



Veterans for Peace Chapter 27

Minutes of The Meeting, 13 April 2003, VAMC, Minneapolis

MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Dews, Vern Hall, Wayne Wittman, Joe Johnson, Tom Chisholm, Jim Steinhagen, Kim Doss Smith, Dwight Scarbrough, Harold and Louise Nelson, Jim Breslain, Michael Andregg, Chante Wolfe, Paul Schaefer, Barry Riesch, Dwight Scarbrough, Tom Dooley, Vela Gira and Dave Cooley.

Doug Dews opened the meeting at 1830 and Wayne Wittman read the *Statement of Purpose*, even more meaningful now than ever. Introductions followed as usual.

BUSINESS MEETING:

Mr. Scarbrough pointed out that his place of employment was inaccurate. The minutes, in a new format created by Karla Caspari, were approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Scarbrough demonstrated several pertinent videos he has generously copied including Pete Stegers review of the Iraq History and Crisis and Urban Warriors.

Both he and Mr. Andregg called attention to the St. Paul Bill of Rights Committee and asked for VFP endorsement. Motion to endorse passed unanimously.

VFP presence at Memorial Day activities at Harriet Island in St. Paul was discussed regarding selling Coca Cola. VFP cannot be identified with that emblem of corporate hegemony. Participating at the event was considered.

Tom Dooley urged buying CitGo gasoline since it comes from Venezuela.

Mr. Vela reminded us that Anti War Poetry has been and will be offered at the Black Dog Cafe in Old Town St. Paul near Mears Park.

Paul Schaefer and Kim Doss Smith reported increasingly hostile confrontations at weekly Peace Protests and gave graphic examples. Police are not neutral.

The Independence Day Retreat will resume this summer. It will be held at Paul Schaefer's Ranch in Hager City, Wisconsin. Paul generously offered his accommodations. A motion to approve was passed without dissent and with gratitude to Paul from the members. Watch for announcements. See announcements for many forthcoming events.

VFP Chapter 27 web site: Karla Caspari is designing our new web site. The domain name is www.twincitiesVFP.org. Tune in soon!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Regular meeting at the Resource Center. A variety of subjects were discussed for presentation at the April meeting. See committee Reports.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The balance sheet was passed around, explained by Mr. Wittman and approved unanimously. We remain solvent.

STAFF REPORT: Joe Johnson reported that the computer is working well and that an updated membership list is being produced. Shiloh is on sabbatical in Europe for three months. A replacement, Melissa, is working. An additional Intern is needed to handle the increasing load in the office. Harold Nielsen made a motion to retain a second Intern on Shiloh's return at \$10.00 an hour. The motion was discussed and passed without dissent.

NATIONAL VFP:

Next board meeting in May. The annual meeting is set for 8-10 August in San Francisco. The Board is considering charging President Bush with violating the War Powers Act of the Constitution. There was no report about the elections in El Salvador by the observers.

MEMBERSHIP: New member David Cooley attended the meeting. See fund raising.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SOA: One bus will be rented again for the Protest at Ft. Benning on 20-22 November. The fare will be \$200.00 There is an additional cost for rooms at the motel. Mr. Wittman explained that the increased cost will insure an excellent margin for a small profit.

FUND RAISING:

Buttons and other items are selling well and sometimes better than canoe tickets at some events. A Fund Raising Letter will be mailed soon together with a financial statement explaining our fiscal health and requirements. Thank You Letters must acknowledge the generosity of the donors timely and

universally. Help will be needed to respond to the donors. The new sign, Liberate Iraq -Bring the Troops Home, have produced much interest and income. More are available from Barry and Tom Dooley. Nearly 2000 have been sold. David Cooley recently joined VFP. He is an artist and has offered to reproduce a painting of flowers, poppies or roses with an appropriate decal indicating VFP. He demonstrated a beautiful example of his artistry. A motion was made and passed to accept his donation, his creative idea and pay for the posters that will be made from the original.

VIDEO COMMITTEE:

Mr. Nielsen wants a monthly list of sales for an accurate accounting. He suggested placing an add in the National VFP newsletter offering our videos for sale with each edition. Tom Chisholm will call the NVFP. A motion was made to support Mr. Nielsen's proposed purchasing of a new video describing certain unsavory aspects of the recent Afghan Incursion. The motion passed.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

Chante reported that the presses are ready to role for the Spring Edition.

IRAQ COMMITTEE:

Barry supports joining with other humanitarians groups to continue the water projects and send observers to monitor the evolution of Iraqi independence and the restoration of their oil for the Iraqi people rather than for United States companies.

SPEAKER'S BUREAU:

Assignments will made to a wider group of volunteers. Please indicate your interest in speaking. Speakers have been busy in many locations; schools, churches, forums, colleges and universities. We participated in a two day War Conference at Inver Hills Community College on 9-10 April. Students and faculty were participants, papers, poems and art were written and discussed and recited. Christopher Hedges, a journalist whose exposure to various wars finally provoked acute aversion culminated in his book, "War, The Force That Gives Us Meaning". Jim Steinhagen suggested sending a letter of commendation and plaque to the college for their unusual effort in producing the symposium in the heat of considerable opposition during the climax of the Iraq II. In the future, Chante will coordinate speaking assignments.

CANOE: Calhoun Sq.: March 24-27, April 25-27, May 23-25 and 13-15 June. Cinco de Mayo on Concord Ave in St. Paul 5/2, St. Anthony Park 5/31, Grand Ave. 6/1. The drawing, 6/20, will be at the Day by Day Cafe in St. Paul. Mr. Nielsen will built a better drum mixer for the coupons. He will be the drum major. A motion to finance the material was approved. Put your mouth where your money is — help sell tickets and answer inquires at all the canoes venues. We need your voices and courage for peace.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 2130 hours.