

TOP OF DOCUMENT

Veterans For Peace Board of Directors Approved Meeting Minutes

January 2025 – December 2025

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Jan 2025	Apr 2025	Jul 2025	Sep 2025	Dec 2025
Feb 2025	May 2025	Annual Business Meeting – Jul 2025	Oct 2025	
Mar 2025	Jun 2025	Aug 2025	Nov 2025	

Veterans For Peace Board of Directors Saturday, December 20, 2025 Minutes

PRESENT: President Susan Schnall, Ellen Barfield, Ellen Davidson, Enya Anderson, Gerry Condon, Josh Shurley, Matt Southworth, Mike Tork, Mike Wong, Stephen Zollman, Windsor Wade, Paul Cox (notes). Staff: Michael McPhearson, Shelly Rockett. Absent: Kelly Wadsworth

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alice Slater, Ann Wright, Anne Elliot, Anthony Donovan, Art Milholland, Bob Keilbach, Bob Suberi, Bryson Ripley, Bushrod Lake, Cheryl (Duwamish-land Seattle), Charles Powell, Craig Klawuhn, Dalton Winter, Dave Logsdon, David Hempel, Dominick Favuzzi, Gerald Hassett, Gerry Werhan, Greg Marro, James Brown, James Smith, Jim Rine, John Wilks, Joy Metzler, Justin Loza, Lola Moonfrog: Lou Curran, Mary Ann Van Cura, Michael Cerantes, Michael Michael Kramer, Michelle Marsolette, Monica McFarland, Nancy River, Olga Garcia, Paul DuNard, Phil Tottenham, RAchel B, RAchel Clark, Regina Sneed, Robert's IPad, Roberto Schiraldi, Shelley Corteville, Steve Bare, Steve Morse, Tarak Kauff, Tom Arnold, Tom Larsen, Vince Dijanich

12:40 PM ET, Videos of the **VFP Statement of Purpose** and **Indigenous Worldview** were played

Pre-meeting comments by members:

John Wilks, Announced that Los Alamos Labs announced that it has recruited 11,000 employees to produce nuke 'pits', and will start and 'explosive' up-production. Wants to change chapter name to Don and Sally Alice Thompson Southern and Central New Mexico. Also was impressed with the end-of-

Steve Morse, The Labor Working Group will next meet Jan 20, 7:30 ET. People of the Pentagon Campaign has 113 org endorsements with 33 VFP chapters endorsers, Mark Pocan will help support.

Dave Logdson: We are close to finalizing the convention location to KC Mo.

Phil Tottenham: putting together a rapid response network to respoind to the billboard about to go up in New Orleans (phase 1) with Phase 2 to be putting activists on the ground to interact with troops in mardi gras.

Anthony Donovan: There will be demos outside the Nuke Deterrence Summit in DC in Arlington, Jan 26-28. No info yet about the demos, but FMI the Summit: <https://www.exchangemonitor.com/go/nuclear-deterrence-summit-2026/>. Also, he would like to see a vet delegation to the West Bank.

James Smith noted that Seattle chapter president Zahid Chaudhry is still in ICE detention at this time, and that we should mount a national campaign in support of him.

Bryson Ripley: Talked with UMo, to discuss with them their proposal which is due for monday. Also wants to nominate someone for the Advisory Board.

Board Meeting was opened at 1:05 pm ET:

Checkins

2025-11-15 Board Minutes: Approved

Agenda: Approved

Finance Report, Mike Tork:

Unrestricted: Amalgamated - \$334,558 + 60K CDs; Edward Jones - \$16,892; Checking - \$123,612; Bank Wire - \$544

Total - \$535,606

Zinn Fund - \$22,482

Restricted - \$18,386

Convention Update: Ads - \$7,000, Tables - \$500; Sponsors - \$12,000; Pledges - \$23,600; Profit - \$23,000

Updating MOU for Peace and Planet News: - our expense will go up about \$600 next year; that is, PPN will put out six issues/year at 4,000 each run, a change from the previous four issues/year at 4,000 each. VFP's maximum exposure = \$4,880 for 32,000 copies)

Updating MOU for Golden Rule - Provisions remain same; \$12,500 Insurance+ \$1,100 taxes/registration, \$21,168 for PM (up \$1K)

2026 Budget will be ready for board approval at Jan. board meeting

2025 Budget through October - Revenues = **\$160,239**. Expenses = **\$103,624**, which puts us in the black by **\$56,615**. I am sure we will end the year in the black.

Executive Director, Michael McPhearson: Fundraising and renewal letters have been arriving in people's homes. Per Ellen's suggestion, recurring donors should also get a letter. Is working on a draft for Foundation Search proposals for funding grants Post911 recruitment, and deported veterans advocacy. There will be a hearing for Zahid on Monday Dec 22, 9 am, and if people in the area show up to support him, that would be good.

President, Susan: Thanked the Excom and Board for working well together this year. Announced that the convention for 2026 will be in Kansas City, MO at UMO. She also reported that the Board met earlier today in executive session to discuss personnel matters and Every Action issues. No actions were taken.

Membership, Josh Shurley: Membership is hovering around 3,600 members. Chapter 159 in Lane County, OR wants to change name to **Henry F. Dizney VFP Chapter 159**. Hank is deceased. He was a WWII vet and important member and mentor of the chapter. Approved

Transformative Justice Committee, Kelly Wadsworth: Stephen Zollman spoke in Kelly's absence, and he spoke of the common nominal world view, and compared it to the indigenous world view. See Appendix 1 for committee notes and recommendations.

Development Committee Report, Matt Southworth: No Report

VFP Policies: Whistler Blower and Conflict of Interest, Paul Cox: See [Whistler Blower Policy](#) and [Conflict of Interest Policy](#). Approved

MOU for PPN, Mike Tork: See [VFP-PPN MOU](#). Approved Susan reminded all to order Peace and Planet News issues to pass out far and wide.

MOU for GR, Mike Tork: See [VFP-GRC MOU](#) Approved

Nuclear Abolition Working Group, Gerry Condon: See [NUKE WG](#).

China working Group, Mike Wong: WG has been meeting monthly; pushing Dee Knight's Making Friends With China. Also, three members were contributors to a new book: China Changes Everything. They have also made video interviews with various China experts. Julie Chang is organizing a China tour next October, FMI Mike Wong: mikevfp69@gmail.com

Veterans For Inner Peace Working Group, Gerry Werhan, and Craig Klawuhn: They have reconstituted the VFIP, and look forward to expanding its scope and effectiveness by cultivating inner peace among our selves, and sharing with everyone the costs of war. Craig mentioned the Peace Education Progam, a ten week course, free, run by

veterans. It is not political or religious, and leads to a shift from your head to your heart. They meet 4 pm ET, Tuesdays, with a new series starting Thu Jan 15. FMI,

Mobilization Committee Report and Recommendations: Gerry Condon: See [Mobe Comm Rpt](#)

Communications Committee Report, Gerry Condon, See [Comm Comm Rpt](#)

Climate Crisis and Militarism, Jim Rine: The CCMP has lost some board members recently, but is continuing to work. See [CCMP No MAS Rpt summary](#), or [full 22-page 2025 CCMP Report](#). Suggests that National hire a media advisor or employee.

Post 911 Caucus Report and Campaign Against Genocide and Repression, Marie Purcell, Joy Metzler, & Philip Tottenham: Work on the poetry book currently has 50 submissions, and have extended the deadline through January. They are planning a trip to New Orleans in follow up to billboard to talk to troops around Mardi Gras. Also About Face folks will be going, too. Mike Tork moved that VFP establish a \$20k restricted fund for the use by the Post 911s for travel or other important needs. Management by the 911ers will have to be developed. Ellen Davidson thinks it could be a source of special funds. Approved

Next Board meeting: Saturday, January 17, 2026. Adjournment: 2:26 pm ET

Post-meeting discussion:

Ellen Davidson: showed the billboard that is going up in New Orleans with an eagle image, another with the Uncle Sam image may be used elsewhere.

Alice Slater: China and Russia issued a report on the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII, to pledge to not use weapons in space, but it was ignored by the US and in the US media.

Jack Gilroy: Discussed work on Ban Killer Drones and the 15-second videos for before or after a news program, and Cres Belucci has been able to put them up in New Mexico, and is working on some other locations around military bases to put up new videos. He is asking for Board to approve and support TV Ads, and he will donate \$1,000 towards that work.

Dalton Winter: Does not think that we have an adequate sense of immediacy at this point about the damage the Department of Homeland Security is doing and will do when they attack us. He will put a proposal forward.

Regina Sneed: FCNL advocacy teams in all 50 states will be lobbying strongly around the war on Venezuela, and hope VFP members and chapters will join in the effort.

Tarak Kauf: Re billboard: the company insisted that the 'paid for' be included so they didn't get heat for having put it up. Agreed that ICE and Homeland Security are important, as Dalton said. Also is looking for an article connecting Venezuela and Cuba. Paul Cox and Gerry Condon mentioned that they have ideas for such a source.

Gerry Condon: Recognizes that ICE has a huge budget for recruiting and changed the ages from 18 to 55 and have a \$30,000 signing bonus.

Bob Suberi: Is in Palestine, and reminded us that the US is committed to paying \$3.8B/year in general foreign aid to Israel, and Netanyahu wants to double it. However, there is a plurality of Republicans who are opposed.

Paul Cox: Mentioned that The Big Beautiful Bill eliminates taxes on overtime, which will greatly enhance the income for cops, and federal agents such as ICE.

Lola Moonfrog: Mentioned that troops are also getting bonuses

Gerry Condon: The troop bonuses are bribes of \$1776 to our warriors. Military.com exposed that the money is coming from a fund to improve military housing stocks.

Shelley Corteville: her chapter wants VFP to mount webinars on the issues with education, training, guidance, and bullet points. Susan agreed and thanked her for bringing it up.

Meeting ended at 2:57 pm ET

Appendix 1: TJC Meeting Notes. 1) I will be in a non-internet friendly area this morning when the Board meeting begins and will try to get connected, likely a bit late closer to 11am. Stephen Zollman is representing TJC at the meeting and providing a brief reflection on the worldview chart.

2) At our last TJC meeting, we discussed a couple things TJC would like to explore that we think will strengthen the inter-personal ecosystem in VFP:

a) A 'welcome' packet to all new chapters, presidents and moderators which includes bylaws & how to set them up, a welcome letter, best practices for meetings and public gatherings, resources for running meetings well, local options for mediation and conflict resolution, as well as an invitation to a monthly TJC drop-in hour. (Maybe Membership already does something like this? We are seeing some problems arise that stem from a lack of structure and some preventative measures may go a long way in helping our chapters).

b) A monthly TJC drop in hour. This would be a chance for chapter presidents and secretaries to explore best practices in running meetings, crafting effective meeting agendas, creating psychological and emotional safety, case studies, and other problem-solving skills when leading groups of people.

c) A wider resource list, both local and national resources, and how to build out cadre of folks available to lead circles when needed (we need more volunteers for this).

We'd like to invite you and Michael (and any other staff/board) to the next TJC meeting on Monday, January 12 @ 2:30pm PST/ 5:30pm EST to explore more.

Peace, Kelly

[Back to top](#)

Veterans For Peace Board of Directors
Saturday, November 15, 2025 Minutes

PRESENT: Susan Schnall, Josh Shurley, Ellen Barfield, Ellen Davidson, Enya Anderson, Gerry Condon,, Kelly Wadsworth, Mike Wong, Matt Southworth, Stephen Zollman, Paul Cox (notes). Staff: Michael McPhearson, Shelly Rockett. **Excused Absence:** Mike Tork, Windsor Wade,

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alice Slater, Bill Short, Charles Powell, Dave Logsdon, Dirk Lackovich-Van Gorp, Dominick Favuzzi, Duncan Sanders, Ed, Gene Marx, George, Gerald Hassett. Jackie Barshak, James Brown, James Flores, Janet Weil, Jeff Roy, Jesse Amo, Jim Rine, J. Guilbeau, John Willks, John Braxton, Joy Metzler, Marie Purcell, Martha S. Michael Cerantes, Michelle Marsolette, Monica McFarland, Olga Garcia, Paul DuNard, Regina Sneed, Sharon Argenbright, Shelley Corteville, arak Kauff, Tom Larsen, Tina Nannorone.

12:40 PM ET, Videos of the **VFP Statement of Purpose** and **Indigenous Worldview** were played

Comments by members:

- **John Wilks**, Chair of Albuquerque Chapter: Domacio Lopez just went to Europe for a Ban Nukes conference, and was awarded a lifetime achievement award for his work on Depleted Uranium. Also the Albuquerque Chapter has just launched their RV lab to test air, water, plants, and animals to test for radionuclides uranium. Micheal Ketter is the professor in charge of the testing. Their priority is indigenous communities. Eventually they hope to set up a second lab in Ohio. They are affiliated with the Scientists for Social Responsibility. FMI see [Appendix 1](#).
- Dave Logsdon: reported on Armistice Day. His chapter has been ringing the bell since 1991.

Board Meeting was opened at 1:00 pm ET

Checkins

2025-10-18 Minutes: [Approved](#) with abstention from Ellen Barfield because of too many tiepoes

Agenda: [Approved](#)

Finance Report, Mike Tork: Mike was unable to attend, Susan reported that we have \$443k unrestricted funds.

Executive Director, Michael McPhearson: The use of **our VFP flags** at demo's like No Kings are really important for our visibility and as a recruiting tool. Our anti-imperialist message is very important and as veterans we have things to say that other people will listen to. Domestically, the most important thing we can do is to help a united movement to force the fascists out of office. **Armistice Day** was observed by chapters across the country. We also participated in Vets Say No efforts, led by About Face and Common Defense, and we are working together on other things. For our **EveryAction database**, we have segmented our membership roster into Vets, Non vets, Donors, dropped, lapsed, etc. Staff will be sending out **snail mail end-of-year appeals** to each cohort. We are applying for a grant from Credo Mobile that decides who to support based on numbers of nominations, so stand by for information on how to nominate VFP. A donor group from within [Grapevine.org](#) will soon be donating to VFP. The Seattle chapter participated in a large parade on Veterans day, and held a press conference that got good coverage. **Seattle VFP Chapter president Zahid Chaudry** is still in ICE detention and two other vets are also being held. MMC has been visiting them. Indivisible Seattle is preparing for ICE to come to town, and VFP local chapters are working with them. He stressed that allies do not have to be members of VFP to stand with us. MMC will be going to DC next week to participate in the **ACLU Vet Lobbying Day** about **politicization of the military**. We are also joining with AFSC and WILPF to organize a tribunal

against the genocide in Gaza, but MMc wants help with **VFP representation** for the organizing effort. Ellen Barfield volunteered.

President Report, Susan Schnall: She reminded people to order **Peace and Planet News** well in advance of events; it is a valuable source of information and a good recruiting tool for VFP. Board election Results: Election: **Ellen Barfield, Mike Wong, and Gerry Condon** were reelected and **James Smith** was elected to the board for the first time. Also, all the resolutions passed. Susan also spoke to a group of middle schoolers recently. Here is a link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/16F3sMkliri6K1SPwMQnmZyLCZSi5FBs4/view?usp=sharing_eilts=6913f3cc. Susan asked for support for Kathy Kelly's request that we support an unarmed expeditionary group to ensure that humanitarian aid get delivered to Gaza, as an alternative to a potential move by the UN to send in an armed force. Sent to Excomm.

Membership Committee, Josh Shurley: We have two new VFP chapters applications: first, he moved to accept **North Central Minnesota Chapter 218**. Jesse Amo from that chapter introduced himself. He has been showing the VFP flag for a while and got the chapter rolling. He is looking forward to being an action chapter. For Armistice Day, they had a two hour march across Bemidji. **Approved**. Second, he moved to approve the **Las Vegas chapter**, formed in the wake of our July convention at UNLV. Chapter number not yet assigned. Eric McFarland and Olga Garcia have headed up the chapter formation, but neither was able to attend the meeting. **Approved**. Last month **Northern VA and Berkshire County Mass** chapters were approved, chapter numbers not yet assigned.

Transformative Justice Committee, Kelly Wadsworth: She recently heard Timothy Snyder, author of *On Tyranny* and *On Democracy* books, speak. He pointed out that what is being built for resistance is what is also being built for the future. 'Learning as experiential as collaborative' matters in all the efforts we make. She also quoted from this paper: <https://www.gsb.stanford.edu/insights/class-takeaways-how-run-meeting-effectively>, which urges us to define a key purpose at the beginning (or before) a meeting, and evaluate it at the end. To set goals and ground rules. "Participation equity" is critical, including hybrid meetings (present and remote). Regina Sneed added this link:

https://www.ncdd.org/uploads/1/3/5/5/135559674/ncdd2010_resource_guide.pdf

Development Committee Report, Matt Southworth: no report

Save Our VA Report, Jeff Roy: Asked for people to join the SOVA Steering Committee. Their appeal has so far gotten 12 chapters to respond to SOVA actions, but they still need new members. The next update for Nov 19 will focus on **VA denial of breast cancer** as a result of toxic exposures of men and women. They have sent VHPI's (www.veteranspolicy.org) report regarding the lack of primary care and mental health care in each of the 50 states. Paul suggested that SOVA make sure that their articles and Action Alerts be included in the Enews!

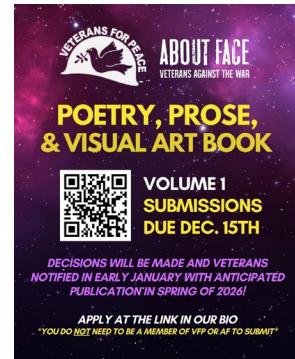
Labor Working Group Report, John Braxton delivered the report put together by Steve Morse: They have been meeting every two weeks, and the Steering Committee also meets every two weeks. They believe that every effort to beat back fascism requires the engagement of labor. One recent otherwise-excellent criticism of the Trump Admin failed to mention his attacks against labor. One key opportunity in this chaos is organizing labor. Federal Unionist Network (FUN), for example, stresses the need and opportunity to unionize fed unions. The labor group is working with SOVA and FUN. They are trying to publicize international and national efforts to oppose the current fascism and genocide. A LWG campaign is growing steadily, with 92 endorsing labor orgs, representing unions with 758,000 workers. There was a bill in the last Congress, put together by Barbara Lee, **The People Over the Pentagon** bill, **H.R. 1134**, to cut Pentagon spending by \$100B. They are working with Pocan and Omar to reintroduce a similar bill in Congress, to include 'just transition' provisions to assist those who lose their defense jobs in any realignment efforts. FMI See [Appendix 2](#)

Mobilization Committee Report and Recommendations, Gerry Condon: Recognized Marie Marsonnette ED of the Golden Rule. Recall that after the Golden Rule was stopped in Hawaii the Phoenix of Hiroshima finished the mission, and John Braxton crewed on the Phoenix for some of the later missions! For Gerry's report, see [Appendix 3](#).

Communications Committee Report, Gerry Condon: for his report, see [Appendix 4](#). He also showed the meeting attendees how to find our statements on the VFP website.

Post 911 Caucus: Joy Metzler, Marie Purcell and Phil Tottenham: They have started a Substack and have an Instagram account. They have been tracked Sudan genocide that is driven by the the same motivations and conditions driving the genocide in Gaza, and have issued a statement <https://substack.com/home/post/p-178791030>, calling for an immediate halt of arms sales by all parties, condemning the genocide, and calling for donations and petition signings. She asked that VFP accept it as our statement. Gerry and others suggested that it be referred to the Excomm for final approval. Susan agreed and stated that the Excomm will move it in the next couple of days. Marie Purcell, Chapter 27 and Caucus member, has been working on rapid-response work. To introduce the Post 911 Caucus, she described how it formed during the July convention and has been meeting since. They have grown to 40 members on Signal, and are excited about where they are heading. They have discussed our Statement of Purpose, and our priorities , with many good ideas, forming two working groups: Leadership formation , and Creative Caucus. Joy mentioned possible creation of a poetry/literature book, and asked for submissions through this form: <https://form.jotform.com/253164323305044>.

Submissions open until Dec 31. Susan expressed excitement for the work that the Caucus is doing.



Next Board meeting: Saturday, December 20th, 2025, 9:40 am PT, 12:40 pm ET
Adjourned:

Post Meeting Comments by members:

- **Janet Weil:** Reminded us about the pressing climate crisis and that the COP 30 conference is currently underway in Brazil. Cindy Piester is attending as a virtual delegate (as all delegates should be doing). Cindy will have a written report back for us soon for review. Also, the organization "CEO" (unsure what it stands for) in the UK has a written briefing on "Militaries and the Climate" that she recommends as particularly useful on this issue. Janet has been invited to write a resolution for the Portland City Council that will end the sister city relationship with a city in Israel. She encouraged others to take up similar efforts locally if their locales also have these problematic relations with Israel.
- **Marie Purcell:** Clarified the motivations for the Post 9-11 Caucus as to developing their voice within VFP and fostering leadership development, etc. She added that there will be further discussions about ways in which national VFP and the caucus can be mutually supportive going forward.
- **Michael McPhearson:** Cautioned about the "divide and rule" tactics of oppressive forces and the way that race and identity are used to facilitate repression.
- **Tarak Kauf:** Professed thanks and appreciation to the post 9-11 caucus, the board, and the whole organization!
- **Joy Metzler:** Updated us on the progress with Mohammed Ibrahim, the 16 yr old US citizen being held in Israeli prison since early this year. The pressure from the phone banking and email campaign appears to be working. He has now had some court appearances where he has been offered a (very bad) plea deal. But legal work on that continues. The family has a new lawyer and the takeaway here is that the public pressure gets results so let's keep it up!

- **Susan Schnall:** Concluded the open discussion portion and announced the next board meeting for Sat, Dec 20.

Appendix 1, Uranium Weapons, Cluster Munitions, and Land Mines Working Group Mobile Community Laboratory, John Wilks

The Uranium Weapons Working Group of Veterans For Peace has built an analytical surveillance tool for investigating long-lived radionuclides in the environment. The analytical information potentially will support residents' claims for compensation as victims of nuclear contamination under the recent Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Reauthorization (RECA). The mobile analytical laboratory is equipped with an inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer (ICPMS). Similar ICPMS systems are used widely in labs worldwide for trace elemental analysis of environmental samples. Results produced by the lab will be scientifically defensible, but will be generated essentially in "real-time" on behalf of and with participation of interested community members.

Our mobile analytical laboratory will be operational on November 11, and we invite all interested individuals and communities to come to our Open House from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM!

We welcome collaborators to work with VFP's Uranium Weapons Working Group, to provide needed information about radionuclides in soil, water, air, sediments, plants, and biota. We recognize that analytical testing alone does not solve a community's concerns about a contamination situation; however, it is a first step as part of what must be an ongoing monitoring activity. Communities armed with suitable information about environmental contamination in their surroundings will be well-prepared to make intelligent decisions about how to best live near contaminated sites without incurring undue exposure. We believe that informed communities can be their own best self-advocates in meetings with elected officials, regulators, and the regulated community. The Group is committed to assist in community-led surveillance of sites affected by uranium mining, milling, ore handling, storage, transport, uranium enrichment, research and production of special nuclear materials, and fallout from Trinity, Nevada, Pacific and Soviet atmospheric nuclear weapons tests conducted in the mid-20th century.

The New Mexico based mobile lab is managed by Michael Ketterer, associate member of VFP and participant in Uranium Weapons Working Group. Michael is a retired (Emeritus) analytical/environmental chemistry professor at Northern Arizona University; he will function as scientific director of all aspects of the field and laboratory work to be conducted by the mobile laboratory team. A core team of Uranium Weapons Working Group members will perform the lab's additional development projects, its upcoming deployments in field studies, and will manage the mobile lab's transport, storage, maintenance, and security.

We seek to perform environmental monitoring projects, in collaboration with individuals, communities, and specifically, other VFP chapters, both within and outside of New Mexico. We need to hear from you!!!! Prior to utilizing the mobile laboratory on behalf of a community, we will discuss and plan the project's needs for transportation, accommodations, consumable supplies, security, and public/press relations. The Uranium Weapons Working Group will coordinate with communities to focus on locations and media of greatest interest to local residents. The host VFP chapter will organize an advance planning meeting with community contacts/participants. To meet the ongoing expenses for operation of the system for its envisioned two-year project life, the lab core team anticipates pooling its own resources with those from other VFP members, the community, and other nonprofit groups. We welcome support

from those whom we assist; however, our commitment to assist communities is not contingent on their ability to cost-share with the core team.

The mobile ICPMS lab is housed in a RV-type single axle trailer, and will be stored and maintained in multiple locations in New Mexico and neighboring states. The lab is designed for demonstration, outreach and community education; however, it is also fully available for community members interested in serving as full participants in the project's sampling, analytical, and interpretive work. The mobile contaminant measurement system is equipped with a quadrupole ICPMS, along with all peripheral equipment for small-scale sample preparation and measurements. The system operates with 120/240 VAC land power, or with two onboard 8700-watt generators. The ICPMS is supplied by two onboard 335 cubic foot argon gas cylinders for 20 hours of plasma operation, and is equipped with a balance, plasticware, pipettes, convection and microwave ovens, ashing furnace, ultrapure water, small fume hood, and a sink/safety shower. The mobile ICPMS lab uses a 2008-manufactured Thermo X2 ICPMS; the lab is supported by an onboard inventory of tools, consumables, and repair parts for the instrument.

This VFP-operated mobile ICPMS laboratory supports communities that are affected by nuclear environmental contamination. We believe that scientific data derived from the lab's tests will support claims by residents for compensation under the recently reauthorized Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA). RECA, whose scope expanded in 2025, covers effects from uranium mining and milling, along with fallout from nuclear weapons testing at Trinity Site in New Mexico, the Nevada Test Site, and the Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean. The mobile ICPMS laboratory will be capable of qualitatively determining the absence/presence and measuring concentrations/activities of the long-lived isotopes of uranium and plutonium. The ICPMS will also produce isotope ratio information of these elements, which will serve to discriminate between background "stratospheric" fallout vs. regional fallout from the Trinity or Nevada tests. Further, the ICPMS isotope ratio results will potentially permit distinguishing between geochemical baseline sources of uranium in water, soil, sediment, or air, as opposed to mine dumps, uranium mill wastes, or enriched or depleted uranium from specific anthropogenic sources.

Although the initial focus of the mobile laboratory will be to support RECA-related contamination studies in New Mexico, the core team recognizes the need to expand our work to sites east of the Mississippi. We plan to collaborate with Ohio-based VFP chapter members and other community groups and individuals, in order to establish a similar community-based analytical tool on behalf of the urgent monitoring needs in Pike, Scioto, and neighboring affected Appalachian counties. The massive enriched uranium footprint, along with its resultant health effects near the former Piketon plant, will require perpetual monitoring that is best in community hands. Unlike the former Paducah and Oak Ridge uranium enrichment plants in Tennessee, the current version of RECA did not include coverage for southern Ohioans arising from an identical Manhattan Project era technology and the harm produced by its negligent implementation in the three massive Cold War era gaseous diffusion plants.

The Uranium Weapons Working Group's mobile laboratory core team pledges its ongoing support for communities such as the Portsmouth neighbors, and others located throughout the United States. We seek to hear from communities with a sincere, committed interest in investigating the characteristics of these radiological contaminants in the places that are important to them.

Appendix 2: LABOR WORKING GROUP REPORT, John Braxton:

Since the VFP Convention in July, the Labor Working Group - LWG has been meeting every two weeks, with meetings of 8-12 people that include people who are pretty new to VFP. Our Steering Committee has had an additional meeting every two weeks.

What does LWG hope to do? Two key goals are:

- 1) Help peace and anti-militarism become more central in organized Labor.
- 2) Help Labor become more central to VFP's work

Any serious strategy for beating back oligarchy, authoritarianism and fascism must address Labor and the situation of workers. And yet, many opposition groups fail to address this.

One of our members ran into a recent anonymous posting that said, tongue in cheek, *President Trump wasn't that bad, other than when...* and listed 229 atrocious things that Trump has done. The list did include *Had the worst jobs record of any president in modern history*. It neglected to include anything else related to labor. It did not include:

- *Trump eliminated Collective Bargaining for 1 million Federal workers.*
- *nor Trump has eliminated the jobs of 300,000 Federal workers, 1/8 of the Federal workforce.*
- *nor Many thousands of Federal workers who have not been fired have gone without pay throughout the shutdown.*
- *nor Trump reduced minimum wages for domestic workers, Federal contract workers and disabled workers.*

Surely these items should be high on the list of Trump outrages.

Let's be more attuned to Labor issues than this!

Every crisis involves both danger and opportunity. What is the opportunity in the crisis of the attacks on Federal workers? A key opportunity is the building of coalition between affected workers and those who have benefited from the services these workers have provided. The VA is the best example and the closest to VFP members.

The Federal Unionist Network (FUN), a rank-and-file worker-based group from the various Federal workers' unions which formed early in 2025 in response to the regime's attacks, has consistently made this connection between Federal workers' issues and the attacks on the public who use the government services that the regime is trying to destroy. At an online FUN meeting this past Wednesday with 112 participants, three slogans were shown together on the Screenshare:

Protect Our Federal Workers

VA Workers: We See You

Save Our Public Services

At this meeting, confidence was expressed that we will beat back this repression and following that of refiguring Federal jobs to better serve people. Workers deciding what gets done - an exciting area that US labor unions have mostly never addressed.

LWG is working closely with SOVA; a number of VFPers are members of both groups. LWG members are also working with FUN. LWG and SOVA are working in the way that FUN has initiated: fighting the cuts to both workers and services. And of course, a large percentage of VA workers are veterans themselves.

LWG publicizes actions that workers take against militarism. Recently, this has happened especially in Italy where general strikes took place on September 22 and October 3, particularly around the interception of the Sumud flotilla. Workers in major ports in at least 5 countries in 2025 have shut down the ports protesting arms shipments to the Israeli government.

An LWG campaign - People Over Pentagon for reducing Pentagon spending and making that money available for education, healthcare, and other pressing human needs is steadily growing. We now have 91 endorsing Labor organizations representing 752,000 workers, along with National VFP and 26 VFP

chapters. No pay or benefits for military personnel or veterans would be cut by this bill. We are working with Mark Pocan's and Ilhan Omar's staffers to get a bill in the current Congress, and to try to ensure that it includes Just Transition language.

