



Veterans for Peace Chapter 27

Minutes of The Meeting, February 13, 2005, St. Stephens, 2123 Clinton Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55404

Members Present: Chante Wolf, Todd Erickson, Doug Drews, Joe Johnson, Shiloh Fetzek, Barry Riesch, Pat Downey, Leslie Rendle, Wilhelm Rendl, Tom Dooley, Jack Nies, Pat Reisinger, Vern Hall, David Nourse, Kim and Pat Doss-Smith, Tom Chisholm, Mara Pelecis, John Schmid. President John Varone and Secretary Bob Heberle were out of town.

VP Chante Wolf called the meeting to order at 6:05pm. We went around the table for introductions. David Nourse read the VFP Statement of Purpose.

Chante gave the following report on her activities: Doug Drews and Chante will be speaking on March 19th. Chante will be speaking at St. Catherines on Feb. 23rd. Chante is lining up speakers for White Bear Lake CATV spots on Feb. 23rd and Mar 9th. John Varone will speak on Feb. 23rd. Barry will talk about the Iraq Water Project on Mar 9th. Chante will be speaking at Hill-Murray on March 9th, 9:30-11am. Chante will be on a panel and participate in a workshop at the St. Patricks Catholic Church in Edina.

Wayne Wittman mentioned that he and others will conduct a workshop called, "Welcome home to our Gulf War veterans" at the May 2nd Senior Federation meeting at the Earle Brown Center in Brooklyn Center.

Chante talked about the Coalition for Alternatives to Military Service (CAMS). CAMS has monthly Counter Recruitment meetings at the Quaker Twin Cities Friends Meeting place, 1725 Grand Ave, Saint Paul, MN. Contact: Chante Wolf, chantewolf7@hotmail.com. The next meeting is March 19th at 1030am. Jack Rossbach represented CAMS at a recent talk at Minneapolis South High School.

Todd Erickson gave the Treasurer report. Todd said that the \$6,326.69 check made to Winds For Peace was cashed by Harold Nielson, which reflected the higher expense amount. Wayne made a motion to approve the report. Pat Downey seconded it. Motion was approved.

1. Balances as of 01-01-05 were \$20,180.03
2. Balances as of 01-31-05 are \$12,737.09
3. For the month of Jan., 2005: Income was \$3,761.27. Expenses were \$11,208.55. Net Income was (\$7,447.28).

Todd handed out an article he wrote about Central America Free Trade of the Americas and Plan Columbia and encouraged people to lobby the US congress. Todd mentioned that \$700 of the \$2,000 loan has been advanced to Red Wing VFP #115 for the purposes of advance publicity of the Jul 8-10 July Retreat. The plan is to try and bring Minnesota and Wisconsin VFP chapters together to make this part of regional gathering to strategize about common goals.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership Coordinator Wayne Wittman gave the membership report. Wayne sent out a Membership Renewal Reminder letter out to 158 members on February 4th.

STAFF REPORT:

VFP #27 Office Coordinator Shiloh Fetzek talked about the new member letter that she is working on. Shiloh talked about our system for addressing thank you notes. Members interested in helping out with thank you notes, should contact the office. We need to update our thank you cards to reflect our new address. Shiloh mentioned that a virus is negatively affecting the computer system. Shiloh said that Francis Ford, at 651-793-6437, is working on a new project and wants letter or memories from veterans. The Monthly membership letter was sent out in the first week of February. Shiloh helped Tom Dooley with stuffing envelopes. Shiloh thought more volunteers should help Tom Dooley out with this effort.

VFP #27 Outreach Coordinator Joe Johnson, said the 5 Corners music benefit raised \$850 for VFP #27. Todd Erickson made a motion to send the organizer of this benefit a thank you note along with a one year membership to VFP #27. Joe said the Feb. Canoe Boat Show was cancelled this year. Joe, Tom Chisholm, and Jack Rossbach tabled at Anoka-Ramsey Community College during Military Recruitment. The military failed to show up. Joe talked about the Augsburg Peace Prize Festival and Peace Prize Forum (two events) held at the Augsburg college, Feb 10-12. \$400 was raised through product sales at the Forum and \$50 at the Festival. Joe said the Minnesota Council for the Social Studies Spring Conference is March 3-4, 2005 at the Thunderbird Convention Center/Ramada Inn in Bloomington, Minnesota.

