

**TOP OF DOCUMENT**

**Veterans For Peace Board of Directors**

**Approved Meeting Minutes January 2026 – December 2026**

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<a href="#">Jan 2026</a>	<a href="#">Apr 2026</a>	Jul 2026	Oct 2026
<a href="#">Feb 2026</a>	May 2026	Annual Business Meeting – Aug 2026	Nov 2026
<a href="#">Mar 2026</a>	Jun 2026	Sep 2026	Dec 2026

**Veterans For Peace Board of Directors  
Saturday, April 17, 2026, Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Ellen Barfield, Ellen Davidson, Enya Anderson, Gerry Condon, Josh Shurley, Kelly Wadsworth, Michael Wong, Mike Tork, Paul Cox (notes), Stephen Zollman, Susan Schnall, Windsor Wade. Staff: Shelly Rockett, Michelle KanoLehua Marsonette . Absent: Michael McPhearson (traveling), James Smith.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Adam Toothker, Alice Slater, Anthony Donovan, Art Mulholland, Bryson Ripley, Bushrod, Dirk Lankovich Van Gorp, Gene Marx, George Taylor, Greg Corning, Herald Hassett, Jackie Barshak, Jamey York, Jeffery Humfeld, Jim Dorenkott, Jim McKinney, Jim Rine, Joy Metzler, Justin Loza, Martha Spiess, Michael Cervantes, Michael LeMay, Mike Caggiano, Mike Dempsey, Patrick Joyner, Phil Tottenham, Rachel Clark, Ronnie Bullock, Regina Sneed, Renee, Shelley Corteville, Susan Lamont, Tarak Kauff, Tom Walk, Trevor, Vince Dijanich, Warren Menges.

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

**Member Comments prior to Board Meeting:**

**Jackie Barshak:** wanted to know how to get access to her Chapter 69’s mailing list so she can post notices to those members.

**Bryson Ripley:** reported that on Sunday evening August 9, after the end of the convention this year in Kansas City, there will be a fundraising concert for Haskell University at the Record Bar, 1520 Grand Blvd, KC 64108, that holds 400. Tickets will be \$25.

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

**Checkins:**

**Minutes March 23,** approved with change by Ellen Barfield, about description of how the Koreans wound up at Nagasaki **Agenda** approved with minor changes

**Executive Director Report,** Michael McPhearson: Michael is absent, See **Appendix 1**  
**Finance Report,** Mike Tork: See **Appendix 2**

**Transformative Justice Committee**, Ellen Davidson: presented Number 7 of the Indigenous Worldview: “Earth and all systems are living and loving.” <https://peaceandplanetnews.org/dominant-and-indigenous-worldview/>. Along with greed for polluting oil, every bomb dropped releases toxics into and onto our beautiful Earth. At their meeting, they discussed infusing the entire convention with the IW by making it an often-presented element throughout.

**Post 911 Caucus**, Joy Metzler: The group proposed that we do what we can to stay away from Generative AI, especially for the creation of texts or using it to make art, images, or videos. Programs such as Grammarly are technically AI, too, but do not have the power/pollution requirements or ethical concerns about machine-ripped plagiarism. Whenever you put information into AI, it no longer belongs to you and AI is often wrong or biased. Also, we should all be cautious in using email, and other social media postings, since they are not secure and ARE read by evil entities. Also, pay close attention to reposting images or stories that are possibly AI generated. Meta, Microsoft, and others are not our friends. Caucus proposal:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dhmBkoFiIERL6lvwoNe2ROPSRuQ75NbvwxZx94z1s3Q/edit?tab=t.0>

FMI: <https://www.instagram.com/mattwafoos/p/DWVRGVLdHKT/> and

<https://centerforhealthjournalism.org/our-work/insights/health-divide-ai-data-center-boom-will-harm-health-communities-can-least-afford>. Justin Loza, also in the 911 caucus, brought a different view on AI.

He agreed that AI uses too much energy, water, financial resources, etc. But he thinks the tools provided by AI can be useful, and compared it with our paranoia in previous eons about the internet, electricity, and other modern communication tools. AI is not going away and we need to become comfortable with it. If we stay away we will lose access to those useful tools that it presents. The ability to opt out of AI is, itself, a form of privilege. He advocated for a consistent approach that recognizes the harmful aspects of it, and uses it in a way that reflects our values, perhaps even eventually creating our own secure AI systems. Community commitment and mutual trust is necessary to work through these issues within VFP. Josh Shurley urged that we take a “principles-based” approach, and likes most of Joy’s preliminary proposal with some tweaking.

### **National Projects and Working Groups:**

**Iraq Water Project:** Paul Cox presented a disjointed and random rant about how maybe it is becoming time for Persian Gulf and Iraq War veterans to start to relate again to Iraq in a peaceful way, analogous to what many Vietnam War vets have done in relation to Vietnam. The Iraq Water Project is a potential venue for such activities. Ellen Barfield added some corrections and details: The IWP started work in the 1990s. They did not drill wells but repaired water plants and installed filtration systems. The first Abul Kaseeb delegation went in 2000. Lee Vander Laan’s actual report is **Appendix 3**

**Membership Committee**, Josh Shurley: end of March VFP had 3,423 current members—an increase, but also accompanied by an increase in lapsed/dropped members, which will need to be addressed.

### New chapters:

**Homer Alaska** 14 confirmed members. **Approved.** Micheal LeMay spoke and thanked us for our vote, and asked that it be called the Brother Isaiah Chapter. He sent a description of Brother Isaih, who was a WWII vet who survived 79 combat situations who transformed his life to become the closest thing Homer has to a Patron Saint. His name is synonymous with Love.

**Mid-Hudson Valley** needs 5-member waiver: **Approved.** Tarak thanked the board, and is looking forward to getting it rolling.

**Golden Rule**, Michelle Marsonette gave a bit of background on the GR. In 2026, from June 20 through the end of August, they will mount a campaign for nuclear abolition along the CA coast, and have a banner about refusing illegal orders. They have approx \$61k. Last year, they took in \$60k and spent \$55k. VFP pays for the boat’s insurance and her consulting fees as Project Manager. The GR Committee meets monthly. Locally working on a mini-fest in Eugene, and Sea-Scouts program in Humboldt Bay. FMI: Michelle at 541-971-9077 [vfpgoldenruleproject@gmail.com](mailto:vfpgoldenruleproject@gmail.com)

**Peace and Planet News**, Ellen Davidson: Reported that the paper promotes our mission and brings people in, and hopes that members use it effectively. They will move their publication schedule from quarterly to bi-monthly. She asked that more VFP chapters order copies, and plugged their e-blasts and website: <https://peaceandplanetnews.org/>. Paul Cox suggested they edit and reprint the 2017 Vietnam Full Disclosure Issue at some convenient time in the future.

**Social Media**, Phil Tottenham: suggested that we concentrate more social media work on active duty folks by buying social media ads. They have real-time tracking analytics, and we can target specific cohorts, drop pins for geotargeting messages, are cost-efficient with Costs/click of less than \$1, and 1000 views for about \$5-\$15. This is another way to target people in addition to the billboard campaign. He recommends creation of a budget (perhaps \$2,000) and trial run with Facebook and Instagram. Secondly, perhaps a video campaign of resistance to compare with the first campaign. Susan suggested he come to an Excomm meeting. Ellen Davidson wants to be a part of that process.

**VFP Viet Nam Delegation**, Paul Cox: Reported that this year's tour Mar 14-29, had 15 attendees, and donated \$29k to AO and UXO victims.

**President's Report**, Susan Schnall:

Convention Committee: Theme: ***Peace Through Non-Violent Action: From Chaos to Community*** Dates: August 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> University of Missouri at Kansas City (thanks to Bryson Ripley and Kansas City VFP chapter for their hard and talented work. Solicitations for applications for workshops have been sent out. Registration will be up on the website in a couple weeks. The KC chapter has organized a post-convention musical fundraiser for Haskell University on Sunday night, Aug 9, and people can stay in the dorm until Monday morning.

Billboard Campaign: Banners are now available through Peace and Planet News

ICE Out of our Communities—Portland

Uncle Sam: Refuse Illegal Orders

No Kings!

**Mobilization Committee**, Gerry Condon: See **Appendix 4**

**Communications Committee**, Gerry Condon: See **Appendix 5**

**Nuclear Abolition WG**, Gerry Condon: See **Appendix 6**

**Next Board meeting: May 16, 2026**, 9:40 am PT, 12:40 pm CT, 1:40 pm ET

**Adjournment**: 3:27 pm ET

**Post-meeting discussion:**

**Alica Slater**: Thinks that China's and Russia's attempts to get agreements to ban weapons in space is something we need to push.

**Mick Caggiano**: Finds letters to the editor to local papers to be a useful exercise and therapeutic, and fun.

**Regina Sneed**: Interested in knowing more about the action plan that will wrap up the coming convention. Susan responded that we tried to do that at the end of the last convention but ran out of time. Also, Regina has information about nuke pits and will send it to Gerry on the Nuke Abolition Committee.

**Tom Walk**, St Louis Chapter 61: Reported on various activities in his chapter. Asked if there will be camping at the convention and a space for his service dog. Also, wants to join the Climate Committee. Thanked Shelly for her work.

**Jackie Barshak**: Wants again to know how a member of a chapter can communicate to the other members of the chapter. Shelley Corteville responded that her chapter helps members to get on and

uses Signal. They find that they can mobilize people quickly for emergency protests. Gerry responded that many chapters have their own chapter listserv. It is up to the chapters to decide how to proceed. Josh suggested she attend the Chapter Contact meeting to find out how other chapters operate for internal communications.

**Kelly Wadsworth** suggested that board members stifle their responses to input and take a posture of listening, unless the dialogue has deteriorated and an intervention is needed.