LWG does not pretend that everything labor unions do is wonderful. For example, national American Federation of Government Employees AFGE was perhaps the first major group calling on the Democrats to cave – to end the shutdown without getting the Affordable Care Act subsidies reinstated. We hope that if we establish solidarity relationships with unions, that they may be more amenable to our ideas in the future.

When Labor does get it right, though, it's not well enough known. We seek to publicize, within and without VFP, that national unions representing the majority of unionized US workers in late 2023 endorsed a Ceasefire Resolution around the attacks on Gaza and Israel, and that 15 national unions more recently joined Labor for Democracy, against current oligarchy and fascism.

LWG welcomes new VFP members, especially, but not only, those with a history of labor membership and/or involvement with labor issues.

Appendix 3 Mobilization Committee Report, Gerry Condon

The Mobilization Committee is a committee of the Board of Directors, but also open to VFP members. The purpose is to provide a space for strategy discussions and for generating proposals for nationally-coordinated actions in accordance with the VFP Statement of Purpose and the immediate threats to peace with which we are faced.

The Mobilization Committee meeting shortly after the VFP Convention succeeded in capturing much of the energy of the Convention along with the urgent commitment to take strong, concerted action against the genocide in Gaza and the growing repression in the U.S., particularly racist ICE attacks against immigrants and Trump's misuse of the military to occupy U.S. cities.

Active leadership of younger veterans, some of them fairly new to Veterans For Peace has been a major impetus for organizing a Campaign Against Genocide in Gaza and State Repression in the U.S. Therefore we have tentatively named ourselves *Veterans Against Genocide and Fascism*. Campaign steering committee members are Justin Loza (chairperson), Marie Purcell, Joy Metzler, Olga Garcia, and me, Gerry Condon and Josh Shurley, with our Executive Director Michael McPhearson also very involved. Notably, most of the Steering Committee members are post-9/11 veterans as well as veterans who have been discharged more recently.

Since its inception several months ago, Campaign members have had 10 or more meetings, and we work closely together over a Signal channel. We have generated urgent Action Alerts on behalf of the Global Sumud Flotilla, on behalf of [Mohammed Ibrahim](#), the 16-year-old Palestinian-American imprisoned by Israel, and just yesterday, on behalf of the West Bank village of Umm al-Kheir, which is under threat of demolition by Israeli settler/terrorists and the Israeli Army. *We will take a look at these Action Alerts and related VFP statements in the Communications Committee report that follows.*

We also sent out notices to VFP chapters encouraging them to join the *Vets Say No* actions on November 11, organized by *About Face*, *Common Defense* and others. We encouraged VFP members to bring their own antiwar, anti-genocide messaging, which was otherwise missing – just as we had done for the *No Kings* marches. We created a flyer that was used by some VFP chapters for both the *No Kings* marches and for November 11 actions, including VFP's own Armistice Day commemorations – and Veterans Day parades.

So I think it is fair to say that the *Campaign Against Genocide and Fascism*, has been quite busy and productive – strategizing, mobilizing, and providing useful resources and practical, actionable actions. In the process we have also built a lot of trust among us, we are learning to work together well, and we are motivated to continue working together to more effectively advance VFP's work for Peace at Home, Peace Abroad.

It is worth noting here that Israel, as expected based on their long track record of violating ceasefires, continues to attack and kill Palestinian children, women and men in Gaza, and continues to deny essential food, medical, and survival humanitarian aid. The US/Israeli genocide continues in Gaza, even as Palestinians in the West Bank are suffering from a dramatic increase in settler violence and terrorism, backed up by the Israeli Occupation Forces. We must never stop thinking about Palestine and acting for Palestine, even as we take on other urgent challenges to humanity and world peace.

NO WAR ON VENEZUELA!

The U.S. has assembled a large and formidable armada off the coast of Venezuela, including the world's largest and most advanced aircraft carrier, with many warplanes and attack helicopters on board, and accompanied by several destroyers armed with cruise missiles, and 15,000 troops, including Seaman, Marines and Special Ops. So far they have attacked at least 20 small boats and murdered at least 80 people. President Trump is openly threatening to capture or kill Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro on baseless charges that he is the head of a drug cartel. Venezuela is known to have the largest reserves of oil and gas in the world. Its policies of using the oil wealth to serve the needs of its own people instead of lining the pockets of U.S. corporate executives is unacceptable to the U.S. government, which has shown bipartisan support for U.S. intervention in Venezuela for the last 25 years and more, under both Democratic and Republican administrations.

With an imminent US attack on Venezuela expected, antiwar forces in the U.S. have come together in an ad hoc coalition to organize a [Week of Coordinated Protests for NO WAR ON VENEZUELA – No Troops on Our Streets, Nov. 15-23](#). So far about 40 events are listed on the [website](#), including an indoor rally we are organizing in San Francisco and another event in Santa Rosa, organized by Sonoma VFP.

The week of action has been promoted in the VFP eNews, and is embedded in the recent VFP statement calling for No War on Venezuela. We will send out a reminder to all VFP members on Monday, encouraging them to initiate or join an event or action to protest U.S. intervention in Venezuela, not only the imminent military attack, but also the ongoing economic warfare (aka “sanctions”) that have killed at least 100,000 Venezuelans in recent years.

Appendix 4, Communications Committee Report, Gerry Condon:

Communications go hand in hand with mobilization. First of all, I want to praise Becky Luening, who assembles and designs the VFP eNews and our print newsletter, which will soon be in the mail. Furthermore, Becky has been so helpful and proactive in designing and sending out VFP Action Alerts.

Thanks to the tentatively named campaign, *Veterans Against Genocide and Fascism*, and to Michael McPhearson and Becky Luening, we generated four recent Action Alerts:

- 1) In support of the Global Sumud Flotilla and the veterans who were part of that;
- 2) Calling for Freedom for Mohammed Ibrahim, the 16-year-old Palestinian-American teenager who has been held in an Israeli torture prison since last February;
- 3) Armistice Day / Veterans Day
- 4) Support for the besieged Palestinian village of Umm al-K in the West Bank

VFP Statements

<https://www.veteransforpeace.org/position-statements>

Reclaim Armistice Day 2025!

Veterans For Peace calls on all veterans and allies to reclaim Armistice Day as a day of truth and resistance. Let us honor not only the dead of past wars but the living who still suffer under empire: Palestinians facing genocide, Latin Americans facing U.S. intervention, Indigenous nations defending their lands, migrants fleeing U.S.-backed violence, LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC communities fighting for dignity, and service members who dare to question unlawful orders. [READ MORE](#)

INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE MEDIA

Peace and Planet News

<https://peaceandplanetnews.org/veterans-condemn-israels-blatant-violations-of-gaza-ceasefire/>

Antiwar.com

<https://www.antiwar.com/blog/2025/11/02/veterans-for-peace-says-no-war-on-venezuela/>

COUNTERCURRENTS

Veterans For Peace Says: NO WAR on VENEZUELA!

Veterans Condemn Israel's Blatant Violations of Gaza Ceasefire

[Back to top](#)

Veterans For Peace Board of Directors
Saturday, October 25, 2025 Minutes

PRESENT: Susan Schnall, Mike Tork, Josh Shurley, Ellen Davidson, Ellen Barfield, Enya Anderson, Gerry Condon,, Mike Wong, Windsor Wade, Paul Cox (notes). Staff: Shelly Rockett. **Excused Absence:** Matt Southworth, Stephen Zollman, Kelly Wadsworth, Michael McPhearson.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Author Ratcliff, Anne Elliott, Barbara Phinney, Bill Roller, Bob, Cynthia Howard, Dave Logsson, Ed, Gene Marx, Jackie Barshak, James Brown, Janet Weil, Jim Rine, John H, John Amadon, Justin Loza, Lou Curran, Marie, Michael Cerantes, Micheal Kerr. Mike Wong, Monica McFarland, Olga Garcia, Paul DuNard, Paul Edward Gringas, Phil Tottenham, Rhonda Pastori, Roberto Roibal, Rodger Gamblini, Russel, Sean Tremblay, Sharon Argenbright, Shelley Corteville, Susan Lamont, Tarak Kauff, Thomas Leonard, Thomas Micarek, Vince Dijanich, Yvonne York.

12:40 PM ET, Videos of the **VFP Statement of Purpose** and **Indigenous Worldview** were played

Comments by members:

- **Dave Logsdon:** Much going on in Minneapolis: Screening of Earth's Greatest Enemy will be soon.
- **John Amadon:** For Vets Day Parade, his chapter will carry banner in support of Constitution, perhaps something like "Unlike Supremes and Congress, Veterans Support Our Constitution"
- **Sharon Argenbright:** Sante Fe chapter will have a banner drop similar to the one John just mentioned on Nov 11
- **Rhonda Pastori** introduced herself.
- **Phil Tottenham:** Thanked VFP for the support while he was on the flotilla and for helping get most of the folks returned quickly, though there is one young Palestinian American, Mohamad Ebrahim who is still being held by the Israelis.

12:56 pm ET, VFP Board Meeting called to order

Checkins

September 20th, 2025, Minutes: Approved

Agenda: Approved

Finance, Mike Tork: See Appendix 1.

Executive Director, Michael McPhearson: Michael is ill and not able to be present. Susan reported that he visited Zahid Chaudhry, the Seattle Chapter president who is also She mentioned that *This American Place* podcast interviewed another person who is in the clutches of ICE

President Report, Susan Schnall: The Election, of ~3,100 members, about 600 have voted. Paper ballots have been sent out. Other members will be getting electronic ballots reminders. As for Fundraising, the committee has met and is looking for funding/granting possibilities. Also, please let her and Michael McPearson know if you have ideas for organizations who might provide VFP grants.

Membership Committee Report, Josh Shurley: See Appendix 2. We have two new chapters to approve today. First Chapter: Richmond, VA, Sean Tremblay introduced himself. There are many military bases and veterans around Richmond so he thinks they can grow quickly. Chapter number/name TBD.

Approved. Second Chapter: Berkshire County, Western Massachusetts, to be known as the **Daniel Shay Chapter**, Rhonda Pastori introduced herself, AF vet, and has gotten much care from the VA. She only learned of VFP 3 years ago. They have 8 members. Number TBD. Approved. Ellen D asked about the past troubles with the database, and Josh indicated that not all issues have been resolved, but many have

Transformative Justice Committee, Kelly Wadsworth: No Report

Development Committee, Matt Southworth: No Report.

Peace and Planet News, Tarak Kauf: In a report long on the obvious about the state of the World and USA, he went to a screening of a new movie about the news program, Democracy Now, and Amy Goodman, and that independent media will save us, so deserves our support. Don't take his word for it: Ralph Nader also reminds us that we have to fight for independent media. VFP has a terrific radio show and a newspaper. PPN is, as Ellen calls it, an outward facing publication. Doug Rawlings reported that one woman he gave a paper to told him that she read the entire issue to her husband. Last two issues are titled, *Rule of Idiots* and *Soldiers Take a Stand*. The other recent special issue on the climate crisis is mostly sold out. Let him know if you want a few copies. The upcoming issue focuses on resistance to the fascist takeover. Ellen pointed out that we mailed a copy to every active duty VFP member along with a cover letter, that included a copy of UCMJ regs on possession of literature for GIs. For access to papers, or to order: www.peaceandplanetnews.org or takauff@gmail.com

Climate Crisis and Militarism, Jim Rine: Jim reported that so far in the No Military Air Shows (No MAS) effort, the RV and organizers have been to air shows in San Diego, LA, Salinas, SF/Oakland, Davis, Fresno, Santa Barbara. At most venues, they have also spoken in university classes, community centers and churches. The new film, Earth's Greatest Enemy, was shown in some locations such as the Grand Lake Theater in Oakland to a full house. His review of the effort so far is that they have established No MAS's proof of concept, though community participation and attendance could have been better. Many other organizations participated including WIPLF, Code Pink, Thousand Grannies, Extinction Rebellion, etc and No MAS also participated in Palestinian support rallies. Jim suggested that VFP hire a promotional organization. It will be helpful if Abbey Martin could participate in more of the film showings, even if only by Zoom. For future actions, we need to reach out to more members and work directly with Abbey. They easily distributed 700 copies of the PPN Climate Crises issue and need more. Next tour will be at the end of April up the East Coast, as shown on VFP website.

Mobilization Committee, Gerry Condon: See, [Appendix 3](#):

Communications Committee, Gerry Condon: See, [Appendix 4](#):

Proposed Statement on Israel Violation of Gaza Ceasefire. See, [Appendix 5](#): Statement by Gerry was read and **approved for content**, with **Ellen, Susan, and Gerry** to edit it for length.

Next Board meeting: Saturday, November 15th, 2025

Adjournment: 2:37

Post Meeting Comments by members:

- **Thomas Micarek: re: No MAS and CCMP**, Climate crises is not just related to the military. Moms Across America's studies about agriculture as a cause of depletion of carbon-sequestering top soils by modern corporate agriculture leads to violence and health effects. Jim Rine responded that the CCMP is concerned with the military aspects of the climate crises, and agricultural issues are beyond our expertise.
- **Marie**: Responded that veterans are a diverse group of people, many of whom are farmers, and we should not reject energy from members. Re Post 9-11 VFP caucus, hopes that the caucus can have a regrouping meeting in November sometime. She would also like to make a report from the Post 9-11 group at the board meetings. Link in chat for post 9-11 members. Susan responded that it would be a good idea to get a report from the caucus
- **Janet Weil**: Re: membership, the Chapter Contact list emails are a security issue. She suggests that each chapter have a non-personal contact email available to members. She also thought the issues that Gerry discussed are not adequately shown on the homepage. Susan agreed that the homepage needs attention.
- **Joe Marcinkowsky**, Houston: He has been approached by Code Pink to sponsor a showing of Earth's Greatest Enemy and needs literature. **Janet** will get brochure files printed and send to him.
- **Olga Garcia**: Proposes we support a general strike. www.generalstrikeUSA.org . She also mentioned that we should reach out to the generals and other officers who have been resigning from the military recently, at least for a conversation, and perhaps to get them to join VFP.

- **Lola Moonfrog:** Nutrition is a big part of mental health—in support of what Thomas said, above, and farming, militarism and genocide are the important issues.
- **Justin Loza:** RE Jim Rine's suggestion of getting better promotion is important. Also, putting our spare money into a mutual fund could help with improved finances. **Susan** referred these suggestions to **Chris Smiley** and the **Finance Committee**, respectively.
- **Tarak** asked that **Thomas Micareck** send any great articles he has about agriculture's contribution to the climate crises to PPN. He suggested the **Oakland Arms Embargo**, Armsembargono.com.
- **Vince:** For Joe Marcinkowsky, he has some literature he can send to Joe. He also wants **PPN** to reprint the climate issue.
- **Cynthia Howard** associate member from Maine: She donated \$1,000 a couple of years ago, and was horrified that none of it went to her chapter. She thinks that PPN is fantastic. She was also disappointed, too, that we have a half-million in our bank account and should put it into the PPN. Susan responded that we do have the Zinn Fund to help chapters fund special projects. **Mike Tork** responded that if Cynthia wants to reallocate her funds talk with him. Tarak thanked Cynthia for her support.
- Marie would like to join Membership Committee.

Appendix 1: 2025-10-25 Finance Report, Mike Tork:

Commerce Bank - Operating Account: \$173,674

Amalgamated Bank: \$333,999.20

Commerce Bank - Wire Transfer: \$544.45

Edward Jones: \$16,829

CapOne - Business Savings: \$1.07

Commerce Bank - Credit Card: \$0

TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS: \$525,046

Commerce Bank - Restricted Account: \$18,385.92

CapOne - Zinn Fund: \$22,026

TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS: \$40,412

SUPPORT FROM VFP:

Zinn Fund: Ch 34 Rising Together Theater Co - Plays that prompt civil discourse

Helped support 7 Palestinian families. Thanks, Joy, Phil, and Mike Hastie

Military Naturalization Town Hall

Word of caution - Our budget is doing well, but next year may be tight. This year was an exceptional year for donations. One of the best VFP has seen. We shouldn't count on next year being the same.

Appendix 2: Membership Committee Report, Josh Shurley:

Current Membership:

As of September 2025, 3,563 current members — the highest total of the year.

Up 20% since July (2,979 members) and 33% since December 2024 (2,676 members).

Growth reflects sustained recruitment and improved retention.

Growth & Recruitment: 656 new members added in 2025, surpassing 2024's total of 603 and far exceeding previous year totals. Strongest growth months: June (149 new), March (80 new), and September (79 new, largely due to the Flotilla campaign). The Fall Membership Drive generated 84 new members and 89 renewals. Active Duty membership (about 250) has shown modest but meaningful growth, with further outreach planned.

Retention: Lapsed members declined from 619 in August to 511 in September, a positive sign of re-engagement. Continued follow-up efforts are underway via chapter outreach and national coordination.

Chapters: Ongoing updates to the chapter contact list include removing inactive chapters and verifying active ones. New chapter creation has accelerated, averaging one to two new chapters per month.

In the past month, two domestic and one international chapter were approved.

This month includes petitions for two new chapters: Richmond, Virginia, and Western Massachusetts.

New chapters are forming from both newly engaged activists and existing independent members.

Regional Organizing: The organization is transitioning back to a five-region structure, each led by a Regional Coordinator, to improve communication and onboarding between new members and chapters. This approach ensures more personal contact points and better member retention.

Moving Forward: Database and automation improvements continue to progress, though more refinement is needed. A Winter Membership Drive is scheduled for early 2026 to maintain momentum. Membership growth and chapter expansion reflect a clear renewed post-October 2023 energy within the organization.

Acknowledgments: Our coordinated efforts continue to strengthen Veterans For Peace at every level. Joshua Shurley, Board Vice President & Membership Committee Chair

Appendix 3: 2025-10-25 Mobilization Committee Report, Gerry Condon:

The Mobilization Committee, a committee of the VFP Board of Directors, was formed several months ago with the express purpose of strategizing and mobilizing VFP chapters and members into nationally-coordinated actions. With the VFP framework of Peace at Home, Peace Abroad, we quickly identified the US/Israeli genocide in Gaza as the most important focus on the international front, and racist ICE attacks along with the deployment of troops in our cities – creeping fascism – as the key focus for our resistance on the domestic front. We launched a campaign to deal with both of these atrocities simultaneously, now called Veterans Against Genocide and Fascism.

Several younger veterans have take the lead on this work, including Justin Loza, who is chairing our meetings, and Joy Metzler, Marie Purcell and Olga Garcia, who have been providing a lot of energy and leadership. Michael McPheason and I have also been in the loop, as we organized much of our work over Signal channels. With the Global Sumud Flotilla approaching Gaza, including a veterans' boat with some of our members and friends on board, we quickly formed a Rapid Response effort that provided updates, action alerts, and a “toolbox” of organizing ideas, resources and contacts that were provided to the entire VFP membership. We also polled VFP chapters about their priorities and nearly 40 chapters responded. We followed by telephone to find out which of those VFP chapters were up for organizing protests and direct action. We provided a flyer for people to distribute at the No Kings rallies.

The campaign steering committee also drafted a proposed VFP statement this week condemning Israeli violations of the Gaza ceasefire and calling for food and humanitarian aid to be allowed into Gaza. We ask that the Board take action today to approve that statement for immediate distribution. See Below.

At this moment, we are turning our attention more to the escalating ICE attacks and domestic troop deployments as many communities are now in active resistance. We are exploring collaboration with other veterans organizations such as About Face and Common Defense, as we prepare for upcoming Veterans Day / Armistice Day actions on and around November 11.

U.S. imperialism is busy on many fronts as it desperately attempts to maintain its dominant position around the globe. In recent weeks, the U.S. has opened up a new front in its long history of intervention in Latin America, with a particular focus on overthrowing the socialist government of Venezuela. What at first appeared to be a bit of old-fashioned “gunboat diplomacy,” with an a modest U.S. armada off the coast of Venezuela took an even more alarming turn in recent days as the Trump administration has ordered an aircraft carrier group to South America, and Trump has branded the progressive leaders of both Venezuela and Colombia as “narco-terrorists” who are legitimate targets for U.S. military aggression, just as he has been demonstrating by blowing up ten small boats and extra-judicially killing

40 people, mostly fisherman. By the way, Trump has also asserted that he can use similar methods against protesters in the U.S., who he has labelled as “Antifa terrorists.”

Alarmed by the sudden escalation of U.S. military force in the Caribbean, the U.S. antiwar movement is quickly coming together. Code Pink, ANSWER, PSL and the Venezuela Solidarity Network have issued a strong statement and are organizing an event in Washington, DC tomorrow. The Venezuela Solidarity Network has also approached me to ask if Veterans For Peace would co-sponsor a national webinar with them. These developments have caught the attention of VFP activists in our campaign, Veterans Against Genocide and Fascism, who are eager to join in coalition with groups who are mobilizing against a possible U.S. war in South America. Perhaps we will want to add the word “war” to our campaign name, along with genocide and fascism. We have a campaign steering committee meeting on Tuesday. VFP vice president Josh Shurley will also be joining us.

I strongly recommend that the campaign, in conjunction with the VFP Executive Director and Executive Committee, sign on to the antiwar coalition statement currently circulating to express our opposition to U.S. intervention against Venezuela and possibly Colombia, and that we immediately engage with these groups to make common cause against the Trump’s threatened war in this hemisphere. I have good contacts with these groups and am willing to be a liaison. Other members of the Campaign are also ready and willing to engage in networking and coalition building with antiwar groups and other veterans’ organizations.

Appendix 4: Communications Committee Report, Gerry Condon:

Much of the energy of our Communications team has been focused on the recent urgent Campaign efforts. Chris Smiley has been coordinating with the Campaign to assist with social media alerts. Becky Luening and Shelly Rockett have assisted in sending out Action Alerts. Michael McPhearson and I have been involved on daily and sometimes hourly coordination with the Rapid Response of the Campaign in support of the Global Sumud Flotilla, etc. We will organize a meeting soon of the Communications Committee and the Campaign steering committee in order to become even more coordinated in our mobilization efforts.

Below is the proposed VFP statement condemning Israeli violations of the Gaza ceasefire. We will probably also be drafting a VFP statement condemning the U.S. military buildup in the Caribbean and the threatened military intervention against Venezuela.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. And special thanks to Justin Loza, Marie Purcell, Joy Metzler and Olga Garcia for stepping up big time on behalf of Veterans For Peace.
Gerry Condon

Appendix 5: Statement on Israel Violation of Gaza Ceasefire, Gerry Condon:

Veterans For Peace Condemns Israel’s Gross Violations of Gaza Ceasefire
Calls for Resistance to U.S. Weapons Shipments and No more Business as Usual with Israel

Veterans For Peace unequivocally condemns Israel’s blatant violations of the ceasefire in Gaza. We demand that the Trump administration pressure Israel to abide by the ceasefire agreement: to end all hostilities and to allow abundant aid (at least 600 trucks a day) into Gaza. We call upon the President and the U.S. Congress to cut off all military aid to Israel, which has shown its clear intention to continue its genocide against the Palestinian people. We further call on U.S. political leaders to secure the freedom of Mohammed Ibrahim, a 16-year-old U.S. citizen who was kidnapped by Israeli forces while visiting family in the West Bank.

Israel’s gross violations of the Gaza ceasefire agreement, including aerial bombing and artillery barrages, killed nearly 100 Palestinians over the weekend, including many children, causing fear and panic among Gazans, who were just beginning to breathe a huge sigh of relief. This could very well be the intention

of the Israeli government – not to allow a moment of peace for the Palestinians, and to continue to drive them from their homes in Gaza.

Israel also blocked promised food and humanitarian aid from entering Gaza, at least temporarily. The current status of aid deliveries remains unclear. What is clear is that Israel believes it can turn the flow of aid on and off at will.

Israel has a long history of violating ceasefire agreements. In Lebanon, despite a ceasefire agreement last November, Israel continues air and drone strikes almost daily. According to a group of United Nations experts, Israel continues to occupy Lebanese territory, despite agreeing to a complete withdrawal. This pattern of blatant Israeli ceasefire violations is anticipated in Gaza. Israel wishes to redefine the ceasefire as one in which it can carry out regular attacks and withhold aid by making unsubstantiated claims of Hamas' violations.

Israel clearly intends to continue its genocidal policies against the Palestinian people and to destroy any possibility of a Palestinian state. President Trump's self-declared "historic peace deal" is nothing of the sort. Trump was forced to push for a ceasefire in Gaza – and the Israeli government was forced to agree to it – largely because of international condemnation of the U.S.-backed genocide and growing isolation of both Israel and the U.S. What this tells us is that it is continuing international pressure – including within the U.S. – that will bring about real peace, and allow the Palestinian people to determine their own future.

Veterans For Peace calls for sustained resistance to the continuing U.S./Israeli genocide in Gaza. We call on all our members, friends and allies to put pressure on the White House, on Congress, on all political parties, on U.S. weapons manufacturers, and on corporations that are facilitating and profiting from genocide. We must Boycott, Divest and Sanction all entities that are doing business with apartheid Israel. This is critically important because we know that the genocide in Palestine cannot continue without massive U.S. weapons shipments, billions of dollars of U.S. aid and investment, as well as U.S. military and political support. We must disrupt business as usual until we finally put an end to U.S. complicity in genocide. Then, and only then, will Palestine be free.

Free, Free Palestine! No More Genocide in Our Name!

[Back to top](#)

**Veterans For Peace Board of Directors
Saturday, September 20, 2025 Minutes**

PRESENT: Susan Schnall, Mike Tork, Josh Shurley, Ellen Davidson, Enya Anderson, Gerry Condon, Kelly Wadsworth, Mike Wong, Windsor Wade, Paul Cox (notes). Staff: Michael McPhearson **Excused**
Absence: Matt Southworth, Stephen Zollman, Ellen Barfield,

MEMBERS PRESENT: Adam Toothaker, Alice Slater, Aneesa Ahad, Ann Wright, Anthony Donovan, Arla Ertz, Cheryl in Seattle, Chris Berg, Joe Eno, Craig Parke, Dan ?, Daniel Glover, Dave Chapter 21 nj, Ed Brighton, Gene Marx, Geoffrey ?, Gerald Hassett, HPV ?, James Brown, Jim McKinney, Joe Eno, John Amadon, Julie Hendrikson, Larry Orr, Michael Cervantes, Mike Caggiano, Paul Edward Gringas, Raymond O'Dell, Regina Sneed, Rodger Scott, Shelly Corteville, Steve Morse, Thomas Leonard, Vince Dijanich, William Sanders, Yvonne York.

12:40 PM ET: Videos of the **VFP Statement of Purpose** and **Indigenous Worldview** were played

Comments by members:

- **Anthony Donovan** asked everyone to support [H.R.3565 - To provide for a limitation on the transfer of defense articles and defense services to Israel.](#)
- **Shelly Rockett:** Candidates Forum video is up:
https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/w9tTmgJt8_r5ZeaGKbBP4mjbDaB09XR1AW65FfAGUAqdJi5RM_NOHfbcJK1f11Yi.qZbaFzn6FxytSGIC
-

1:00PM: **Call to Order** of VFP Board Meeting

Minutes of August 16, 2025. Approved

Agenda: Approved

Finance, Mike Tork:

Operating Account \$170,972.81. Amalgamated Checking \$333,686.08. CDs: \$60,000 plus a bit.
Edward Jones \$16,823.88. Wire Transfer Account (5506) \$544.45. Credit Card (8333) \$0.
Savings \$1.07

Total Unrestricted: \$582,028

Zinn Fund \$26,475.77. Restricted Account (5264) \$18,385.92.

Total Restricted: \$44,862

Budget - Haven't received P&L from accountant yet (Aug).

Help for two families in Gaza - Joy Metzler initiated. \$2,000, from remaining funds for Gaza Fast

Zinn Fund request - NY Chapter/Zool Zulkowitz - Rising Together Co. play about civil discourse and engagement - Will share with chapters cost-free-In process.

Fundraising

Grants: FoundationSearch grant potential funders in process

Bequests and Cash Cadre need to be worked on

Candidates Forum Share the recording widely. Mike was glad to see that fundraising is a priority for the candidates during CF call.

President's Report, Susan Schnall: Ballots will be sent out by email unless you ask Shelly for a paper ballot (shelly@veteransforpeace.org). The election will be open between Oct 3 and Nov 3 and results

should be ready by the Nov Board meeting. **We will be moving the Oct meeting from Oct 18 to Oct 25, so folks can attend the No Kings Demo on Oct 18.** Mike Ferner has requested that we issue a statement to stop providing any money to Israel unless there is safe travel of the 20-boat flotilla to Gaza. The **Excomm** will draft and send a statement.

Executive Director's report, Michael McPhearson: [See Appendix 1.](#)

Membership Committee, Josh Shurley: Current 3,394, of which 23% are Associate Members. We have 248 active duty members. Membership has grown by 14% since the convention). Retention and renewals: in July (latest available) we had 506 recently lapsed, and currently, 619, so **chapters, board, and staff** need to work to remind people to renew and ask them to become sustainers (\$4.20 mo = \$50/yr, or \$5/mo = \$60/yr)

- Sep: 43 (so far)
- Aug: 57 (42 veterans/12 associate/3 active duty)
- Jul: 70 (51/18/1)
- **Jun: 149 (120/28/1)** ← Gaza Fast + No Kings DC actions
- May: 73 (53/19/0)
- Apr: 49 (34/12/3)
- Mar: **80** (56/22/2)
- Feb: 42 (32/9/1)
- Jan: 28 (19/7/2)

It is demonstrable that we get new members when we are active! Visibility drives growth. New member meetings are on the second Tue of the month 8 pm ET (<https://zoom.us/j/5626244457>) . Membership Committee meets second Tue, 7 pm ET (same zoom).

New Chapters: Boise, Idaho (no number yet) (Raymond O'Dell President of that chapter said hello.) **APPROVED.** Zambia Chapter 260. (Jeffrey Malinga said hello and what a wonderful opportunity it is to join with us.) **APPROVED.** Generally, at least 5 members are needed to start a chapter.

