



Veterans for Peace Chapter 27

Minutes of the Meeting 11 January 2004, VAMC, Minneapolis

Members Present: John Varone, President; Todd Erickson, VP; Wayne Whitman, Treasurer; Tom Chisholm, Secretary. Harold and Louise Nielsen, Jack Rossback, Jim Stienhagen, Tom Dooley, Doug Drews, Joe Johnson, Kim Doss-Smith, Art Marty, Vern Hall, Shiloh Fetzek and Chante Wolfe.

John Varone called the meeting to order at 1815 hours. The Statement of Purpose was read by Tom Dooley and the customary introductions were made..

AGENDA:

Approved.

MINUTES, DECEMBER

Not available

NEW BUSINESS:

Harold Nielsen proposed that letters be sent to all ill members expressing our concern with warm wishes for improvement. Sam Ross and Alden McCutcheon are currently on the sick call list. You might write or call them individually.

A recent request to use our address list was discussed and rejected.

Kim Doss-Smith, a psychologist, asked if the Chapter could offer a formal method to help members requiring psychological services. After discussion and advice of the members familiar with the legal implications it was clear that we could not offer those services despite the obvious need. Help would have to be offered by individual members without any VFP relation.

Special programs for the forthcoming year require early planning including Independence Day activities, Memorial Day, Armistice Day program and reservations at the cemetery, an annual informal meeting, participating in parades and protests, preventing parallel activities, coordinating with the Minnesota Alliance of Peace Makers, and informal gathering for mutual discussion of current events, book reviews, and writing.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

John Varone spoke of his dedication to VFP, his intention to expedite the meetings and his goals for the year. His biography is available on our web site at www.twincitiesVFP.org.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Wayne gave his usual detailed report and discussed a revision in the budget. Money must be transferred to the operating budget to send member dues to the National office. An additional \$600 was allocated for new office equipment. Motions to reallocate these dollars were made and passed without dissent. The motion to approve the report was made,

seconded and approved without dissent after a brief discussion.

STAFF REPORT:

Joe Johnson reported on gratifying sales from recent canoe venues and has scheduled a Canoe Event at Calhoun Square for 23-24-25 January. Join us, we band of brothers, meet the public and have fun selling tickets.

With extra help and new equipment plus an additional phone line with call waiting, efficiency in the office has accelerated. Communication with the outside world is approaching contemporary standards.

Help is needed to respond and thank new members and donors.

Until we can generate sufficient funds for a larger office, Joe has asked for help in rearranging the current cramped space. If someone has a suitable table or desk please contact the office.

Space, alternative offices at Sabathani were investigated by Harold Nielsen (see the December minutes) and Doug Drews. Doug examined and rejected other areas with his keen eye of a construction foreman. Offices elsewhere than at Sabathani were considered. If anyone knows of a suitable office with sufficient space at a reasonable price please call the office. Additional questions concerning the space problems were unanswered and the discussion was tabled. The problem remains, the search will continue.

NATIONAL VFP:

Board meeting this month in Florida. See the web site at www.veteransforpeace.org The national web site is very interesting. We should indicate their web site and our own to all who express interest in our organization. Veterans Days actions in various locations are present for your information including the peaceful conflict in Tallahassee, Florida. The national office has items for sale including caps etc. A motion was made to have NVFP use WALD, Working Assets Long Distance on telephone calls. The motion passed without dissent..

MEMBERSHIP:

415 as of end of 2003, 269 paid up for 2004 and more memberships arrive daily. Members were reminded to carry and distribute membership forms, and refer those interested to our web site and encourage new members to attend a meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Nomination Committee:

Bob Heberle reported that Todd Erickson will accept the nomination for VP, John Varone will accept the nomination for President, Wayne Wittman will continue to serve as Treasurer and Tom Chisholm will continue as Secretary if the membership approves. Toss your hats into the ring if you are interested in leading or helping to direct this chapter.

Newsletter Committee:

The editors of the quarterly newsletter are asked to attend the February meeting to discuss their editorial policies and the Spring issue due in March..

Iraq Water:

No current action.

Video:

Selling briskly at most venues. Generous donors receive one of the Videos, currently Loss of the Liberty.(There are three current books in print concerning the Liberty attack in 1967 and another video.).

Canoe and Fund Raising Committee:

Fund Raising: Certain products need replenishing since they have all been selling well.

Since t-shirts are rarely worn in the winter in this area, it was suggested that special emblems be created to sew on or stick on.

Tom Dooley suggested selling "dog tags" citing a reference to recovering dog tags in Viet Nam. It may be that we can find a stamping machine and make them ourselves and with a chain sell them at various functions as do the Legion with their Buddy Poppies.

Shiloh Fetzek attended a Grant Writing Seminar. She learned of multiple sources that offer grants for a variety of causes. She found few sources specifically directed toward peace organizations. Kim Doss-Smith will be in the office one day a week to assist in searching and writing grants.

The Fund Raising Letter is producing a liberal response. VFP thanks all of you who have responded thus far.

Canoe Events: Join the Band of Brothers at Calhoun Square on 30-31 Jan. and 1 Feb. Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon. Answer questions, recruit new members. Call the office!

Speakers Bureau:

We must expand our outreach particularly in schools. A discussion concerning contacting schools, school boards, principals and superintendents indicated certain diplomatic and legal facts plus the action necessary to speak to classes at various levels. If anyone has contacts with teachers and administrative personnel in their school districts we need your help in participating in classes offering our perspectives on war and putting Peace back into Patriotism. We must ask for time on the agendas of school board meetings.

SOA:

Ft. Benning trip was outstanding. See December minutes.

Web Site:

www.twincitiesvfp.org. Look at it, mark it and add your input, letters and comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made and approved at 2045 hours.



IF YOU WANT TO SAY THAT I WAS A DRUM MAJOR, SAY I WAS SAY THAT I WAS A DRUM MAJOR FOR JUSTICE. SAY THAT I WAS A DRUM MAJOR FOR PEACE. I WAS A DRUM MAJOR FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

— Martin Luther King, Jr. 1/15/29-4/4/68
Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta GA. 2/4/1968