**Shelley Corteville:** Her chapter cosponsored a forum to inspire local activities, with PSL, but is worried that she has put VFP at risk. Tom Walk responded that in St Louis, they work with PSL. Susan responded that VFP does not back candidates for office, so working with them is not a problem for VFP's status. While we don't back candidates, we can lobby for legislation as long as it does not exceed 20% of our finances. Bryson added that his chapter works well with PSL in KC.

**Meeting ended at 2:58 pm ET**

**Appendix 1: Executive Directory Report, Michael McPhearson:**

**Communications:** Last month, I reported that I completed the communications draft plan and received feedback from the communications committee. I also reported that we are restructuring the communications team and am soliciting feedback from communications professionals on whether to hire a full-time director or use consultants as a more efficient option. I have feedback from one person, and I am seeking feedback from one other. The feedback gave us valuable insights to strengthen our current and future plans. My next steps are to integrate the suggestions into the current plan. I want an assessment from at least one other person before we move forward with a consultant or an employee.

**Annual Report:** I am beginning work on an annual report.

**Membership and Fundraising:** Spring membership renewal and donations appeals will soon be in the mail. We have twenty-eight Membership Coordinator candidates. The Excom is reviewing the applicants and will pick 5 to 7 for the next round by April 30. Afterward, we will begin interviews.

**Grant Writing:** I am waiting for Foundation Foundation Search to schedule the first step in our grant writing process.

#### PHASE 1 – FEASIBILITY STUDY

An 8-week Feasibility Study assesses our organization's potential to secure foundation funding. It includes a strategic review of 240,000+ U.S. and 10,000+ Canadian foundations.

#### Key deliverables:

- Fundability assessment based on historical giving trends
- Geographic and mission alignment with prospective funders
- Recommended ask amount
- Foundation contactability and decision-maker access scores

Assessing our funding needs and developing a clear case for support will help us with grant writing and communicating with major donors.

**Database and Website:** Shelly and I had our first meeting with VFP member Justin Loza, an IT professional and business owner who has offered his services to help us review the Every Action Database. We will meet again before he can provide us with a proposal.

**Personnel Handbook:** Although the personnel committee has not met, we have begun our priority task of reviewing and completing the Personnel Handbook.

**Reminder: Organizing Priorities:** The 2026 Veterans For Peace National Work document outlines our focus areas.

- Resisting the full scope of U.S. Imperialism - Monroe Doctrine, Israel/Palestine, Ukraine, Iran, Russia, China.
- Opposing fascism, authoritarianism, Mass Deportation, and building democracy.
- Save Our VA
- Climate Crisis and Militarism

These priorities encompass the Refuse Orders campaign and outreach to service members; Veterans Against Genocide and Fascism; ending the war on Iran; resisting other military actions; deported veterans advocacy events; supporting the Climate Crisis tour; and SOVA organizing.

**Convention:** We continue to prepare for the national convention. We are also working closely with several veteran organizations and individual veterans that oppose the current administration's policies under the banner Veterans Against Fascism.

**National People's Tribunal on Palestine:** VFP is partnering with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and the American Friends Service Committee to organize a National People's Tribunal on Palestine. Planning for the event is still in flux, but it is increasingly likely to happen in Seattle.

## **Appendix 2** Treasurer's Report, Mike Tork:

Budget: he showed the approved budget: We are doing very well. Our small expected shortfall of \$12k has, so far, been blown away. Membership dues are way up, and unrestricted donations have been extreme, including \$150k from Sally Alice's estate.

Bequests: Michael McPhearson is looking in to [FreeWill.com](http://FreeWill.com) that helps with member/supporter bequests

Balances: - \$775K in unrestricted accounts, which is a huge responsibility. We need to be smart about using this money. We want VFP to be viable well into the future.

Zinn Fund Requests approved or considered:

- John Kim - Korean Peace—in process
- Rachael - Japan tour—in process
- Shut Down Drone Warfare - Chapter 63—approved
- Stop the bleeding training - Los Vegas—approved
- Post 911 travel and support—approved
- Puerto Rico Billboard—approved

ExComm approved transferring 20K to the Zinn Fund account to get back to \$33k

### Billboards

- ~22 up and growing - getting lots of coverage
- Press release - Mike Ferner
- Fundraising

**Retirement and staff raises:** MT is in discussion with Amalgamated for Socially Responsible 401ks. 3 staff members are being considered.

Ellen Davidson reported that Ari the Dog raised some of our funds with the help from PPN, and praised Sally Alice's commitment to VFP. Also suggested that we start an endowment fund. MT responded that we had discussed an endowment in the past and decided that it would not be practical. We also have some CD's and savings, but it can only be spent with full board approval. Paul Cox suggested that we increase the amount in CDs, and pitched that people in the meeting with retirement funds should call us.

## **Appendix 3, Iraq Water Project, Lee Vander Laan: How Have We Done? Are We Done?**

The first place was Abul Khaseeb. Abul Khaseeb is a town and adjoining valley---if you can call a miniscule depression amid such a flat land a "valley"---in the Governorate of Basra, southern Iraq. Abul Khaseeb is the site of the Iraq Water Project's first water plant rebuild back in 2000, three years before our militantly compassionate US government decided to rebuild all of Iraq.

After Abul Khaseeb, which embraced also three nearby derelict area water treatment plants, the project moved on to other rebuilds, the last of which involved a plant in a town we had never heard of, soon to be (to its infinite regret) television and print news star Falluja, in central Iraq. All this work was done in

cooperation with Life for Relief and Development, an American/Islamic NGO in Southfield, Michigan. Life arranged that our own Veterans for Peace delegations were included in the hands-on work.

But then the United States marched countless boots and other military assets over the Kuwait border and occupied Iraq. Who could have imagined that a noble and selfless government like ours would pursue goals that soon curiously moved the interests of Iraqi families to the bottom of the policy page? We managed not only to obliterate the previous regime and its nationwide security services, but atomized the country's advanced health and education systems as well.

Next came a decision on the part of our project to continue clean water work by other means. Through a valuable contact in Jordan, engineer Faiza alAraji, we dispatched small water treatment units to clinics, schools, and similar institutions in central and southern Iraq. Life for Relief and Development also placed several other such units, IWP covering the expense. The count now stands close to 170.

--Art Dorland, Chair Emeritus, IWP

Around 2018, the project accepted a new direction in helping Iraqis in Kabballah. An emigrant to the U.S., Thaer Alhumanidan, who visits Iraq regularly to see family, assisted by VFP Lee Vander Laan, both of Essex County, Massachusetts proposed a new water project arena in Kabballah. With the assistance of a local Islamic Society for Relief, schools were asked to submit requests for assistance.

This successful first project, with three units installed, along with tanks, faucets, and coolers was replicated this year in additional schools, five of which were identified by first accepting requests for assistance, and then evaluating the relative need, community served, and local contractors who would help.

Thaer went to Iraq this year in June, 2025, to see family, but in addition to purchase and coordinate installation of the filter equipment, and additional large fiberglass tanks, along with faucets and coolers in four schools, and an additional smaller installation as well. In some cases, the water fountain equipment was already installed, but was substantially enhanced with new modern RO (Reverse Osmosis) units. An important task is timely replacement of filters, and a separate maintenance fund has been set aside for their purchase.

The Iraq Water Project has more ideas! The political landscape changes, but the needs of people, especially those on the fringes of society with minimal income, do not. Our project provides dignity, and includes families who survive with less. The local folks install these units, and provide labor for plumbing and assembly. It is but one way to make a difference, and Veterans For Peace can help facilitate with donations and energy. Perhaps someday we can facilitate trips for veteran members to pitch in, and help with projects again.

--Lee Vander Laan, IWP Coordinator

#### **Appendix 4, Mobilization Committee, Gerry Condon:**

There is LOTS of mobilizing going on. Many people, groups and coalitions are organizing against wars abroad and the war on working people here at home. Millions of people around the globe, including here in U.S., are appalled by the systematic Israeli genocide of Palestinians, with the active support of the United States.

The crackdown on pro-Palestine encampments on college campuses and the persecution of pro-Palestine students overlapped with white supremacist ICE attacks in our own communities.

Then on January 3rd the Trump administration bombed Venezuela and kidnapped its President Nicolas Maduro and “First Combatant” Cilia Flores, who are sitting in a Brooklyn jail on Trumped-up charges (pun intended). Trump and Hegseth continue to bomb small boats in the Caribbean that they claim are smuggling drugs.

And now the “peace president” has unilaterally launched another illegal, immoral war of aggression in the Middle East – this time against Iran, its people, its culture, its civilization. U.S. imperialism is naked for all who dare to look. People are very much resenting the ruthless rule of the “Epstein Class” (aka Billionaires), who are poisoning the planet, even as they play with nuclear weapons.

So yes, there is lots of mobilizing going on. It is necessary. And people are stepping up. This is a time of mobilizing, networking, collaborating and coalition-building. That is the good news.

It is no small coincidence that the No Kings rally and other national mobilizations have been so widely joined. Millions of people were in the streets of hundreds of towns and cities. Veterans For Peace was there, along with other peace activists, and the antiwar messaging is growing stronger at each large mobilization.

Veterans For Peace has always been stronger and more effective when we are part of larger efforts, where we bring our veteran’s voice and authenticity.

The next such opportunity is May Day, just a couple weeks away on May 1. The May Day Strong actions are taking place in hundreds of location. You can find them on the map at May Day Strong website. They are also calling people to not go to school or to work on Friday, May 1, and not to buy anything. This can be seen as an early effort building toward organizing the General Strike that more and more people are talking about.

Aside from joining enthusiastically in these broader antiwar marches and campaigns, Veterans For Peace is initiating its own distinct actions and inviting others to join and support VFP’s initiatives. Currently, we are encouraging VFP chapters, members, friends and allies to show up outside military bases with messaging that calls on our sisters and brothers in the military to Refuse Illegal Orders. VFP’s billboard message has been installed outside at least 13 military bases around the United States, sparking much interest and sometimes controversy, which can be good publicity.