Labor Working Group, Steve Morse: [See Appendix 2.](#)

Report on Action at Air force Marathon at Wright Patterson, Dayton: Olga Garcia and Dirk Lackovich-Van Gorp: Columbus chapter group, including Dirk and a couple of other chapters supported the event with a banner, and the marathon had 8,000 runners. They were told 3 times to leave the base, and kept reforming elsewhere. Olga's time: 3:46—while organizing!

Transformative Justice Committee, Kelly Wadsworth: no report.

Korea Peace Campaign, Ann Wright: The Campaign is still supporting case of two young women killed by a US military vehicle in 2002. This year's memorial was attended by more than 200. Donations for that effort can be made through the KPC page on the VFP website. She also asked for members to get support from their Congresspeeps for [H.R. 1841, Peace on the Korean Peninsula](#), which has 44 sponsors. July 27 was the 77th commemoration of the Ceasefire in Korea and was attended by 500.

Gaza Flotilla, Ann Wright: Ann just got back from Tunis and Italy to help with Flotilla, there are 43 ships currently on the flotilla with 6 more waiting in Greece. There are 10 US veterans on one of the ships, including our own Phillip. Another wave of 7 ships will follow.

VAORRC: Hr 3051 and Hr 3052. Trip by Chapter 160 planned for March or April.

Development Committee Report, Matt Southworth: No report

Agent Orange: VAORRC, Susan, Paul: Paul asked for members to set up meetings with their Congressperson's aides to get sponsorships for [HR 3051 \(Victims of Agent Orange Act\)](#), and [HR 3052 \(Agent Orange Relief Act\)](#) Paul and Susan will be happy to work with you on how to set up and conduct such a meeting. Also, VFP Hoa Binh Chapter 160 has decided to have yet another Educational Tour Vietnam in 2026. The exact date is not decided but will be either in March or April, so clear your calendars! We are considering visiting some different locations within the country for this, our twelve tour. Open to suggestion.

Mobilization Committee Report and Recommendations, Gerry Condon: See [Appendix 3](#).

Communications Committee Report, Gerry Condon: See [Appendix 4](#).

Next Board meeting: Saturday, October 25, 2025. Adjournment 2:13 ET.

Post meeting discussion.

- **Larry:** in FL there was a protest at Beale AFB, five arrests including Joy Metzler. Article link:
- **Gene Marx**, Chapter 111 in Bellingham: He has been helping a young Afghan War vet who needs a kidney. His were destroyed by burn pit poison in 2009. [More info here](#).
- **Windsor Wade**, has become busy in his community working with resisting ICE in a rapid-response network, and related about some ICE kidnappings. He will be getting business cards printed that include your rights, and he will send it around. Paul suggested we make Know Your Rights cards available to everyone in VFP who is working with migrants. Mike Wong suggests this website FMI: <https://immigrantjustice.org/for-immigrants/know-your-rights/ice-encounter/>
- **Regina Sneed:** thanks Michael McPhearson for urging us to not give up and to stay connected. She wants to encourage people who can't be out on the streets (as she can't) to find ways to support organizing.
- **Michael Cervantes:** His Ventura Chapter 112 has been going for 21 years. Asked about the No Mas events (see Chat). He asked how his chapter can acquire the membership list from the defunct Santa Barbara chapter and area to try to bring in them into the Ventura chapter, and to inform them of the the No MAS Film showing scheduled for some time soon in Santa Barbara. FMI about screening, contact Gary Butterfield garyvfp@gmail.com . No one has responded to his requests. Josh will get back to him . Shelly also offered to help with membership issues.
- **Daniel Glover:** Sunday, Sep 21, is the International Day of Peace. There will be an event in Westport, ME, at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, originally erected by the Women's Relief Corps (dating from the GAR)
- **Shelly Corteville**, Lane County, OR, Chapter 159, is small but is planning action at Senator Ron Widen's office about Gaza. They have shut down town halls numerous times. Another Town Hall is coming up. They will be there to once again make a statement about the people in Gaza who are dying and starving.

Appendix 1: ED Report, Michael McPhearson: In the July board meeting, I discussed how the national office is facing the common organizational challenge of breaking down silos of work to ensure smooth information flow and build strong teams. The virtual office environment adds to these challenges. The office is heading in the right direction. I spent a week working at the Saint Louis National Office. I had the opportunity to spend time with the staff in the region. Heather Carlos, our Membership Coordinator, drove from Kansas to Saint Louis.

I have increased my phone and Zoom contacts with staff and will travel back to Saint Louis more frequently for in-person team-building meetings.

We are identifying the goals we aim to achieve by the end of the year and beginning to plan for 2026.

Development, Fundraising, and Membership Operations: We are launching a membership and renewal drive next week. The social media campaign will focus on attracting new members. The drive for lapsed members includes a postal mailing and a series of emails. Additionally, we will have an end-of-summer appeal that features a postal mailing and emails.

I will hold a development meeting by the end of the month to plan for planned giving and sustaining donor campaigns, an end-of-year appeal, develop strategies for major donors, and make decisions about the Foundation Search platform.

Program: Chapters and individuals nationwide are involved in meaningful and impactful work. Their efforts are reflected in our social media growth and mentions in traditional media.

The four areas of focus we identified earlier this year continue to address this moment of unprecedented challenges faced by our nation and the world.

- **Israel/Palestine, Ukraine:** Our work on Israel/Palestine also aligns with our matters of conscience and conscientious objection outreach to military personnel and Before You Enlist efforts. Our Campaign to End U.S. Complicity in Genocide and Resist State Repression sent its first Eblast this week. Part of the campaign confronted the Allianz Insurance Company in Saint Paul, MN, for providing insurance and investing in companies that manufacture weapons used by the Israeli military, such as Elbit Systems. WILPF – Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom has asked Veterans For Peace to partner in organizing a National People’s Tribunal on Palestine to hold the U.S. government accountable for its role in the genocide. Other groups are also supporting. I’ll follow up with their names. The campaign has agreed that we should participate. I am looking for someone to lead Veterans For Peace participation.

We need to develop and implement a strategy to address the war in Europe.

- **Mass deportation and the militarization of law enforcement:** We continue supporting the Deported Veterans Advocacy Project. It is reorganizing and seeking funding. I am working with my local chapter to partner with organizations in Seattle on how veterans can help resist when the National Guard and active duty are deployed. Buy VFP’s **I Am An Immigrant** T-shirt, [here](#).
- **Save Our VA – SOVA and Labor Working Group** continue their work. There are no major updates right now.
- **Climate Crisis:** The Climate Crisis & Militarism Project’s Wake Up to the Climate Crisis and No MAS (No Military Air Shows) tour will begin on September 26 and run through October 20. The Peace and Planet News Special Issue on Militarism and Climate has sold out. Volunteers are needed at the tour locations to help set up and distribute information. Jim Rine wrote a report that I will send to the whole board.

The Conscientious Resistance Working Group continues to meet and develop resources and a template for chapters to use for outreach to service members. We are working on creating a resource kit for outreach to service members.

The Post 9/11 caucus continues to organize. There are no major updates right now.

The national office will continue to support these programs, along with other vital national initiatives and local efforts. In the coming weeks, we are preparing for Armistice Day.

Michael T. McPhearson, Executive Director

Appendix 2: Labor Working Group report on September 22 General Strike

Earlier this month, Italian unions called for a general strike on Monday September 22 if the Sumud flotilla is interfered with. As we know, Sumud has been attacked already; the strike is set to happen. The Italian ports of Genoa and Livorno will shut down, and the country of Italy itself will shut down.

It is not clear whether dockworkers in other countries will shut down ports on Monday; however, dockworkers stopping war materials shipments are an international movement.

This year dockworkers have shut down ports in the following places to stop arms shipments to Israel:

In April: **Morocco**

In May: **Sweden** – 6-day shutdown

In June: **Marseille**, France's largest port

In July: **Piraeus**, Greece's largest port

In August: **Genoa, Italy** - they have shut down during every month since June.

Two days ago on September 18, workers in the Adriatic port of **Ravenna, Italy**, stopped an arms shipment to Israel. -

In **Barcelona**, Spain's largest port, workers shut down the port in November 2023 soon after the attack on Gaza began.

Genoa, the home of CALP (Dockworkers Autonomous Collective), has been the heart of the anti-war dockworker movement in Europe. Beginning in 2019, with a stoppage of Saudi Arabian arms against Yemen, dockworkers in Genoa have shut down the port many times to stop arms shipments. CALP has worked in conjunction with the broader group USB (Union of Rank and File Unions).

The dockworkers in Genoa have done what other participants of the Sumud flotilla have done: they have gathered lots of humanitarian supplies for the flotilla, and some of their union members are sailing with the flotilla. In addition, they are using the combination of their consciences, their long-term organizing and their strategic position to shut down Italy on Monday.

Appendix 3. 2025-09-20 Mobilization Committee Report, Gerry Condon

The Mobilization Committee meeting shortly after the VFP Convention succeeded in capturing much of the energy of the Convention along with the urgent commitment to take strong, concerted action against the genocide in Gaza and the growing repression in the U.S., particularly racist ICE attacks against immigrants and Trump's misuse of the military to occupy U.S. cities.

Active leadership of younger veterans, some of them fairly new to Veterans For Peace has been a major impetus for organizing a Campaign Against Genocide in Gaza and State Repression in the U.S. We haven't yet settled on a name. But we have had about eight meetings to systematically develop a campaign strategy

In general, the campaign would seek to involve the entire organization – at the chapter, national and international levels in a multi-faceted campaign. We want to lift up what VFP chapters are already doing. We want to join in coalition with others who are doing similar work – and provide the veterans voice. And we also want to launch nationally coordinated VFP actions, where the entire organization acts together on the same day or week. And we ask our allies to join us in those actions.

While we are not quite ready to formally launch this campaign, we had something of a "soft launch" this week, when we issued an VFP Action Alert that reflected actions that VFP members were taking MacDill AFB in Florida, at Allianz corporation in Minneapolis, outside the Army's Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California, outside the United Nations in New York, on the high seas with the Global Sumud

Flotilla to Gaza, including the Veterans Boat with VFP members on Board. We simultaneously called for support for disabled veterans and VFP member Zahid Chaudhry, who has been kidnapped by ICE and remains in ICE detention while fighting against his deportation.

Significantly, Joy Metzler spearheaded the Florida action, Marie Purcell spearheaded the Minneapolis action, and Justin Loza spearheaded the Monterey action, and Phil Tottenham is representing VFP on the Gaza flotilla. Olga Garcia is also running in the Air Force Marathon with anti-genocide messaging. These are all post-9/11 veterans, some of them recently discharged.

Appendix 4: COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT, Gerry Condon:

Most if not all of these actions are reflected in a dynamic VFP Action Alert, as well as in articles that have been published in multiple publications over the last week or so.

prod.cdn.everyaction.com/emails/van/EA/EA015/1/94223/hZGIVIMKy1A2JeDwST4EU-DM-WzXXs4bReHbeTvJ_yl_archive

PUBLISHED ARTICLES ABOUT VFP ACTION ALERT and VETERANS BOAT ON GAZA FLOTILLA

Article about the VFP Action Alert and the Veterans Boat on the Gaza flotilla have been published recently in Popular Resistance, Countercurrents, Common Dreams, Antiwar.com and elsewhere

<https://www.fox13news.com/news/protesters-rally-outside-macdill-against-u-s-supplying-israel-weapons>

[All Eyes on Gaza! All Hands on Deck! - Common Dreams](#)

[ALL HANDS ON DECK – LETTER FROM VETERANS BOAT ON GAZA FLOTILLA](#)

[Sixteen Nations Warn Against Attacking Gaza-Bound Global Sumud Flotilla](#)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, Gerry Condon

[Back to top](#)

Veterans For Peace Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Saturday, August 16, 2025

PRESENT: Susan Schnall, Mike Tork, Josh Shurley, Paul Cox (notes), Ellen Barfield, Ellen Davidson, Enya Anderson, Gerry Condon, Kelly Wadsworth, Mike Wong, Stephen Zollman, Windsor Wade, Staff: Michael McPhearson **Absent:** Matt Southworth

MEMBERS PRESENT: Adam Toothaker, Aneesa Ahad, Arlys Herem, Art Milholland, Bob, Cameron?, Dave Logsdon, Eleanor ??, Gerald Hassett, Gerry Wertham, Greg Corning, Helen Effron, James Brown, Jeff Roy, Jeffery Berger, Jim McKinney, Jim Rine, Joy Metzler, Kem Hunter, Larry Orr, Lola Moonfrog, Michael Cervantes, Nick Mottern, Michael Kerr, Mike Ferner, Paul Kulas, Phil Fransen, Phil Josselyn, Phil Tottenham, Raymond O'Dell, Renee ??, Rodger Scott, Roy Nordblom, Rudyard ??, Regina Snead, Steve Morse, Susan Lamont, Taylor ??, Thomas Leonard, Tina Jaroe, William Sanders, Yosei Ota

12:40 PM ET

Videos of the **VFP Statement of Purpose** and **Indigenous Worldview** were played

Open Meeting: Member Comments:

- Dave Logsdon: Wonderful convention. Thanks to those who made it happen
- Lola Moonfrog: Ditto about convention. Wants to get hold of Indigenous Worldview film
- Susan Lamont: Wants to get the Earth's Greatest Enemy screening in the Bay Area.
- Gerry Wertham: Ditto about Convention. Also plugged Veterans for Inner Peace Working Group: <https://www.veteransforpeace.org/our-work/working-groups/veterans-inner-peace>
- Jim Rine has also been speaking with Mike Prysner
- Rodger Scott said hello.
- Cameron has been trying to organize a local chapter in Richmond, VA and wants to get a list of members in that area. Cebblank260@gmail.com Susan suggested he contact **Josh**

1:00PM: Meeting Called to Order.

Checkins

Agenda, Approved

Approval of Minutes of July 19 and July 26, 2025, Approved

Finance Report, Mike Tork: **See Appendix 1.** Budget is about \$70,000 in the black through July! Note that we started off with a \$106k deficit for the year, so we are on par for eliminating the deficit—but ain't over 'til it is over, so we need to continue fundraising. Convention fundraising went well, including both those who paid and those who donated and we may break even, even. Final accounting is not yet in. We got 17 new lifetime members. VFP also donated \$2,000 to two families in Gaza, using the Gaza Fast funds raised by Mike Ferner and others, out of the \$20,000 they raised. Thanks to Joy Metzler for coordination with the families!

Executive Director Report, Michael McPhearson: VFP should have four areas of focus:

- Israel/Palestine and Ukraine/Russia
 - Post 9-11 Caucus is reaching out to service members around our wars, as well as mass deportations.
- Mass Deportations
 - Deported vets. Rober Vivar asked for \$2,800 for support, and ExComm will discuss. They are not only helping Deported vets, but also other support for non-vets deported, including food, housing, and medical assessments
 - They want to reorganize their structure and Michael will be helping them with fundraising.
- Climate Crisis: No MAS tour coming up.
- Labor Working Group:
- SOVA
- CO work

Board Election will be coming up in the next 2 months.

We will discuss the proposed national campaign later in this meeting

Conscientious Resistance Working Group, Aneesa Ahad: there is much available information on our [webpage](#). General objectives include supporting GI's, COs, counter recruitment, and response to the [Army's Spiritual Fitness Guide](#) they put out to "help" troops suppress the crises of conscience they may experience from what they told to do in support of the Empire.

Save Our VA, Jeff Roy: SOVA continues to issue updates and Calls to Action (CTAs), and tracks both positive and negative legislation. They are staging an outreach Zoom meeting Aug 30, 1 pm CT, and hope interested members will attend. The current Steering Committee does not have sufficient bandwidth to do many of the tasks before it, and wants to expand in order to: Networking with other groups and within VFP; educating vets, public, and congress about the VA's functions and importance, and advocating within Congress. The most recent CTA, talks about the proposed VA budget increases in Community Care by 50%, while only a 17% increase in the overall budget. An Executive Directive by Trump called for terminating all union contracts within the VA is unacceptable. In MN, VAMC has evicted unions from their offices on campus. Suzanne Gordon has just published an important article. See [Appendix 2](#).

Labor Working Group, Steve Morse: See [Appendix 3](#). Labor WG is working closely with SOVA and also coordination between immigration and labor. They have 8 regular members attending meetings. Sign up at Convention got 40 volunteers, so still trying to solidify group while meeting the moment. Will be trying to become a VFP Project. Trying to put anti-militarism on unions' agendas while assisting union organizing. Mark Pocan is now the lead congressperson on union issues on a draft bill called People Over Pentagon, which has not yet been re-introduced during this session. They have also met with Bernie Sanders' staff. Arlys mentioned that SOVA and SWG are working with Ilhan Omar on Legislation.

Veterans Healthcare Policy Institute's Suzanne Gordon has just released a major report that analyzes non-VA care state by state: [VHPI Releases Comprehensive National Analysis on Private Care Gaps - Veterans Healthcare Policy Institute \(VHPI\)](#)

Militarism and Climate Crisis, Jim Rine: No Military Air Shows (No MAS) starts Aug 25 in S.D., and will be going to nine sites on the West Coast. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zj-3c5MPwGwkAQYMWymajPWA1lqZo_L They are also seeking invitations to various university campuses. They have had some good meetings, most recently with UC Santa Barbara. There are weekly planning meetings. Reports can be found here: <https://www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/climatecrisis/wake-climate-crisis-tour>

Also trying to get screening venues for World's Greatest Enemy, but does not have confirmation for any. Fundraising grant proposals have not been approved, so at this point money will all have to be raised internally. For the No MAS tour, the RV is reserved, but they still need a structure to hang all the banners.

Transformative Justice Committee, Kelly Wadsworth: The TJC is a resource for justice and conflict resolution for all members. Today's reflection is on comparing disbelief in spiritual energies with belief in such. She related a story about a Peace Tree on the Oregon State campus. During a recent tour, some of the young students were concerned that it is radioactive, which was a great opening to a discussion of the history of the Peace Tree, its meaning, the sources and causes of radiation, and our relationship to all. She read an excerpt from General Omar Bradley's Armistice Day speech in 1948:

“With the monstrous weapons man already has, humanity is in danger of being trapped in this world by its moral adolescents. Our knowledge of science has clearly outstripped our capacity to control it. We have many men of science; too few men of God. We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount. Man is stumbling blindly through a spiritual darkness while toying with the precarious secrets of life and death. The world has achieved brilliance without wisdom, power without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living.”

The entire speech can be found [here](#), which is somewhat more grounded in the post-WWII concerns of Cold War and Empire.

Development Committee Report, Matt Southworth: No report.

Report from Nominations Committee, Ellen Barfield: We have 7 candidates for 4 slots: Ellen Barfield, Stephen Zollman, Gerry Condon, Mike Wong, Ian Mooney, David Logsdon, and Aneesa Ahad. There will be a Candidates' Forum for Sat Sep 13, 9:40 am PT, 12:40 ET, same Zoom as Board meetings.

Convention Committee Report, Susan: Recognizing that several people have said good things about it, we also recognize that there were time management issues. We had 152 in-person attendees, and 122 Zoomees. We also supported the attendance of a number of panelists and speakers, and some of our members.

Mobilization Committee Report and Recommendations: Gerry Condon, See Appendix 4.

Proposed National Campaign to End U.S. Complicity in Genocide and Resist State Repression, Justin Loza: See **Appendix 5**: They are hoping to get a formal OK to proceed with campaign. Ellen Davidson gave props to the hard work that has gone into this proposal. MMC: this proposed campaign has elements in it that dovetail with other efforts of VFP, and hopes that the board will authorize the campaign to proceed in further development as a separate entity from the Mobilization Committee, but will be reporting to the Mobe. **Approved for further development**. The next meeting will be Aug 21, 4 pm PT, 7 pm ET:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82209570117?pwd=gc1bdtpoWgKDovm0J2x2Hab5cjgZmE.1>

Communications Committee Report: Gerry Condon, See Appendix 6.

Next Board meeting: Saturday, September 20th, 2025

Adjournment 11:45 am PT, 2:45 pm ET

Post Meeting Discussion:

- **Aneesa Ahad:** We need to make sure the proposal just accepted includes some of the other genocides, such as the one in China against the Uyghur.
- **Mike Wong:** took exception to the idea that the Chinese are committing genocide against the Uyghur, cited some facts to the contrary, and stated that the genocide claim is merely US propaganda.
- **Nick Mottern:** No MAS effort at Miramar Sep 27-28 has a number of aircraft that the US is giving to Israel for their attack on Gaza. Also, WRT outreach to troops we need to not forget outreach to Nat Guard members who are or will be deployed to cities and overseas. Also, we need to better track VFP chapter actions against the horrific genocide in Gaza.
- **Steve Morse:** Wants to emphasize that new mobilization efforts should take into account our need to work with labor. For example, in Europe, dockworkers in Barcelona and Genoa have blocked shipments to Israel. Some unions have also taken stands against the Ukraine War.
- **Yusei Ota:** It is 4 am in Okinawa. He and his wife Akino are very thankful about presence and friendship at the convention. Asked about funding opportunities for the annual peace musical festival in Oki next month, and would like to have support for their efforts to reach out to troops. Susan responded that his request can be sent to Shelly, for a Zinn grant. She also asked if the video "Are you My Father?" is available. He will check with Akino, but they typically like to be present for the post screening discussion—perhaps by Zoom.

Appendix 1: TREASURER'S BOARD REPORT, Mike Tork:

Budget - Thru July we have gone from a deficit budget to a one that is in the black by about 70K.

Balances - Not shared because there is a lag time with what the bank sees. No funds have been lost or misplaced. Solidly in the black. Still need to complete the consolidation of accounts into one bank. Will eliminate confusion.

Caution - extraordinary times? Can we rely on revenues at this level? We need to plan for the long term and budget accordingly. Not a time to step back from fundraising. We should concentrate on bequests and grants.

Convention fundraising - looks good so far. We did well in person, virtually, and online with donations for the convention.

17 new lifetime memberships. Excellent!

Gaza - VFP donated, from the Gaza Fast fund, to 2 families in Gaza. 1K to each family (2K total). These families were recommended to us by Joy Metzler. Any money left in the Gaza Fast fund will go to a NGO doing good work in Gaza. To be decided by the Gaza Fast group.

Appendix 2: SOVA Report, Jeff Roy

1. Overview: SOVA continues to create and send out SOVA *Updates* and *Call to Action* letters to Congress each month. (Today, Arlys Herem just sent out our latest Update.) As most of you know, the Updates inform our readers of the many government actions done in the prior month and Congressional legislation submitted that either hurts or helps the VA. In addition, the Updates include links to pertinent VA related studies, and a Call to Action – CTA letter focused on a message to Congress- that each of our readers can sign.

2. Though SOVA has been operating since 2014 under one name or another, we are in need of more SC members. We will hold a Zoom meeting on August 30th at 1 PM CST for those wanting to help us increase our efforts to Save Our VA. There have been many ideas put forward, but the current SOVA Steering Committee (SC) does not have the capacity to go ahead with these ideas. At this moment, we have about 10 veterans indicating interest in attending the Aug. 30th meeting and hopefully they and others will be willing to take on tasks to help the national effort

We are looking for people who are interested in working on the following tasks to join the SOVA Steering Committee:

- **Networking** – Public interest is high and the need to strengthen current links and develop more with VFP chapters, unions, groups like Common Defense and VoteVets, and others is essential and can deepen our influence. Keeping up the current momentum is critical.
- **Educating** – People are learning that the VA does much more than provide health care to vets. We need to expand our efforts to educate vets, the public and Congress about the VA and the threats it faces.
- **Advocating in Congress** – Currently, SOVA works to educate and influence Congress and that effort needs to grow, especially in Republican districts and more so in swing districts.

3. The latest CTA came out today: For the first time, the House decreases the VA health care budget for 2026, while increasing the community care budget by a whopping 50%!

This is in the context of VA Secretary Collins' recent announcement that 30,000 positions, originally 80,000, will be lost due to retirements, the hiring freeze and early departures. A stated goal has been to return to 2019 staffing levels. The VA was already understaffed in 2019 and the PACT Act passed in 2020 added nearly 500,000 veterans to VA health care.

Republicans constantly push the idea of 'choice' but pass bills that weaken VA health care. Over 92% of veterans who use the VA trust their health care and want it to continue. They acknowledge there are problems but want them fixed and do not want private sector care. This bill takes giant steps in making a veteran's 'choice' one of a VA health care system that is underfunded and understaffed or the private sector. This is not a choice.

4. VA Implementation of Exec Order 14251 directing the VA Secretary to terminate master collective bargaining agreements, and all amendments, local supplemental agreements, and memoranda of understanding with AFGE, the National Association of Government Employees (NAGE), the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), the National Nurses Organizing Committee/National Nurses United (NNOC/NNU), and the National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE):

5. Locally here in Mpls, we understand from our local VA union leadership that each of the two unions had to be out of their Minneapolis offices by last Monday, August 11th. We have seen as they have a copy of the "for-eyes-only" Trump EO against unions, which was then passed along to us here in Minneapolis. This was done in the context of an union lawsuit against this Executive Order in which a lower court ruled that Trump could not kick out the unions, but that an Appellate Court ruled just on "the stay" imposed by the lower court, that the Executive Order could be implemented until and if the unions take it to the Supreme Court .

Appendix 3: Labor Working Group (LWG) Report, Steve Morse:

Veterans & Labor for Sensible Priorities (VL4SP) campaign has been going for two years (see below); a Year and a half of meeting as VFP members interested in Labor; and a year of being an official Working Group. We have a Steering Committee of 4 and 8 regular members – all have been active at least a half year. Josh Shurley is our board liaison.

We hope to grow. We've done outreach to the 40 people who signed up at our convention workshop. We sent a survey to them (a few have responded) to gauge their interest in working with LWG. 5 have shown up to at least one of the 3 meetings we have had since the convention. This doesn't include Jeff Roy and Arlys Herem of SOVA who attended twice.

We are simultaneously trying to build and solidify our group, and meet the moment where attacks are happening quickly. We will probably start working soon toward becoming a National Project.

LWG members, along with many other VFP members, have been part of protests against VA cuts and attacks on VA workers and other federal workers. Resisting cuts both to VA workers' jobs, and to veterans' health, does connect veterans with Labor.

We want to put anti-militarism on the table within Labor (as in VL4SP – People Over Pentagon: POP) and also work to make labor issues more central parts of VFP.

The VL4SP campaign is to move \$100 billion (may increase to \$150 billion) from the Pentagon to address the climate crisis and social needs. We have 64 Labor endorsers – 50 from unions: national, regional, state and local unions, and 14 from labor advocacy groups. We pursue an inside/outside strategy – at this point we are trying to push Mark Pocan, who is in the lead position to introduce the bill and to

include Just Transition in the bill, so that displaced workers and communities will not be abandoned, but can get other union jobs, retraining, early retirement income, etc. It's easier to build Labor support if there's an actual bill! We have just contacted 78 of Pocan's Wisconsin constituents to encourage them to pressure him to introduce a bill and include Just Transition. Ilhan Omar (working on POP with Pocan) and her staff seem more enthusiastic about POP. We have also met with Bernie Sanders' staff to see if Bernie will sponsor a similar bill in the Senate.

Connections with other issues:

Working with SOVA: SOVA and LWG are trying to be mutually supportive, and we all are trying to figure out what forms collaboration between our two groups will take.

Immigration – Diana Valles, president of the 60,000 member Culinary Union in Las Vegas was scheduled to speak at our workshop, but because of our scheduling delay, was unable to. She would have talked about her union's support for its members around immigration issues and dealing with ICE.

Appendix 4. VFP MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE REPORT, Gerry Condon

Following on the very successful and energizing VFP Convention, the Mobilization Committee has convened three meetings in three weeks to capture that momentum and channel it into concerted action. More than 20 VFP members have participated in those three meetings, including Board members Gerry Condon and Josh Shurley, co-chairs of the Mobilization Committee as well as Ellen Barfield and Paul Cox, and our Executive Director Michael McPhearson. Most notable was the active participation of post-9/11 veterans, including more recent veterans. These included Joy Metzler, Phil Tottenham, Josie Guilbeau, Olga Garcia and Justin Loza and others. More seasoned veteran activists included Nick Mottern, Dan Shea, Jack Gilroy and Ray McGovern. My apologies to those who I did not name here.

The primary concerns, as reflected at the VFP Convention, were a strong sense that Veterans For Peace can play a larger role in the urgent movement to end the U.S.-backed Israeli genocide in Gaza. There was also a strong consensus that Veterans For Peace has a special role to play in opposing the deployment of ICE, National Guard, and U.S. troops to occupy U.S. cities and terrorize immigrants, the homeless, anti-genocide, antiwar and other progressive activists.

Under the very timely and useful VFP framework of *Peace at Home, Peace Abroad*, we determined to organize a Campaign that would address both Genocide in Gaza and State Repression in the U.S.

The discussions in our three meetings have been very strategic. We want a well-thought-out and well-coordinated campaign that educates people, inspires people and activates people, much as was done recently by the 40-day *Veterans and Allies Fast for Gaza*. We want to integrate nationally-coordinated actions, including bold and creative direct action, into a longer-term strategy. We want to reach out to and work closely with other organizations that are providing leadership in these struggles, to offer them our "veterans' voice." We also want to initiate our own VFP actions and invite others to join us.

Justin Loza, a post-9/11 veteran who is the president of the VFP chapter in Monterey, California has stepped up to be Interim Coordinator of this process of strategizing, and to help us get this Campaign off the ground. Justin has done a lot of the work of systematically developing the proposal that is before the Board today. This proposal accurately reflects much of our collective thinking, and will no doubt evolve ever further as we begin to put things in motion. I highly recommend that the Board give its enthusiastic approval to this Campaign, which could also be a game changer for Veterans For Peace – with higher visibility, empowerment and recruitment of new members.

