



## Veterans for Peace Chapter 27

Minutes of the Meeting 18 April 2004, VAMC, Minneapolis

Members Present: Harold and Louise Nielsen, Bob Heberle, Barry Riesch, Chante Wolfe, Paul Schaefer, Lennie Anderson, Shiloh Fetzek, Vern Hall, Tom Chisholm and Don Bossert of Minneapolis. We welcomed Don to the meeting. He is a Viet Nam Veteran.

The meeting was called to order by John Varone, President, at 1805 hours. Todd Erickson, VP, read the Statement of Purpose.

### MINUTES, MARCH

A motion was not included: to conduct a major donor program. An anonymous donor will contribute \$ 1000.00 if four additional donors will match that donation.

### OLD BUSINESS:

The Retreat planners have offered a tentative schedule for the weekend of 9-10-11 July at Paul Schaefer's Plantation off US 63 in Wisconsin across the Mississippi from Red Wing. Lennie Anderson and the Peace Group in Red wing will expedite setting up. Speakers and workshops have been selected, considered, rejected and temporally replaced as planning continues. Crews are needed to set up, bring food, and clean up. A musical group has been contracted. There will be an admission fee of about \$25.00 to help cover the expenses: tents, food, speakers, music, transportation etc. Don't hesitate to make suggestions. Set aside that weekend and bring your friends and enemies. When the schedule of events is definite you will be informed.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Guest speaker Mr. Dan McNeil discussed The Peace Maker Foundation. His background in Fund Raising and charitable work in Siberia and training at the MLK Center in Atlanta are talents we could use in conjunction with Chante's Peace Sites work. His foundation allocates money to schools at all levels for peace education, nonviolence and conflict resolution. They provide grants of \$500--\$1000.00. They are catalysts rather than teachers. There are 3000 schools in Minnesota and nearly one million students. Exactly like VFP, he believes the Peace is Possible and that Peace is worth all the effort, time and money. His foundation will raise \$35,000.00 by July 31st. Twenty six school have applied for money from the Foundation. Dan knows how to raise money and applies it at the most important level. His is a worthy and parallel effort that we should support in unison or individually.

### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:

See minutes of previous months. No recent meeting.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The weather on 20 March was not complimentary to the otherwise successful Protest. John Varone's speech was well received. He read a brief letter of congratulations and support.

See the web site.

John has made a coffin to be carried in the May Day parade. In respect to the Battle Dead of this outrageous conflict, it will be carried with decorum and reverence. Members are urged to attend in force, wearing VFP shirts and caps. Caps will be provided if you do not have one. A Bagpiper may lead our unit.

Callers were assigned to call all members, urging them to attend the May Day Parade on Sunday, 2 May. Our presence and message increases in urgency as the quicksand of Iraq and the Middle East continues to claim its victims, the improvident Coalition and the Iraqis.

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Shiloh distributed the report done well as usual by Wayne Wittman. Wayne recently traveled again to El Salvador with several VFPs members to monitor another election. He was absent because of the NVP meeting. After a brief discussion the report was accepted but not without a few comments by Mr. Nielsen regarding the Accounting Program now loaded into the new computer and ready for use. A motion was made to provide \$ 500.00 to hire an accountant familiar with the Quick Books program to set up and teach one of us how to use the program. The money will come from the Wings of Peace Grant, provided the we meet the Grants specifications. The motion passed. She has been attempting to reconcile some discrepancies in the checking account. but she has other duties.

### STAFF REPORT:

Joe Johnson was still busy at Calhoun Square: Shiloh continues to work on finding Grantors and preparing Grant applications. Mr. Nielsen was dissatisfied with the progress made regarding a particular Foundation he knows well. Still, Shiloh and Kim will keep plugging away as Shiloh continues her duties in the office. See also Treasurer's Report.

Money will be allocated for the annual MEA in October. The effort to meet teachers at that event, the investment in time, money and energy does not seem to be reaping the harvest anticipated. Nonetheless, the exposure is very important. We will continue to attend, speaking, waging peace and offering our solutions to the current crisis. Harold Nielson made a motion that VFP #27 purchase another canoe so that we have two canoes to take advantage of two fund-raising events at once. Todd Erickson seconded it. Discussion followed. The motion passed.

Joe Johnson plans to schedule the Canoe Raffle Sales at Calhoun once a month in April, May, and June. Joe said that he will get information about VFP #27 obtaining a booth at the MN State Fair. Joe complimented Shiloh's work in making the VFP #27 office run in an organized fashion. Joe plans to send out 25 raffle tickets out to all VFP #27 members in the near future.

#### **NATIONAL VFP:**

Bob and Barry reported on the recent meeting: See the web site especially for the National Convention in Boston, July 21-24 at Emerson College. Great Speakers including Noam Chomsky. Draft resolutions, nominate members for awards, draft your churches into the Peace Movement. Ask them to remember the dead and wounded of all wars, particularly this conflict on Memorial Day. Efforts to organize another March on Washington are evolving. Woody Powell, our most efficient Executive Secretary is considering resigning. Can he be replaced? National Membership is increasing. How can we accelerate growth?

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**CANOE AND FUNDRAISING:** See above regarding Grants. Calhoun Square has been sold. We may not be able to display the Canoe and sell tickets there. Half the canoe sales are/were generated from that lucrative location. We must find a replacement and/or increase the venues. Once again, the membership is asked not only to help at the Canoe events but to work diligently to locate Fairs and similar events where we can engage the public.

Cinco de Mayo on Concord Avenue in St., Paul across the river is scheduled for Saturday, 8 May!! Be there, join the crowd, have fun and Wage Peace! St. Anthony Park Fair will follow quickly on Saturday June 5th in addition to Grand Old Days in St. Paul on Sunday, June 6th.

Peace is becoming Patriotic. Questioning is less intimidating for the bland that have been led by the blind. Help remove more blinders.

#### **NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:**

Will be mailed in a few days.

#### **WEB SITE:**

[www.twincitiesVFP.org](http://www.twincitiesVFP.org). Better all the time. Check those resources and send them to others, the blind, the bland and the bastards.

#### **IRAQ WATER PROJECT:**

Barry reports that efforts are continuing to renew VFP efforts as soon as possible.

**SPEAKERS BUREAU:** No report this month.

#### **MEMBERSHIP:**

Todd and Shiloh report that membership is rising and the response to letters is gratifying. Letters of thanks go out regularly to donors but letters must respond immediately to new members as well.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was gavelled closed at 2020 hours.

**WOE TO THOSE WHO ADD HOUSE TO HOUSE AND JOIN FIELD TO FIELD UNTIL EVERYTHING BELONGS TO THEM AND THEY ALONE DWELL ON THE LAND.**