The Mobilization Committee is looking forward to a day when many VFP chapters will take action on the same day at multiple military bases. Those chapters not near military installations can target the offices of corporations that profit from war. Or maybe recruiting stations.... We had wanted to do this sooner, but this is a very busy time.

Veterans For Peace has also been networking and working together with other compatible veterans groups, such as About Face, 50501 veterans, Indivisible veterans, Common Defense, and others. Several of these groups are gathering together in Washington, DC this week to make a strong statement against the illegal and immoral U.S./Israeli war on Iran, and against more funding for war. VFP will put out an Action Alert on Tuesday to reinforce the demands of the veterans’ action.

There is lots of networking and coalition building going on at the local and national level. A couple months ago, the Veterans For Peace Executive Committee voted to join the Resist US-Led Wars Movement. We are actively participating in the No War on Venezuela coalition, a broad grouping of antiwar and anti-imperialist organizations anchored by Black Alliance For Peace, UNAC, Resist US-Led Wars, the Antiwar Action Network and others. This coalition started out with a Venezuela focus but has broadened to organize resistance to the war on Iran. The San Francisco VFP Chapter 69 has successfully

co-sponsored several events with the ANSWER Coalition, as have VFP members in other cities around the U.S.

The Golden Rule peace boat will also carry VFP's anti-war, anti-genocide, anti-ICE and anti-nuclear messaging, while sailing California coast this summer. We will emphasize positive messaging, however, about growing and effective resistance – for example how communities have organized for self-defense against ICE attacks, and continue to resist war and genocide.

So yes, there is lots of mobilizing going on right now. This is one of those historical moments after which things will never be quite the same. Veterans For Peace should be a vital part of this mobilizing, and we are. We have a special role to play. Even one person showing up with that flag makes a difference. But the more flags the better. This is also a time where VFP is attracting new members, including active duty and recently discharged veterans. So the more visibility we have, the better.

I should mention also that Veterans For Peace is co-sponsoring a webinar next Thursday, April 23, along with the Task Force on the Americas. Titled, Resisting US/Israeli Wars – from Venezuela and Cuba to Gaza, Iran and Lebanon, it will feature VFP members Josh Shurley and Ann Wright, reporting back from recent delegations to Venezuela and Cuba. Ann Wright will actually be reporting directly from the Mediterranean Sea and the Global Sumud Flotilla on its way to Gaza. Venezuelan-American activist Leonardo Flores will give us an update on how the Venezuelan government is navigating extreme U.S. intervention while maintaining its socialist government and continuing its unique Bolivarian revolution. I will be serving as moderator. Please join us if you can. If you register on Zoom, you will also receive a recording of the webinar.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/0PjrtvFbTSC5pKHfGt4Erg?emci=70f9e73e-ee38-f111-8ef2-000d3a14b640&emdi=71c563b2-aa39-f111-8ef2-000d3a14b640&ceid=10481876#/registration>

#### **Appendix 5, Communications Committee, Gerry Condon:**

VFP's executive director Michael McPhearson is providing a lot of leadership in the Communications Committee. He has drafted an extensive description of our resources and goals, with input from several of us, and he has shared the document with communications professionals for helpful feedback. He is still deliberating whether to hire a fulltime Communications Director or whether some of this work could be done on a contract basis. Whichever way we go, we will be systematically developing VFP's capacity for strong, unified messaging and greater presence and visibility on many media platforms.

At our recent meeting this last Wednesday, we discussed a number of possibilities for re-organizing VFP Radio, now that Jim Wohlgemuth and Harvey Bennett, who have produced and disseminated a weekly radio show for ten years, are planning to step back, and maybe just do a monthly show. We can fill in the other three weeks with shows that are being produced by other VFP chapters and members. We will be meeting with Jim and Harvey in the next week or so to further develop these plans. VFP Radio is already being aired on several (10 or 12?) community radio stations and on several platforms, such as YouTube and Spotify. We want to make this an even more widely distributed, highly promoted project of Veterans For Peace.

#### **Appendix 6, Nuclear Abolition WG, Gerry Condon:**

The VFP Nuclear Abolition Working Group continues to meet on the 4th Friday of most months. We have great participation from many knowledgeable VFP members who are engaged in work against nuclear weapons, nuclear power, and uranium weapons. We are committed to updating the Veterans For Peace Nuclear Posture Review, but this is going slow. We sometimes have experts speaking in our monthly meetings. We also organize larger-participation webinars with hundreds of people attending.

Ivana Hughes, the director of Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and Peter Kuznick, longtime nuclear abolition activist have offered to do a webinar with us in May. They have recently written and published several articles about how the current reckless war-making of the Trump administration threaten the entire world with the growing possibility of nuclear war.

In the future, the Nuclear Abolition Working Group would like to regularly update VFP members about nuclear-related developments and propose timely actions they can take.

[Top of Document](#)

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**Veterans For Peace Board of Directors  
Saturday, March 21, 2026, Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Susan Schnall, Josh Shurley, Ellen Barfield, Windsor Wade, Ellen Davidson, Michael Wong, Enya Anderson, Kelly Wadsworth, James Smith, Stephen Zollman, Gerry Condon, and Michael McPhearson. (Mike Tork absent due to illness, Paul Cox away on Vietnam tour).

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Adam Toothker, Al Glatkowski, Andrew Pylman, Barry Ladendorf, Bob, Bryson Ripley, Cheryl, Dalton Winter, Dave Logsdon, Doug Rawlings, Gabriella Karsch, Garth Saalfield, Gene Marx, Hal Muskat, Jackie Barshak, James Brown, James Gaffney, Jamey York, Jim Dorenkott, Jim Rine, Joe Marcinkowski, Justin Loza, Larry White, Lisa McGaughran, Martin Schotz, Nick Mottern, Paul DuNard, Sharon (CH 55, Santa Fe) Shelley Corteville, Susan Lamont, Tom Larsen

**12:40 PM ET,** Videos of the **VFP Statement of Purpose** and **Indigenous Worldview** were played  
**Member Comments prior to Board Meeting:** Notes not taken.

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

**Checkins:** Skipped this time.

**Jan 17 and Feb 21 Minutes** approved

**Mar 21 Agenda** approved

**Finance Report,** Mike Tork: Mike sick. No finance report.

**Executive Director Report,** Michael McPhearson:

Communications I have completed the communications draft plan and received feedback from the communications committee, which I must integrate into the plan. I reported that we are restructuring the communications team into three positions: a communications consultant for the newsletter, e-news, convention booklet, other publications, and action alerts; a part-time Social Media Coordinator; and a full-time Communications Director. Our Social media Coordinator position is now part-time, but before we hire a director, I am taking the communications plan to three professionals for feedback on hiring a full-time director or whether consultants would be a more efficient route. My timeline for deciding is no later than the end of April, so we can begin the search process.

The next major project is the annual report. I plan to have a draft for you by the next board meeting.

### Membership and Fundraising

We have posted the Membership Coordinator job announcement. You can find it on our website, and Shelly Rockett has posted it on several job boards.

We will soon start the Spring membership renewal drive and appeal. It will run for two weeks.

We have engaged Foundation Search once again, this time through their Grant Development Services (GDS). We haven't found success with Foundation Search because we don't have the expertise or capacity to identify grantors in the database. The GDS service will engage with us for several weeks to create an extensive profile of Veterans For Peace's work. They then match our mission, programs, and needs with likely grantors and conduct initial outreach to ensure they will accept our grant applications. They give us a complete profile of the grantors. Veterans For Peace is then responsible for writing the grants and follow-up. We intend to hire a professional grant writer to help complete the grant applications. The GDS timeline runs from April 16 through June. Between now and April 16, we need to clarify our funding needs and priorities to communicate them to the GDS team.

Assessing our funding needs and developing a clear case for support will help us with grant writing and communicating with major donors.

### Database and Website

VFP member Justin Loza is an IT professional and business owner who has offered his services to help us review the Every Action Database. On Monday, he will brief us on his findings. As a result, we should be closer to deciding whether to overhaul our procedures and database structure or migrate to another platform.

The outcome of the database review directly impacts when we will update our website. We do not have the capacity to handle two major projects - a database and a full website upgrade, at the same time. If the timeline to improve the database is short, we may start upgrading the website this year. If we need to migrate to a new database or the restructure is complex and lengthy, we will have to wait until 2027. Funding availability for the website upgrade is also a determining consideration.

### **Personnel**

**Although the personnel committee has not met, we have begun our priority task of reviewing and completing the Personnel Handbook.**

### **Organizing Priorities**

The 2026 Veterans For Peace National Work document outlines our focus areas.

- Resisting the full scope of U.S. Imperialism - Monroe Doctrine, Israel/Palestine, Ukraine, Iran, Russia, China.
- Opposing fascism, authoritarianism, Mass Deportation, and building democracy.
- Save Our VA
- Climate Crisis and Militarism

These priorities encompass the Refuse Orders campaign and outreach to service members; Veterans Against Genocide and Fascism; ending the war on Iran; resisting other military actions; deported veterans advocacy events; supporting the Climate Crisis tour; and SOVA organizing.

We continue to prepare for the national convention and mobilize for the No Kings national action.

- National People's Tribunal on Palestine Veterans For Peace is partnering with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and the American Friends Service Committee to organize a National People's Tribunal on Palestine. Planning for the event is still in flux. I will update you once I know more.

Thank you to the board members for completing the Conflict of Interest form. Sometime in the future, I will send you a 2026 form.