Respectfully submitted, Gerry Condon

Appendix 5: Proposed National Campaign to End U.S. Complicity in Genocide and Resist State

Repression: Justin Loza, Gerry Condon, Michael McPhearson

Opening: This campaign brings together Veterans For Peace chapters and allies nationwide to take urgent, coordinated action against the ongoing genocide in **Gaza and the rise of state repression in the United States**. By leveraging our unique voice as veterans, we will amplify resistance, strengthen coalitions, and drive change through strategic, creative, and sustained efforts.

Our focus is two-fold: ending U.S. complicity in genocide abroad, and resisting systemic repression and racist deportations at home. We will also strengthen the global movement for accountability under international law.

Core Strategy

VFP will work meaningfully with coalition partners and allies, ensuring the veteran voice and presence is visible at the forefront of their campaigns. In exchange, these allies will stand with us in one or two major national actions each year led by Veterans For Peace. This reciprocal approach maximizes impact, builds shared power, and keeps our work aligned with the wider movement for peace and justice.

Strategic Priorities

1. Call Out Policymakers

- Confront elected officials at the local, district, and national levels.
- Expose the gap between their rhetoric and their policies.
- Use coordinated actions and public messaging to maintain sustained pressure.

2. Expose Profiteers of War

- Target corporations and institutions that profit from war and repression.
- Apply economic, reputational, and political pressure through coordinated actions and campaigns.

3. Challenge Societal Complicity

- Hold accountable the religious, media, and cultural institutions that normalize or enable violence.
- Reveal local connections to the war and repression economy.

4. Leverage Media & Storytelling

- Ensure every action is seen and heard through coordinated social media, press engagement, and video.
- Share consistent, compelling narratives linking Gaza and ICE struggles to broader systems of oppression.

5. Anchor the Fight in International Law (*new*)

- Engage with international bodies such as the UN Special Rapporteur, ICJ, and ICC.
- Frame genocide and ethnic cleansing as crimes under international law, naming corporate and individual culpability.
- Elevate global rulings, reports, and judgments to strengthen domestic organizing.

Menu of Tactics for Chapters: The campaign will offer a flexible menu of options so chapters can act in ways that fit their local context while reinforcing national strategy. Examples include:

- Coalition actions at ICE facilities or corporate targets.
- Divestment and “Follow the Money” workshops.
- Teach-ins linking Gaza and U.S. state repression.
- Participation in coordinated national days of action.
- Public amplification of international legal findings.

Principles of Engagement:

- Coalition-Centered: Partner first, lead second—ensuring veterans’ voices are front and center while building shared capacity.
- Focus on Public Impact: Actions should reveal hidden truths and expand willingness to act.

- Accountability Over Shame: Target decision-makers and profiteers, not ordinary people, and offer pathways to change.
- Global & Local: Act locally while aligning with global movements for justice and international law.

Next Steps

1. Identify and confirm coalition partners for each strategic priority.
2. Prepare quick-start toolkits and shared media assets.
3. Schedule and announce the first wave of national actions in coordination with allies.
4. Establish media and legal support systems for high-visibility actions.

Appendix 6: VFP COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT, Gerry Condon:

VFP E-NEWS, Becky Luening: The frequency of the VFP eNews blasts I am responsible for has decreased this summer as I have been multitasking, coordinating convention advertising (including some design work), preparing the handbook for the in-person convention, and now wrapping up the post-convention commemorative booklet, which will contain all the ads and be distributed in PDF format with a limited print run. (It should be noted that Shelly takes care of many of the other emails issued by national.) In coming weeks I'll be refocusing on the print newsletter, with an ASAP timeframe. Due to the significant time lag since the call first went out, contributors will be given a chance to revise reports to bring them up to date.

PEACE AND PLANET NEWS, Ellen Davidson: We put out the summer issue of PPN in time to ship hundreds of copies to the national convention in July, where they were eagerly snatched up. We are still getting orders daily and expect to use up our inventory by the time we put out the fall issue. We are now working on a special issue about Militarism and Climate Change in collaboration with the CCMP working group. This will be used by CCMP for its West Coast and the No MAS tour this fall, but PPN will cover the cost of printing additional copies for use by other chapters and members, since we are pretty sure it will be a popular issue. We are particularly excited about the pilot of working with another VFP national project to enhance the work of both projects.

GOLDEN RULE PUBLICITY, Gerry Condon: The Golden Rule is receiving excellent publicity during its month-long voyage around San Francisco Bay. It's welcome event at Fisherman Wharf's Pier 39 was covered positively by local KGO TV Channel 7 News, by [Bay News](#), a San Francisco Bay Area network of newspapers, by KPFA Pacifica Radio, and by the Kyodo News, the Japanese wire service, which sent to reporters all the way from Los Angeles – one for Japanese and one for English. Next Friday, August 22, at 5 pm Pacific time, the KPFA show *Flashpoints* will do a live one-hour show from the Golden Rule.

Historic Peace Boat Tours San Francisco Bay: <https://localnewsmatters.org/2025/08/07/162378/>

Respectfully submitted, Gerry Condon

[Back to top](#)

Veterans For Peace Board of Directors ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING Saturday, July 26, 2025

PRESENT: Susan Schnall, Mike Tork, Josh Shurley, Paul Cox (notes), Ellen Barfield, Ellen Davidson, Enya Anderson, Gerry Condon, Kelly Wadsworth, Stephen Zollman, Windsor Wade, Staff: Michael

McPhearson, Shelly Rockett, Gail Aquino, Heather Carlos, Chris Smiley, Becky Luening. **Excused Absence:** Matt Southworth, Mike Wong

MEMBERS PRESENT: Attendees to the 2025 convention in Las Vegas, NV, and by Zoom

8:45 am PT

Videos of the **VFP Statement of Purpose** and **Indigenous Worldview** were played

Board Members introduced themselves

Opening Statement: Susan Schnall

Review of Submitted Documents:

- **President's Report**, Susan Schnall: [Appendix 1](#)
- **Treasure's Report**, Mike Tork: [Appendix 2](#)
- **Executive Director's Report**, Michael McPhearson: [Appendix 3](#)
- **Membership Committee Report**, Josh Shurley: [Appendix 4](#)
- **Resolutions and Bylaws**, Josh Shurley: [Appendix 5](#)
- **Board Candidates**, Ellen Barfield: [Appendix 6](#)

Appendix 1: President's Report

Dear VFP Members,

This is an extraordinary time in the United States, in the world-when we witness genocide committed against a people by a people who suffered a holocaust 80 years ago and cried never again—never again for them? For humanity? For all living things? When will we ever learn? And we find ourselves, those of us from the Viet Nam era, demonstrating once again in the streets against corporate power, against the elites that are destroying the world, against a president that seeks to destroy, to eliminate those who disagree with him, this bone spurs man who called us suckers and losers. So, let me begin by saying how fortunate it is to be in your company, you who recognize the evils in this country and work to makes this a better world for all of us.

This is my fifth year on the VFP Board of Directors, and my fourth year as President of the Board. We have come through tumultuous times together—in this country and on the national board. Thank you all for trusting me, the executive committee, and the board to bring us through a time of decreasing finances and dwindling membership exacerbated by political divisions and the isolation of the pandemic.

Let me take you back to February, 2022 when the Executive Committee reviewed our national bank account and learned that we were just able to meet payroll for the national staff-at half pay for the following two weeks. We called on you, our members, supporters, and donors to contribute and keep us functioning and developed a financial plan to move us through 2022. One of our active board members raised money through a substantial grant to help put funds back into our savings account. The VFP Executive Director worked with the national office staff and VFP Board of Directors until the end of 2022. We—the ExComm, Board, and VFP members—formed a Transition Committee that identified responsibilities of the national office and coordinated our work together—keeping the organization solvent and coordination, outreach, and communication functional. Mike Ferner applied for the job of Interim Executive Director and was amazing-reaching out to members, coordinating projects, and fundraising from March, 2023 until May 2024 when he moved to the position Director of National Projects. During these years, we recruited for the position of Executive Director, received a substantial number of resumes, interviewed multiple candidates. And, at the end of 2024 we formed a Search Committee of the Board that included Shelly Rockett. And, please join me in welcoming back Michael McPhearson who joined us early February, 2025.

Those years from 2022 were most stressful. We were faced with many additional issues that included political and personal disagreements in addition to the extraordinary financial problems. We—the VFP Board started to have meetings every two weeks as we came together with a major purpose: ensure the continued viability of Veterans For Peace. We worked together as a team; we resolved differences and disagreements, sought out assistance from members and kept trudging ahead. And we all became stronger and more knowledgeable—board members and national staff, members.

In 2022 the VFP Board through the By Laws Committee wrote a proposed change to the By Laws to honor and respect the partnership veteran members have with associate members by establishing an associate member seat on the National Board of Directors and expanding full voting rights to include bylaws, board elections, and resolutions.

Today we consistently track our finances and have over \$600,000 in operating, savings, and restricted accounts. We have transferred our money-checking and savings to Amalgamated Bank—founded by the Amalgamated Clothing workers of America nearly 100 years ago. It is considered the bank for the working people; the SEIU remains the largest shareholder. The board has implemented a policy that no money can be taken from savings account without board approval, and voted to have that decision reflected in our VFP Policies and Procedures. Many thanks to Mike Tork, treasurer, who over the past few years has maintained the budget, with reports at the monthly board meetings.

Josh Shurley, Chair of the Membership Committee tracks the new members by month and will give a positive report tracking the increase in VFP membership from last year.

And, please, thank Paul Cox for those minutes of the Board—those detailed, documented notes from the Board of Directors meetings—in addition to his many other responsibilities in national Veterans For Peace, San Francisco VFP, the Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign, American Legion, Veterans Healthcare Initiative, etc.

On September 25th, 2010 the Howard Zinn Fund was established in VFP. The Howard Zinn Fund for Peace and Justice endowment has been named in his memory to ensure that his legacy will continue through Veterans For Peace projects, services, and outreach. Each year a portion of the fund and proceeds are distributed to chapters based on their requests for support of a specific project or program. This past year the board has funded two projects: 1) Support for the protests at the Holloman Drone Training Base in Alamogordo, New Mexico and 2) a project of the VFP Climate Crisis and Militarism Project to take action about No Military Air Shows that coordinates with other environmental and peace organizations to voice collective outrage protesting the US military's enormous contribution to the climate crisis as well as the tremendous financial burden of the cost of the military and depletion of resources for those in need. CCMP project to bring more attention to No Military Air Shows (No MAS) by mounting a van to travel to Blue Angels and Thunderbird airshows for 3 one-month bus tours, each visiting 3-5 airshows and join with other national groups. VFP's Climate Crisis and U.S. Militarism National Project continues to educate our members and the public about the connections between global warming and habitat destruction and the U.S. military.

VFP's most visible example of its anti-nuclear and peace position is ocean going sailboat the Golden Rule. A film has been produced about the Golden Rule. Gerry Condon: This film is more than a documentary, it's a vital opportunity for Veterans For Peace to reintroduce its mission to a world that needs it. In a time of growing nuclear threats, environmental collapse, and shrinking public trust, the Golden Rule story resonates deeply. What began in 1958 as a direct act of anti-nuclear resistance now sails again as a living, moving embodiment of VFP's values. The film doesn't just honor history, it calls people in. It invites new generations to understand peace as bold, creative, and necessary. This isn't nostalgia. It's an organizing tool. It's recruitment. And it's working. This film sparks conversation, grows membership, and restores visibility for VFP at a time when legacy organizations must evolve or fade.

Save Our VA presentations/meetings: This past year members of the group met with AFGE's National Lobbyist and with Minneapolis VAMC AFGE union leadership discussing workplace issues and SOVA's activities. Members also gave five presentations on SOVA and did interviews on two national radio shows: Friendly Fire out of Maine and Radio Free Nashville. SOVA members were invited by Minnesota Representative Ilhan Omar, who organized an August 2nd PACT Act Round Table led by Representative Omar & House Committee on Veterans Affairs (HCVA) Ranking Member Mark Takano.

Peace & Planet News is a powerful anti-war, anti-genocide, anti-fascist and pro-peace publication produced in a way that everyday people can understand and appreciate. Some of the best independent journalists as well as many veteran writers present the case for peace, justice and the planet in down to earth language. This is a Veterans For Peace publication and the articles and stories in it are by some of the best journalists in the world. To our VFP members, I encourage you to get a copy, go through the pages, read it, and I believe you will understand why this is such an important newspaper to keep with you and hand out wherever you go. Please help distribute widely.

The Merchants of Death War Crimes Tribunal is a two-year project that gathered evidence of war crimes, crimes against humanity and support of genocide by Lockheed Martin, Boeing, RTX (formerly Raytheon) and killer drone maker General Atomics. Documentation is provided in 37 video episodes that include narrative reports and interviews. Along with World Beyond War, held a mock war crimes tribunal for holding MIC corporations accountable for crimes and complicity in crimes. Created recommendations to address the conduct of these companies and the growth of the MIC and its hijacking of the federal budget. Delegations delivered a group of subpoenas to MIC officials to create a narrative about holding these vultures accountable. Raised awareness of the MIC and its issues surrounding Armistice Day. Tribunal jurors included: VFP members Matthew Hoh and Ann Wright and VFP Advisory Board member Marjorie Cohn. To see the evidentiary episodes, statements of the jurors and recommendations of the tribunal: merchantsofdeath.org

The Rising Together Theater Company uses the transformative power of theater as a catalyst for education, civil discourse, and civic engagement. We link the issues of supremacy, equity, militarism, and sustainability across generations and identities and focus on underserved communities. We are a unique talkback theater company engaging diverse audiences in conversations about war and violence, community and communication, and human rights and ecosocial justice. Through free performances of thought-provoking short plays and moderated talkbacks, we engage diverse audiences in meaningful conversations centered on social justice, environmental awareness, and community building.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention those special projects developed by Mike Ferner: VFP Letter to State Dept on US complicity in Genocide by arming Israel: In February we sent our letter to the U.S. State Dept Inspector General and followed it up in March by delivering it to 16 domestic DOS offices. Several chapters also used it during the Sept. Days of Solidarity with Palestine actions. Students used it at campus protests, Fed4Peace distributed through USG offices, LOTS of circulation. • Appeal for Redress v2: <https://www.veteransforpeace.org/>. It's going slowly, but c.o. applicants Joy Metzler, Larry Hebert and Juan Betancourt started "Servicemembers for Ceasefire" to promote it with active duty, national guard and reservists. • Student pledge started by Jack Gilroy and Nick Mottern. Met with Jack and Cornell students last month. They love working with VFP and we're helping them promote the pledge • VFP statement issued: AIPAC's War on Democracy.

The Veterans & Allies Fast for Gaza [began May 22](#) when six members of [Veterans For Peace](#) and allies traveled to New York City to stand at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. It grew to over 800 people across the country, including small groups in South Africa, Canada, Italy, Germany, Ireland, Hong Kong and Australia. **New York** – "We did what we came to do. We made many thousands of people focus on the [starvation and murder](#) politicians are funding in Palestine with our money," said organizers of the ["Veterans & Allies Fast for Gaza."](#) "Our slogan has been '40 Days and Escalate.' That time has come," they added. "Our demands of full humanitarian aid to Gaza under U.N. authority and no more weapons to Israel have not been met." The fasters at the U.N. and many of the others have limited themselves to

250 calories per day, considered medically to be a starvation diet and the amount reported early this year as the average available to Gazans. Others conducted Ramadan-type fasts or other variations.

Southside neighbor Bill Hatton, a Vietnam veteran nearly completely paralyzed by Agent Orange, is anticipating death. He had two final wishes: to feel grass under his feet one more time and to protest war with his Vets for Peace colleagues. He wanted to join the daily Vets for Peace fast and vigil protest in solidarity with the starving children in Gaza in downtown Minneapolis, but his medical condition made that inadvisable. When the Vets learned this, they decided to come to him, moving their vigil near the Minnesota Veterans Home where Bill is in hospice.

Thirty vets and friends joined in a moving demonstration of love and resistance. After the ceremony, his comrades supported him as he got his feet on the grass! Comment from Dave Logsdon: There are events that make you so grateful that you have chosen this path.

In October, 2024 and April, 2025 Chapter 160 Vietnam Educational Tour, coordinated by Chuck Searcy and Paul Cox with the donations of several thousands of dollars to various organizations in Vietnam that help victims of the two remaining and ongoing legacies of the American War—Agent Orange/dioxin and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO's). Each person on the tour donates \$1,000.

In a powerful demonstration of international solidarity, seven members of *Veterans For Peace* (VFP) visited Nicaragua in mid-to-late March as an official VFP delegation. Veterans from five U.S. states flew to Nicaragua on March 19 for a week-long visit to community clinics, regional colleges, vocational schools, youth groups and mayors in several Nicaraguan cities, including the capital Managua, Matagalpa, Masaya and Ciudad Sandino. The veterans were most impressed to learn that Nicaragua, the third poorest country in the western hemisphere, is providing free, high quality healthcare and education for all its people. Thank you, Gerry Condon for your great work in coordinating and reporting this trip.

This past year Veterans For peace has issued ten statements/call to action:

- [Veterans Condemn Israel's U.S.-Backed Attack on Iran and the Deployment of the Military in U.S. Cities](#)
- [We Condemn the Attack on The Freedom Flotilla](#)
- [War No More, A Memorial Day Statement](#)
- [Veterans For Peace Celebrates the Gaza Ceasefire and Pledges to Defend It](#)
- [Pete Hegseth Is a Terrible Choice for Defense Chief – Veterans For Peace](#)
- [Veterans For Peace Applauds Israeli Soldiers Who Refuse to Fight in Gaza](#)
- [End Washington's New McCarthyism](#)
- [Veterans Call for Indictment of Blinken](#)
- [AIPAC's War on Democracy](#)
- [Veterans in 25 Cities Demonstrate for Gaza](#)

And, despite all of our positive work, we are in this most destructive time, with our country governed by monsters collaborating with monsters committing genocide on a people and country thousands of miles from our shores—those military industrialists who have control through their greed and power. For some people, the easiest path through life is to turn away, simply move through their lives, abrogating responsibility—but not Veterans For Peace. Thank you all for your passion and belief that we can make changes, that we must work to stop this genocide in Gaza, that we must work to stop the kidnappings by ICE in our communities, that we can save veterans health care services and health care for those in need, that we must save our educational institutions.....

And, a special mention to the Inner Peace Working Group and Gerry Werhan: "Do We Have the Peace Inside Ourselves to Power the Peace that Our World Desperately Needs?" The genesis of this revival is a collaboration between Chapter 99, Western North Carolina, represented by members Gerry Werhan and Craig Klawuhn (Klaw voon) and a local advocacy group, Peace Is Possible NC. Their initial, but not the only, offering is the presentation of the Peace Education Program provided both in-person and

virtually, at no cost by the Prem Rawat Foundation. Gerry has been here for the convention distributing information and talking to anyone he could find who yearns for peace and remaining sane while working at it. Ads have been running online and will appear in the commemorative booklet to be provided to attendees in the weeks ahead. His and Craig's contact information is not hard to find among all the information made available.

It is a pleasure to witness the growth of VFP members in the organization and your extraordinary activism on behalf of peace, justice, and democracy. At the national level we continue our work to assist in the formation of national projects and chapters, assist local work as needed, send out communications via enews about local, national, and international activism, respond to local concerns, and assist in resolving issues as they come along. This past year the national board has continued to accept additional responsibilities and moved along board committees including Communications and Mobilization with Gerry Condon as chair and Transformative Justice with Kelly Wadsworth, reforming issues and priorities throughout this past year.

A reminder to those of you who are interested in the issues and deliberations of the national VFP board: the monthly meetings are open and we welcome your attendance, ideas, concerns. The meetings are on zoom-regular meeting format so all participants are seen if they wish. They are the third Saturday of the month at 12:40pm ET. The zoom link is posted on the VFP website and in the Enews. Thank you all for the work you do to save the planet and all living things.

And, if you've gotten inspired by this Business Meeting, please contact Ellen Barfield and run for election to the board! There are four board of director positions open this election cycle. You have until seven days following the close of the annual Business Meeting to submit an application to run for the board.

Yours in peace,
Susan

Appendix 2:Treasurer's Report, Mike Tork:

BALANCES:

Unrestricted Funds

Commerce Bank Checking - \$224,102
Amalgamated Checking - \$333,045
Amalgamated CDs - \$60,000
Wire Transfer - \$107 (New account)
Edward Jones - \$16,776

Total Unrestricted Funds - \$634,030

Restricted Funds

Zinn Fund - \$26,471
Restricted (Special Projects) - \$18,386
Commerce Bank Credit Card - \$21,050 (will be paid in full 8-4)

Convention Member Support

To date \$12,700 of registration fees have been waived for 55 VFP Members and Panelists. \$10,960 has been allocated for extra support for VFP Members, Panelists, and Speakers (housing, food, travel).

Total support provided by VFP - \$23,660

As of May, we are doing better than budgeted by about \$50K. We still have a \$56K deficit budget, but the trend looks good. I am optimistic, but we are only half way through the year.

BUDGET:

I created a realistic budget for 2024 and 2025. Normally, this would be the Executive Directors' responsibility, but I did it because we were without an ED for some of that time. We have a complicated budget with over 100 line items. I closely monitor the budget and regularly update the Executive Committee.

As Treasurer, I don't feel like I am exceptional. I'm just doing what every Treasurer should have been doing all along. Sad that I stand out. Says a lot about some past treasurers and how seriously they took their job.

Most members don't care about the details of each line item, but if you are a current VFP member and want a detailed copy of the budget, please let me know.

Important points I think members and the board want to hear:

- We are solidly in the black
- The budget and our overall financial health are good and are closely monitored by the Treasurer and the Executive Committee.
- We take our fiduciary responsibilities seriously. We are mindful that this is member's money.

SPECIAL PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY VFP:

- Zinn Fund for Peace and Justice
- Iraq Water Project
- Deported Veterans Advocacy Project
- Save our VA
- Climate Crisis
- Golden Rule
- National Campaign to End the Korean War
- David Cline Memorial Fund
- Vietnam Agent Orange and Responsibility Campaign
- Peace Walk 2024

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT:

- Golden Rule
- PPN

Zinn Fund - 6 awarded for 20K

- Chapter 180: Podcast Eq.
- DVAP
- SOAWatch - Nogales gathering
- CC&MP
- Chapter 143: Shut down drone warfare
- Chapter 161: Armistice Day

SUPPORT WE PROVIDED THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF OUR MEMBERS

- Palestinian Children Fund
- Black Alliance
- World Beyond War

- Gaza Fasters
- Provided legal support for veterans seeking CO status
- Administration support for ~ 10 Special Projects

HISTORY - WHAT WENT WRONG

VFP has a long history of overestimating income while underestimating expenses. This trend worsened in 2019, 2020, and 2021. There was a steady decline starting in 2021, and by 2022, all of our savings were spent.

Causes:

- No real Treasurer for 2020/21
- The board (not all) was not paying close attention. Not fully apprised of financial condition. Concentrating on other things.
- Lack of a realistic budget. No budget oversight. During 2020/21 VFP board was dysfunctional and somewhat toxic. Focused on retribution and punishment more than anything else.

TURNING IT AROUND - LOOKING AT THE FUTURE

PAST:

- 2022 - Awarded a Newmark grant for 40K. Saved us at a very critical time as we didn't even know if we could make payroll.
- 2022 - Staff voluntarily reduced hours. Didn't need to do that for very long.
- 2022 - A Board member made a 5K personal loan to VFP. Since repaid.
- 6-22-2022 - Cut budget by 100K. Paul, Shelly and I went through the budget line item by line item cutting as much as we could without compromising our mission.
- 2022 - Raised dues \$10
- 6-9-2022 - ExCom approved the following recommendations from the Finance Committee. Mostly directed at the current Executive Director:
 - The Executive Committee shall be consulted prior to making travel expenditures.
 - The Executive Committee shall be consulted prior to any expenditures beyond the budget allowances.
 - The Executive Committee shall be consulted prior to changes in staffing or staff hours.
 - The Executive Committee shall be consulted before money is withdrawn from savings.

Current and Future:

- 12-2022 - Roger Waters year end appeal was successful
- 2023 Reactivated Zinn Fund
- 2023/24 Staff raises - 5% given all staff in August. Will continue doing that each August.
- Policy change 6-2024: "*Spending or transferring funds from any Veterans For Peace account other than the operating checking account would require Board approval.*"
- Approved by VFP Board - June 2025: 1-24 Divestment (Thank you, Anthony Donovan for the idea). Started moving VFP money into Amalgamated Bank. This bank is socially responsible. They are careful where they invest their money. This hasn't been completed, but will be after the convention.
- Mike Ferner stepped up as Interim Executive Director and helped with fundraising, while providing guidance, during a period of transition.
- The current board works together cordially and respectfully. The work of the board is easier, and far more productive, when we enjoy working together. The importance of that can not be overstated. Our current President deserves a great deal of credit for moving us in that direction.
- All our committees are active and meeting regularly.

- We continue to grow our savings account, something we set as a priority in 2022. We are doing well given the fact that at the beginning of 2022 we had no savings.
- The long-term plan now that we are on a much more stable footing is to continue increased fundraising, concentrate on building our membership and support the work our chapters are doing.
- Fundraising is always a priority and we are lucky to have Matt Southworth as a board member. He knows fundraising and provides us with sound guidance and advice.
- We are also fortunate to have Zool leading our “cash cadre.”

Fundraising during the convention - Challenges, both from members and chapters. Let's go!

Thank You, Mike Tork

Appendix 2: Executive Director's Report, Micheal McPhearson:

During the period when Veterans For Peace has been without executive leadership in the national office, staff have done their best to fulfill the functions of a national membership organization's headquarters. They have done a good job while also struggling with direction from a holistic view. Like all organizations, we face challenges in breaking down silos of work, ensuring a fluid information flow, and building effective teams. The virtual office environment increases the challenges.

Development, Fundraising, and Membership Operations: The renewal process is an area where we must improve quickly. We are implementing a more robust intentional renewal schedule, which includes reviewing definitions for lapsed and dropped members, increasing the number of contact attempts, sending a postal mailing, and using the chapter as a last resort to engage with the member to renew.

We are reviving the idea of regional coordinators. I've spoken to a few members about taking on the role.

We need to make chapter contact organizing calls more effective. We want people to look forward to the chapter contact calls. They shouldn't just be conversations. We need to create a schedule of topics to cover during these calls, possibly including new skills and methods that will support chapter growth.

We need to create a more deliberate communication plan for active-duty members. Active-duty status is a unique group that requires targeted attention to address their specific needs.

After the convention, we will prepare for the next membership renewal drive and explore ways to increase visibility for VFP to attract new members. We need to connect this effort to a more intentional communications plan through greater creativity and innovation. For example, we could create public service announcements for chapters to broadcast on local community radio stations, helping veterans learn about Veterans For Peace. We can assist chapters in using local resources to advertise. We can help increase member skills that will boost visibility locally and amplify our national presence.

The Every Action database has proven to be a significant challenge. It is unlikely that we can continue using it in the long term. However, to select an appropriate database for our needs and transition to it, we need to understand why the current one doesn't work well for us, clean up the existing information in the application to prepare it for the transition, and develop standard operating procedures to facilitate revisions for the new database. We are creating a timeline for this process.

We are reorganizing the Cash Cadre team to prepare for the fall end-of-year fundraising campaign.

I am continuing to review the Foundation Search service. I have identified tentative opportunities for our deported Veterans campaign.

Program: Chapters and individuals across the country are engaged in meaningful and impactful work. Their efforts are seen in our social media growth and mentions in legacy media.

The four areas of focus we identified earlier this year continue to meet this moment of unprecedented challenges faced by our nation and the world.

- Israel/Palestine: (2. To Restrain our governments from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations) Work on Israel/Palestine also aligns with our matters of conscience and conscientious objection outreach to military personnel and Before You Enlist efforts.
- Mass Deportation and the roles the military is asked to fulfill in policy: (3. To resist racism and repression in our home communities, and 4. To oppose the militarization of law enforcement). Veterans For Peace Deportation Veterans Project is a part of this deportation work. The issue also connects to counter-recruitment, matters of conscience, and conscience objection work, as well as what the military will be asked to do when martial law is declared, and the military is used to suppress protests.
- Save Our VA: (6. To seek justice for veterans and victims of war.) This effort aligns with our Homeless Veterans working group and the Labor Working group to help address the indiscriminate cuts faced by government agencies, including the Department of Veterans Affairs, and employees who are disproportionately veterans.
- Climate Crisis (8. To promote a sustainable and peaceful world.) Climate change is one of the greatest threats to humanity. Climate-driven resource scarcity has the potential to destabilize nations and cause widespread upheaval, potentially leading to multiple wars.

The national office will continue to support these programs, along with other vital national initiatives and local efforts. In the coming weeks, we will prepare for Armistice Day and the International Day of Peace.

Michael T. McPhearson, Executive Director

Appendix 4:Membership Report, Josh Shurley:

Acknowledgements

- Deep thanks to the Membership Committee, national staff and volunteers, and all who support this work behind the scenes.
- Special recognition for the many VFP chapters that carry out the mission on the ground.
- And above all, thank you to every VFP member, who continues to act, build, organize, and inspire.

Current Membership Snapshot

- **Total members:** **2979**
 - **Veteran members:** **2075** (70%)
 - **Associate members:** **672** (22%)
 - **Active duty members:** **232** (8%)
- **Lapsed members on file:** **506**

Membership Trends

- Monthly membership numbers show the following trends:
 - New Member numbers have seen substantial growth in 2025
 - 2025: Jan – 57, Feb – 42, Mar – 80, Apr – 49, May – 73, and Jun – 149 new members!
 - **149** new members in a month is a spike we have not seen for well over a decade.
- Comparison to this time last year:

- Lowest new member total in 2025 was 42 vs lowest total in 2024 of 28.
- Highest new member total in 2025 was 149 vs highest in 2024 of 88.

New Member Engagement & Chapter Connection

- Continued improvement in the New Member Engagement Process:
- Ongoing effort to place new members into local chapters quickly and meaningfully.
- Reminder: when VFP **takes action** and **makes that action visible** we see a direct increase in new members and engagement.

Renewals Matter

- Growing focus on renewals, with better tracking to reduce member loss.
- Recent membership drives have begun to show positive results. Tracking still a work in progress.
- Membership growth means not just new members—but retaining those already committed.

