senator Jacklyn Rosen (D-Nevada) to curb the expansion of Nellis Air Force expansion. VFP is working to improve the legislation around this issue and to block the expansion.
* The ED and Communications Coordinator met with the Fallon Paiute Shoshone
* Tribe to discuss blocking the expansion of the Naval Air Station which would further encroach on the tribe’s ancestral land and further desecrate tribal cultural sites and burial grounds and how VFP can align with them to support their endeavor

Treasurer’s Report

* presented by the ED in the absence of the Board Treasurer

Working lunch between 12:20 and 1:20 p.m. No official business conducted.

Committee Assignments

Board Members volunteered to chair the various committees as well as volunteered to also be committee members on other committees other than only on the committee they chair

Committee Chair Assignments & committee members

-Awards: Joey

 -By Laws: Adrienne Members: Willie, Ben, Marti

 -Communications & Newsletter: Adrienne Members: Willie, Ben, George

 -Convention: Daniel Members: Adrienne, Jessie, Patrick, Marti

 -Delegations: Jessie Members: Daniel, Patrick, Marti,

Adrienne, Josh

 -Finance/Fundraising: Board Treasurer Members: Patrick, Michael, Daniel,

George, Willie, Jessie, Adrienne

-Membership: Willie Members: Jessie, George, Marti, Joey,

Michael, Adrienne

 -Newsletter: (merged with Communications Committee)

 -Nominations: Patrick Members: Board Wide

 -Personnel: Adrienne Members: Jessie, Daniel, Treasurer

 -National Projects: Marti Members: Willie, Adrienne, Ben

 -Resolutions: Joshua Members: Adrienne

 -Working Groups: TBD Members: TBD

Committee Reports

2020 VFP Convention Update

Convention Committee

* met on We., 1.15.20. We developed the sub-committees responsible f/all aspects of the convention. We have a commitment fr/Dahr Jamail to be our Saturday Evening Banquet Speaker.
* We chose a them and an image (logo) to present to the Board f/consideration.
* Continued collaboration w/Pace e Bene in commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the bombings on Trinity Site in South Central New Mexico as well as on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
* Discussion & finalization of the theme and logo tabled until Sunday morning of the board meeting
* February Convention Committee Meeting will be on We., 2.19.20 12—+/- 2:30 p.m. The meeting will be conducted in person for those able to attend as well as on ZOOM

Delegations

The moratorium on delegations is still in place as the committee restructures and redefines the parameters and the goals of the committee

Membership

The committee is addressing the request for formation of VFP groups internationally, i.e. Spain

The need exists to determine how VFP Chapters will be formed in foreign countries as some aspects of the requirements for the formation of U.S.-based chapters will not necessarily work in the creation of a chapter internationally. (Example: DD 214 is not an international document)

Working Groups

Willie raised the point that Working Groups are supposed to submit regular reports on their projects. Further discussion revolved around the need for the board to be in contact with these groups.

 -Agent Orange -Prosecute War Criminals

 -Democracy/Constitution/War Powers -Military Trauma

 -Drones -SOAW/Latin America

 -DU, Cluster Bombs & Land Mines -Nuclear Abolition

 -GI Resistance -Save Our VA (SOVA)

 -Homeless Veterans -Iran

 -Palestine -Veterans For INNER Peace

 -The Environmental Cost of War and Militarism

SOVA submitted a report in which was written that the group will wait until after their conference (9-13 Feb. ’20, Washington, DC) to decide if they want to re-apply for national status. Two requests to the Outreach Travel Fund subcommittee are under consideration. Joshua will consult with the Executive Director on this matter.

National Projects

* Golden Rule Peace Boat Project—Active, no report, status unknown
* Iraq Water Project—self-maintained, no need to tweak it
* Korea Peace Campaign—Active (?), no report, status unknown
* Deported Veterans Advocacy Project (DVAP)—see paragraph below f/report \*\*\*
* Veterans Challenge Islamophobia—Active (?), no report, status unknown; discussion to follow as to its existence as a National Project; discussion to shift it to a Position/Soidarity Statement status.
* Peace In Our Times—no report, discussion to move this to Communications Committee oversight
* Veterans Peace Teams—ED will contact appropriate individuals to discuss its removal status
* Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign—Active (?), no report, status unknown
* Vietnam Full Disclosure Campaign—Active (?), no report, status unknown

\*\*\*DVAP Report: submitted by Willie

* Group is developing a legislative campaign
* The active Call Center made 200 legislative calls
* Representative Rashida Tlaib (Michigan’s 13th Congressional District) visited with Deported Veterans, members of Chapter 182, Tijuana, Mexico
* DVAP is becoming financially more stable due to the support of VFP National as well as donations from VFP Chapters and members

Executive Session—Membership Matter (information here is not to be disseminated outside of the VFP Board of Directors)

Meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m, reconvening Sunday, 26 January, 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, 26 January ’20

Meeting convened at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Adrienne Kinne, Jessie Medvan, Daniel Craig, Joshua Shurley, Ben Schrader, George Johnson, Michael Dempsey, Patrick McCann, Joey King, Marti GuyDowning, Wille Hager, Garrett Reppenhagen, Executive Director, Rory Fanning (via ZOOM)

Adrienne administered the Oath of Office to newly elected board member Rory Fanning

Executive Session—Discussion regarding the VFP Board Treasurer

Resume Board meeting.

Tabled item: 2020 VFP Convention Theme and Logo

* After vigorous discussion and a vote amongst the VFP Board of Directors and the 2020 Convention Committee the following Theme was chosen:

 “All Is One, Towards A Peaceful and Nuclear Free World”

* The image created by the Logo & Theme subcommittee will be used and the sub-committee will continue to refine and develop the format of the logo and theme as it relates to its placement on various items, i.e. T-shirts, and in various publications. More to follow.

2020 VFP Budget

The VFP Executive Director proposed the budget for 2020

Items presented and discussed:

* Staff wage increase
* Focus on increase of income through grants and major donors
* Make money on the 2020 Convention
* Look at change(s) to Golden Rule budget
* Look at change(s) to the DVAP budget
* Restructuring of staff and more work completed remotely
	+ Discussion between ED and the Personnel Committee to include hiring a Development Director
	+ Upon determination of this, either approve during the February board meeting (via ZOOM) or on-line via email earlier than the February meeting
* balancing drastic expense reduction in the very near future with a major increase in fund-raising activities
* Vote to approve the proposed 2020 Budget
	+ Vote count: 10 for, 0 against, 2 abstentions
	+ 2020 Budget was approved

National Projects Liaison Assignments

* Golden Rule Peace Boat Project—Michael Dempsey
* Iraq Water Project—Adrienne Kinne
* Korea Peace Campaign—George Johnson
* Deported Veterans Advocacy Project (DVAP)—Willie Hagar
* Veterans Challenge Islamophobia—Jessie Medvan
* Veterans Peace Teams—inactive, to be removed from national projects
* Peace In Our Times—restructured under communications
* Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign—Ben Schrader
* Vietnam Full Disclosure Campaign—Ben Schrader

Future Board Meetings

* February: Sunday, 23 Feb., 10-11 a.m. (PST)
* March: Sunday, 22 March, 10-11 a.m (PST)
* April: Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 3-5 April. St. Louis, MO—exact timeframe TBD

January VFP Board of Director’s Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m, Sunday, 26 January ‘20