### **Membership Committee: Josh Shurley**

#### **VFP Membership Report – March 2026**

##### Current Snapshot

- Total Members (Feb 2026): 3,398
  - o Veteran: 2,682
  - o Associate: 716
  - o Active Duty: 261
- Lapsed Members: 500
- Total Subscribers: 17,799

##### Membership Trends (Jan–Mar 2026)

- Growth remains steady following strong 2025 expansion (+41%)
- New member intake is clustered geographically
- Growth aligns with active organizing networks

##### Key Growth Regions

- Minnesota (Twin Cities)
- Oregon (Portland–Eugene)

##### Chapters

- Currently 105–110 active chapters
- No new chapters chartered yet in 2026

##### Challenges

- Converting new members into active participants
- Improving:
  - o chapter placement
  - o engagement pathways
  - o ongoing involvement

##### Strategic Focus

- Develop regional coordination model
- Strengthen renewal and retention efforts
- Strengthen VFP capacity to mobilize

##### Staffing & Infrastructure

- Hiring new Membership Coordinator (in progress)
- Database remains a key limitation
- Incremental improvements ongoing
- System stabilization is a priority

##### Key Takeaway

Growth follows organizing. The task ahead is turning membership growth into sustained organizing power.

### **Transformative Justice Committee: Kelly Wadsworth**

- **Waiting on written notes for this portion of meeting minutes**

### **Reports from National Projects and Working Groups:**

#### **Climate Crisis and Militarism, Jim Rine:**

Progress Report on Tour 2 and 3 (as of 22 March 2026)

Basic concept of the Wake Up to the Climate Crisis & NO MAS tours

<https://www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/climatecrisis/wake-climate-crisis-tour>) is to be a catalyst for local actions by VFP members and allied groups in the communities visited. Tarak Kauff and Ellen Davidson are loaning their van for use by the tour. Specific tasks to be performed:

- Promote “Earth’s Greatest Enemy” and, when possible, show the film at locally organized venues
- Demonstrate peacefully at air shows by displaying banners and signs and interacting with air show attendees to point out harms of using active-duty warcraft for entertainment.
- Visiting environmental departments at universities to talk to profs or, at minimum, distribute special issues of PPN to faculty.

If a VFP chapter or allied organization is in vicinity of city visited, tour will rely on their choice of organizations to reach out to.

Tour 2 status: Dropped Vidalia, GA air show and added Pittsburgh for possible movie showing on Memorial Day (May 25). Tour 2 occurs between academic semesters making organizing on campus functions problematic.

Tour 3 status: As of March 22, plans are underway for Patuxent, VA with Pat Elder as sponsor, and in the DE-MD-VA area with Ellen Barfield and associates. Outreach to other VFP chapters and allied organizations has just begun. Colleges are in summer sessions, which may improve accessibility to students.

Tables with log of outreach to VFP chapters, colleges, allied orgs, and churches are at [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GQNQGQfomHN2INWRagg7NHWJM\\_ZJloEh](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GQNQGQfomHN2INWRagg7NHWJM_ZJloEh)

**Golden Rule, Michelle Marsonette:**

- **Report postponed until next month.**

**Korea Peace Campaign, John Kim:**

Korea Peace Campaign (KPC) is the longest, active national project of the VFP that started in 2002. Its mission is to achieve a peaceful end to the lingering, costly Korean War; heal the wounds of the War; and promote reconciliation and friendship between American and Korean people.

1) Advocacy against the Winter US-SK Joint War Drills: The so-called “Freedom Shield” (FS) military exercise, which is one of the largest, joint, combined US war drills in the world, took place in South Korea from March 9 to March 19 this year. About 20,000 South Korean troops and an undisclosed number of US troops (8th Army, 11th Airborne Division from Alaska) participated in this winter war drills focused on computer command and control, as well as field trainings. From the past record, the estimated number of the US troops involved in this winter war drills are also about 20,000. North Korea condemned the joint war drill as a rehearsal for a surprise invasion against it, and conducted its own missile launch drills too during the same period. South Korean peace groups also condemned the large-scale joint war drills that usually increase military tensions on the Korean Peninsula. In the U.S., some 100 peace groups issued an open letter at the end of Feb. 2026, urging the US to cancel the provocative, costly military drills. The cosponsors of the letter included VFP, WBW, Women Cross DMZ, Pax Christi USA, Peace Action NYS, Codepink, Answer Coalition, Nodutdol, etc. It is interesting to note that the US military moved some of its Patriot and THAAD anti-missile batteries from South Korea to the Middle East during these war drills in South Korea. This indicates that the US will be now more flexible in using its troops and military assets in Korea for other hot spots in the world.

2) Update on the International People’s Tribunal (IPT) on the Atomic Bombings: VFP is one of the dozen international partner groups that are supporting this historic IPT, which was launched by the surviving South Korean atomic bomb victims (some 40,000 Koreans present in Hiroshima and Nagasaki as forced labor, comfort women and other workers, were probably killed) and their supporting groups in Hiroshima in 2024. They are asking an official apology and just compensation from the US government. The Organizing Committee of the IPT originally planned to hold the Tribunal in New York this year.

However, due to the increasing difficulty of visiting the US by foreigners nowadays, the IPT's venue is now changed to Seoul. The Tribunal will be held at a Korean university from Nov. 13 to Nov. 15, 2026. In the Tribunal, Ann Wright, the Coordinator of KPC and a member of the VFP's Advisory Board, will provide her reflection on the testimony of the Korean atomic victims. There are five Judges selected for the IPT, including Prof. Richard Falk (retired), Prof. Marjorie

Cohn (retired), etc. For the international community, there will be an online streaming of the event. If interested in learning more about it, please visit its website at <https://abombtribunal.campaignus.me>  
3) Fundraising for Building Hyosun-Miseon Memorial Archive: As mentioned in the last VFP Newsletter, we have been raising funds for the building of a Hyosun-Miseon Memorial Archive, next to the Hyosun-Miseon Peace Park in South Korea. Concerned South Korean civic groups are planning to build the Archive by 2027. It will preserve documents, pictures, videos, etc., relating to the two Korean middle school girls who were crushed to death by a US Army armored vehicle moving on a countryside road, as well as the Korean people's candle-light movement for justice that arose in South Korea, after all charges against the vehicle's crew were dismissed by a US Army's court martial. The two US soldiers involved were sent back to the US promptly. South Korea had no jurisdiction about the case because the US refused to turn over the two US soldiers to the South Korean judicial system. We raised about \$1,000 so far for the Archive fund, but would appreciate further donation by individuals, local VFP chapters or VFP national to show our solidarity with the Korean people. Our fundraising drive will continue until the end of March 2026. If interested in helping out, please click on the Donate box in the VFP's Korea Peace Campaign site on the VFP website or mail a check to the VFP office with a memo entry for the Korea project.

4) Next KPC Online Meeting KPC project is holding a monthly online meeting. The next meeting will be held on April 14, Tues., 8 pm ET, 5 pm, PT. If any VFP member or friends are interested in attending our meeting, please contact us at [kpc@veteransforpeace.org](mailto:kpc@veteransforpeace.org).

End the Forever US War in Korea!

John, Ann, and Ellen, March 21, 2026

#### **China Working Group, Michael Wong:**

The VFP China Working Group has continued to exchange information within the group on China and US relations, as well as China's relations with other countries, particularly in Asia. We currently have 30 members in our list, although not all are active in the group. In the last year we arranged for KJ Noh to speak at our VFP National Convention, interviewed various experts on China and international relations on our YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@veteransforpeacewithchina5667>), supported author of a book on China Dee Knight to tour the San Francisco Bay Area (Dee Knight: <https://deeknight.blog/befriendingchina/>), and continued contacts and discussions with both the Chinese and the peace community. Three of our members, Sara Flounders, Michael Kramer, and KJ Noh, were published in a new anthology on today's China, entitled "China Changes Everything" (<https://shop.ingramspark.com/b/084?params=muqlW1EbR4NeDulvxxPeb47RodVmXeFeBKWk7osL9Bi>). We have also kept updating our web page: (<https://www.veteransforpeace.org/our-work/working-groups/china-working-group>) on the VFP National website.

Our working group is sponsoring a tour to China in October, during which we will visit Beijing, Nanjing, Chengdu, and Urumqi. Urumqi is in Xinjiang, where the US media and some officials and US based NGOs have falsely accused China of committing genocide against the Muslim Uyghurs. However, the Uyghurs (about 60% of Xinjiang's population which includes several other ethnic minorities) have actually increased their population faster than the Han Chinese, Xinjiang's economy is thriving, and the Uyghurs can be seen in the temples practicing their religion and going about living normal lives. Unlike Gaza, Xinjiang is wide open and millions of tourists from all over the world (including the Muslim world) go there every year. We will be going there to see for ourselves.

Regarding the current situation between the US and China: During Obama's "Pivot To Asia," the US moved 60% of our naval force to surround China, built up bases around China, pressured Asian allies and neutral countries to join us against China, and formed and/or strengthened our military alliances against

China, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Taiwan island, Australia, New Zealand, and India have all been pressured to join the US and to increase their defense spending and military coordination. Other Asian nations have been pressured as well, but some like Viet Nam, Singapore, and Thailand have resisted or engaged with both sides but taken a neutral position. India gives a mixed response, but the Philippines have allowed the US military to reestablish military bases there and buy new arms from the US. NATO nation warships - the same nations who invaded China during the Colonial Period and chopped China up into colonies - have joined the US in naval exercises around China's coasts, in shows of traditional Western "gunboat diplomacy." But they changed their tune from fighting for "Christianity" to fighting for "freedom and democracy."

The US had been saying for some time that China intends to "invade" Taiwan in 2027, but China has been consistent in denying that, repeating their long held position that China seeks eventual peaceful reunification with Taiwan island, and would only use force as a last resort if independence is officially declared. China has consistently made clear that there is no deadline for reunification and no intent to attack in 2027. China's position is plausible because the political situation in Taiwan has slowly moved over the years towards gradually increased support for some kind of compromise around reunification, so time is on China's side in the long run. Support for a compromise increased even more with the Ukraine war, with many on Taiwan island saying "We don't want to be the next Ukraine." Many of us who follow the US war drive towards China viewed the US "2027 invasion" claim as a signal that the US might create some excuse to start a war with China next year. However, now the latest 2026 Annual Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Committee says that China is NOT planning to "invade" Taiwan island in 2027. The Washington elite haven't withdrawn from viewing China as an "existential threat" that they intend to take down, but it may be that they recognize that the US isn't in a position right now to win such a war, so they are pushing the timeline back somewhat.

