



Veterans for Peace Chapter 27

Minutes of The Meeting, 12 October 2003, VAMC, Minneapolis

Members Present: Shiloh Setzet, Tom Dooley, Wayne Wittman, Tom Chisholm, Todd Erickson, Art Marty, Vernon Hall, Bob Heberle and Chante Wolfe.

The meeting was called to order by the acting President, Chante Wolfe at 1815 hours. Shiloh Setzet, the office Intern, read the Statement of Purpose. The amendment to the statement proposed by the National office was added: We are advocates for veterans and victims of war. All members introduced themselves with a brief statement of former duty in the armed forces of the US.

AGENDA:

Approved.

MINUTES, SEPTEMBER:

Read, commented upon and approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

We are indebted to Lee Lansing of Lansing Hardware in Northfield for providing us space for the canoe on his property during Jesse James Days. A letter of gratitude will be sent to him and a subscription to Mother Jones.

The MN Alliance of Peace Makers requests our endorsement of the current movement to impeach Bush and his Cabinet. After a discussion of the political implications a motion was made to endorse the educational aspects of the process and the merits of Ramsey Clark's articles of impeachment. The motion was passed. See www.votetoimpeach.org

Bob Heberle joined forty others at Sen. Dayton's office on 9 October urging him to vote against additional funds for the Iraq quagmire and vote yes to support the troops by returning them home. A similar group brought the same message to Sen. Coleman's office. Bob and Jim Steinhagen met two fans of the current President during his recent visit. One young woman was unaware of the Land Mine Treaty. Robert and James took a few minutes to educate her.

The Powderhorn Evening of discussion concerning the Middle East was well attended and fruitful. A wife and daughter of a husband and father in Iraq with the 142nd Engineering Battalion is campaigning to return them to Minnesota. Click on www.bringhomethe142.org. The Powderhorn event will be repeated on 7 November. Call the office or Chante and click on www.twincitiesVFP27.com A motion was made by

Bob Heberle recommending that VFP # 27 send a letter of commendation to Colleen Rowley for her rebuttal regarding Attorney General Ashcroft and his recent visit to the Twin cities supporting the Patriot Acts I and II. Her article was published in the Sunday 12 October edition of the Star Tribune. The motion passed. Bob Heberle will write the letter.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Wayne Wittman went over the report briefly and pointed out an operating deficit of \$7371. The figure does not include restricted funds and is not a sign of disaster

STAFF REPORT:

Shiloh reported on the Community Solution Fund. We have been invited to be members with the requirement that we donate thirty hours a year. A motion was made to apply for membership. A non discriminating clause is necessary for membership and was included.

Winds of Peace, a philanthropic foundation awarded VFP # 27 a Grant of \$25,000.00. The money will be used for office equipment and salaries, including contemporary computing systems with communication applications. Chante Wolfe will be employed one full day each week to supervise that aspect of the office and will emphasis education programs of VFP. This is a major improvement in Chapter operations expediting communication and improving our presence in the community and nation.

NATIONAL VFP:

Election for new officers is forthcoming. Ballots will be sent only to paid up members. The next board meeting is scheduled for January in Tampa, Florida.

MEMBERSHIP:

354 A generous figure not apparent by attendance at regular meetings and special projects.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

No significant action. Appending the session to the regular monthly meeting was proposed but action was not completed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Newsletter Committee:

Do not hesitate to write for the Newsletter. Advertising for videos and merchandise in the Newsletter is not yielding adequate responses to the 2300 that receive the letter. It was suggested that items for sale be added to our web site: www.twincitiesVFP27.com

Video:

Hidden in Plain Sight is selling well. No report on Liberty.

Speakers Bureau:

New brochures are still forthcoming. We will be represented as usual at the Minnesota teachers convention, MEA, this Thursday, 16 October. That exposure is very important for disseminating our efforts for Peace and Nonviolence in the schools across the State. Several member were part of a History Class at the University recently and found the students eager to listen to Veterans. The class will continue. Call Chante Wolfe if you want to participate or attend the class. Tom Chisholm was part of an effort by students at North Hennepin Community College to spread the message of peace. A video presentation of a recent speech by Arundhati (R-en-dot-t) Roy, in Sante Fe, NM was the focal point. She is a well known Indian antinuclear and Peace activist opposed to the proliferation in India and the US.

Note Bene: If you wish to participate in the Speakers Bureau please call the office, Chante Wolfe or the Secretary. Team speaking and teaching is very effective, offering a variety of information and stories.

Canoe and Fund Raising Committee:

Red Wing on 11/12 October brought in \$1600 from a receptive, interested spectrum of gamblers despite rain on Saturday followed by blue skies on Sunday. Calhoun Square: 17-19 October, Thanksgiving weekend and the weekend preceding Christmas. Join us on the friendly Picket Line for Peace and meet the increasing voices of concern and dissent. Preempted by the Twins playoff game, the St., Anthony event was thin.

SOA:

The bus is full! Additional six passenger vans will probably be arranged for those interested as was done last year. Call the office for information. Arranging an additional bus was not recommended.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE:

The current officers and Bob Heberle will be recommending candidates and looking for those interested in holding positions for 2004. Call the office please and offer your input and fresh ideas.

ADJOURNMENT:

The friendly evening of discussion and ideas concluded at 2000 hours.

"IF BUSH IS LOOKING FOR WADS, TELL HIM TO GO TO EDINA!"

Marvin Davidoff, our persistent man of peace and pragmatism 10/13/03