Regional Organizing

- We are laying groundwork to organize members by region for:
 - Improved communication
 - More consistent support and streamlined organizing
- Regional coordination will help chapters and individual members plug in more easily.

Regular Meetings and Infrastructure

- **Monthly New Member Orientation** sessions continue to build relationships and provide onboarding support.
- **Chapter Contacts Meetings** offer space for coordination, sharing tools, and aligning on national efforts.
- **Database issue continues.** Looking toward possibly moving to another system in the coming year once existing data is as clean as possible for transition.

Chapters: Growth and Support

- Several new chapters formed in 2025
- We continue to develop tools and systems to:
 - Support new chapter formation
 - Help chapters thrive through resources, trainings, and peer support
 - Encourage chapter-to-chapter collaboration

Looking Ahead

- With gratitude to every member who makes this work possible.
- Let's continue to grow together, take bold action, and move toward a world where peace work is no longer necessary—because peace has finally been won.

Joshua Shurley Vice President, Board of Directors, Chair, Membership Committee;

Appendix 6:Proposed Resolutions for 2025, Josh Shurley:

Note that the resolutions before us were submitted at least 10-days prior to the business meeting, and reviewed carefully, but that there will not be any changes to these as submitted, and word-smithing or changes are not available.

Res 2025-01: U.S. Military Expansion and Environmental Destruction in Okinawa

Whereas, Okinawa, the colonized independent Kingdom of Ryūkyū, has long borne a disproportionate burden of U.S. military bases, with over 18% of Okinawa Island occupied against majority local opposition, but ignored by both the U.S. and Japanese governments; and

Whereas, plans to construct a new U.S. military port at Urasoe City, first proposed in 1966 and recently revived, threaten one of the island's last intact coastal shallows, is used by locals for gathering seafood, and.

Whereas, as the US military already maintains three operational ports at White Beach, Tengan Pier and Naha Pier, a fourth port is less military necessity, than a demonstration of US and Japan will over indigenous Okinawans, and

Whereas, the Urasoe project mirrors the imposed Henoko base project, where thirty years of make-work has produced nothing of military value--only irreversible environmental destruction from lucrative contracts with no end in sight, and

Whereas, these projects represent wasteful both public spending in its most extreme and continued joint U.S.-Japan hegemony over Okinawan democratic opposition, as repeatedly expressed through referenda, lawsuits, civil disobedience and protests;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that *Veterans For Peace*:

1. **Urges** the US Department of Defense to scrap plans to build another military port at Urasoe City, and rescind new base construction at Henoko;
2. **Calls** for independent investigations by the GAO and U.S. Congress into the waste, legality, environmental impact, and strategic necessity of these projects;
3. **Stands in solidarity** with the people of Okinawa in their call for peace, ecological protection, and the restoration and return of their lands and self-determination.

Submitted by

Makishi Yoshikazu, Associate Member, VFP-ROCK

Pete Shimazaki Doktor, Co-Founding Member, VFP-ROCK

Douglas Lummis, Member, VFP-ROCK

Endorsed by: Veterans For Peace Ryukyu/Okinawa Chapter Kokusai (VFP-ROCK)

Commentary on Res 2025-01:

- **Pete Doktor** commented that this resolution about Okinawa is different from previous resolutions in that it is about the new bases that are being built, some on pristine land and bays.
- **Don Kimball:** The Resolution should add reference to sexual assault.

Straw vote: Virtual 18/18, in-person: Unanimous

Res 2025-02: 80th Anniversary of the U.S. Military Occupation in South Korea from 1945

Whereas, as we observe the 80th anniversary of the end of the World War II, it is critical for the American people to understand how the U.S. became a new imperial ruler in South Korea – inflicting immense pain and suffering on the Korean people;

Whereas, even as the Korean people celebrated the end of Japanese colonial rule in Korea on August 15, 1945, U.S. officials had already decided to divide Korea into two at the 38th Parallel to stop the Soviet troops' march into Seoul;

Whereas, the U.S. established a U.S. Army Military Government in Korea (USAMGIK) on September 12, and the USAMGIK suppressed the Korean People's Republic that had been already established in Seoul by the Korean people themselves on September 6, 1945; and

Whereas, although the Republic of Korea (ROK) was established in the South only in August 1948, the US military's rule in South Korea has continued more or less, with some 30,000 US troops still stationed there today.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, Veterans For Peace, voting by its members in 2025,

1. Condemns the arbitrary, tragic division of Korea by the U.S. in 1945 and the subsequent U.S. military rule in South Korea;
2. Calls upon the U.S. government to end its continuing military control of South Korea;

3. Urges U.S. people to support the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act (H.R. 1841) as a first step to ending the long U.S. military occupation in Korea; and
4. Urges VFP members and chapters to send a copy of this resolution to their members of Congress.

Submitted by: John Kim and Ann Wright

Cosponsored by VFP Korea Peace Campaign and VFP Chapter 113 - Hawaii

Negative Commentary on Res 2025-02: NONE

Straw vote: No comments and unanimous Straw vote in favor.

Res 2025-03: Honoring the Role and Contributions of Associate Members in Veterans For Peace

Whereas, Veterans For Peace (VFP) is, first and foremost, an organization led by military veterans committed to abolishing war and its causes;

Whereas, our mission has always depended on the unwavering commitment of those who have never worn the uniform but who stand shoulder-to-shoulder with us in the fight for peace and justice;

Whereas, associate members—family, partners, caregivers, and allies—have long served as both the first line of support for returning veterans and as some of the most dedicated activists in our movement;

Whereas, associate members comprise approximately one-quarter of VFP's total membership, reflecting the broad and diverse base of support essential to our shared mission;

Whereas, their solidarity has deepened and strengthened our work, both in public struggle and private healing, often without formal recognition;

Whereas, VFP has taken important steps to honor this partnership by establishing an associate member seat on the National Board of Directors and expanding full voting rights to include bylaws, board elections, and resolutions;

Whereas, associate members are now also able to take on greater leadership roles at the chapter level, strengthening grassroots organizing and ensuring a more inclusive and representative movement;

Therefore, be it resolved that Veterans For Peace formally acknowledges, celebrates, and honors the indispensable contributions of our associate members, past and present;

It is further resolved that we commit to continued inclusion, communication, and collaboration with associate members in all aspects of our work, recognizing that peace is not the burden of veterans alone, but a shared responsibility and calling.

Submitted by: Cindy Piester

Endorsed by: the Executive Committee, VFP Board of Directors

Negative Commentary on Res 2025-03: NONE

Straw vote: No comments and unanimous Straw vote in favor

Res 2025-04: Opposing the Expansion and Escalation of ICE and Its Attacks on Immigrant Communities

Whereas, Veterans For Peace (VFP) stands firmly against racism, fascism, and the criminalization of marginalized communities;

Whereas, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency has become the largest federal police force in the country, far surpassing even the FBI and DEA in funding and scope, and operating with increasing secrecy, brutality, and impunity;

Whereas, ICE has conducted workplace raids, detained asylum seekers at courthouses, abducted community members without warrants, and separated families in tactics reminiscent of the worst authoritarian regimes;

Whereas, for-profit detention centers, immigrant jails, and mass deportation pipelines enrich private corporations while denying due process, dignity, and basic human rights;

Whereas, this militarized immigration regime disproportionately targets non-white communities, and is designed not for “law enforcement,” but for political repression and racial terror;

Whereas, we recognize chilling historical parallels to past atrocities, including the state-sanctioned dehumanization, rounding up, and warehousing of entire communities;

Whereas, VFP has long advocated for deported veterans—those who served in the U.S. military and were later banished from the country they defended, denied access to earned VA benefits and basic justice;

Therefore, be it resolved that Veterans For Peace condemns in the strongest terms the expansion and actions of ICE, and affirms our solidarity with immigrant communities, workers, and all those resisting this machinery of violence;

Be it further resolved that VFP calls on our members to support nonviolent resistance to these abuses—through sanctuary efforts, court support, civil disobedience, and public education;

And finally, be it resolved that we commit to opposing the construction and funding of for-profit immigrant prisons, and demand a demilitarized, humane, and just immigration system rooted in human rights and solidarity—not fear.

Submitted by: Joshua Shurley, Paul Cox, and Stephen Zollman (VFP Resolutions Committee).

Endorsed by: VFP Board of Directors.

Negative Commentary on Res 2025-03: NONE

Straw vote: No comments and unanimous Straw vote in favor

Appendix 5: 2026 Board Candidates, Ellen Barfield: at the time of the convention there are seven candidates. Veteran Members interested in running have 7 days from the end of the Business Meeting to declare in writing to the National Office. The seven current candidates are:

Aneesa Ahad, Chapter 111
Enya Anderson, Incumbent
Ellen Barfield, Incumbent
Gerry Condon, Incumbent
Dave Logsdon, Chapter 27
Ian Mooney, Chapter 91
Stephen Zollman, Incumbent

[Back to top](#)

Veterans For Peace Board of Directors
Saturday, July 19, 2025 Minutes

PRESENT: Susan Schnall, Mike Tork, Josh Shurley, Paul Cox (notes), Ellen Barfield, Ellen Davidson, Enya Anderson, Gerry Condon, Kelly Wadsworth, Mike Wong, Stephen Zollman, Windsor Wade, Staff: Michael McPhearson, Shelly Rockett. **Excused Absence:** Matt Southworth

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michelle Marsonette, Mike Caggiano, Regina Sneed, Susan Lamont.

12:40 pm ET

Videos of the **VFP Statement of Purpose** and **Indigenous Worldview** were played

Member comments: None were offered.

12:50 PM: VFP Board meeting called to order followed by **Board Check Ins**

June 21, 2025 Minutes: Approved

Agenda: Approved adding report from Communications

Finance Report, Mike Tork:

Unrestricted

- Commerce Bank Checking - \$224,102
- Amalgamated Checking - \$333,045
- Amalgamated CDs - \$60,000
- Wire Transfer - \$107 (New account)
- Edward Jones - \$16,776

Restricted

- Zinn Fund - \$26,471
- Restricted - \$18,386
- Commerce Bank Credit Card - \$21,050 (will be paid in full 8-4)

Total Unrestricted Funds - \$634,030

Convention Member Support

To date \$11,400 of registration fees have been waived for 50 VFP Members and Panelists
\$9,505 has been allocated for extra support for VFP Members and Panelists (Housing, Food, travel)

Total convention support provided by VFP - \$20,905

Budget: We started this year with a \$106,000 projected deficit, which has decreased substantially to around \$56k, but the year is not over until it is over.

Executive Director, Michael McPhearson: **Membership** current approach is to not drop people for at least a year, but procedure is still under review. **Database:** we need to develop an SOP for what we need in a database. We do not understand precisely what we need and what EA can and cannot provide, but he is not confident that EA can provide everything. After the Convention, staff will prepare a new membership drive. We have apparently not been doing as good a job as we should reaching out to lapsed members. We also need to find creative ways to reach new prospects and stay in touch with new members. Development of Regional Coordinators is not yet ready for prime time. Also, Chapter Contact calls need to be more carefully prepared so as to not waste CC's time. Foundations Search has shown some tentative opportunities for DVAP, such as some of the 'traditional' vets' groups who might provide grants that they might help with. Google alerts and social media have included postings for SOVA, CCMP, etc.

Transformative Justice Committee, Kelly Wadsworth: No report.

Membership Committee, Josh Shurley: **Veterans For Peace Membership Report Board Meeting – July 19, 2025:**

1. Overview

- **Spring 2025 Drive:**
 - Renewals: 102
 - New Members: 52
- **Spring 2024 Comparison:**
 - Renewals: 67
 - New Members: 28
- Significant year-over-year growth in both renewals and new signups.
- **Total new members in July (to date):** 41

2. New Member Engagement

- **149 new members joined VFP in June** (120 vets, 28 associates, 1 active duty). Correlates to highly visible actions during June in NYC and DC. Compared to second highest month of new members (80 in March).
- **June Intake:**
 - All contacted for **New Member Orientation**.
 - ~50% already placed in chapters.
 - Remaining placements expected by mid-next week.
- **July Engagement:**
 - Early outreach shows promising response rate.
 - Personalized “Welcome” emails yielding good feedback.
 - Orientation PowerPoint created to increase engagement and will be updated as needed.

3. Infrastructure & Process Updates

- **Regional Structure Preparation:**
 - “**VFP Regions**” folder reestablished in anticipation of appointing **Regional Coordinators**.
 - Suggest using upcoming **Convention** as recruitment opportunity for these roles.

6. Next Steps

- Complete **chapter placements** for June and July new members.
- Finalize **Membership Renewal Process** draft and circulate for feedback.
- Use convention to:
 - Recruit **Regional Coordinators**
 - Promote orientation materials
 - Strengthen direct member engagement
- Consider automation tools to streamline welcome emails and engagement tracking.

Convention Committee Report, Susan: Welcoming package will be going out by email soon. Stay tooned. **Registration as of today**:

In person - 158

Virtual - 90

Total - 248

Attendees by day

W - 32

Th - 112

Fr - 126

Sat - 121

Sun - 64

Mon - 10

Review of Proposed Resolutions, Josh Shurley:

- **Resolution 2025-01: U.S. Military Expansion and Environmental Destruction in Okinawa.** Ellen Barfield noted that this is somewhat redundant. **Approved** by board with one abstention. See **Appendix 1**.
- **Resolution 2025-02: 80th Anniversary of the U.S. Military Occupation in South Korea from 1945.** There were questions from the board about how this resolution is worded (not what it

presents), and that some thought it makes simplified assertions about complex historical events. One suggestion was to ask John Kim and Ann Wright to add hyperlinks, and possibly some wordsmithing. Josh noted that the word limit for resolutions is sometimes quite restrictive. **Approved** with caveat that **Josh** will talk with **Ann, John, and Ellen Davidson** about some minor changes. See **Appendix 2**.

- **Resolution 2025-03: Honoring the Role and Contributions of Associate Members in Veterans For Peace.** **Approved.** See **Appendix 3**.
- **Resolution 2025-04:** Withdrawn by authors. **Appendix 4**.
- **Resolution 2025-05: Resist the Expansion of ICE and the Rise of Domestic Militarism.** **Approved.** See **Appendix 5**.

Review of Board-developed Statements: In order to take explicit note of VFP's 40th Anniversary and also the current global and domestic crises, some board members have drafted two statements for presentation at the Convention and for our list of Statements on the website.

- **Statement 01: Learning from the Past, Building the Future: Veterans For Peace Statement on U.S. Militarism and 40 Years of Action.** **Josh** will add statement about Iran. **Approved.** See **Appendix 6**.
- **Statement 02: Resist the Expansion of ICE and the Rise of Domestic Militarism: A Call to Action from Veterans For Peace.** Kelly suggested we rework it to include some fact-sheet-type material. **Approved** with **authors authorized** to add fact sheet to statement. **See Appendix 7**.

Review of Bylaws ChangeProposals, Josh Shurley: No bylaw changes offered this year.

VFP Communications Report, Gerry Condon: See **Appendix 7**.

VFP Mobilization Committee Report, Gerry Condon: See **Appendix 8**.

Next Board meeting: VFP Annual Business Meeting: Saturday, July 26, 2025

Adjournment 1:43 pm ET.

Appendix 1, Resolution 2025-1: U.S. Military Expansion and Environmental Destruction in Okinawa

Whereas, Okinawa, once the independent Kingdom of the Ryukyus, has long borne a disproportionate share of U.S. military bases, with over 18% of the main island occupied and consistent local opposition ignored by both the U.S. and Japanese governments; and

Whereas, plans to construct a new U.S. military port at Urasoe City, first proposed in 1966 and recently revived, threaten one of the island's last intact coastal shallows, used by locals for gathering seafood, and.

Whereas, as the US military already has three operational ports at White Beach, Tengan Pier and Naha Pier, this forth port seems to be aimed less at serving some military necessity, than serving as the US's and Japan's statement that, on Okinawa, they can do whatever they want, and

Whereas, in this respect, the Urasoe project mirrors the Henoko "new base" project, where thirty years of makework has produced nothing of military value but only world famous and irreversible environmental destruction, with no end in sight, and

Whereas, these projects represent “wasteful government spending” in its most extreme form, and also structural discrimination, perpetuating a dual U.S.-Japan colonial domination that disregards Okinawan democratic opposition, as repeatedly expressed through referenda, elections, and protests;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that *Veterans For Peace*:

1. **Urges** the US Department of Defense to scrap the plans to build a “new base” at Henoko and a new military port at Urasoe.
2. **Calls** for independent investigations by the GAO and U.S. Congress into the legality, environmental impact, and strategic necessity of these projects;
3. **Stands in solidarity** with the people of Okinawa in their call for peace, environmental protection, and the return of their land and sovereignty.

Submitted by:

Makishi Yoshikazu, Associate Member, VFP-ROCK

Pete Doktor, Founding Member, VFP-ROCK

Douglas Lummis, Member, VFP-ROCK

Endorsed by: Veterans For Peace Ryukyu/Okinawa Chapter Kokusai (VFP-ROCK)

Appendix 2, Resolution 2025-055: 80th Anniversary of the U.S. Military Occupation in South Korea from 1945

Whereas, as we observe the 80th anniversary of the end of the World War II this year, it is critical for the American people to understand how the U.S. became a new imperial ruler in South Korea – inflicting immense pain and suffering to the Korean people;

Whereas, while the Korean people celebrated the end of the Japanese colonial rule in Korea on August 15, they had no idea that the U.S. officials had already decided to divide Korea into two at the 38th Parallel to stop the Soviet troops’ march into Seoul;

Whereas, although the U.S. did not establish a military government in Japan soon after its occupation of Japan, it created a U.S. Military Government in South Korea on September 12, and then suppressed the Korean People’s Republic that was established in Seoul by the Korean people themselves on September 6; and

Whereas, the U.S. established a Korean government (ROK) in the South only in August 1948, and some 30,000 U.S. troops are still occupying South Korea today;

Therefore, Be It Resolved, *Veterans For Peace*, voting by its members in 2025,

1. Condemns the arbitrary, tragic division of Korea by the U.S. in 1945 and the subsequent U.S. military rule in South Korea;
2. Calls upon the U.S. government to end its continuing military control of South Korea;
3. Urges American people to support the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act (H.R. 1841) as a first step to ending the long U.S. military occupation in Korea; and
4. Urges VFP members and local Chapters to send a copy of this resolution to their members of Congress.

Submitted by: John Kim and Ann Wright

Cosponsored by VFP Korea Peace Campaign and VFP Chapter 113 - Hawaii

Appendix 3: Resolution 2025-3. Honoring the Role and Contributions of Associate Members in Veterans For Peace

Whereas Veterans For Peace (VFP) is, first and foremost, an organization led by military veterans committed to abolishing war and its causes;

Whereas our mission has always depended on the unwavering commitment of those who have never worn the uniform but who stand shoulder-to-shoulder with us in the fight for peace and justice;

Whereas associate members—family, partners, caregivers, and allies—have long served as both the first line of support for returning veterans and as some of the most dedicated activists in our movement;

Whereas associate members now comprise approximately one-quarter of VFP's total membership, reflecting the broad and diverse base of support essential to our shared mission;

Whereas their solidarity has deepened and strengthened our work, both in public struggle and private healing, often without formal recognition;

Whereas VFP has taken important steps to honor this partnership by establishing an associate member seat on the National Board of Directors and expanding full voting rights to include bylaws, board elections, and resolutions;

Whereas associate members are now also able to take on greater leadership roles at the chapter level, strengthening grassroots organizing and ensuring a more inclusive and representative movement;

Therefore, be it resolved that Veterans For Peace formally acknowledges, celebrates, and honors the indispensable contributions of our associate members, past and present;

Be it further resolved that we commit to continued inclusion, communication, and collaboration with associate members in all aspects of our work, recognizing that peace is not the burden of veterans alone, but a shared responsibility and calling.

Submitted by: Endorsed by:

Appendix 4: Withdrawn by authors

Appendix 5: Opposing the Expansion and Escalation of ICE and Its Attacks on Immigrant Communities

Whereas Veterans For Peace (VFP) stands firmly against racism, fascism, and the criminalization of marginalized communities;

Whereas the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency has become the largest federal police force in the country, far surpassing even the FBI and DEA in funding and scope, and operating with increasing secrecy, brutality, and impunity;

Whereas ICE has conducted workplace raids, detained asylum seekers at courthouses, abducted community members without warrants, and separated families in tactics reminiscent of the worst authoritarian regimes;

Whereas for-profit detention centers, immigrant jails, and mass deportation pipelines enrich private corporations while denying due process, dignity, and basic human rights;

Whereas this militarized immigration regime disproportionately targets non-white communities, and is designed not for “law enforcement,” but for political repression and racial terror;

Whereas we recognize chilling historical parallels to past atrocities, including the state-sanctioned dehumanization, rounding up, and warehousing of entire communities;

Whereas VFP has long advocated for Deported Veterans—those who served in the U.S. military and were later banished from the country they defended, denied access to earned VA benefits and basic justice;

Therefore, be it resolved that Veterans For Peace condemns in the strongest terms the expansion and actions of ICE, and affirms our solidarity with immigrant communities, workers, and all those resisting this machinery of violence;

Be it further resolved that VFP calls on our members to support nonviolent resistance to these abuses—through sanctuary efforts, court support, civil disobedience, and public education;

And finally, be it resolved that we commit to opposing the construction and funding of for-profit immigrant prisons, and demand a demilitarized, humane, and just immigration system rooted in human rights and solidarity—not fear.

Submitted by: Endorsed by:

Appendix 5, Statement 01: Learning from the Past, Building the Future: Veterans For Peace Statement on U.S. Militarism and 40 Years of Action

As Veterans For Peace marks 40 years of resistance to war and militarism, we are called again to speak out—clearly, urgently, and without apology.

For four decades, VFP has stood in opposition to the endless wars, bloated military budgets, and human suffering caused by U.S. imperialism. Today, the dangers have only deepened. From the Middle East to Ukraine, from Asia and the Pacific region to Latin America and Africa, the United States continues to fuel death, displacement, and destabilization. These are not isolated crises—they are the predictable outcomes of an imperial system designed to dominate by force.

In Palestine, we denounce the U.S. role in Israel's genocide and apartheid.

Our government aids and shields Israel as it bombs refugee camps and hospitals, starves civilians, and attempts to erase an entire people. These crimes violate international law, U.S. law, and human morality—and they are carried out with our tax dollars and our weapons.

In Ukraine, we reject the ongoing proxy war against Russia and call for diplomacy, not escalation. The people of Ukraine and Russia deserve an end to war—not to be used as pawns in a great-power confrontation that risks nuclear catastrophe.

These are not isolated tragedies. They are part of a global wall of militarism:

- We call attention to the rising militarization of the Asia-Pacific, where a new Cold War is being manufactured to serve corporate and elite interests.
- In Latin America and Africa, U.S. military aid and covert operations continue to undermine democratic movements and entrench inequality.
- And at home, we see the same logic of repression deployed against immigrants, students, workers, and organizers—under the guise of “security.”

We know these patterns. We've seen them before.

From Vietnam, to Iraq, Afghanistan, and beyond: we remember the lies. We remember the occupations, the coups, the sanctions, and the “collateral damage.” We remember the cost—paid for in blood, in trauma, and in stolen futures.

We also remember the horror of Hiroshima and Nagasaki—80 years ago this summer. The atomic bombings killed hundreds of thousands and unleashed a nuclear age that continues to threaten all life on Earth. Today, as nuclear tensions rise and arms races accelerate, we must act urgently to ensure such crimes are never repeated.

This moment demands more than outrage—it demands commitment.

What We Stand For

Veterans For Peace is not just against war.

We are committed to building a just and peaceful society that is rooted in care, solidarity, and human dignity.

We call on all members, allies, and people of conscience to:

- End U.S. complicity in genocide, war, and occupation—especially in Palestine and Ukraine.
- Demand a dramatic reduction in military spending and redirect those resources to:
 - Protect and expand VA healthcare
 - Invest in climate justice and green jobs and infrastructure
 - Build partnerships with organized labor and working-class communities
 - Defend immigrant and refugee rights, and dismantle domestic militarism
 - Abolish corporate rule over our political system
- Support GIs and conscientious objectors who refuse to fight in unjust wars.
- Resist the criminalization of dissent and defend the right to protest and organize.

Forty years in, we are still building. Still resisting. Still imagining a world without war.

As we mark 40 years of action, let this anniversary be not just a reunion—but a recommitment to the values that brought us here.

Veterans For Peace—Learning from the Past, Building the Future.

Appendix 6, Statement 02: Resist the Expansion of ICE and the Rise of Domestic Militarism: A Call to Action from Veterans For Peace

As military veterans, we took an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Today, we face a rising domestic threat: the transformation of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) into a militarized federal police force targeting immigrants, communities of color, and political dissenters.

ICE now receives more federal funding than the entire U.S. Marine Corps. It operates as an unaccountable paramilitary agency—raiding workplaces, detaining people in cages without due process, and terrorizing entire communities. Private corporations profit from this machinery of fear. And increasingly, its tactics are being turned inward and are aimed not just at immigrants, but at students protesting genocide, racial justice organizers, labor leaders, journalists, and everyday people demanding a better world.

This is not law enforcement. It is repression. The demonization of immigrants as “criminals” or “terrorists” is part of a broader campaign of racialized control—one that seeks to “whiten” America, silence dissent, and roll back hard-won gains in civil rights and education. We see it in the attacks on diversity programs and on honest teaching of U.S. history. These assaults violate the spirit of the Constitution, including the 14th Amendment’s promises of equal protection and due process.

These tactics are not new. We’ve seen this playbook before—during the Red Scare, during COINTELPRO, during the civil rights era. First they target immigrants. Then they come for dissent itself.

Veterans For Peace has long advocated for Deported Veterans—men and women who served this country in uniform, only to be exiled from it. These are not abstract warnings. They are real, lived injustices. When those who wore the uniform are discarded and deported, it reveals just how easily unchecked power can strip away dignity, rights, and belonging. Their treatment is a warning: if this can happen to veterans, it can happen to anyone.

As veterans, we recognize the weapons, language, and logic of war when we see it. And we are seeing it now on our own streets, in our neighborhoods, and in the policies carried out in our name.

Veterans For Peace calls on all VFP chapters, allies, and people of conscience to:

- Expose and resist the expansion of ICE and its racist, violent tactics.
- Defend the rights of immigrants and support sanctuary efforts.
- Demand a compassionate immigration system centered on dignity, due process, and a clear path to citizenship.
- Oppose the domestic deployment of U.S. troops and the militarization of law enforcement.
- Stand in solidarity with immigrants, students, workers, and all those targeted by state repression.
- Support the moral courage of those in uniform and in ICE who refuse to take part in unjust actions.

We cannot allow fascism to grow behind the mask of “security.” We cannot let our oaths be twisted to justify state terror. The same forces enabling genocide in Gaza are emboldening repression here at home. **The struggle against white supremacy and militarism must be joined across borders and across movements.**

Veterans For Peace stands united against militarism—abroad and at home. We re-dedicate ourselves to building a world rooted in justice, dignity, and true security.

Peace at Home. Peace Abroad.

Appendix 7. VFP Communications Report, Gerry Condon

As Veterans For Peace becomes more active, we generate more media – our own media, alternative media, and even mainstream media. The *Veterans and Allies Fast for Gaza* generated a ton of media, as detailed here in an email we received today from Mike Ferner:

[“here is where you can see](#) news media we generated during the fast and on our 40th “escalation day,” kept on the website FOSNA did for us. Many thanks to Addie Domske.”

The summer issue of *Peace and Planet News* is available now, with great coverage of the Fast as well as many other excellent and important articles. See a pdf of it [here](#). Order copies [here](#).

A special issue of *Peace and Planet News* will be published in time for the Fall tour of VFP's *Climate Crisis and Militarism Project*.

Because many people are outraged by the continuing genocide in Gaza and racist, violent ICE attacks on our own communities, our social media has been humming. People appreciate that Veterans For Peace is tracking, condemning and protesting these grave human rights abuses.

Appendix 8: VFP Mobilization Committee Report, Gerry Condon

Despite protests from all over the world, the US-backed Israeli genocide in Gaza continues, and is actually escalating with both bombing, ground assaults, and starvation tactics, and plans for a concentration camp and the forceful removal of all Palestinians from Gaza. Many countries recently met in Colombia to commit themselves to taking more forceful and coordinated attempt to bring the genocide to an end.

Here in the US, Veterans For Peace and allies opened up a powerful new front against the Gaza genocide with the 40-day *Veterans and Allies Fast for Gaza*, which was joined by about 700 people around the US and even in some other countries. Kudos to Mike Ferner for his leading role, and for New York VFP for providing a lot of support to the fasters outside the US mission to the United Nations. VFP chapters, such as the Minneapolis/St. Paul chapter, joined in fasting publicly, while other chapters launched support actions. New alliances were built, and Veterans For Peace is stronger in many ways for this inspired and courageous action.

VFP chapters are also participating in local protests against racist, violent ICE attacks on our communities and the deployment of National Guard and Marines to suppress those who are protesting and resisting these fascistic assaults on human rights and human dignity.

The VFP Golden Rule Project is busy organizing the *Golden Rule*'s August voyage to multiple cities throughout San Francisco Bay. Aside from warning about the growing danger of nuclear war, the *Golden Rule* will also be addressing the genocide in Gaza and the attacks on immigrants in our own communities. The VFP Climate Crisis and Militarism Project is organizing a Fall speaking and organizing tour throughout California.