Meanwhile, the criminals in Washington are attacking other innocent nations in a series of utterly immoral, illegal, bloody, and stupid wars of choice for no other reason than that those nations exist and aren't vassals of the US. I have been speaking out and organizing against those wars.

Michael Wong

**President's Report, Susan Schnall:**

Convention Committee: Convention theme to be "Peace Through Non-Violent Action: From Chaos to Community" Dates: August 6th-9th. Place: University of Missouri at Kansas City (thank to Bryson Ripley and Kansas City VFP chapter).

Billboard Campaign: ICE Out of our Communities—Portland. Uncle Sam: Refuse Illegal Orders Campaign is ongoing. Have had some good media coverage.

Aaron Bushnell Commemoration (thanks to Joy Metzler): February 25th in multiple cities

Peace and Planet News- Members and chapter are encouraged to order!!

**VFP Communications Report/VFP Mobilization Committee Report, Gerry Condon:**

The US/Israeli war on Iran, Lebanon and Palestine continues. Iran is being targeted largely because of its support for Palestinian self-determination and its opposition to Israeli expansionism. The Zionist government of Israel and the neocons in the US want to destroy Iran, break it up into little pieces, or leave it in a state of chaos like they did Libya and Iraq.

The 3,000 year old Persian culture and the country of 90 million people will not go down so easily, however. They prepared very well for this war and their strategy is making it very difficult for Israel and the U.S., who are re-thinking their goals.

This is an inflection moment in the war. It will start to "wind down" as Trump has suggested, or it will escalate. Don't believe what Trump says. Look at what he is actually doing - massing thousands of Marines for an expected attempt to take over the Strait of Hormuz. An increasing number of analysts

are now worrying out loud about a nuclear bomb being used against Iran, whether from Netanyahu or from Trump.

Whatever the case, now is the time to be stepping up our resistance to the war on Iran, Lebanon, Gaza, Venezuela and Cuba. Our next, best opportunity to do so is this coming Saturday, March 28 - No Kings Day. All VFP chapters, members, friends and allies are encourage to join the No Kings marches and rallies and to bring our antiwar messaging: Peace at Home, Peace Abroad! No ICE, No War, No Nukes! Stop the US/Israeli War against Iran, Lebanon, Gaza, Venezuela and Cuba! To military personnel we say, "Refuse Unlawful Orders to participate in an illegal war of aggression."

Michael McPhearson has been invited to speak at the No Kings rally in Seattle. I have been invited to speak at the No Kings rally in San Francisco. VFP will do an e-blast on Monday or Tuesday that will include flyers that people can download, print out and distribute at the No Kings marches and rallies.

The Mobilization Committee meets on the second Friday of the month at 4 pm Eastern, 1 pm Pacific. At our recent meeting, we quickly united on a strategy to continue and amplify VFP's campaign to reach out to military personnel and remind them of their right and responsibility to refuse illegal orders. We propose a concerted campaign at military bases around the country (and the world). VFP chapters that do not have a military base nearby can protest elsewhere, including the offices of weapons manufacturers, aka war profiteers.

We would like to also have a single day of nationally-coordinated VFP-led protests at military bases and war profiteers. We are looking at May 1.

This will take a lot of real organizing on our part. We need organizers who are willing to put in a few hours making phone calls to all our chapters. Motivated volunteers should contact Michael McPhearson or me (Gerry Condon).

**Report from VFP Venezuela Delegation, Josh Shurley:**

This report summarizes key observations and reflections from our delegation to Venezuela in late February, undertaken to better understand the impacts of U.S. policy and to engage in international solidarity. Josh and Gerry from the board attended, along with Ann Wright and Ren Pluta (from VFP) and others from groups like Code Pink, World Beyond War, and the Gaza Sumud Flotilla, among others. The delegation had three primary objectives: to observe conditions on the ground, particularly in relation to U.S. sanctions, to engage directly with Venezuelan communities and organizations, and to critically assess the gap between dominant U.S. narratives and lived realities.

Participants observed significant economic hardship, including inflation and shortages. However, these conditions were consistently understood by those we spoke with as being closely tied to external pressures - especially U.S. sanctions that restrict access to essential goods and financial systems. These measures are widely experienced as a form of economic warfare rather than neutral policy tools as sanctions are often described.

A key takeaway from the delegation was the disconnect between how Venezuela is portrayed in U.S. media and the complexity of conditions on the ground. While challenges are real, the framing of intervention as beneficial or necessary is not reflected in the perspectives of many Venezuelans affected by these policies. The delegation also highlighted broader patterns in U.S. foreign policy, including the use of economic and political pressure to influence or destabilize governments. These patterns mirror approaches seen in other historical and contemporary contexts.

This experience underscores the importance of critical media literacy, independent observation, and international solidarity. It also reinforces the need to question dominant narratives and to examine the human consequences of policy decisions.

For organizations such as Veterans For Peace, this work remains essential—not only in opposing military conflict, but in addressing the broader systems and strategies that perpetuate harm.


**Post 9/11 Report (deferred)**, Joy Metzler, Olga Garcia, Phil Tottenham:

Olga gave a brief summary of ongoing work to include plans for a Stop The Bleed training seminar being developed out of the Las Vegas chapter for others in VFP to emulate. May work up a train-the-trainer program at the August convention. Also discussed plans for a regular forum for chapter organizers to attend for ongoing trainings. Will follow up with national.

**Next Board meeting: April 18, 2025**

**Adjournment**

[Top of Document](#)



Veterans For Peace Board of Directors  
Saturday, February 21, 2026 Minutes

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Adam Toothker, Al Glatkowski, Andrew Pylman, Barry Ladendorf Bob, Bryson Ripley, Cheryl, Dalton Winter, Dave Logsdon, Doug Rawlings, Gabriella Karsch, Garth Saalfeld, Gene Marx, Hal Muskat, Jackie Barshak, James Brown, James Gaffney, Jamey York, Jim Dorenkott, Jim Rine, Joe Marcinkowski, Justin Loza, Larry White, Lisa McGaughran, Martin Schotz, Nick Mottern, Paul DuNard, Sharon (CH 55, Santa Fe), Shelley Corteville, Susan Lamont, Tom Larsen

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

**Pre-meeting comments by members:**

**Dave Logsdon:** Chapter 27 has 16 new members. They are planning a number of events, including a memorial for Aaron Bushnell on Feb 26.

**Jim Rine:** Reminded people of showing of *Earth's Greatest Enemy* at.... Also planning a PPN Reprinting of the Climate Crisis issue

**Sharon :** The Santa Fe Chapter 55 will hold a memorial for Aaron Bushnell on Wed Feb 25. She also asked about the VFP logo car-door magnets. Dave Logsdon, [dlvfp27@gmail.com](mailto:dlvfp27@gmail.com), has them available.

**Called to Order:** 1:00 pm ET.

**Checkins**

**Minutes of January 17, 2026,** **Approved**

**Agenda:** **Approved**

**Finance Report:** Mike Tork

## UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Wire Transfer acc't,	\$544
Edward Jones,	\$16,932
Operating 1,	\$215,405
Operating 2,	\$335,007
CDs	
CD #1 - 6 months	\$20,800
CD #2 - 1 year	\$20,401
CD #3 - 2 year	\$20,382
Total Interest = \$1,583	
Business Savings,	\$ 1.07
Credit Card:,	\$ 0
<b>TOTAL =</b>	<b>\$629,471</b>

## RESTRICTED FUNDS

Zinn Fund,	\$18,486
Other Restricted, \$	<u>\$17,710</u>
<b>TOTAL =</b>	<b>\$36,196</b>

**Future Needs:** Priorities will need to be set. We cannot do all at one time:

**Web update**

**Database evaluation.** Fix if possible. Add components if needed.

**Replace/data migration**

**Hire Communication Lead**

**Foundation Search/Other grant development opportunities**

**Sohaila Abdulai**

**2026 Budget Review**—Mike was conservative in Revenue projections and careful to cover Expense projections. **Approved**

Expenses,	-\$701,711
Revenue.	<u>\$688,900</u>
<b>Net</b>	<b>-\$ 12,811</b>

**Budget:** He presented the Budget for approval, along with an explanation of how he arrived at the budget. **Approved** w/one abstention (Ellen Davidson). There was a request that the **Finance Committee** review the budget.

**Executive Director Report:** Michael McPhearson:

- Staff continues to review priorities that were reported last month but not completed yet. **MMc** expects it to be done this week.
- **Membership and Fundraising Committees** will be meeting. **MMc** will be hiring a communications director. That position will be posted soon.
- The Mobilization Committee charter document is still under review and **MMc** will send it to board.
- The **Personnel Committee** will meet the first week in March to work on Employee Handbook changes.
- Database efficacy review is in process.
- The website has not been upgraded in 10 years, but migration/upgrade must wait for resolution of the database. **MMc** continues to work with MFSO and Common Defense. Reviewing DVAP. Organizing efforts are 1) Illegal orders, 2) Mob for No Kings rallies across the country. (Chapters need to engage with Indivisible and 50501, locally), and 3) Convention, Aug 6-9; and WILPF, who is organizing a tribunal on Palestine.
- **MMc** still needs **COI forms** from **two board Members**, who have been notified by email.

- For **bequests**, a site, [FreeWill.com](https://www.freewill.com), facilitates how people can make pledges and deliver bequests.
- **Foundation Search** contract is coming up for renewal, either to dump them, renew, or contract with them for more specific grant services. Also, the **ExComm** will meet with a potential grant writing consultant.