Leslie Reindl from Women's International League for Peace and Freedom <http://www.wilpf.org> spoke about WILPF's proposal to welcome returning veterans home by inviting them to a rural retreat to talk help them heal from their experiences. WILPF is looking to VFP to help with this venture. Barry Riesch and others will work with Leslie on this project.

Guest Film Maker, Mara Pelecis (mara@documentarymedia.net) talked about her efforts in interviewing veterans on a film she is producing called, "Healing after War." Her work can be seen on a website soon to be developed at <http://www.ptsd.healing.net>.

Kim said there were 33 people who participated January, 2005 all day workshop on counseling those who refuse to fight and 50 at the Feb 12th, 2005 workshop. All participants have signed up as volunteers. Kim talked about having regular sessions at the VFP #27 office in order to talk to draft age people. Kim said 33 people have already pre-registered for the Spring workshop that will be held in northern MN. Kim said that Every Church a Peach Church and Gary Kohls of Duluth VFP chapter will assist in this workshop. Kim attended the Every Church a Peach Church Conference in Dallas, TX where she and a north Dallas VFP chapter conducted a workshop on Counter Recruitment and Conscientious Objectors. Kim plans to train interns to help VFP #27 with the work she is doing.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Barry Riesch gave his Fundraising Cmte report. Barry is looking for additional venues like Calhoun Square for canoe raffle ticket/product sales. Barry talked about the April 9th Annual VFP #27 meeting that will be held at St Stephens at 7pm. USMC Sargent Jimmy Massey will be the guest speaker. Other events are being planned to take advantage of Jimmy Massey's appearance in the twin cities. Barry requested help to promote events.

IRAQ WATER PROJECT

Barry reported on the Iraq Water Project. The Fallujah plant that has been repaired twice by the Iraq Water Project is intact but is not running after the city was severely bombed by the US military forces. The Iraq Water Project has \$10,000 in their account and are looking to publicize its efforts to provide clean water to Iraq.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Pat Downey gave a Newsletter Cmte report. Pat said the articles for next newsletter are in the hands of Karla Caspari. Other Newsletter deadlines are: Thu, Feb 25: Proof-reading, Wed, Mar 2: to printer, Mon, Mar 7: printer to mailer, Thu, Mar 10: mailer to P.O. The Newsletter Cmte agreed at the Jan Newsletter Cmte meeting that the Fundraising Cmte would handle putting together an insert into the Newsletter highlighting product information and other fundraising ideas. Todd is responsible for the insert.

Joe talked about Frank Fuller's visit to the Jan 26th Newsletter Cmte to give suggestions. His presence was well received. Joe Johnson made a motion to provide Frank Fuller with a \$65 stipend. Pat Downey seconded it. The motion was amended to include a 1 year Associate Membership to VFP #27. The Amendment and Motion passed.

Tom Dooley gave a report. Tom suggested using those pre-paid envelopes that people receive in the mail and filling them with propaganda and sending them back. For example, Tom copied the picture of Jesus Christ in the size of a baseball card and wrote the message, "I want you to buy less and live more ." Tom provided book recommendations, some clever comic strips, and some slogans to write on postage paid/free postcard mailings. Tom has the slogan, "War is Insanity" on his check blanks. Tom's column, "No Need for Slaves, No Room For Masters" in the "New Unionist" is a well read column by peacemakers.

Barry talked about the Mar 19 March and Rally and the Mar 20 Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW.net) national meeting in Lafayette, NC - the town of Fort Bragg. VFP #27 is organizing travel to these events. We have two vans scheduled to travel to North Carolina.

Todd talked about the success of E-Bay and encouraged members to utilize this fundraising tool. Todd talked about office needs (DVD player, Copy machine, more shelves, tall stand for TV) and misc. needs for John Varone (two large 22' to 26' wagon wheels for bldg project). Dave Nourse offered to donate a DVD player for the VFP #27 office.

Shiloh expressed interest in getting VFP #27 chapter to have a meeting to about the vision/goals aspect of VFP #27. Barry talked about having the monthly membership meeting during a week night versus Sunday night. No action was taken. Tom Chisholm talked about Sam Ross's idea of building a Thermometer to track the costs of war. Tom Chisholm said that this was his last meeting at VFP #27 because of his move to Wisconsin. Thanks was given to Tom for his dedicated service to our chapter as the VFP #27 Secretary.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm

Respectfully Submitted by VFP #27 Treasurer Todd Erickson