[Back to top](#)

Veterans For Peace Board of Directors
Saturday, June 21, 2025 Minutes

PRESENT: Susan Schnall, Mike Tork, Josh Shurley, Paul Cox (notes), Ellen Barfield, Ellen Davidson, Enya Anderson, Gerry Condon, Kelly Wadsworth, Stephen Zollman, Windsor Wade, Staff: Michael McPhearson, Shelly Rockett, Chris Smiley, Heather Carlos. **Absent:** Matt Southworth, Mike Wong

MEMBERS PRESENT: Adam Toothaker, Al Glatkowski, Arla Ertz, Armon Ketchum, Art Milholland, Bryson Ripley, Bushrod, Dave ??, Dirk Lackovich-Van Gorp, Ed Brighton, George???, Gerald Hassett, Greg Corning, Ian Mooney, Jack Talcott, Jackie Barshak, James Brown, Janet Weil, Jeffery Humfeld, Jim Rine, John McAnanama, John Wilks, KenDursa, Matha ??, Michael Kerr, Mike Ferner, Octovio Sifuentes, Paul DuNard, Paul ???, Phil Fransen, Phil Josselyn, Rachel Clark, Regina Sneed, Rodolfo ??, Russell ??, Sara Flounders, Shelly Coreville, Susann Carter, Tarak Kauf, Thomas "Reggie" Regrut, Tina Jaroe, Tom Larsen, William Short, Zool Zulkowitz

12:40 pm ET

Videos of the **VFP Statement of Purpose** and **Indigenous Worldview** were played

Member comments:

- Zool Zulkowitz: At 235 West 23 Ave today in NYC is day 31 of UN Fast until June 30. Rising Together Theater is up and running and has its first show: "Reap What you Sow" Coming up.
- John Wilks, Chapter 63, Albuquerque and DU Working Group. Northern AZ Univ Lab will be testing for various radionuclides contamination throughout the country. Will be testing soil and water, and plans to tell the public and government about those contaminations. Will start with Rio Purco River in Churchrock, NM, July 19. They are looking for fireplace ash samples from around the country to test for residual radioactivity, so if you have access to such please contact him at johnewilksiii@windstream.net.
- Reggie Regrut: Informed us that the half-million documented Mexican nationals and .5 to 1.0 million undocumented workers have been arrested and detained. We must stand with American farmers and laborers and declare that none can be deported until replacements are found to do that work. Veterans need a victory and this is an important issue.
- Ian Mooney, San Diego Chapter: Started a "Don't Turn On Us" campaign last week, and suggests other chapters also give it a run.
- Greg Corning: Bob Sanders, on a cross-country bike run, was struck by a car in Idaho. He's OK, though he will need a new bike.
- Sara Flounders: reminded us that we are on the cusp of a new war with Iran. Upcoming actions this week should be well publicized.

1:07PM: VFP Board meeting called to order followed by Check Ins

May 17, 2025 Minutes: Approved

Agenda: Approved

Finance Report, Mike Tork:

- Operating checking: \$178,027
- Savings: \$1.07
- Credit Card: \$0
- Partially Restricted: \$263,962
- Howard Zinn Fund: \$26,469
- Committed Funds: \$18,386

Expenses last month slightly less than budgeted, income slightly higher

Executive Director, Michael McPhearson:

Membership See **Josh Shurley's Membership report, Appendix 1.** In order to engage new members quickly, they will get an E-newsletter, and a welcoming email. He will be working more with Chapter Contacts to get them engaged with new members.

Finances: This is an ongoing effort and we need to keep a close eye on the budget. We have thousands of subscribers who have not donated, so we are going to ask constantly from now on. Members and donors will also get asked, but not as often.

Programatics: The Fast and June 13 action with About Face, where about 60 veterans were arrested, have gotten lots of press and other media attention. John Spitzberg, 84, got arrested on June 13, which has gotten much attention. We are also trying to work with legislative efforts to stop both war and the border/undocumented attacks, as well as military off our streets

Transformative Justice Committee, Kelly Wadsworth: Reflected on Worldview Chart Kinship Item #2: "Courage and fearless trust in the universe." Recently Reverend Barber reminded us that the abolitionists did not know how they would get rid of chattel slavery, but they knew they had to start.

Development, Matt Southworth: Tabled.

Membership Committee, Josh Shurley: See **Appendix 1.** In addition, in June so far we have about 138 new members. We have been discussing developing regional coordinators to assist Chapter Contacts and chapters with membership issues. Official welcome to **Chapter 195 in Eastern Maryland**. Another new Chapter is in the works in Boise, ID. Heather Carlos was introduced again, and spoke briefly about how glad she is to be working with VFP.

Communications Report: Gerry Condon: Suggests that we mount an active recruitment campaign.

Report from Veterans and Allies Fast for Gaza: Mike Ferner: Reported that about 800 people around the country and several in other countries have taken on the fast, in addition to the 8-person core in DC. They all wear Veterans and Allies fast for Peace In Gaza Tees. He also urged us all to work the crowds when we are on the street or at events.

VFP Statement, Veterans Condemn Israel's U.S.-Backed Attack on Iran and the Deployment of the Military in U.S. Cities, Susan Schnall: See **Appendix 2**

Convention Committee Report, Susan: Convention at the University of Nevada Las Vegas will run from July 25-27 in-person or by Zoom. If you have problems registering at www.veteransforpeace.org/Convention, please contact Shelly@veteransforpeace.org. Calendar, etc.also at that webpage on our website.

Mobilization Committee Report, Gerry Condon: No meetings this month since we have been too busy. Enews has been going out regularly thanks to Becky and others on the Comm Comm. There will be a print newsletter coming soon-prior to the convention. Facebook is getting good coverage. Local chapters are getting coverage for their actions against the ICE, Gaza, border stuff. We even has a Stars and Stripes article yesterday quoting Michael McPhearson

Social Media, Chris Smiley: See **Appendix 3.**

Next Board meeting: July 19, 2025

Adjournment 2:20 pm ET

Post-Board meeting discussion:

- Rachel Clark: September 18, a Japanese gentleman, Akoi Akuri, whose father was a Japanese soldier deployed twice to China, has spoken extensively in Japan about the American War on Vietnam, and about the trouble his father caused in China. He has apologized to the Chinese. He

will be in SF speaking at the Pacific Atrocity Education Association, and would like VFP to endorse.

- Thomas Regrut: Thinks the one issue that all Americans can get behind is that our food is grown and harvested by people who will be deported. VFP should engage other vet groups on this issue.
- Janet Weil: Agrees that food production and farm workers are also being affected by global warming and crops and workers are exacerbated by the wars and militarism, and climate scientists.
- Rodolfo: There is currently a major demo at Dodger Stadium in LA. We are fighting a dirty war against terror inflicted by the Government.
- Ian Mooney: Agreed with Rodolfo's concerns and is working on similar issues in San Diego.
- Phil Josselyn: Also agreed with Rodolfo, and thinks the Convention panel needs to recognize that things are not just at the border. Also, Union de Barrios has also gotten a letter from Senator Josh Hawley requiring much information or face criminal charges. Susan responded that we will likely discuss these issues at the Convention meeting
- Jackie Barshak, June 24, 6 am at Travis www.People'sArmsEmbargo.org action that also involves Travis' participation in deportations as well as shipping arms to Israel and Ukraine.
- Gerry: thinks we need to form a committee to address the "War at Home" attacks on progressive orgs.
- Susan: People on this call are connecting already, we are not waiting for the convention.
- Michael McPhearson: Mass deportation is already part of our statement of purpose, including opposing racism, and militarization of the police. Will also contact Ian and Rodolfo to develop other actions. All people of color are under attack, by the way. They are focusing on the immigrant community at the moment because they are the most vulnerable.
- Rodolfo: An attack on one is an attack on all. Racism is the operative driver within the US, currently.

Appendix 1: Membership Committee Report – June 21, 2025

- **Momentum and Process Improvement**
 - Membership processes are improving and beginning to yield results.
 - Not instant, but positive trends are showing.
- **New Member Stats**
 - **March 2025:** 88 new members (65 veteran, 23 associate, 0 active duty)
 - **April 2025:** 52 new members (36 veteran, 13 associate, 3 active duty)
 - **May 2025:** 87 new members (64 veteran, 23 associate, 0 active duty)
 - Preliminary **June** numbers pending — expected to reflect DC actions and media exposure (currently showing **138** at this time)
- **Retention and Outreach**
 - Retention has been a challenge — previously losing members as quickly as gaining them.
 - Recent months: Heather and Michael conducting outreach to lapsed members (mailers & emails).
 - Early signs suggest outreach is improving retention — numbers up.
- **Total Current Dues-Paying Members**
 - **March:** 2,432
 - **April:** 2,541
 - **May:** 3,312 (2,075 veteran, 987 associate, 250 active duty)
- **Follow-up and Chapter Placement**
 - All May new members contacted before chapter assignment.
 - Coordinating with regional contacts to assist with placements where chapter follow-up is lagging.
- **Chapter Development**
 - Creating a chapter toolkit: best practices for chapter formation and sustainability.
 - Will be seeking input from experienced chapter leaders in the coming weeks.

- **New Chapters**

- Welcome to Chapter 185 – Easton, MD!
 - Special thanks to Benjamin Mauro and Bruce Butler.
- Chapter in progress: Boise, ID
- Additional early-stage chapters underway.

Appendix 2: Veterans Condemn Israel's U.S.-Backed Attack on Iran and the Deployment of the Military in U.S. Cities:

Veterans For Peace condemns Israel's unprovoked attack on Iran and its targeted assassinations of Iranian leaders. This could not have happened without the agreement and support of the U.S. government.

We call on the Trump administration to:

Hold back from any further participation in Israel's war of aggression against Iran;

Demand that Israel cease its attack on Iran; and

Withhold military assistance and other aid from Israel as long as it is waging war on Iran and continuing its genocide against the Palestinian people.

Veterans For Peace is a 40-year-old organization with chapters in over 100 U.S. cities. Our mission statement calls on us to "expose the true costs of war," and to "restrain our government from intervening, overtly or covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations."

We are also protesting the alarming show of militarism in the U.S.:

- 1) President Trump's \$100 million military parade in Washington, DC,
- 2) The deployment of National Guard and Marines to suppress peaceful protests in defense of immigrant communities terrorized by inhumane ICE raids.

Veterans For Peace is calling for Peace at Home and Peace Abroad. We invite veterans, service members, military families and supporters to join us.

Appendix 3: Social Media Report, Chris Smiley:

Highlights from the month-

- Highly successful campaigns from Fast For Gaza and No Kings Day with wide reach on social and traditional media
- Over 12k new followers on Facebook/Instagram
- Collaborating with other orgs to reach millions
- **FACEBOOK** spike in followers following Capitol Protest and No Kings Day action topping at 107,000.
- **Top Facebook Posts** and Results REACHING OVER 3 MILLION PEOPLE.
- **Instagram** has 106,316 accounts, with 450.9k views, 46.0k interactions, and 6,737 new followers.
- **Collaborative Instagram posts** are joint posts between us and other people/organizations, so an estimate of 10 million people reached is not too high. Collaborators include: ggalliance (Grassroots Global Justice), greg.j.stocker, codepinkalert, vetsaboutface, odinucci (Olivia), Womensmarch, 50501veterans, showingupforracialjustice, movementforblacklives, and veteransforpeace.
- Traditional Media: just some of the many press articles and news reports
 - <https://www.stripes.com/veterans/2025-06-20/disabled-veteran-arrested-capitol-army-parade-18190466.htm>
 - <https://www.npr.org/2025/06/20/nx-s1-5438406/john-spitzberg-veteran-arrest-trump-parade>
 - https://www.wicz.com/news/veterans-for-peace-hold-protest-on-war-in-iran/video_6ab5ca2b-4dac-5514-8c2c-8fd562cef731.html
 - <https://www.nbcstandiego.com/videos/san-diego-veterans-rally-against-national-guard-use/3851674/>
 - <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/toledo-s-mike-ferner-recognized-for-lifetime-of-peace-and-public-service/ar-AA1GThFG?ocid=socialshare>

- <https://popularresistance.org/for-trumps-birthday-military-parade-veterans-demand-military-off-our-streets/>
- <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/meeting-american-veterans-fasting-gaza>
- https://www.democracynow.org/2025/5/23/headlines/us_military_vets_and_allies_begin_40_day_hunger_strike_for_gaza

[Back to top](#)

Veterans For Peace Board of Directors

Saturday, May 17, 2025

Minutes

PRESENT: Susan Schnall, Josh Shurley, Mike Tork, Mike Wong, Gerry Condon, Stephen Zollman, Ellen Barfield, Ellen Davidson, Kelly Wadsworth, Matt Southworth, Paul Cox (notes). **Staff:** Michael McPhearson, Chris Smiley. **Excused absence:** Windsor Wade, Shelly Rockett. **Absence:** Enya Anderson,

MEMBERS PRESENT: Adam Toothaker, Al Glatkowski, Al McKegg, Alice Slater, Anthony Donovan, Arla Ertz, Art Milholland, Bushrod, Doc Sanchez, Gerry Werhan, Gerald Hassett, Gene Marx, Harry Richardson, Janet Weil, Jeffery Humfeld, Jim Brasile, Jim Rine, Jim Zimmerman, John Wilks, Kate Gormley, Leedom Lefferts, Leslie Lomas, M Cervantes, Martha Spiess, Michelle Marsonette, Mike Ferner, Pa'av, Phil Josselyn, Rachel Clark, Regina Sneed, Roy Nordblom, Sam, Sandy Bolzenius, Susan Lamont, Tarak Kauf, Thomas "Reggie" Regrut.

12:40 pm ET

Videos of the **VFP Statement of Purpose** and **Indigenous Worldview** were played

Member comments:

- **Susan Lamont:** asked about VFP's response to Indivisible's call for a demo on Trump's June 14 parade. Indivis. is calling for people to dress up as clowns.
- **John Wilks:** Chapter 63 Albuquerque: Kirkland May 31 airshow: VFP will demo outside base then move down street to VA. 2)DOE, is accepting public comments due July 14 on PITS. 3) Los Alamos Lab has for years had communication consultants to bully any radios for carrying PSA's in opposition to Lab's activities, including public hearings.
- Jim Brasile, Chapter 42: Why are there fewer statements published on VFP's websites than in past years? Only one this year. He feels like position statements anchor him to VFP's positions. Susan suggested he contact VFP Josh Shurley with suggestions.
- Thomas Regrut: Re: June 6, 2 pm, demo in DC, which has a main focus on veterans benefits. He hopes that VFP endorses events and attends events in support of labor. He also noted that Trump has never visited the Wall. Reggie will be at the Wall prior to the June 6 rally and hopes that other veterans will join him there.

Call to Order: 1:02 pm ET

Checkins

Minutes of April 19th, 2025: Approved

Agenda: Approved

Finance Report, Mike Tork:

- Operating checking: \$125,217.09
- Savings: \$1.07
- Credit Card: \$0
- Partially Restricted: \$220,474.34
- Howard Zinn Fund: \$26,466.84
- Committed Funds: \$18,385.92

Howard Zinn Awards This Year:

- Climate Crisis and Militarism - 4K (Jim Rine & Gary Butterfield)
- Shut Down Drone Warfare - 2K (Nick Mottern)
- Armistice Day - 2K (Paul Deaton Ch 161)

Thanks to Sev and Louise Bruyn for the generous bequest of \$42k

Fundraising is behind and slow to get off the ground

Foundation Search: tutorial is scheduled for how to use this resource.

Budget - Doing about 64K better than predicted but.....

Fundraising before the convention. We will try to get chapter/member sponsorship of Convention.

Fundraising during the convention—in progress

Executive Director, Michael McPhearson:

- **Current membership:** 2,541 up by 111 over last month. , new associates, 13; veterans 136, active duty, 3.
- **Spring Drive** is starting, but has been delayed due to longstanding database issues. This is the first time we have done a snail mail renewal in a while. This will be followed up by three emails, and a social media campaign. He thinks that the current political crises will encourage some renewals of older lapsed (dropped) members, with appropriate messaging. They number about 5,000, and 1,000 of them will be getting a snail mailed appeal to sample the viability of the list.
- **Annual Giving:** There will be an appeal rolling out soon for annual giving.
- **Foundation Search** database subscription has not been used much, but we will be getting more support from them. There will be a training for interested people within the next month to help determined. Stephen Zollman volunteer to join the training and Michael McPhearson will send him the potential dates.
- **Conscientious Objector Day:** He participated in a webinar through Center for conscience and War that was well attended. We have rebooted our page and restarted Conscientious Resistance Working Group status with some help from Aneesa Ahad.
- A number of tasks Michael will undertake this month:
 - June 6, A union effort in support of the VA, and against fascism.
 - June 14 (Indivisible is one org) He is talking with About Face about a joint activity. Perhaps a caravan, a rally of some sort that attracts veterans and other groups. There will be an information session for VFP and About Face members. Link:

New VFP Chapter Proposal, Josh Shurley: Chapter 185 in Easton, Maryland, has applied. Still missing one member's veteran status proof. Moved to approve the new chapter contingent on them getting the necessary number of veterans registered. Ellen Barfield gave kudos to the chapter founder Bruce Butler.

Transformative Justice Committee, Kelly Wadsworth: Next meeting is June 2. Today's reflection on Worldview Chart , Number 12: Indigenous Manifestations: "Words are sacred, truthfulness is essential" vs. Common Dominant: "Words are used to deceive self or others." Susan reminded of the Kindred worldview. If you are interested, please see website.

Development, Matt Southworth: no report.

Vietnam Delegation Report, Paul Cox, Josh Shurley, Phil Josselyn:

Veterans and Allies Fast for Gaza Proposal, Mike Ferner: Introduced a 40-day fast starting on April 22, in NYC at the UN, in which each faster will be ingesting no more than 240 calories/day which is what is recently reported as the daily nutrition available to the people of Gaza. This was inspired by a Marine vet (and now VFP member), and has grown to include Joy Metzler, Phil Tottenham, Kathy Kelly, and Mike Ferner will be at the UN for the full fast and there are 48 others around the country that will participate at home in some fashion. Housing, public outreach and graphics, and menus are being developed. With ExComm's approval, Chris Smiley will now be able to help with social media. Two demands: Stop the War on Gaza, and No More Weapons to Israel. Gerry Condon pointed out that there are ongoing hunger strikes on a number of college campuses. FMI. Mike@veteransforpeace.org

VFP Sponsored Delegation to Iran Proposal, Anthony Donovan: he is planning trip to Iran, starting July 1. Motion to approve this as a temporary project: Approved. Their main issue is getting visas from Iran. FMI: antoned@aol.com.

Convention Committee Report, Susan: July 25-27, starting with an early morning busride to demonstrate at the gates to Nellis AFB. THEME: *Learning from the Past, Building the Future: 80 Years of Remembrance, 50 Years of Reflection, 40 Years of Action*. This is the first in-person convention in 6 years, and we hope that many people can come. It will be hybrid and zoom registration will be available.

VFP Communications Report, Gerry Condon: See Appendix 1.

VFP Mobilization Committee Report, Gerry Condon: See Appendix 2.

Golden Rule, Michelle, Marsonette: Currently in Eureka staying with GR committee folks. Ramping up for a June 14 BDay party for the GR's anniversary. Preparing to move Golden Rule Peace Boat to SF Bay.

Next Board meeting: June 21, 2025

Adjournment:

Post-meeting comments:

Reggie Regrut: Asked about June 6 Rally endorsement. Will Atuk is a primary organizer. Also June 14 parade may cost as much as \$45 million per NYT. Susan mentioned that Michael McPhearson is authorized to endorse for June 6 and has.

Tarak Kauf: Re June 14 parade, suggested passing out Peace and Planet News widely. Will donate 500 papers if people want it.

Michael McPhearson: Urges people to write stuff from smaller papers that are always looking for material. Also will be organizing short videos of YOUR opinion about the June 14 BS to be posted on the Shorts videos on social media.

Al Glatkowski: seconded Tarak's urging to distribute the papers widely, and wants some more—and will pay for them. Also, he has space for three people, two hours from DC.

Doc Sanchez: Asked for more documents that he can print out locally. Send it to TheDocSanchez@gmail.com. Ellen Davidson mentioned that she is available to turn appropriate documents in to flyers for people.

Micheal McPhearson: mentioned that we need to be careful not to alienate service members.

Appendix 1: VFP MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE MEETING, May 9, 2025

Present: Michael McPhearson, Ellen Barfield, Nick Mottern and Gerry Condon.

We discussed the proposed Veterans and Allies Fast for Gaza. We noted that it is being well-conceived, well-organized, and that more than a few VFP members and allies were signing up to be part of it. We believe this can be a powerful element of our resistance to US-facilitated genocide in Gaza, and also a boost to anti-genocide protests throughout the United States and beyond. We were unanimous in recommending that the VFP Board and its Executive Committee officially adopt this as a VFP campaign, as proposed by key Fast organizer Mike Ferner. That was essentially the totality of our meeting.

The Mobilization Committee is a committee of the VFP Board of Directors. It provides a space for us to have free-wheeling discussion about nationally coordinated VFP actions and campaigns. Board members are encouraged to participate. Meetings are on the 2nd Friday of the month at 5 pm ET.

Appendix 2: VFP COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING, May 14, 2025

Present: Michael McPearson, Becky Luening, Chris Smiley, Shelly Rockett, Ellen Davidson, Janet Weil, Gerry Condon

Michael started us out by reminding us that a lot of important dates and actions are coming up. It is important that the Communications Committee anticipate these with coordinated messaging. Among the upcoming dates are Memorial Day, coming right up on Monday, May 26. The month of May is also Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Janet reminded us that the VFP Climate Crisis and Militarism Project is kicking off its 2025 No Mas Campaign on May 21, protesting a military air show in Maryland (?). We also have the Veterans and Allies Fast for Gaza kicking off on May 22. 50501 Veterans are planning a June 6 march against fascism in Washington, DC. Veterans For Peace, About Face and others will be converging in Washington, DC to protest against Trump's birthday military parade on Saturday June 14. 50501 and others will also be organizing local protests on June 14, called No Kings Day. July 4, Independence Day, is another date that VFP members often send out an anti-militarization message to counter the blind patriotism that is promoted that day. Becky says that in Portland, Oregon, they re-named that day to be Interdependence Day. Michael said that he has recently spoken with VFP members who want to see more frequent VFP statements on the war at home and wars abroad. VFP can use our various means of communication to put out coordinated messaging, including e-blasts with links to action and a donate button. VFP sent out such an e-blast earlier this week, just in time to promote May 15 webinars marking the 1948 Nakba and Conscientious Objectors Day. Gerry complimented Becky for her excellent work on another fine print newsletter that everyone should have received by now. Becky said that she is planning to put out another print newsletter prior to the VFP Convention. She wants everybody to know that June 10 is the deadline to receive articles and chapter updates for the next newsletter. Ellen Davidson said another Peace and Planet News will be coming out in June.

[Back to top](#)

Veterans For Peace Board of Directors

Saturday, April 19, 2025

Minutes

PRESENT: Susan Schnall, Josh Shurley, Mike Tork, Mike Wong, Gerry Condon, Ellen Barfield, Ellen Davidson, Enya Anderson, Kelly Wadsworth, Windsor Wade, Paul Cox (notes). **Staff:** Michael McPearson, Shelly Rockett. Excused absence: Matt Southworth, Stephen Zollman.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Al Glatkowski, Barry Ladendorff, Ben Mauro, Beth, Bill Roller, Bryson Ripley, Gerald Hassett, Gene Marx, Ian Mooney, Janet Weil, Jeff Roy, Jeffery Humfeld, Jim Zimmerman, John Wilks, Ken Dursa, Larry H, Martha Spiess, Michael Jacobsen, Nick Mottern Paul DuNard, Rachel Clark, Ray McGovern, Robert Capellini, Regina Sneed, Steve Morse, Tarak Kauf, Thomas Regrut, Tina Jayroe William Sanders.

12:40 PM ET

Videos of the **VFP Statement of Purpose** and **Indigenous Worldview** were played

Comments by Members:

Ray McGovern: These are indeed extraordinary times. He expressed that that VFP has a unique role and we need to put our bodies into it , such as the demonstrations at Travis. One estimate is that between 5 and 6 % of the population of Gaza has been killed.

Thomas (Reggie) Regrut: Veterans Rally June 6 in DC. Asked that VFP endorse. Also related that the 9 million 'illegal immigrants' are actually undocumented Americans, many of whom work every day, and are paid by Americans to pick the agricultural produce that we all use. No else will work those jobs.

VFP Board meeting called to order, 1:01 pm, ET

Checkins:

March 15, 2025, Minutes: approved

Agenda: approved

50th Anniversary of Vietnam Reunification Announcements, Susan: Announced that on April 30, a rally at the Vietnam Memorial is being organized by a young Vietnamese woman, Kim Nguyen Tran, inspired by Thich Nh^{at} Hanh, and MLK . sign up here: <https://forms.gle/cDLjNaRqcHMuj6S7>

Finance Report, Mike Tork:

- Budget review: We have about \$46k more than original projections through March, but it is early in the year.
- Balances: Unrestricted \$398.2k; Restricted \$18.4k; Zinn \$28.5k
- Zinn Fund Awards through April: CCMP \$4k; Chapter 161 (2025 Armistice Day) \$2k; Chapter 413 (Ban Killer Drones) \$2k
- Fundraising: We have a consulting proposal from Foundation Search, but have decided to first put our subscription to FS to use on our own. Also working on fundraising as a part of the coming Spring Membership Drive, and before and during our convention. We are trying to get both Roger Waters and Jane Fonda to record pitches for us.

Executive Director Report, Michael McPhearson: Membership drive with him, Shelly, and Heather is taking a bit longer to start since they want to make it quite intentional, including reaching out to people who have dropped, some by email, some by snail. Also they will do a donation appeal to previous donors. And will ask current members to post testimonial for VFP for posting on social media. The campaign, *Don't Turn On Us*, mostly by non-veterans, asking GIs to not participate in attacks on civilians. Campaign has resources to get servicemembers to think about it before they have to make a decision. About Face is also organizing a similar campaign. Michael also talked to some CO-type people who are getting calls from GI's considering their positions in these difficult times. Michael, has also been asked to participate in a GI resistance panel to consider how we can work with other groups. He is also reaching out to Deported Vets, SOVA and CCMP to determine how we can better support them. He is also trying to discuss our work around Palestine and The Genocide. We also need to have a better handle on legislative issues coming not gone. Our current membership is ... We have been requested to endorse (1 Tlaib Res on Refugees Rights; (2 Nakba Commemoration. Sen Warren's Remove the Stain Act, to revoke MOS's from perpetrators of Wounded Knee Massacre.

Transformative Justice Committee, Kelly Wadsworth: Tabled

Communications/YouTube Report, Chris Smiley: Tabled,

Labor Working Group Report, Steve Morse: See [Appendix 1](#)

Development Committee, Mike Tork:

Convention Committee Report, Susan Schnall: Convention will be July 25-26-27 at University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Program is coming together and notices will go out within the next week. Closing plenary will involve a 'Moving Ahead Together' We will need to fundraise to help pay some of the costs. Josh Shurley is handling the Awards, Resolutions, and Bylaws nominations. If you are interested please join the Convention Committee, meeting weekly Thursdays, 2 pm PT, 5 pm ET.

June 14 Protest, Veteran Town Halls, Kelly Wadsworth: There will be a big parade on Flag Day/Trump's Birthday, perhaps militarized.

Mobilization Committee Report, Gerry Condon: Meeting was small, and discussed strategy ideas, such as: Peace at Home, Peace Abroad framework formulated a ten years ago is more functional now than ever. Abroad, our focus should be on the mass atrocities in Gaza, as well as Yemen (the only country in the world that is acting in opposition to the US/Israel war in Palestine), and Iran. Also, threats against Canada, Panama, and Greenland. Build up for war against China. In terms of the war at home, political repression is rampant as we all know. We are still trying to figure out what to do to best use our resources and activities. Kelly Wadsworth thinks that VFP is still operating under old patterns of activism, and should perhaps address more general concepts such as support for democracy, such as opposition to Trump's birthday, June 14. Mike Ferner, suggests that we increase VFP's presence at the VA facilities.

Communications Committee Report, Gerry Condon: Beckey Luening reported that the printed newsletter will be out soon. Chris Smiley reported that social media is hopping. He is also editing videos from the Nica delegation. Suggestions all round that VFP website needs some updating. Heather Carlos suggested that we publish a number of talking points that members can use when called upon. Josh Shurley reported that Chapter 185, Eastern Maryland is in formation.

Report from Nicaragua, Gerry Condon and Josh Shurley: Josh reported that the delegation toured the western portion of Nicaragua to review the 18 years of the Sandinista's being in power and notwithstanding the worst that the US has thrown at them, and remains very popular. He thanks Gerry for putting the tour together. You can see Josh's excellent report back from Nicaragua (along with Gerry and Michael Kramer) to the NYC VFP chapter meeting here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQCQXG1c9QM> and the article Gerry mentioned is here:

<https://peaceandplanetnews.org/veterans-for-peace-delegation-visits-nicaragua/>

Next Board meeting, May 17, 2025, 12:40 pm ET, 9:40 am PT

Adjournment 2:31 pm ET

Post Meeting Comments:

Kelly Wadsworth: reported that MMc suggests that we consider a campaign aimed at GIs, perhaps named "We Were you"

Ian Mooney: The San Diego chapter is also starting a committee to address the servicemembers in the area who are also thinking about their situation. San Diego Chapter is also interested.

Gerry Condon: Compliment VFP members for showing up, and that is very important in itself, but many also think we are not doing enough, and perhaps need to take a larger role in our efforts.

Rachel Clark: Reported that the Japanese legislature has just authorized preemptive attacks for cyber security, but that is a military move in the wrong direction.

Susan Schnall: Reminded us that the coup in Chile in 1973 can be seen in a way a mirror towards our situation today.

John Wilks: Asked how some workshops have already been approved when an announcement has not yet been issued. Micheal McPearson responded that we will have only a few workshops scheduled, and we have concentrated on those topics that we know are our focus. John also asked about SOVA's work and how we operate.

Jane Weil: reported that there will be demo at the VA in Palm Desert this week. Also reminded us of the various times that the military has been used against the American People

Nick Mottern: suggested that we talk more with Ray McGovern about what he thinks we need to do, particularly about the horror of Gaza. Micheal McPearson related that McGovern thinks we need to put our bodies on the line to stop weapons and other actions, such as opposing the attacks on the VA.

Regina Sneed: Thinks we need to work more closely with various faith groups, Palestinian groups, etc. Suggest that the SF Fleet Week is another area for targeting our non-violence actions.