**Transformative Justice Committee:** Kelly Wadsworth, The Committee will be meeting on a regular schedule rather than more random meetings, and will be putting together an SOP to help chapters work through new dynamics, and perhaps creating a new drop-in space. Also a call for volunteers to help with the document who are experienced in leading meetings, and perhaps act as an “on-Zoom” resource. Kelly also discussed the Kindred View element related to hierarchy vs nonhierarchical organizations (such as in chapter meetings to bring order to chaos and ensure that everyone can speak, and equitable meetings. She suggested a site <https://jurassicparliament.com/> that helps with such activities.

**Communications/Social Media Report:** Chris Smiley: [Link to report here](#), He has been working on our YouTube channel, and is quite happy with Facebook, which has increased engagement and has made it easier to donate. Tiktok has been purchased by a billionaire Zionist, Larry Ellison, who has tightened up the algorithm. We will continue to post on TikTok, but use it to draw away visitors to better places.

#### **President’s Report:**

##### **Convention**

Theme: **Peace Through Nonviolent Action: From Chaos to Community**

Dates: August 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>

University of Missouri at Kansas City (UMKC) (thanks to Bryson Ripley and Kansas City VFP chapter and Mike Tork)

**Billboard Campaign:** Mike Tork is coordinating. Nick Mottern, mentioned the one on a major highway near the Reaper Drone base in Puerto Rico. that shows a drone and telling troops they have a duty to refuse illegal orders—on an electronic billboard with 1,100 images each day. It costs \$1,800/month. 30,000 troops have come into PR in the last few months. Paul Cox showed the one going up on Feb 23 at Travis and Ellen showed an ICE out of the US one going up in Seattle. A fundraising appeal will be going out for the billboards next month. New billboards: **ICE Out of our Cities**—Portland, and **Uncle Sam: Refuse Illegal Orders**—Travis AFB.

**Aaron Bushnell Commemoration** (thanks to Joy Metzler): February 25<sup>th</sup> multiple cities. Ellen shows an Aaron Bushnell, poster, and a flyer. To get these files let Ellen know.

**Peace and Planet News-** Order!! Number 17, Winter 2026 is available for order and the reprint update for the Climate issue will be available soon.

**VFP Board Committees assignment:** See [Appendix 1](#). Susan noted that members do not have to be board members to be members of committees.

**VFP Communications Report/VFP Mobilization Committee Report:** **tabled** to March 21 mtg.

**Post 9/11 Report:** Joy Metzler, Olga Garcia, Phil Tottenham: **tabled** until March 21 meeting

**Next Board meeting: March 21, 2025,**

**Adjournment 2:18 pm ET**

#### **Post-Board-meeting discussion:**

**Hal Muskat:** suggests that we do a monthly webinar on various topics. Susan responded that there are frequent local/regional webinars

**Sharon**, who is near Holloman, NM. likes the drone banner. Nick responded that the group, including Tobe Blome, is planning to rent one nearby.

**Jamie York:** He is working with SOVA. Link on Twitter/X

**James Gaffney:** Asked whether there have been any tacking of responses to our billboards. Michael will look into the hits on the Servicemember pages. He also mentioned that we are getting an increase in nasty notes. He also mentioned the progress of the lawsuit about US military increased in the Caribbean, He has talked to NLG, and Center for Constitutional Rights.

Jackie Barshak, Chapter 69 will be taking an action in honor of Aaron Bushnell, along with Noisemakers Against Genocide.

**Ellen Davidson**, will put up all the graphics we have put together into a link.

Barry Ladendorf mentioned that in San Diego an billboard has gone up near the bases. The chapter is also gaining newly discharged and soon-to-be-discharged service members. He also suggested that we employ our national Advisory Board more.

Larry White mentioned that there is much military where he lives in Central Joisey, and wants to get access to nearby members.

**Hal Muskat:** is concerned about dangers of deciding to refuse illegal orders, and morality issues are important.

**Al Glatkowski** asked about the coming Armistice Day and whether we should make an appearance in DC, perhaps a concert in Malcolm X Park. Would like to talk with folks about it.

**Zoom closed at 2:38**

#### **Appendix 1:** 2026 VFP 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, Windsor Wade, Ellen Barfield, James Smith II
- **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, Michael McPhearson
- **Delegations:** Chair Ellen Davidson, Josh Shurley, Enya Anderson
- **Finance:** Chair/Treasurer Mike Tork, Ellen Davidson, Paul Cox
- **Development:** Chair Matt Southworth, Stephen Zollman, Mike Tork, Michael McPhearson
- **Personnel:** Chair Paul Cox, Enya Anderson, Kelly Wadsworth, Nick Mottern
- **Mobilization Committee:** Gerry Condon and Joshua Shurley Co-Chairs, Ellen Barfield, Nick Mottern, Dan Shea
- **Convention:** Co-chairs Susan Schnall, Michael McPhearson
- **Awards:** Chair Josh Shurley, Becky Luening, Nick Mottern, Mike Tork, Mike Wong
- **Bylaws:** Chair Josh Shurley, Stephen Zollman
- **Resolutions:** Chair Josh Shurley, Bob Gryzinski, Stephen Zollman, James Smith II
- **Nominations:** Chair Ellen Barfield, Enya Anderson, Dave Logsdon
- **VFP Advisory Board:** Paul Cox and Michael McPhearson

[Top of Document](#)

Veterans For Peace Board of Directors  
Saturday, January 17, 2026 Minutes

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Al Glatkowski, Alan Batten, Allen Johnson, Alice Slater, Art Milholland, Bob Suberi, Daniel Peterson, Dave Logsdon, David Swift, Dominick Favuzzi, Don Kimball, Felice, Francis Sullivan, Gerald Hassett, Gene Stewart, Jackie Barshak, James Gaffney, Jason, John Amadon, John Wilks, Joy Metzler, Kate Gormley, Kim Gormley, Marylu Sanders, Mike Caggiano, Monica McPharland, Moonfrog: Nancy Nelson, Olga Garcia, Paul DuNard, Peter Bronson, pk2mo, Phil, Regina Sneed, Russell, Shelley Corteville, Steve Fournier, Steve Morse, Susan Lamont, Tarak Kauff, Ted Englemann, Thomas Leonard, Tim Farley, Tom Arnold, Tom Larsen, Vince Dijanich, Water Sotr.

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

**Pre-meeting comments by members:**

**John Wilks:** Uranium Working Group. Asked to know the person on the board who works with them. No bylaws needed for Working Groups, Chapters need to have bylaws. Asked also about template for bylaws. Susan responded: Gerry Condon; no; yes; no, but Josh is working on a template.

**Dave Logsdon:** He reported from the Front Lines of Minneapolis. The broad community is pitching in to make ICE's presence difficult. The Proud Boys are marching today, but no one is going to protest them and leave them marching in 9 degree weather. Their new chapter president Marie Purcell is working hard and Post 911 vets are being active.

**Don Kimball,** Host of Friendly Fire a Voice For Veterans: Reported that three members of the Oglala nation were arrested at a homeless encampment in Minneapolis by ICE and are being held at Ft. Snelling!

**Steve Morse:** Tue VFP SE Regional Webinar Jan 20, 4:30 Pt. 7:30 ET, will be focusing on the VA. Sponsored by SOVA and the VFP Labor WG.

[https://prod.cdn.everyaction.com/emails/van/EA/EA015/1/94223/9D1MiGEWsutue5Dho9e5BLWNivLB8fjld-a6sciB6zC\\_archive](https://prod.cdn.everyaction.com/emails/van/EA/EA015/1/94223/9D1MiGEWsutue5Dho9e5BLWNivLB8fjld-a6sciB6zC_archive)

**John Amadon:** Mentioned Earth's Greatest Enemy is available for purchase.

**James Smith:** As a new Board member, asking the difference between a working group and a national project. Susan referred him and everyone to our Website/Governance pages.

**Susan Lamont,** Santa Rosa Chapter: Thanked VFP for sharing on Facebook the recording of the Green Party's Peace Action Committee's webinar: *Militarism Comes Home: Blowback from Wars Abroad*. Gerry Condon was one of the speakers. Here it is for those who didn't see it.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bDAm77qaUL2LNGYEK9Ky3rfk55z9OQt9/view?usp=sharing>  
<https://guy2k.substack.com/p/veterans-duty>

**Checkins**

**December 20, 2025 Minutes:** Approved

**Agenda:** Approved

Welcome to new Board members: James Smith III-new board member; Ellen Barfield, Gerry Condon, Michael Wong were re-elected.

“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.”

**Matt Southworth** has resigned from the board. Susan nominated Stephen Zollman to fill that slot: Confirmed.

**James Smith** introduced himself and thanked VFP for electing him to the board

**Board election of officers, Mike Wong:**

Treasurer: Mike Tork re-elected  
Secretary: Paul Cox re-elected  
Vice President: Josh Shurley re-elected  
President: Susan Schnall re-elected

**Finance, Mike Tork:**

**Operating Funds**

Checking Account 1: \$154,145.31  
Checking Account 2: \$334,793.64  
CDs: \$ 41,182.38  
Bequest Holdings: \$ 16,913.82  
Wire Transfer Account: \$ 544.45  
**Total nonrestricted \$567,980**

**Restricted Account:** \$ 18,377.92  
Savings: \$ 1.07  
Zinn Fund \$ 22,480.14 (SB - \$16,680)

**ZINN FUND GRANTS** in December, 2005: Nick Mottern - NYC Chapter - \$1,800 for Billboard at Reaper Drone Base, Puerto Rico. AND Tarak Kauff - NYC Chapter - \$4,000 for Billboards

**BUDGET** - 2025 Information is available only through November, but Bylaws say it is due in October. So Mike will be asking to change that to February of each year. We finished the year with more than \$50k in the black.

Revenues: Budget: \$557,150. Actual: \$721,315 (\$813,315)  
Expenses: Budget: \$683,764. Actual: \$613,719 (\$685,719)  
2026 - Health Care will increase by 14% (+\$7,300)

**Restricted Funds Activity**

- **POST 911 VETERANS**, Restricted account established - \$20k allocated to Minneapolis efforts
- **BILLBOARDS**: Restricted account established with \$10k in donations so far
- **FLOTILLA**: Restricted account established to receive donations

**Executive Director Report, Michael McPhearson:**

- The national office staff is planning our **priorities for 2026**. I am currently writing a fundraising and communications plan for the year. Both will be completed by the first week of February for review by the committees. I will have the first draft of an annual report completed by February 16.

