



## Veterans for Peace Chapter 27

Minutes of The Meeting, Sunday, August 8, 2004, VAMC, Minneapolis

Members Present: John Varone, Wayne Wittman, Harold Nielsen, Jim Steinhagen, Kim Doss Smith, Chante Wolfe, Art Marty, Pat and Jennie Downey, Doug Drews, Joe Johnson, Shiloh Fetzek, Barry Riesch, Steve and Josh McKeown.

John Varone called the meeting to order at 1815 hours. The Statement of Purpose was read by Chante Wolfe..

### AGENDA:

Non specific.

### MINUTES, JUNE:

The minutes of the June meeting were read by the Secretary and approved with a few useful comments. The Retreat Program at Paul Schaefer's farm, 8-10 July, were appended to the minutes. Because of the Retreat we did not have a meeting in July. See commentary in the summer newsletter. The minutes were accepted.

### NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Chante and Kim to support feminine bonding efforts using Indian Sweat Lodge ceremonies. There will be little or no cost. It was approved without dissent.

A Counter Recruitment program will be offered by Friends and Every Church a Peace Church at Trinity Lutheran in Mpls. on Saturday 29 September. A motion was made by Kim to support the program and donate \$20 for mailings. The motion was approved without dissent.

No action was taken regarding the March for Peace proposed by Michael Orange. See the Summer Newsletter.

Wayne Wittman made a motion that VPF # 27 support and contribute to persons monitoring the Recall Referendum election in Venezuela regarding President Hugo Chavez on 15 August.. A detailed records of contributions will be made and the money forwarded to Mr. Bob Brandel, 345 16th Ave. N. Hopkins, MN 55343-7347. The motion was sustained.

**Arlington West:** This 30 minute movie produced by a California Chapter of VFP displays of a virtual cemetery on a sandy beach on the Pacific coast. There are interviews with Iraqi veterans, next of kin, causal observers and critics of the project as well as supporters. Some members felt the video was a powerful and critical statement on the Iraq war and were in general favorably disposed to the theme and presentation. A decision to buy the video for resale was referred to the video committee, particularly Harold Nielsen.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The Chanhassen Independence Parade was a success for VFP. Awarded third place for Patriotism. Only one negative

gesture.

Support the Troops Signs sold from John Varone's garage equals \$260. He will begin selling on E-bay. A meeting will be arranged with Vets for Kerry with emphasize on Peace issues.

The retreat was very successful. There is a shortfall of \$500. Musical entertainment was a bit expensive.

### TREASURER'S REPORT AND BUDGET FOR 2005:

The report was generated by both Wayne Wittman and Shiloh Fetzek with the new Quickbook program. Mr. Nielsen has provided funds for training the staff in the Quickbook program. An additional amount will be provided for training by another member until the program can be learned and accessed by subsequent financial officers or accountants. A record of money used from the Winds of Peace Grant was offered for review.

Wayne offered the budget for 2004, approximately the same as the current year-\$83,000. Our net worth including permanently restricted funds is about \$10,350. A motion to accept the budget was made, discussed and finally accepted after the usual and oft repeated discussion of our precarious finances, expenses and the rabbit warren office. Excess paper and records will be removed and stored elsewhere very soon.

### STAFF/OFFICE REPORT:

Joe Johnson wonders where we can find a larger office at modest rent. We all wonder. Barry has a lead. This is a vital and ancient problem that refuses to disappear. If it is not solved, VFP may disappear. Anyone listening?

Shiloh is not an Intern, she is vital to VFP and is now a coordinator with Joe. The President has outlined specific duties and hours for the office staff. Volunteers are also needed to improve the function of the office and respond to increasing inquires from interested people including the media. With the illness of Tom Dooley, the monthly minutes and announcements have not been mailed. This must be remedied. It requires several hours of volunteer help.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Membership:** 398. Twenty two new members including Iraqi Vets!! Barry circulated a tentative letter for distribution to the members asking them to indicate their interest and degree of participation. New members should receive a packet indicating our objectives, activities, meetings and social functions. New members should indicate committee assignments they prefer. Social interaction is a serious deficiency in this Chapter.

**Fundraising, Merchandise and Canoe:** Two canoes have been purchased. That will require considerable more time, effort, transport, personnel and venues to sell raffle tickets. Sales at the National Convention were satisfactory.

Where our products are made, by whom and the price during this era of outsourcing, as well as providing jobs within and outside of the US, led to an interesting discussion of where we should buy the products we sell. The committee considered these questions and will try to buy only products made in the US or by workers paid fair wages in foreign countries. A cap made in China was not acceptable to at least one buyer. The 2004-5 canoes have been brought to venues at White Bear Lake, and Pride festivals. We will be selling tickets in Chisago City on 28-29 August and in Red Wing and Northfield this fall. Anyone that knows of Country Fairs or other late summer or autumn events should notify Joe Johnson.

**Speakers Bureau:** Chante reported the new brochures are at the printers. The Perpich Arts School sent a letter of thanks for our participation.

**Newsletter:** Copies of the summer letter were available at the meeting and have been mailed. Excellent edition. No letters to the editor thus far. If you have an article, send it to the committee or the VFP office. See the Masthead in the Newsletter. A wider representation of the membership is welcome. Meanwhile, read the local papers and respond frequently to articles you applaud or contest.

**Iraq Water Project:** Barry reported that VFP with the organization, Life for Relief and Development are working in Iraq, particularly in Falluja repairing again the water system VFP helped to install long prior to the invasion of March 2003.

#### **NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT:**

Time did not permit a detailed report. Jim Steinhagen stated that it was the best convention he has attended. Barry was equally enthusiastic regarding the old colonial city, its history as well as the speakers and participation by the members. Barry circulated a copy of the Boston Globe wherein he was interviewed with other members of VFP during the Democratic Convention particularly regarding veterans and Senator Kerry.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 2130 hours.

**ONLY MEN WHO CONFUSE THEMSELVES WITH GOD  
PRETEND TO KNOW THE EXACT ROAD TO THE PROMISED LAND  
— ADLAI STEVENSON.**