Jeffery Humfeld: Has found that going to other demos, with our flags, but not yet tabling, and has found it to be a good recruiting method. Susan suggest that Jewish Voice For Peace is an example of another

group, and that perhaps we should collect lists of those groups with whom we should join, or at least show up to their events with our flags.

Ken Dursa: Blocking weapons is pretty serious stuff. We need to be very careful about doing civil disobedience.

Mike Wong: Reminded us that Golden Rule will be coming to SF Bay Area in Jul/Aug.

Janet Weil: Drew a distinction between Goals and Activity-ism, and we need to consider clearly how our work advances our goal of peace.

Bryson Ripley: Re theDon't Turn Us actions, he has considered going onto military bases. Those of us can get onto bases to use the commissary, can wear peace-oriented clothing. Also, he thinks that Common Defense is an organization we might work with more closely.

Al Glastowski: is very impressed with the tenor of this discussion.

Thomas Gegrut: Hopes that by next meeting we will have endorsed the June 6 rally, even though he cannot make it.

Gerry Condon: suggested that he would hope to have a larger Mobe Committee met within next week to speed things up, and then call for broader meeting of all members.

Gene Marx: Suggests that we develop pro-quality graphics to use to going to other peoples' (or our own) rallies.

Ellen Davidson: reported that she is happy to design graphics for anyone to use at rallies, etc. Just let her know.

Regina Sneed: suggested that there are others who do graphics for free download. For example, https://substack.com/inbox/post/159655983?utm_campaign=post&triedRedirect=true

Post-meeting Comments ended at 12:25 pm PT, 3:25 pm ET

Appendix 1 Labor Working Group (LWG)Report, Steve Morse: As we challenge and resist the Trump regime, workers, immigrants, war protesters, people of color, and LGBTQ folks are among the groups being attacked. Unity among these, and other groups is essential. Labor is organized and has clout. Alliances between Labor and other groups, including VFP, are essential to beating back oligarchy and fascism.

OUR APPROACH:

- The Labor Working Group's (LWG) webpage on the FP website: lays out some key aspects of our work and our orientation under the first three headings: About Us, Mission and Statement. <https://www.veteransforpeace.org/our-work/working-groups/labor>
- LWG seeks to:
 - Support workers and unions, as they currently face attack.
 - Help foster broad unity among labor, anti-war, climate and immigrant rights groups.
 - Help spread VFP's anti-war/anti-militarism message within Labor
 - Help Labor and workers' issues become central to VFP's work.

LABOR CONNECTION TO VFP'S AREAS OF WORK: At the last (March 15) Board meeting, ED Michael MacPhearson laid out Four Areas for VFP to focus on. Labor issues are significant in each of these four areas.

- **The Attack on Gaza and Palestine:** The National Labor Network for Ceasefire (NLNC) <https://www.laborforceceasefire.org> is comprised of 10 national unions. Their statement in late 2023 <https://secure.everyaction.com/w1qW7B3pek2rTtv9ny5bqw2> supporting Ceasefire was endorsed by over 200 local unions and labor groups. Statements supporting Ceasefire were also made by unions not in NLNC, such as the AFT, Machinists and the AFL-CIO. This is the most significant labor opposition to war in at least 20 years. The unions in NLNC are now promoting <https://form.jotform.com/250850668516059> defending the right to organize and protest.
- **Immigrants:** deportation and soldier resistance to this. Labor issues are key to immigration issues, as immigrants - undocumented and documented - are essential workers. A good portion of MAGA-generated hatred is directed at immigrants. Unions resist deportation of their members, such as in Kentucky: <https://scheerpost.com/2025/04/12/kentucky-unions-stand-up-to-halt-deportation-of-two-hundred-workers/>

- **The VA and the current attack on it** - The Federal Unionist Network (FUN), formed to fight the regime's attacks on Federal workers, is linking fighting the attacks on workers, with attacks on those using their services. Collective bargaining is attacked for all Federal workers. The attack on the VA, with the announced axing of 83,000 jobs, is a huge deal in general; within VFP, it is especially significant, as our members use the VA, we are committed to veterans' healing, and we have the SOVA program. I have reached out to Jeff Roy, chair of SOVA, to have a meeting of a few LWG members and a few SOVA members, to discuss how LWG and SOVA can work together. This is planned for May.
- **The Climate Crisis** - In important ways, LWG has grown out of VFP's Climate work. In CCMP, we saw that the climate movement was belatedly but increasingly addressing the issue of Just Transition among fossil fuel workers whose jobs would be displaced as fossil fuel production would be cut back. We realized that we should address the situation of workers in military industries in the same way, and support Just Transition for them in the cuts to the military budget that we advocate.

SOME AREAS OF LWG WORK: In addition to some work mentioned above, we are involved in:

- Veterans and Labor for Sensible Priorities <https://bit.ly/VL4SP>. We have gathered endorsements from 45 unions and labor groups (and continue gathering them) for the People Over the Pentagon (POP) bill that would cut \$100 billion from the Pentagon, which in the previous Congress was HR 1134. We are working with the aides to Mark Pocan and Ilhan Omar, the two lead Congressmembers on POP, to get a prompt reintroduction of the bill in Congress, and to get Just Transition language that we developed included in the bill.
- May 20 Webinar – LWG is the sponsor of the 3rd Tuesday VFP webinar for May. Confirmed is Rose Roach, national head of Labor for Single Payer and who is very interested in working closely with VFP. The statewide (CA) chair of UAW 4811, the 48,000-member union of grad students and postdocs in the UC system has committed to be on the panel. (4811 has not only fought hard for their economic and other demands but strongly supported their members who have faced repression around their protests of the war on Gaza). We have reached out to the presidents of the Postal Workers (APWU) and the UE to be on the panel. They and their unions have been leaders of anti-war advocacy by Labor and are the two national unions that have supported VL4SP. We have reached out to the president of UNITE-HERE, a stronghold of unionism among immigrant workers. We are reaching out to the Federal Unionist Network (FUN). We won't have more than 5 panelists.
- Las Vegas Convention – We hope that LWG will get a workshop which would involve the groups mentioned above and perhaps others. We also have Las Vegas UNITE-HERE Local 226 lined up for the Convention. They have made the casino industry a place where workers get living wages and have done political work key to making Nevada a Blue state.
- Writings for VFP – LWG provided the content of the International (Working) Women's Day posting that was on the VFP Home Page in March. LWG has had articles in eNews and the print newsletter, including the one currently coming out.

SUPPORT FOR LWG FROM VFP BOARD AND VFP: Here are some items for which we request Board support:

- We would like to have an LWG workshop at the Convention.
- We would like to have UNITE HERE Local 226 be among those who welcome the VFP Convention to Las Vegas.
- We want to have an LWG sliding banner on the Home Page.
- We want to have labor-related postings on the VFP Home Page.
- We want to use ourselves and promote within VFP the slogans: *Jobs, Justice, Peace and An Injury to One is an Injury to All.*
- We plan to produce a T-shirt with the above slogans and the VFP logo (if there is no Board objection to this, we will get these printed up). Good for wearing while supporting workers on picket lines.

- We hope for broad support within VFP for May Day 2028 – the campaign to have union contracts end right before May 1, 2028 with the potential for broad labor action. Support for this so far includes the UAW, AFT and AFA.
- We hope for support for our intention of adding an 8th Item to the VFP Statement of Purpose. Tentative language: *To support economic justice and unionism. The ILO (International Labor Organization) states, "international labor standards contribute to the possibility of lasting peace."*

LWG MEMBERS: Active LWG members at this point are all retired union members: 6 are veteran members of VFP and 3 are Associate Members (AM). I list here where we live and the union(s) we have been part of:

Steering Committee members:

- Art Ratcliffe: Silver City, NM; AFSCME (blue-collar local)
- Ken Dursa: Salinas, CA; Sugar Workers
- John Braxton: Philadelphia PA; Teamsters, AFT (AM)
- Steve Morse: Oakland, CA; SMART (Sheet Metal)
- Other Active Members:
 - Dan Shea: Portland, OR; GCIU(Printing)
 - Patrick McCann: Southern Florida; Machinists, NEA
 - Greg Miller: San Jose, CA; NNU-CNA (nurses)
 - Barbara Phinney: Seattle, WA; AFGE (VA nurse) (AM)
 - Jeff Goldthorpe: Berkeley CA; AFT (AM)

Dan, Patrick and Greg declined being on the Steering Committee due to multiple involvements.

We hope to also attract younger members (a hope for VFP overall!) who are actively working.

Josh Shurley, at our request, recently agreed to be Board liaison to LWG.

Steve Morse, Chair, LWG

[Back to top](#)

Veterans For Peace Board of Directors

Saturday, March 15, 2025

Approved Minutes

PRESENT: Susan Schnall, Josh Shurley, Mike Tork, Mike Wong, Gerry Condon, Stephen Zollman, Ellen Barfield, Ellen Davidson, Enya Anderson, Kelly Wadsworth, Paul Cox (notes). Staff: Michael McPhearson, Shelly Rockett, Heather Carlos. Excused absence: Matt Southworth, Windsor Wade.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Adam Toothaker, Al Glatkowski, Alice Slater, Alan Stolzer, Art Milholland, Barry Ladendorf, Bill Shea, Bob Me, Bob Keilbach, Bushrod, Carl Nyberg, Chuck Heyn, David Cooley, Daid Logsdon, Gerald Hassett, Greg Corning, Hank Ickes, Jeff Gray, Jeff Roy, Jesse, Jim Brasile, Jim Zimmerman, Joe, John Wilks, Joy Metzer, Martha, Michelle Marsonette. (Golden Rule), Mike Ferner, Octavio Sifuentes, Paul Edward Gringas, Peter Bronson, Phil Josselyn, Rachel Clark, Ronald Kossik, Regina Sneed, Russell Brown, Steve Morse, Susan Lamont, Tarak Kauf, Thomas Regrut, Tina Jayroe, Tom Larsen.

12:40 PM ET

Videos of the **VFP Statement of Purpose** and **Indigenous Worldview** were played

Comments by Members:

Dave Logsdon: Expressed that he is happy to see everyone. Reported that the DC rally was well done and attended with about 500 fired-up demonstrators, mostly veterans. We passed out many pamphlets for VFP and SOVA. The one unfortunate part of the event occurred when Bruce Berry's wife fell. In the pile-up, he injured his knee and she broke her hip.

Jeff Roy: Thanked Susan for doing such a great job. However the video that he has is quite fuzzy, and asked for a better copy. Gerry shared Ann Wright's video:

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?>

Alice Slater: reminded us of the Code Pink Peace Clock that changes the conversation about what we have accomplished and how we should see our current situation (<https://www.codepink.org/peaceclock>).

John Wilks: Prez of Albuquerque Chapter talked about the buildout of the upgrading of the US nuke arsenal, particularly at Los Alamos, where they have a manufacturing pace of 30 warheads/year on the Sentinel missile systems that is not a done deal, and is grossly over budget. Also, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), in southeastern New Mexico and intended to be the permanent deep disposal site for transuranic waste (read: "forever poisoned"). It is mired in technical problems and budget overruns and not yet functional, so waste has for decades been stored above ground at Los <https://stopforeverwipp.org/>, or SIRC.org.

Jim Braille: Reminded us of the video of Jeffrey Sacks' [recent speech](#) to the EU Parliament. Also, Columbia University's crackdown on free speech and the arrest and potential deportation of non-citizen students is an outrage.

Heather Carlos, VFP's new coordinator of Membership: Her VFP Chapter 97 in Kansas City went to VA to protest at the KS Topeka capital, and she spoke at the rally. Many young, and LGBTQ vets were there. Link to the news clip: <https://youtu.be/56Kg1UfA9kg?si=JWdpOzeOtTdjIRKy>

Jeff Roy: SOVA campaign has new trifold he will send you up to 50 copies if you will email him at Royjeff48@gmail.com

Rachel Clark: Has been organizing peace tours to Japan. Project 1030 that addresses the number of US nuke tests by US. Needs wood ash samples from your fireplace. Thanks to Chris Smiley in finishing english subtitled Japanese video about nuclear weapons stored in Asia will have a preview on March 31, Monday, 6 pm ET. FMI: vfpspeakingtour@gmail.com

Thomas Regrut: From the former Lehigh Valley Chapter: He thinks that Trump is his domestic enemy, but hopes that he can end the war in Ukraine because he has relatives in Ukraine. Suggests that we mount a tour to Russia and Ukraine.

Billy Shea, VFP 93 in Ann Arbor: The attacks on the VA are taking a toll in Ann Arbor with outrageous firings.

Board meeting called to order: 1:14PM

Checkins

Opening Poem, by Gary Snyder, from Greg Corning, read by Susan Schnall: See [Appendix 1](#).

Minutes for February 15, 2025: [Approved](#)

Agenda: [Approved](#)

REPORTS: Jan and Feb are a bit ahead of budget projections for this year, but we are not out of the woods yet.

Finance, Mike Tork: Jan and Feb are a bit ahead of budget projections for this year, but we are not out of the woods yet.

Budget:

Fundraise, fundraise!

Balances:

Checking -	\$179.3K
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Amalgamated - \$160K checking (\$60K in CDs)
Edward Jones - \$ 16.7K
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED \$356k
Restricted - \$18.4K
Zinn Fund - \$34.5K, (ExComm recently added \$15k from unrestricted funds to ZF)

2024-2025 so far ZF grants totaling \$16K:

Fresno Chapter podcast equipment.

DVAP Chapter office support

SOA Watch

Climate Crisis Tour

Pending

Chapter 161 Armistice Day - not submitted yet

Peace Walk was awarded, but money returned

National Projects financially supported by VFP

Peace and Planet News

Golden Rule Peace Boat

ED, Michael McPhearson: See [Appendix 2](#). Michael also introduced Heather Carlos, who provided details about her family and personal history: Dad was a Navy Vietnam War veteran who passed from AO exposure a few years ago. She spent 12 years in the military herself, and left alienated from its nature and has worked for Planned Parenthood. He mentioned, too, that we might consider a redo of our website. For a DRAFT Proposal for National Organizing, see [Appendix 3](#).

Golden Rule, Mike Tork: The Golden Rule is currently in Humboldt Bay. An event was organized in the Bay to commemorate the 71st anniversary of Castle Bravo hydrogen bomb test- largest nuclear bomb test ever- 15 megaton thermonuclear bomb dropped on Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Is. The GR had bay trips on boat Sat and Sun-2 per day, including the film by Nolan Anderson: *The GR, Journey for Peace*, and a film by Cat Miller: *The Powerful Journey of the GR*. Both were followed by a discussion with crew for NW cruise. Dozen news/radio agencies contacted GR director Michelle.

Transformative Justice Committee, Kelly Wadsworth: They meet in two weeks, so no specific report at this time. She also asked about non-affiliated members, and how they can be organized. Shelly related that Independent Members are handled by National, and Greg Corning is working with them to try to hook them up by Zoom to a chapter nearby. Kelly also asked for some way to differentiate between news/conversations vs. actual board business. Susan asked Micheal to develop guidelines for meetings.

Communications/Youtube Report, Chris Smiley: No report

Development, Matt Southworth: No Report

Special Projects, Mike Ferner: As of this month, he is no longer our staff special projects manager, and as a wrapup of the work he has done over the last several months, Mike suggested going over his reports in our previous minutes. Joy Metzler has filed for CO status and is writing much. She is currently in San Antonio with Juan Bettancourt to organize veterans. Also, Juan may run for the VFP board. The movie *What I Want You To Know* screens today at 4 pm ET.

Convention Committee, Susan: Convention will be at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, July 25-27.

Convention Theme: *Learning from the Past, Building the Future: 80 Years of Remembrance, 50 Years of Reflection, 40 Years of Action.*

VFP Communications/VFP Mobilization Committee Report, Gerry Condon: See [Appendix 4](#). The committee meets monthly—all are welcome. Our listserver, Facebook, Instagram and other social media are all getting good exposure.

Next Board meeting: April 19, 2025

Adjournment, 2:44

Post-meeting Conversation:

Paul Cox: Pitched the 11th Chapter 160 Educational Tour to Vietnam, Apr 26-May 11. If you are interested, you must hurry. FMI paulcox890@comcast.net, and www.vfp160.org.

Michael McPhearson: We are in a period of crises, which also provides opportunity. The politics of left-right, dems-republicans, etc. are in flux. We can try to work with people with whom we do not agree on everything, but can unite with people on matters where we agree—even if there are other issues on which we disagree.

Barry Ladendorf: suggested that chapters get proclamations for the 40th anniversary from local governments. He also just attended the Choose Hope Symposium, in Orange County, and book by Annie Jacobson, Nuclear War: A Scenario. Also, the Golden Rule movie, *Making Waves: The Journey of the Golden Rule* is worth watching.

Tarak Kauf: also thanked Michael McPhearson's urging us to unite with people when we can. Also, the PPN is a great paper.

Greg Corning: Suggests the Be The Change Book Club, Trans Commonality, Johns Brown Childs.

Russell Brown: Wants link to webinar by MAss Peace Action. Gerry will send it to him. He also asked for link to Rachel Clark's 1030 Project: <https://drive.proton.me/urls/A3Y5V2P4TM#ERQItZ4yb1W>

-End-

Appendix 1, Poem by Gary Snyder:

For the Children

The rising hills, the slopes,
of statistics
lie before us.
the steep climb
of everything, going up,
up, as we all
go down.

In the next century
or the one beyond that,
they say,
are valleys, pastures,
we can meet there in peace
if we make it.

To climb these coming crests
one word to you, to
you and your children:

*stay together
learn the flowers
go light*

Appendix 2: ED Report, Michael McPhearson:

My priorities for the next month are:

- Development calendar, plan, 40th anniversary promotion, and spring membership drive
- The employee handbook

- Accurate membership reporting
- Program narrative and work plan
- Preparation for the national convention

Membership: The most noteworthy change related to membership is our hiring of Heather Carlos as our membership coordinator. We are excited to have her.

Unfortunately, I do not have the membership numbers for you today. The National Office faces a significant challenge with our database. I aim to provide those numbers in the next two weeks. I am unsure why fulfilling a core task of any organization's national office responsibilities has proven to be an enormous challenge. It is a high priority for us to resolve this issue.

The national office is preparing to conduct a spring membership drive from April 7 to 14 or April 14 to 21. After we finalize the details, I will provide more information and explain how you can help.

Financial Status and Development: I am working on a development calendar, and VFP Business Manager Shelly Rockett and I are preparing past revenue numbers for the development committee. I wanted to complete that by this board meeting, but I will have a calendar outline ready when we start the spring membership drive. It is taking me time to learn office systems and analyze our spending and revenue. I also need to reorganize how some numbers are reported and categorized to give a more detailed picture of our revenue.

The Center on Conscience and War executive director, Richard Morgan, has invited Veterans For Peace to partner with several organizations in the military matters of conscience and conscientious objection space to work together on a three-part effort to increase our visibility and raise money.

Program: Working with board member Gerry Condon and the mobilization committee, I wrote a draft proposal for [organizing Veterans For Peace national work](#). The document aims to help the organization and national office organize our efforts to meet the moment and communicate to the public that Veterans For Peace has a coherent story and plan to forward our mission and address our nation's current social and political crises.

National Convention: Board member Paul Cox, Shelly, and I are visiting UNLV next week to ensure we have all the information we need to plan a successful convention.

Appendix 3: DRAFT Proposal for Organizing Veterans For Peace National Work

March 12, 2025 version

With the nation and the world facing unprecedented danger, the leadership of Veterans For Peace and the entire organization bear the challenge and responsibility to organize in a manner that maximizes our ability to achieve our goals, resulting in measurable outcomes. Given our limited resources, we must concentrate the national office's efforts on national focus areas while also supporting all Veterans For Peace National Projects, Working Groups, and chapter initiatives. To begin, we must identify no more than four focus areas. The criteria for deciding the issue areas are: 1. What major national events and pressing issues are happening that VFP should address based on our organizational goals as stated in the Veterans For Peace Statement of Purpose? 2. Will our perspective as military veterans bring a unique perspective that will help peacefully and constructively address the issue?

The four areas of focus to help Veterans For Peace have a positive and result-oriented impact to meet the moment are

- Israel/Palestine: **(2. To Restrain our governments from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations)** Work on Israel/Palestine also dovetails with our matters of conscience and conscientious objection outreach to military personnel and Before You Enlist

efforts.

- Mass Deportation and the roles the military is asked to fill in the policy: (**3. To resist racism and repression in our home communities, and 4. To oppose the militarization of law enforcement**) **Veterans For Peace Deported Veterans Project** is a facet of this deportation work. The issue also dovetails into counter recruitment, matters of conscience and conscience objection work, and what the military will be asked to do when martial law is declared and the military is used to repress protests.
- Save Our VA: (**6. To seek justice for veterans and victims of war**) This work dovetails with our **Homeless Veterans working group** and the **Labor Working group** to help address the indiscriminate cuts faced by government agencies, including the Department of Veterans Affairs and employees who are disproportionately veterans.
- Climate Crisis (**8. To promote a sustainable and peaceful world**) Climate change is one of the greatest threats to humanity. Climate-driven resource scarcity has the potential to destabilize nations and cause enormous upheaval that can lead to multiple wars.

Ongoing Projects and Working Groups—These Projects and working Groups continue as essential Veterans For peace efforts that the national office will support as needed.

World events could push these projects to become a national focus.

- Korea Peace Campaign
- Nuclear Abolition Working Group
- Golden Rule Peace Boat Project

These are generally self-sustaining

- Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign
- Be the Change Book Club
- Democracy and Peace Working Group
- China Working Group

Need to Check On

- Drones
- DU Cluster Bombs, and Landmines,
- Veterans For Inner Peace

Broad Strategy For Work

Communicating why and how we do our work to the public is essential. That communication is best done by presenting it through the lens of a story or narrative that unifies our efforts. The mobilization suggested we develop a common theme or campaign name. (No Policy that Kills People, Stop the Killing Support People)

Veterans For Peace must pursue efforts that leverage our unique voice and social position as veterans. We should do this in two ways.

1. Engage in Veteran For Peace activities, which are most effective when led by veterans. Examples are outreach to current military personnel and advocating for policy changes with the veteran voice.

2. Following the lead and supporting other organizations' work by listening and doing as we are asked.

Much of our work is underway. We must find synergy and organize it more effectively so that our voice is heard, VFP is made visible, and our goals are met and have a significant positive impact.

Appendix 4: MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE REPORT, Gerry Condon:

The Mobilization Committee has recently met with the Executive Committee (that may have been before our last Board meeting) and we met again recently with our returning ED Michael McPhearson. Also Joshu Shurley, Ellen Barfield, Kelly Wadsworth, Dan Shea, Nick Mottern and me, Gerry Condon. Michael and I also had a couple of discussions beforehand.

First of all, I want to thank the ED Search Committee. You made a great choice! Michael has helped to crystalize and organize our strategic thinking, as represented in the strategy document that Michael has presented.

At this point we have identified the outlines of an organizing strategy that include focusing on ending the genocide in Gaza, resisting mass deportation in the U.S., and defending veterans healthcare. These elements were on display yesterday, Friday, March 14, when our president Susan Schnall made a comprehensive, compelling and very well-received speech at the broad-based Dump Trump rally in Washington, DC.

The focus on opposing VA cutbacks meets our Statement of Purpose – To Seek Justice for Veterans and Victims of War. It also gives Veterans For Peace a foothold in the burgeoning grassroots movement against draconian cutbacks and firing of thousands of government employees, many of whom are veterans. VFP can also bring our concerns about the Gaza genocide and mass deportation into this movement, as Susan Schnall demonstrated so well.

Another element of the Mobilization Committee is to consciously organize VFP's relationships with other organizations and coalitions. We have had exploratory meetings, for example, with the *International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP)* and with *Resist US-Led Wars*. Both of these organization are comprised primarily of dedicated young activists in their 20's and 30's. They have reached out to Veterans For Peace and are eager to make common cause. We are talking with ICHRP about doing a joint webinar on the Philippines later in the Spring.

One coalition that are already participating in is the *Peace In Ukraine Coalition*. For the past three years, Ellen Barfield and I have represented Veterans For Peace on the *Peace In Ukraine* steering committee. For the past 16 or so months, the Ukraine work has been very much on the back burner, as peace groups have focused on ending the US/Israeli genocide in Gaza. Now that the Trump administration has initiated some tentative diplomacy to bring the Ukraine war to an end, the *Peace In Ukraine Coalition* has re-convened. We put out a statement this week encouraging diplomacy to end the war. It has been published in multiple places, including in *Popular Resistance*, which included a photo of VFP members in Alaska holding a sign that says "Diplomacy Not War." See [Popular Resistance](#) (great photo with Alaska Veterans For Peace)

Seize the Moment:

[Back to top](#)


Veterans For Peace Board of Directors
Saturday, February 15, 2025
Approved Minutes

PRESENT: Susan Schnall, Josh Shurley, Mike Tork, Windsor Wade, Gerry Condon, Stephen Zollman, Ellen Barfield, Ellen Davidson, Enya Anderson, Kelly Wadsworth, Matt Southworth, Windsor Wade, Paul Cox (notes). Staff: Michael McPhearson, Shelly Rockett, Chris Smiley. Excused absence: Mike Wong.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Al Glatkowski, Alex Prochaska, Alice Ritter, Alice Slater, Al Hood, Ann Wright, Barry Ladendorf, Bob Keilbach, Cara Bissell, Carl Nyberg, Cheryl, Charles Powell, Diane Trotta, Edward Lorenz, Gary Butterfield, Gerald Hassett, Greg Corning, Greg Miller, Haynes, Helen Jaccard, Jeff Merrick, Jeffery Humfeld, Jim Brasile, Jim Rine, Jim Zimmerman, John Amadon, John Casserly, Ken Dursa, Larry H., Larry White, M Cervantes, Michelle M. (Golden Rule), Mike Ferner, Paul Edward Gringas, Paul Du Nard, Rachel Clark, Regina Sneed, Roger Earlich, Rowan Acadia Dunlop, Sandy Bolzenios, Steve Morse, Tarak Kauf, Thomas Regrut, Tina Jayroe, Tom Larsen, Tom Watson, William Sanders.

Open Meeting 12:40 PM ET

Videos of Statement of Purpose and Indigenous Worldview were played.

Member Comments:

Steve Morse: Labor Group is hoping to have a webinar in May and looking to have a workshop at the Convention. He also want VFP to celebrate International Women's Day, March 18; [Link to its history](#)

Rachel Clark: Member of the NYC Chapter and with Nuclear Free World. Mentioned working papers put out by NFW, and would like VFP's endorsement.

Shelly Rockett: VFP Store has ordered more [Veterans Against Genocide Tees](#). Currently sold out.

Also: **Feb 18 - SE Regional meeting - Topic: Responding to Trump's Militarism** - Speaker: Rory Fanning @ 4:30pm PT, 7:30pm ET. FMI and Zoom link: unityact2@aol.com .

Also: **Feb 19 - CCMP's General Meeting** @ 6 pm ET/3 pm PT. FMI and Zoom info:

climate@veteransforpeace.org

Also: **Feb 27 - VFP Democracy and Peace Working Group:** Discuss [U.S. Constitution: Pull the Curtain](#) @ 7:30pm ET. RSVP [here](#).

Call to Order, 12:53 pm ET.

Checkins

Minutes of January 18, 2025: [Approved](#) with one abstention.

Agenda: [Approved](#)

New ED, Susan: Welcome Michael McPhearson!

Executive Director Report, Micheal McPhearson: Michael expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome. The reason he has come back is because of the challenges in the world, and he wants to be

working with people he knows and trusts. Fund raising funds will be a priority for the next year. Also, our hiring a new membership coordinator who is a recent veteran will help our outreach to veterans. He recognized that VFP has many projects and priorities, and we will likely not have a single nationwide messaging. We do want to pay attention to how National can stress urgent priorities while supporting the range of activities and priorities of the projects and chapters.

Finance Report, Mike Tork: Current balances are: Operating Checking, \$210k; Savings CDs, \$223k; Ed Jones CDs, \$16.7k; Zinn Fund, \$4.5k. Total unrestricted = \$447k. Restricted, \$18.4k. For the 2025 budget intention was to underestimate revenues and slightly overestimate expenses to create a worst-case scenario. So we may need to draw down our checking or savings because the proposed budget is in the red \$106.6k. This is primarily due to our hiring both an ED and a Membership Director. Discussion included concern from Ellen that the deficit is so large, but Paul and Matt indicated that they feel we can make up much if not all of that deficit. **2025 Budget approved.**

VFP Policies And Procedures, Mike Tork: Since the board has already decided that no money can be taken from savings without board approval, he moved that decision should be reflected in our Policies and Procedures. **Approved**. Ellen D, suggested that whenever a change is made to the Policies and Procedures the date of the change should also be recorded. She also suggested a policy that half of any bequests we receive automatically be put into an endowment fund. No action.

MOU for Golden Rule, Mike Tork: Working with GR Committee, Mike informed the board that 2025 GR expenses charged to VFP will be: Insurance, \$12.5k; Taxes/Registration, \$1.1k; Program Manager, \$19.2k. Moved to approve MOU. **Approved**. **See Appendix 1** for text of MOU.

Delegation to Nicaragua, Gerry Condon: A delegation of VFP members to Nica from March 19-26 is being organized. Moved that it be declared a VFP delegation. **Approved**. Gerry encouraged board members and others to join. FMI gerrycondon@veteransforpeace.org.

Transformative Justice Committee, Kelly Wadsworth: Kelly discussed Item 19 from the Worldview Chart on Inseparability of Knowledge and Action. Read from and recommended the Book, [The Eight Laws for Change, How To Be An Agent of Personal and Social Transformation](#), by Stephen A. Schwartz.

Communications/Youtube Report, Chris Smiley: Many posts in the last month have been accessed in the 100,000 to 200,000 range with many retweets. Please continue to send him photos and videos of actions. He also encouraged people to go on the VFP delegation to Nicaragua.

Development, Matt Southworth: Committee has not yet met this year, and will relaunch the Cash Cadre soon.