- Please fill out the **VFP 2025 accomplishments** form. It will help me write the annual report, grant applications, and promote Veterans For Peace.
- I am placing greater emphasis on **staffing the membership, communications, fundraising,** and mobilization committees. We also need to re-activate the **personnel** committee.
- High on the first quarter priority list is a clear direction for the **database**.
- We have not updated the Veterans For Peace **website** in over a decade. I am forming a review team to help make decisions regarding the upgrade. I have met with the company that hosts the site, Websanity, to begin determining our needs, developing a timeline, and obtaining a quote.
- I am working to create stronger ties between Veterans For Peace, Military Families Speak Out, Common Defense, and About Face.
- I'm helping the Labour working group, in collaboration with Third Act Union, organize a webinar that centers the voices of U.S. military veterans confronting unlawful and immoral uses of military power.
- There is a VFP Conflict of Interest form for board members to complete. Some members have done so. I will send the PDF to those who have not filled out the form for you to complete online.
- National People's Tribunal on Palestine
- Veterans For Peace is partnering with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and the American Friends Service Committee to organize a National People's Tribunal on Palestine in May in Chicago, a city with organizing capacity and connected to the Palestinian diaspora. The tribunal will focus on the role of U.S. corporations in the Gaza genocide. Proposed dates for the event are early May or the first week of June. The organizing committee will decide on the event date in the next two weeks.
  - We are planning a two-day event. The first is a day primary of pane;s focused on education. The tribunal is on the second day. A parallel virtual component will open participation nationwide, inviting people to observe the proceedings and join facilitated dialogues during breaks. We will begin organizing the events in locations where all three organizations have chapters.
- The organizing committee meets every two weeks, and I have convened a VFP committee to help organize in our organization. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact me.
- United Veteran-Civilian Response Campaign: Veterans For Peace Seattle Chapter 92 remains a cornerstone of the United Veteran-Civilian Response campaign, organizing to prepare for the deployment of the military units to the Seattle region. We have expanded the mission to include responding to ICE deployments. We are in conversation about the strategies and tactics unique to veterans to use to support civilian efforts.

**Transformative Justice Committee**, Kelly Wadsworth: Much of 2025 TJ met as needed, or about quarterly. In 2026 they will meet monthly, and be available to help with issues members might be having. They will be putting together a resource list to strengthen chapter work, such as leading meetings, working with diverse populations, becoming a resource. Please send questions or offers to help to Michael McPherson. She mentioned [www.Marchminnesota.org](http://www.Marchminnesota.org), about faith groups supporting the actions in Minneapolis/St Paul.

**Membership Committee**, Josh Shurley: See [Appendix 1](#).

**Development Committee**, Matt Southworth: No Report

**VFP Communications Report**, Chris Smiley: [Link to report here](#).

**Mobilization Committee-Illegal Orders Campaign Proposal**, Gerry Condon: See [Appendix 2: Mobilization Committee Report](#)

**Post911 Report from Minneapolis–Live**, Olga Garcia. It is 11 degrees and actively snowing. There are 9 VFP members protesting at various places including the ICE detention ctr. The resistance is quite large and a model for utilizing in other places as well. Proud Boys are marching today and at this point there

are about 2 dozen of them surrounded by many anti-ICE people. VFP is trying to maintain a peaceful presence. They are also providing medical support, including hand warming. This is important work, and will continue as long as there is a need. Olga has posted a Reel on Instagram that is generating much support from veterans interested in getting involved.

**Proposal for VFP to join lawsuit opposing the executive order forbidding citizens from cooperating in any fashion with the ICC,** Susan Schnall: Introducing Terry Lodge. [See Appendix 3.](#) He asked VFP to join a soon-to-be-filed suit against the Administration challenging the policy to forbid US citizens from interacting or communicating with the ICC. Taxpayers Against Genocide is part of this: [Taxpayersagainstgenocide.org](https://taxpayersagainstgenocide.org), as is DAWN (Democracy in the Arab World Now, founded by Jamal Khashoggi). If we can get the topic opened, we might have a few days for us and other organizations to send the information about genocide in Gaza to the ICC before the SCOTUS shuts down the suit. The suit will have no expenses to VFP beyond a share of the filing fees. Timing for filing between now and mid February, and case could roll into one or more years. Susan noted that all of the findings of the Merchants of Death are on their website: <https://merchantsofdeath.org/>. The Excomm recommended signing on. **Board Approved.**

**VFP Board Accomplishments for 2025,** Susan: **TABLED**

**Finances ending year 2025**

**Membership Numbers**

**Hiring of full time Executive Director**

**Successful In Person and Virtual Convention 2025**

**Successful political work: Reports from VFP national board members**

**Routine eblasts of VFP news**

**Response to members concerns and projects: identified opportunities for improvement**

**VFP Board Committee Assignments,** Susan Schnall: See **Board Expectations, Appendix 4; Committees, Appendix 5;** and **List of National Projects/Working Groups, Appendix 6.** Discussion **tabled** until **February 21** meeting. Board was asked to let Susan know which committees they want to be on.

**Next Board meeting: February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Adjournment about 3 pm ET**

**Post-Board Meeting Discussion:**

**Don Kimball:** Why not ICJ? Terry responded that ICC operates as a criminal court. ICJ is between nations.

**Arla Ertz:** Thanked Terry for his bringing this to VFP and asked about how to get information pertinent for the ICC to the attorneys,

**Alic Slater:** Thanked Terry, but Trump does not recognize ICC, and the bigger question is how to impeach the Orange Julius. This suit is an attempt to break through that

**Tarak Kauf:** Thanked Terry. Mentioned Albanese has a comprehensive list of corporation involved in the genocide.

**Regina Sneed:** Can WILPF join the suit? She Terry responded that they are looking for a few other organizations to join who have pertinent information on Genocide. His email is [tjlodge50@yahoo.com](mailto:tjlodge50@yahoo.com)

**James Gaffney:** Is DAWN looking to send ICC information against the Venezuelan government? Terry: no. TAG is running that effort but not against the Venezuelan government but against ours for its attack on them.

**Ted Engelmann:** Asked if the proscription against contact with the ICC is in itself and international crime? Terry, yes, but that has not been developed yet.

**Don Kimball:** Asked about ID of plaintiffs. Terry: Orgs can be plaintiffs for their members, though one or more members can sign on.

**Mike Wong:** He refused orders to Vietnam and understands that refusal of illegal orders is complex, and too difficult to go into in this meeting.

**Adjournment: 3:30 pm ET**

## **Appendix 1: 2025 VFP Membership Committee Year-end Report**, Josh Shurley:

**Overview:** 2025 was a year of significant growth and organizational strengthening for Veterans For Peace. Using the same baseline as last year's report, VFP experienced substantial increases in active membership, improved retention outcomes, successful membership drives, and the formation of multiple new chapters—both domestically and internationally. These trends reflect not only heightened public engagement, but also improvements in how the organization welcomes, retains, and supports members.

### **Membership Growth (Year-Over-Year)**

- **Active membership at start of 2025:** 2,698
- **Active membership by Dec 31, 2025:** 3,806
- **Net growth:** +1,108 members
- **Percentage growth:** ~41% year-over-year

This represents strong and sustained growth for a mission-driven organization, achieved during a period of political volatility and increased public attention to issues of war, militarism, and state violence.

### **Membership Composition (End of 2025 Snapshot)**

- **Veterans:** 2,704 (~71%)
- **Associate Members:** 844 (~22%)
- **Active Duty:** 258 (~7%)

Veterans remain the clear backbone of the organization, while associate membership growth reflects expanding solidarity among non-veterans. Active-duty membership continues to grow steadily despite structural and personal risks faced by service members.

### **New Members & Retention Trends (2025)**

- **Total new members in 2025:** 1108

Importantly, *new members outpaced lapses over the course of the year*, resulting in net membership growth and improved retention. Membership drives played a key role in preventing lapses, encouraging renewals, and keeping members engaged during periods of heightened activity.

While dozens of renewals were tracked in 2025, the Membership Committee recognizes the need for more systematic renewal tracking and plans to improve data collection and reporting in the coming year.

### **Monthly Membership Growth Spikes (2025)**

Membership growth was not evenly distributed and correlated strongly with periods of visibility and action.

#### **Largest spike months:**

- **June:** 149 new members (largest increase)
- **October:** 107 new members

- **December:** 88 new members
- **March:** 80 new members
- **September:** 79 new members

These trends reinforce the conclusion that **when Veterans For Peace takes principled, public action, people join and stay.**

## Chapter Growth & Development

In 2025, Veterans For Peace chartered **seven new chapters**, demonstrating both geographic expansion and organizational vitality.

### New chapters formed:

- Easton, Maryland
- Boise, Idaho
- Berkshire County, Massachusetts
- Northern Virginia
- Northern Minnesota
- Las Vegas, Nevada
- Republic of Zambia (international)

### Additional chapter milestones:

- The Hawai'i Chapter was formally recognized as an **International Chapter**, implementing a 2024 resolution acknowledging the unique colonial history of the Hawaiian Islands.
- Chapter 159 in Oregon was renamed the **Henry Disney Memorial Chapter**.

## Looking Ahead

The Membership Committee will continue work in 2026 on:

- Supporting new and forming chapters with clearer guidance on bylaws and organizational structure
- Developing peer-support mechanisms for chapter organizers navigating challenges common in movement spaces
- Improving onboarding, chapter assignment, and pathways into campaign or committee work
- Strengthening renewal and retention tracking
- Continuing to address database and systems challenges

As militarism escalates and public awareness grows, VFP is positioned for continued membership growth. The committee's priority is to ensure that growth translates into durable movement power, strong chapters, and meaningful engagement.

### Appendix 2: *Refuse Illegal Order campaign.*

The VFP Executive Committee met earlier this week to discuss and approve a proposal for a comprehensive, multi-faceted *Refuse Illegal Orders* campaign, to include billboards, posters, flyers, press conferences, social media, web page, vigils outside bases, and direct outreach to military personnel. This was followed up by a well-attended and very productive Mobilizing meeting on Thursday, where we further developed and consolidated these plans. Illegal orders would include orders to fight in the illegal US war on Venezuela, orders to load weapons onto aircraft to be delivered to Israel while it continues its genocide in Palestine, and orders to deploy to US cities in support of racist ICE attacks or to suppress

peaceful protests. We even discussed trying to reach out to ICE agents, many of whom must be veterans and some of whom must certainly be questioning their mission.

Fortunately for us, the Billboard part of the campaign is already up and running. Thanks to Tarak Kauff, Ellen Davidson, Peace and Planet News, the Zinn Fund, Mike Tork, Jack Gilroy and Nick Mottern, billboards with *Refuse Illegal Orders* messaging are already up in New Orleans, Chicago, outside Fort Drum, New York, and going up soon in Tucson and Puerto Rico. Mike Tork can show and tell us more. We have a lot of work to do to make this a well-organized, holistic campaign that any VFP chapter can implement. We formed a small coordinating committee but will need more volunteer and staff assistance. We will welcome more volunteers to help put all the various pieces together.

#### **REFUSE ILLEGAL ORDERS CAMPAIGN proposal, Gerry Condoni:**

- 1. Billboards**
- 2. Posters/flyers**
- 3. GI Outreach, including Social Media and In-Person**
- 4. Publicity/Media**
  - Form Committee and Subcommittees
  - Work with VFP Communications Committee and staff
  - Media campaign - press releases, press conferences, social media
  - Resource Page on VFP website and/or independent website
  - A Volunteer Coordinator, OR Paid Coordinator when possible
  - A Basic Budget for starters, for literature, posters, travel and two or three billboards (15-20 K).
  - Cost-sharing and "buy-in" with local VFP chapters on billboard organizing
  - Designated spokespersons, including younger veterans, Conscientious Objectors, and GI resisters
  - Campaign messaging to include: NO Genocide in Palestine, NO ICE or Troops in our Streets, and NO War on Venezuela – in our press releases and interviews, and possibly on some billboards.
  - Fundraising to support this overall campaign – Some folks will be very excited about this and want to contribute.
  - Videos messages from GI resisters - Vietnam to present - to be aired on social media
  - Regular Reports and accountability to VFP Executive Director, Excom and Board
  - Use World BEYOND War's [successful billboard campaigns](#) as a model

Discussion, Gerry: with the new and ongoing wars (Venezuela, Palestine, Cuba, Iran, War in the streets, Greenland, etc) he thinks we need to turn this into a coordinated campaign, to include billboards for some, WBW has had a successful and self-sustaining program for a few years), and support for some billboards from National would be helpful though some chapters can support their own costs. There will be a meeting on Thursday to discuss these things, sort of an ad hoc Mobe Committee, and he would like to show up with a proposal and national support.

1. Billboards, Mike Tork: related that Tucson will have a press release when their billboard goes up on Jan 19 in I10. Gilroy at Fort Drum (3), New Orleans. Puerto Rico (Nick Mottern) Future locations San Diego,, Minneapolis, West Point. Columbus GA. So far funding has been PPN, Chapters, and Zinn. 911 Vets are also considering billboards (Minneapolis and New Orleans) Some with About Face. Billboard may not just be about illegal orders, but also ICE out of our Cities, but also possibly Venezuela.
2. Tarak and Ellen have designed some posters that could be used, 11x17 or 8.5 x 11. We also need flyers that have legal resources. For Billboard funding, Mike T we have used the Zinn fund, and we have made one grant and may make another, but hopes that the chapters should contribute.
3. We need to be clear and talk about what are illegal orders and why do people need to refuse them. We discussed the difference between the UCMJ and national and international law and that GIs need to understand those differences and the threats they represent before they take action. Susan and Gerry also pointed out that we should discuss.
4. Costs for flyers, printed on both sides, should be handled by chapters, though our slick tri-fold can be produced by National, but banners, posters and flyers. At the local level, chapters should seek out partners. Comm support: Hal Muskat has made initial contact with a professional media company, but we don't have much money for such niceties. MMC and Gerry will discuss more. Susan suggests we contact Ron Carver for his help. Also we can make some small videos to highlight the post-resistance lives of resisters. Fundraising: MMC: Finding ways to raise funds are important but we need to be careful not to deteriorate our organizational fundraising. We may also be able to get grants from foundations that support campaigns. There are many types of bill boards, which might involve different sizes, bus-stop signs. The website should have a legal and community resources page, and images of our flyers, posters and billboards. Also, in situ photos of the billboards. Chris can do videos and has greatly increased our social media presence.

**No War on Venezuela Coalition:** A very large new antiwar coalition has come together to organize mass protests against the US War on Venezuela. I have been representing Veterans For Peace on the organizing calls and have been recruited to join the coordinating committee. This is an ad hoc coalition. Typically the organizing calls have been joined by more than 50 people, representing many antiwar and anti-imperialist organizations. There is great unity and lots of experienced organizers are working together to make things happen. On the very same day of the US attack on Venezuela, there were protests in 110 US towns and cities. Right now the No War on Venezuela coalition is planning for a [Week of Action, Jan. 24-32, Mass Online Rally, Jan. 25](#)

These are just some of many protests and webinars that are going on to demand an end to US intervention in Venezuela and to free Venezuela's president, Nicolas Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, who is also a prominent leader of the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela.

**VFP Post-9/11 Caucus in Minneapolis** The Post-9/11 Caucus of Veterans For Peace has been organizing for a while now to deploy to New Orleans to join community defense from ICE attacks. But as Trump has now ordered over 2,000 ICE agents to Minneapolis, and things have really heated up there, the Caucus has now deployed to Minneapolis, where they are working with Minneapolis VFP and others to defend the Minneapolis community, which is currently under siege. Hopefully, we will hear from VFP members in Minneapolis during the Board meeting today.

*Gerry Condon, January 17, 2026*

**Appendix 3: PROPOSAL FROM TERRY LODGE:** Friends, I'm writing to seek your endorsement of a new lawsuit involvement for VFP.

I've been working with Taxpayers Against Genocide, a loose coalition of US taxpayers who work organizationally to hold US politicians accountable for their parts in abetting the Gaza genocide. Last spring, we filed a [gigantic complaint with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights](#), which is the human rights protective agency of the Organization of American States, a mutual aid treaty covering North and South America.

**Regarding the proposed lawsuit, a [Trump Executive Order](#) forbids any American from cooperating in any fashion with the judges, staff or prosecutors of the International Criminal Court, on pain of being sanctioned by the President, meaning literally that all of one's typical banking relationships would be destroyed -- no checking or savings, no credit cards, no new loan obligations. Several International Criminal Court judges, their prosecutors and associated staff are having to live under US sanctions for doing their jobs.**

Last summer, a couple of people living in Maine who are professional criminal researchers successfully sued for a court order forbidding the Trump administration from sanctioning them. They wanted to provide a great deal of evidence to the ICC to prosecute the dictatorial military regime in Myanmar for war crimes and human rights violations. Basically, the court ruled that it violates the First Amendment freedoms to seek redress from the government, and the right of association. I've attached the court order to this email.

TAG is planning to join up with DAWN (Democracy for the Arab World Now), founded by the journalist Jamal Khashoggi (who was murdered by the Saudi government) in a similar lawsuit to obtain a protective court order allowing them to turn over evidence to the ICC seeking prosecution of various US federal government officials (Congressional leaders), and also to make a criminal referral to the ICC to prefer charges against Microsoft and General Dynamics as accomplices to genocide under international law. DAWN is best known lately for pursuing a lawsuit trying to force the US State Department to obey and implement the Leahy Laws regarding arms sales and transfers to Israel.

DAWN and TAG want to file the new suit by the end of January. If a temporary restraining order can be quickly obtained, they would speedily hand over as much evidence as possible to the ICC prosecutor's

office. Even if the trial court is later reversed, the mission of making a formal criminal referral might be accomplished. Handing over volumes of evidence for the ICC Prosecutors to vet and sort out is the only way the prosecutor could even begin the work of prosecuting American politicians and corporations.

Knowing of VFP's "Merchants of Death" involvement and also of Jack's concentration on the war crimes of General Dynamics, I figure VFP might have authoritative citations and evidence on hand to connect not just General Dynamics or Microsoft to the genocide, but also prove complicity by other corporations. Hopefully, I could work with Nick, Jack and others to assemble dossiers on corporations that VFP would most like to see targeted. Because of time and volume constraints, that hit list should be limited to three or four corporations (Microsoft, GD and a couple or three other complicit corpses).

I'd love to represent VFP as a co plaintiff in the suit to get court ordered clearance to hand over the evidence. TAG and DAWN will have their own separate legal counsel. This suit -- to vindicate the basic right of Americans to request crimes be investigated and prosecuted -- might attract some significant media coverage for a change, given the Trump administration's evil hostility toward the IC Court and those of us who would "materially support" prosecutions against US politicians and War Machine CEOs.

#### **Appendix 4: 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:

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

#### **Appendix 5: VFP National Board Committees & Descriptions**

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

## **Descriptions:**

### **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 and Subcommittees**

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.

**Mobilization Committee:** Description under construction.

### **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 6: National Projects / Working Groups:**

- 1- **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
- 2- **Working Groups**
  - Be the Change Book Club
  - China Working Group
  - Nuclear Abolition
  - Labor Working Group
  - Homeless Veterans
  - Veterans for Inner Peace
  - Conscientious Resistance

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