Special Project Director Report, Mike Ferner: **See Appendix 2.**

Convention Committee Report, Susan: Thanked Paul Cox for his work locating the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Campus. Remembering the Past, Looking to the Future. We need speakers, so please put suggestions in the chat or email shelly@veteransforpeace.org . Convention will be July 25-27. Convention Committee meets every second Thursday. Link here.

VFP Board Committees assignment, Susan Schnall: **See Appendix 3.** If members want to be on one of our committees please let Susan know.

Follow Up: Climate Crisis and Militarism Project (attached to email) Jim Rine reiterated that the **No MAS (Military Air Shows)** project over the next two years involves an itinerant van to show up at various shows and various universities to educate the public about the environmental damage. The Excomm reviewed and recommended project. **Approved.**

VFP Communications Report, Gerry Condon: Meets each month 3d Wednesdays, Thanked Chris his work. Thanked Becky for her continuing publishing of Enews. Becky needs more guidance, however, and suggests monthly instead of semi-monthly Enews.

VFP Mobilization Committee Report, Gerry Condon: Monthly second Friday, 6 pm ET, meetings are open to all board members. FMI Trump has made a bold move to end the Ukraine. Trump also suggested that the Pentagon budget might be halved, and the US might stop building nukes. On the other hand, Trump's statements about Gaza are disgusting. Sudan and Somalia are also suffering under attacks. Mass deportations are the beginning of a reign of terror, and soldiers are being used on the border and throughout the country to assist with deportations. Mobilization Committee and exComm have come to a common understanding that mass deportations and genocide are urgent and linked example of racism.

Next Board meeting: March 15, 2025, 12:40 pm ET, 9:40 am PT

Adjournment, 2:46 pm ET

Post-meeting discussion:

Alice Slater: Thanked everyone for your work. Suggested South Korea's mobilizations and actions to impeach the president may be the magic bullet.

Jim Rine: Expected that CCMP statement on election of climate denier would be voted on.

Cara Bissell: Thanked Mike Ferner for his work over last year, and great to see Michael McPearson. Also, Jim Driscoll is now in Albuquerque and helping chapter. Suggested we pay attention to the work of **Move On!** Gerry Condon responded that we do not jump on the anti-Trump train. He thinks that Move On is essentially a Dem Party function and did not criticize Gaza genocide when Biden was in office, and we need to have a discerning eye to

Roger Erlich: He continues to use the billboard truck and may take it to Fayetteville. Also, bell tower is still functioning in North Carolina Triangle area.

John Amadon: Thinks that VA healthcare is underfunded and that can unify veterans. Also congress is collaborating with Trump and through veterans is a way to pressure them. To contact SOVA, email paulcox890@comcast.net.

Greg Corning: Thinks that we need to be careful who we ally with, such as Trump's idea about cutting nukes, but how do we reconcile his other projects to engage in racism. Michael McPearson thinks he might go to a rally where meeting people face to face who are, say, racist in order to talk with them. So we have to be thoughtful about what to do. Susan said attending a rally and endorsing are two different things. Many VFP members attended, and should if they are comfortable. We need to talk together with everyone, and develop interest in our positions.

Al Glatkowski: Was on the phone recently with Matt Hoh on the issue of how to develop unity. We need to point out to others those things that we have things in common in order to work together. We have a common enemy. Both the Dems and Reps are two wings of the same war buzzard. VFP has the wherewithal to become a much larger organization that does solid things.

Michael McPearson: Believes that the more we break down barriers and people see us as human beings. There is a different kind of alignment now. If folks don't think peace is possible, they will support war.

Tarak Kauf: Believes in preaching to the choir, such as the 70% who think that sending guns to Gaza is wrong. PPN is an anti-genocide paper, which inspires people to take them on that point of agreement—currently opposition to weapons to Gaza.

Appendix 1. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDINGBetween, Veterans For Peace, Inc. and the VFP Golden Rule Project and Committee

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth the agreements between **Veterans For Peace, Inc. (VFP)**, a 501(c)(3) educational Non-profit Corporation organized under the laws of the State of Missouri, EIN # 01-0415961, and **Veterans For Peace Golden Rule Project and Golden Rule Committee (GRC)**.

This MOU describes and sets forth the duties and obligations of each of the parties to ensure that the Statement of Purpose of VFP and the Mission Statement of the Golden Rule shall be successfully carried out. The parties agree that they will work cooperatively and in good faith to carry out the mission of the Golden Rule and to resolve any differences that may arise between the GRC and VFP.

VETERANS FOR PEACE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: We, as military veterans, do hereby affirm our greater responsibility to serve the cause of world peace. To this end we will work, with others both nationally and internationally:

- > To increase public awareness of the causes and costs of war
- > To restrain our governments from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations
- > To resist racism and repression in our home communities
- > To oppose the militarization of law enforcement
- > To end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons
- > To seek justice for veterans and victims of war
- > To abolish war as an instrument of national policy

To achieve these goals, members of Veterans For Peace pledge to use non-violent means and to maintain an organization that is both democratic and open with the understanding that all members are trusted to act in the best interests of the group for the larger purpose of world peace.

VFP GOLDEN RULE PROJECT MISSION: The original nuclear protest boat, the Golden Rule, will sail again to promote a nuclear free future, to educate about the dangers of radiation to humanity and the environment, and to support peaceful alternatives to war.

1. **OWNERSHIP:** Having completed agreed documentation regarding assets, liabilities and insurance of the boat, the Golden Rule was transferred to VFP on 1/29/2019, as reflected in the title.
2. **FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIP:** Veterans For Peace, Inc. is the sole fiscal sponsor of the VFP Golden Rule Project. The Veterans For Peace, Inc. Tax ID number (01-0415961) will be reflected on bank accounts, thank you letters, grant applications and other documents.

VFP will accept donations and grants directly into a restricted fund, which may be used for Golden Rule Project expenses but not other VFP liabilities. Whether from the restricted fund or VFP general operating funds, VFP is responsible for paying for: insurance, registration, property taxes and a half-time project management consultant.

The GRC will maintain a bank account to receive donations and other direct income to the Golden Rule Project. The GRC is responsible for paying for: operating and maintaining the Golden Rule, bookkeeping, captains, voyages, educational programs and other services the GRC deems necessary.

3. **PROJECT MANAGEMENT:** The VFP Board shall fund a half-time consultant as project manager, subject to annual budget review by the VFP Board, to ensure the project can successfully carry out its mission.

The VFP Board is responsible for contracting with and negotiating the payment and duties of the project manager, and termination of the contract. The payment amount will

be reflected in the VFP budget.

4. OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY: The GRC, with Project Manager coordination, is responsible for operating and maintaining the Golden Rule and associated programs in accordance with the VFP Statement of Purpose, and the Mission Statement of the Project.
5. COORDINATION BETWEEN VFP, the PM, AND THE GRC: VFP, the GRC and Project Manager shall coordinate the Project with respect to voyages and programs undertaken, maintenance and the general direction and operation of the mission of the Project.

The Project Manager acts as the “Owner’s Representative” when required for such tasks as entering other countries, authorizing repairs, and safety concerns.

The GRC and Project Manager shall coordinate the timing of fundraising efforts so as to not coincide with those of VFP, especially at the end of the year.

As legal owner of the Golden Rule, VFP is ultimately responsible for assuring that the Mission and the tasks described in this MOU are met, with priority given to the safe operation of the Golden Rule and the safety of the crew and members of the public.

In all decisions, a good faith effort will be made by both the GRC and VFP to come to agreement. In the unlikely event that the GRC and VFP cannot reach agreement on any matters set forth in this MOU, the VFP Board of Directors will make the final decision.

6. GRC GOVERNANCE: The GRC shall be governed by its own bylaws and the agreements, duties and responsibilities set forth in this MOU. At least one member of the Board of Directors shall be a full member of the GRC . The Board / GRC member and the Project Manager will together serve as liaison between the GRC and VFP.
7. REPORTING: The Project Manager shall submit quarterly reports to the VFP Board. A quarterly report shall include status of the Golden Rule, incident reports, voyage and event status (those completed and planned), and Treasury Reports (account balances, income, expenses, cash on hand).

Any significant damage to the Golden Rule including accidents, injuries to the crew or members of the public, or property damage caused by the Golden Rule or its crew while working in their capacity as a crew member, will be reported to the VFP Executive Director as soon as practicable. As information becomes available, a full report of the incident and the nature and extent of damage and injuries and any reports from an investigating agency (i. e. Coast Guard, law enforcement, medical personnel) will be transmitted to the VFP Executive Director.

8. OPERATIONS DOCUMENTS: The PM in consultation with the GRC shall maintain Operations and Maintenance manuals and checklists as necessary for the day-to-day operation of the Golden Rule. These manuals and checklists include: routine maintenance and operations, crew conduct and training; authority of the captain; duties of crew members; standards for ship’s log entries at sea and in port; policies regarding purchases of equipment and food, and for reimbursement for expenses and basic necessities.
9. INSURANCE: VFP will maintain insurance adequate to allow the Golden Rule to carry out its mission.

10. TERM OF MOU: This MOU will be revisited by the end of 2025.
11. SUCCESSION OF OWNERSHIP: If VFP decides to relinquish ownership of the Golden Rule, VFP and the GRC shall work together to seek a suitable nonprofit, educational organization, or other suitable successor owner.

The main consideration will always be to maintain the sea worthiness and integrity of the Golden Rule as a historical peace boat and, if at all possible, to continue her mission to Sail for a Nuclear-Free World. In the event the GRC and VFP are unable to agree on a successor owner, VFP shall make the final decision.

Special consideration shall be given to returning the boat to Humboldt Bay, where she was discovered and rebuilt, and where there is a considerable community of support.

SIGNED: Susan Schnall, President, Veterans For Peace, Inc.
Gerry Condon, President, Golden Rule Committee

Appendix 2: Special Projects Report, Mike Ferner:

- 1) **Reminder about our Appeal for Redress v2** Added additional information to that page re: GI Rights and GI Resistance. Still need people to promote the Appeal
<https://www.veteransforpeace.org/?cID=1351>

2) Available for chapters and independent members:

- **Online showing of What I Want You to Know** scheduled for March 15. Focus for VFP chapters and members will be to get post-9/11 veterans to watch it and get introduced to VFP. One e-blast has gone to members, two more to follow. 143 emails sent to labor unions to help us advertise it. VFP social media posts up. So far, Pbgh chapter is doing a watch party and Jack Gilroy is holding one in Binghamton Am. Legion post, hoping for others
- **Bringing Gaza Home** is available for use everywhere. Do the numbers for your city and publicize it.
- **Feb. 25 Anniversary of Aaron Bushnell's protest and death.** Becky Luening designed a banner for local actions.
- Have a request in to Michael to endorse "**Defend the Guard,**" (<https://defendtheguard.us/>) a national grassroots campaign to get state legislatures to require a declaration of war before deploying Guard and Reserve troops abroad. Great opportunity to meet other veterans we wouldn't otherwise.
- **April 4 anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr. assassination:** it's not too early to join local readings of his "Breaking the Silence: Beyond Vietnam" speech at Riverside Church. If no public readings are scheduled for your city, contact local community groups and organize one.
- Just made contact with a national organizer with "**No Voice Unheard.**" The partner with 50501, the group that organized the protests in every state capitol a couple weeks ago, Political Revolution, and Build the Resistance. Goal is to find the best way for VFP chapters and independent members to hook up with their efforts around the country.

<https://www.whatiwantyoutoknow-film.com/about>

Register for the free screening of **What I Want You To Know:**
bit.ly/whatiwantmovie

MLK Issue: Peace and Planet News <https://peaceandplanetnews.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/PPN7.pdf>

Interview with Juan Bettancourt and Joy Metzler

[intervihttps://popularresistance.org/resistance-from-within-us-military-members-oppose-war-crimes/ews](https://popularresistance.org/resistance-from-within-us-military-members-oppose-war-crimes/ews)

Appendix 3: Committee Assignments:

ExComm: President Susan Schnall, Vice President Josh Shurley, Secretary Paul Cox, Treasurer Mike Tork, Michael McPhearson (Executive Director)

Membership and Chapter Support: Chair Josh Shurley; Nick Mottern, Dave Logsdon, Enya Anderson; Ellen Barfield

Recruitment and Retention: Chair Gerry Condon

Transformative Justice: Chair Kelly Wadsworth, Mike Wong, Stephen Zollman, Ellen Davidson, Barry Reich, Greg Corning

Communications: Chair/Liaison Gerry Condon, Ellen Davidson

Delegations: Chair Ellen Davidson, Josh Shurley, Enya Anderson

Finance: Chair/Treasurer Mike Tork, Ellen Davidson, Paul Cox

Development: Chair Matt Southworth, Stephen Zollman, Paul Cox

Personnel: Chair Paul Cox, Enya Anderson, Kelly Wadsworth, Nick Mottern

Convention: Co-chairs Susan Schnall, Michael McPhearson

Awards: Chair Josh Shurley, Becky Luening, Nick Mottern, Mike Tork

Bylaws: Chair Josh Shurley, Stephen Zollman

Resolutions: Chair Josh Shurley, Bob Gryzinski

Nominations: Chair Ellen Barfield, Enya Anderson, Dave Logsdon

Advisory Board: Paul Cox and Michael McPhearson

[Back to top](#)

Veterans For Peace Board of Directors

Saturday, January 18, 2025

Minutes

PRESENT: Susan Schnall, Josh Shurley, Mike Tork, Paul Cox (notes), Matt Southworth, Mike Wong, Windsor Wade, Gerry Condon, Stephen Zollman, Ellen Davidson, Enya Anderson. Staff: Shelly Rockett, Mike Ferner. Excused Absence: Kelly Wadsworth, Ellen Barfield.

MEMBERS PRESENT: KEN MAYERS, Al Glatkowski, Alex, Alice Slater, Art Milholland, Bill Habedank, Bryson Ripley, Chick, David Cooley, Doug Rawlings, Gene, Gener Marx, George McNeely, Georgia, Gerald Hassett, Gerry (W. NC), Greg Corning, Hal Muskat, Helen Jaccard, Jim Rine, Joe Mondello, John, John Amadon, Lola Moonfrog, Martha Spiess, Michelle M. (Golden Rule), Paul Edward Gringas, Regina Sneed, Roger Ebert, Steve Morse, Susan Lamont, Tim Farley, Tina Jayroe, William Sanders, Zool Zulkowitz

Statement of Purpose and Indigenous Worldview Videos were played.

Open Meeting: 9:50 am PT 12:50 pm ET

Pre-meeting comments by members:

- Steve Morse: reported that the Labor Working Group has been working on getting Mark Pocan and Ilhan Omar to add a Just Transition provision to the People Over the Pentagon's bill for the

119th Congress. FMI: <https://www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/climatecrisis/veterans-labor-sensible-priorities>

- Bryson Ripley: Just got elected as the President of the Kansas City Chapter, and sent his greetings.
- Greg Corning: with Chapter 55 Santa Fe, he is starting with the Membership Committee, so chapter contacts should expect to hear from him
- Zool Zukowitz: excited about the announcement. Thanked everyone for help with Reap What You Sow in NYC put on by Rising Together ensemble
- Roger Ebert: reported on the Bell Tower at NC state capital, and is working on a more mobile version, and a billboard truck taken to the Gaza solidarity rally.

Call to Order of VFP Board Meeting: 10:03 am PT, 1:03 pm ET

Checkins:

Minutes of December 21, 2024: Approved ('Approved' board votes are always without objection unless otherwise stated)

Agenda: Approved

Welcome new Board member: Windsor Wade is our single new board member; Josh Shurley and Mike Tork were re-elected.

Swearing in of Windsor, Josh, and Mike: "I, _____, will uphold the Veterans For Peace Statement of Purpose, and fulfill my responsibilities and obligations to the organization as a national Board of Directors member to the best of my abilities. I will work in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect with other Board members to foster the growth, integrity, and well-being of the finances, membership, and chapters so that we may fulfill our mission of abolishing war." New and reelected members were instructed by Susan to sign the pledge and return it to her.

See **Appendix 1: Board Member Expectations, Board Committees and Descriptions, and National Projects and Working Groups.**

Announcement of Veterans For Peace Executive Director: The board is happy to announce that **Michael McPhearson** has agreed to return as our ED for the third time. He starts on Feb 3.

Nick Mottern: Nick left the board at the end of his term. Susan thanked him for his extraordinary years of service and dedication to Veterans For Peace, and his current and future work.

Board election of officers: Susan Schnall turned chair over to Gerry Condon who announced that existing ExComm members are willing to serve for another year. No additional candidates for ExComm positions stepped up or were nominated. Incumbents were re-appointed for 2025.

Treasurer: Mike Tork

Secretary: Paul Cox

Vice President: Josh Shurley

President: Susan Schnall

Indigenous WorldView discussion, Mike Wong: He chose to discuss *Time is Circular* principle. Link to Indigenous WorldView Chart: <https://peaceandplanetnews.org/dominant-and-indigenous-worldview>

Communications/Social Media Report, Chris Smiley: His goal for this year is to maximize our social media impact. He has been working this week with videographer Mike James to capture footage and interviews that will be useful on our social media networks.

Membership, Josh Shurley: Casey, our current Membership Coordinator, will be leaving at end of Feb, and we are looking for a new hire. Greg Corning has stepped in as a volunteer to work on welcoming

new members. Current total membership: 2,698. Lowest new member month in 2023 was 7 and highest was 12, and the total 2023 new members was 123 plus 10 new active-duty members. In 2024, 28 new members was the lowest month and 88 was the highest month, plus 39 new active-duty members. The Membership Committee meeting is usually the second Tue at 2:30 PT, 5:30 ET. We are going to focus on welcoming new members and retaining both new and old members. This year will continue with membership drives. FMI,

Finance Report, Mike Tork: We ended 2024 well into the black. Last two months of 2024, we have had a number of large donations, including \$9k from giving Tuesday. Dec income alone was \$233k. 2024 Expenses: \$455,039 budgeted; \$442,728 actual. Income: \$430,530 budgeted; \$670,272 actual. MT proposes that our policy should be changed so that the Board must approve transfers of funds from our various savings accounts (e.g. CDs) to our operating account.

Convention: As reported last month, the Convention will be hybrid in-person/Zoom at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, July 25-27, with an opening reception the evening of July 24. Shelly has sent an email blast of a survey to gauge how many might come to the convention in person. Please go to this link and complete the survey:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeG8lgmg2K7Z8unNn0F4BZOxUKCMAUjgcJk8F92y2KiHm6K8w/viewform>.

Golden Rule, Susan Schnall: 2025 MOU has been drafted and is ready for review by the ExComm and GR committee, and will be presented for Board approval at the Feb mtg.

Development, Matt Southworth: Tabled.

Communications Committee, Gerry Condon: [See Appendix 2](#)

Mobilization Committee, Gerry Condon: See [Appendix 3](#)

Special Project Director Report, Mike Ferner: See [Appendix 4](#)

Climate Committee, Jim Rine: Discussed CCMPs statement on the election, and asked for board action. Tabled to give the board a chance to review. See [Appendix 5](#). Also sent request for CCMP project to bring more attention to No Military Air Shows (No MAS) by mounting a van to travel to Blue Angels and Thunderbird airshows for 3 one-month bus tours, each visiting 3-5 airshows and join with other national groups. They are in the planning phase, so far working with WILPF and 350.org. FMI, See [Appendix 6](#) for map and cost estimates (approx \$28k for first one, ?? for second, and \$24k for third) to be funded partially by a Zinn Fund grant (\$4k proposal to come) and other sources, such as the climate emergency fund. Pending further discussions on this project, Jim made a motion that our website have a link to their landing and donation page, i.e let them get started, pending further discussion. Tabled, and sent to ExComm.

Ken Mayers said hello and goodby, and said he is thrilled that Michael McPhearson is returning to the ED position. Mike Tork expressed his love and respect for Ken, and moved that Service and Stewardship Award be changed to the Ken Mayers Service and Stewardship Award. Passed.

VFP Board Accomplishments for 2024, Susan: Las Vegas Convention will be hybrid in-person/Zoom . Motion to choose Theme: Learning from the Past, Building the Future, etc.

Next Board meeting: February 15th, 2025, 9:40 am PT, 12:40 pm ET

Adjournment: 11:48 am PT, 1:38 pm ET

Post meeting comments from members:

Alice Salter: She sent an email about Gaza to Chris Hayes asking to have VFP come to his program related to his excellent State Department program. **Hal Muskat and Mike Ferner** say they can get hold of Hayes.

Climate Committee, Jim Rine: Mentioned new suit against DOJ for failing to enforce laws related to foreign policy towards Israel. Urged people to sign onto suit on the basis of moral injury. There will ,

Appendix 1, Board Member Expectations, Board Committees and Descriptions, and National Projects and Working Groups:

Board Member Expectations: The collective responsibilities of the Board are described in the VFP Bylaws and Policies; the following expectations are a guide to individual member responsibilities:

1. Be familiar with the VFP Bylaws and Policies
2. Attend monthly VFP Board meetings
3. Support and participate in fundraising efforts for: Funding the organization. The board is responsible for the continued funding and financial health of the organization. Maintaining fiscal accountability. The board approves and closely monitors the organization's expenses and income. The board oversees the organization's resources (including the time of volunteers and staff) are used appropriately, and ensures that the organization has enough money to operate.
4. Participation in board activities. The board has monthly zoom meetings. Please let the President of the Board know when you are unable to attend.
5. Chair and/or actively serve on Board committees
6. Participate in the planning for the VFP National Convention
7. Be available to membership for questions and concerns about VFP
8. Be a strong voice in promoting VFP at the national and local level
9. Actively participate in financial oversight
10. Support Board decisions
11. Acknowledge the Code of Conduct

VFP National Board Committees:

1. Membership & Chapter Support Committee –
2. Transformative Justice Committee
3. Communications Committee
4. Finance/Development Committee
5. Delegations Committee
6. Executive Committee
7. Personnel Committee
8. Advisory Board Ad Hoc Committee
9. Convention Committee
 1. Convention Committees (Program committee, workshops, outreach, communications, etc.)
 2. Bylaws Committee
 3. Resolutions Committee
 4. Nominations
 5. Awards

Liaisons with National Projects/Working Groups:

National Projects:

Climate and Militarism

Full Disclosure: Toward an Honest Commemoration of the American War in Vietnam

Golden Rule

Deported Veterans Advocacy

Korea Peace Campaign

Iraq Water Project

Peace and Planet News

Save Our VA (SOVA)

Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign

Working Groups:

Be the Change Book Club

China

Nuclear Abolition

Democracy and Peace: Mike Ferner

Descriptions of Committees

Communications Committee

Charged with promoting VFP and bringing visibility and recognition to VFP actions and principles. Involved in oversight of VFP communications as well as monitoring the publication of VFP materials (e.g., VFP Newsletter, VFP papers, etc.).

Convention Committee

Charged with the planning and organization of the annual convention. The membership of the Convention Committee changes with each convention but will include at least representatives from the previous year's convention, the current year's convention, the upcoming year's convention, the Executive Director and the President.

Awards Committee

Charged with developing the annual award categories, criteria and nominating procedures, found in Awards section, plus recommending award recipients to the Board.

Nominations Committee

Charged with identifying qualified members to run for election to the Board of Directors, as required by VFP Bylaws and will perform its duties as described therein.

Bylaws Committee

Charged with ensuring that the bylaws meet the evolving needs of the organization. To this end, and in accordance with our Bylaws and Policies, the committee will:

1. Receive proposed amendments or suggestions from a member, a chapter, or the Board.
2. Study, draft, or redraft proposed amendments as appropriate.
3. Make a recommendation to the Board as to their disposition.
4. Periodically review the bylaws to identify needed amendments, or rescissions.

Resolutions Committee

Charged with facilitating the resolutions procedures as described by the bylaws and developing any other necessary procedures, found in the section on Resolutions.

Delegations Committee

Charged with assisting our members in organizing and applying for Board approval of all VFP U.S. sponsored delegations, and making a recommendation to the Board regarding approval.

Finance and Development Committee

Charged with creating strategies that will develop the financial strength of the organization (e.g., major donors, foundations, mailings, planned giving and special events), and supporting and assisting the treasurer by reviewing professional accounting reports and giving advice on investments and disposition of endowment. The committee is chaired by the Treasurer and consists of at least that position, the President and Executive Director.

Membership and Chapter Development Committee

Charged with supporting individual members and chapters. Membership support: building an outreach campaign and supporting new and existing members to include orientation of

independent members and connecting members to local chapters. Chapter support: assist in the chartering, formation, and ongoing support of VFP chapters and providing support and assistance to reinvigorate inactive chapters. Staff provide direct assistance to the committee by verifying veterans' status, providing reports, and issuing charters and related paperwork. Due to the intense workload of this committee, it shall include a steering committee made up of two members of the Board of Directors (chair and co-chair of the committee), two members of staff (the executive director and membership coordinator) and one member at large as appointed by the President of the Board of Directors. Additional members can serve to help support the committee's goals as needed.

Transformative Justice Committee

Charged with overseeing the internal health of the organization, to include continued exploration of Transformative and Restorative Justice, updates to the Code of Conduct based on member input, and investigating complaints and grievances about members and chapters. Because of the sensitive nature of this committee's work, this committee will be composed of members with a specific background in restorative justice, misconduct/harassment investigations, social work, or other applicable areas. The committee shall work to ensure that our Code of Conduct and Misconduct/Harassment policies and procedures are transparent and serve the needs of our community.

Personnel Committee

Charged with hearing grievances (see Grievance Procedures), and making recommendations to the Board regarding personnel policies and staffing. The committee is also charged with developing evaluative criteria for the Executive Director and ensuring that periodic evaluations are completed. The Personnel Committee shall be composed of 2 or more board members.

Appendix 2: Communications Committee Report

The Communications Committee has not yet met in January, as our calendars have all been very full. We are functioning well, however. There is good communication among Shelly Rockett, Chris Smiley, Becky Luening, Ellen Davidson and me. Becky has just produced another amazing VFP eNews, with input and editing from several of us, including Susan Schnall.

We are getting increasing engagement on social media, including Facebook and Instagram. Interestingly, the largest engagement comes when we report on bold actions by veterans, including the recent disruptions of the Senate Confirmation Hearings for Pete Hegseth as Secretary of Defense. The VFP Statement against confirming Hegseth received wide coverage and was recycled during the recent hearing, along with a great article by Ann Wright.

My own article on President Jimmy Carter's 1977 pardon of Vietnam era draft resisters was published recently in eight or nine different online publications, which is a record for me. This little bit of fairly recent history obviously struck a vein, both for people who were involved then, and for people who had no idea of that history. I have had an unusual amount of positive feedback. The article included links to VFP statements calling for an end to US weapons shipments to Israel and also to our Appeal For Redress initiative for active duty GI's to let their Congressional representatives hear their concerns.

The Mobilization Committee has been busy strategizing and networking. We were actually approached by leading activists from the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHR) and Resist US-Led Wars, and held initial getting-to-know-you meetings with each group. We found a lot in common, including great interest in protesting at US bases and US weapons profiteers. We tentatively agree to have a joint webinar on the importance of the struggle for peace and justice in the Philippines.

We have had quite a bit of discussion about reaching out to active duty GI's and National Guard, some of whom have already spoken up against the US/Israeli genocide in Gaza, and others who are concerned

they will be ordered to carry out mass deportation of immigrants. About Face/Veterans Against the War, particularly Brittany DeBarros, initiated a series of meetings with the legal and counseling resources for GI's, including the Center for Conscience and War, the GI Rights Hotline, the Military Law Task Force of the National Lawyers Guild, and the Quaker House at Fort Bragg. I have been representing Veterans For Peace on those calls. There is a special webinar tomorrow for lawyers who may want to become familiar with military law and for volunteers who would like to become GI counselors.

I also had a meeting with Mattan Helman, an Israeli veteran who heads up the Refuser Support Network. We discussed the possibility of doing a webinar later in the spring that would include Israeli and US resisters.

Here in northern California, VFP is participating in the People's Arms Embargo, a series of actions – probably monthly – at Travis Air Force Base, from which US weapons are being shipped to Israel. They had a very successful action in November when they shut down four entrances to the base for a while and received substantial publicity. I have been attending their organizing meeting and I am taking the lead in pulling together a VFP presence to their action next Thursday, Jan. 23. We will be preparing special veteran-to-gi messaging, including the Appeal For Redress.

Finally, World Beyond War, along with several groups, has put out a call for nationally coordinated actions at US military bases on February 23. I spoke with David Swanson about this yesterday. He said he had been in touch with Susan. Veterans For Peace is listed as a co-sponsor. I think we should run with it and make the most of it.

Some of us are also talking about doing a one-year memorial event or events to commemorate the Aaron Bushnell's self-immolation in protest of US complicity in genocide. That would be Feb. 24 or 25, so could be done in conjunction with Feb. 23 actions at military bases.

Because the Mobilization Committee is a place for strategizing and proposing actions, this is the place to propose and ask for Board consent: that Veterans For Peace co-sponsors, promotes and encourages VFP members, friends and allies to protest at US military bases on February 23. And furthermore, that VFP agrees that interested members should begin planning for memorial for Aaron Bushnell at that time.

VFP Board Member Expectations:

The collective responsibilities of the Board are described in the VFP Bylaws and Policies; the following expectations are a guide to individual member responsibilities:

Be familiar with the VFP Bylaws and Policies

12. Attend monthly VFP Board meetings
13. Support and participate in fundraising efforts for: Funding the organization. The board is responsible for the continued funding and financial health of the organization. Maintaining fiscal accountability. The board approves and closely monitors the organization's expenses and income. The board oversees the organization's resources (including the time of volunteers and staff) are used appropriately, and ensures that the organization has enough money to operate.
14. Participation in board activities. The board has monthly zoom meetings. Please let the President of the Board know when you are unable to attend.
15. Chair and/or actively serve on Board committees
16. Participate in the planning for the VFP National Convention

17. Be available to membership for questions and concerns about VFP
18. Be a strong voice in promoting VFP at the national and local level
19. Actively participate in financial oversight
20. Support Board decisions
21. Acknowledge the Code of Conduct

[Back to top](#)