



Veterans for Peace Chapter 27

Minutes of The Meeting, Sunday, 9 November 2003, VAMC, Minneapolis

Members Present: Doug Drews, Wayne Wittman, Tom Chisholm, Vern Hall, Bob Heberle, Jim Steinhagen, Art Marty, Chante Wolfe, Tom Dooley, Harold and Louise Nielsen, Kim Dodd-Smith Alden and Margaret McCutcheon, Pete Lawson, Todd Erickson and John Varone.

Doug Drews called the meeting to order at 1815 hours. Pete Lawson, USA 1960-63, read the Statement of Purpose. Arlen McCutcheon, USN WW II and his wife Margaret from Kenyon were welcomed. Old and new members introduced themselves de rigueur.

AGENDA:

Approved.

MINUTES, OCTOBER:

Approved with the addition of Todd Erickson's name to the nomination committee. Web site correction: www.twincitiesVFP.org, not twincitiesvfp27

NEW BUSINESS:

Armistice Day Ceremony: We were denied access to the central flag pole at the entrance of the Ft. Snelling Veterans Cemetery. Reservations were not made in 2002. Parking was cited as the problem. We were assigned Shelter # 3 in the southeast section. The program was outlined including music and words by John Varone with his guitar. He will furnish the microphone and speakers. The bells will be the central part of the theme of Armistice Day as usual. To direct traffic and internal communication at the ceremony and other functions, a motion was made to purchase Walki Talkies. Tom Dooley volunteered to purchase a sturdy system. The motion was approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Wayne Wittman revised the budget to reflect the recent Winds of Peace Grant of \$25,000.00. Four hundred twenty-five dollars was moved from the encumbered fund to the operating budget. A motion to approve was made and approved. A motion to accept the new budget was made and approved.

STAFF REPORT:

The office is staffed five days a week from 0900 to 1700. Shiloh in the mornings and Joe in the afternoon. Chante Wolfe is there also one day a week working on her projects. Thank You Letters have been and are being sent regularly by Shiloh. To correct a long and persistent problem Harold Nielsen strongly moved that the office have a second phone line, call waiting and a fax machine. After some discussion the obvious was recognized by all and the motion passed. Joe

Johnson well make immediate inquires of cost and money will not be appropriated from the recent grant.

NATIONAL VFP:

Ballots have been mailed to all paid National Members. Twelve well qualified members from across the US are running for six positions. Ballots must be returned by 24 November. The 2004 National meeting is scheduled for historical and cultural Boston, home of schools, patriot, priests and poets. The 2005 location must be considered sooner than later. Tom Dooley stated that Sen. Rangle and similar high profile veterans should be invited to be a members of VFP to increase our visibility. Bob Heberle stated that Sen. Kerry would be questionable.

MEMBERSHIP:

350 paid.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Nomination Committee:

Bob Heberle reported that Todd Erickson will accept the nomination for VP, John Varone will accept the nomination for President, Wayne Wittman will continue to serve as Treasurer and Tom Chisholm will continue as Secretary if the membership approves. Toss your hats into the ring if you are interested in leading or helping to direct this chapter.

Newsletter Committee:

Send your articles in now!! The deadline is 21 November but articles may be submitted anytime, if not for the winter issue, then for future issues.

Video:

Harold Nielsen purchased 40 copies of The Media in Time of War produced by Democracy Now. We will sell them for a modest price. The new video of the McDonald Sisters and the SOA video, Hidden in Plain Sight will be shown at the Bell Museum theater this month. Harold also bought books for distribution and sale concerning the Environment: Plan B by Lester Brown.

Canoe and Fund Raising Committee:

Merchandise and Canoe: A fund raising letter will be in the mail very soon. Please respond generously, support our activities, cancel the deficit and help pay for the merchandise sold at various venues including the recent Minnesota Teachers Association. Joe Johnson and crew interacted with teachers from around the Minnesota at the annual MEA in October and generated \$1000.00 in sales of videos, buttons, T-shirts as well as distributing our literature and Speaker's Bureau information. We still have at least 920 signs: Support Our Troops, Bring Them Home. More than ever in the deepening and shifting sands of Mesopotamia, we must help dig them out.

The Canoe will be at Calhoun Square for the post thanksgiving weekend as well as the weekend prior to Christmas. Not only do these weekends increase our visibility and promote Peace as we speak to the hundreds of people, but with your help we can sell a few thousand tickets. The hours: 1100-2200 Friday and Saturdays, 1100-1800 on Sundays.

Speakers Bureau:

Chante will be in the office one day a week generating opportunities for VFP to speak including in particular-schools at all levels. She is working on a new edition of the brochure and a data base of activities. Several members have been active recently. Harold Nielsen again insisted that we must seek if nor demand honorariums. Time, distance, fuel and talent should be repaid in almost every instance with few exceptions.

SOA:

The bus is not full: Cancellations have opened six (6) additional seats for the Ft. Benning Protest--November 21-24. Join the camaraderie, visit, dance and sing on the trip with a happy band of brothers and sisters. Help close the SOA, stop the needless cost of training Latin military officers, stop the madness under the umbrella of US hegemony.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Madison, Wisconsin, Chapter 25 has reorganized and wants to strengthen the voice of Veterans For Peace. They wish to organize a regional meeting of the Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa chapters. Definitive plans are not available now.

Informal meetings for discussion of pertinent topics, particularly review of newspapers, magazines articles, television coverage and books are held every third Sunday afternoon at May Day books. For those interested but unable to attend please let the office know if you think there is a better location or time to meet including your homes. Meanwhile, the meeting will continue at May Day books on the West Bank at Cedar and Riverside. Call Barry Riesch and Tom Dooley for additional or comments. John Varone mentioned that a Peace and Justice Protest in Carver County is scheduled for January 17th sponsored by Code Pink. Cpl. Chisholm spoke with Joe Repaya, the reserve Light Colonel responsible for the Support Our Troops signs. His column in the Pioneer Press, 11/7/03 castigated Glenna Holste for her remarks concerning the Mr. Bush on October 24th. He spent five days in Iraq during September. Cpl. Chisholm will write and invite Col. Repaya to visit with us.

**MY FRIEND, YOU WILL NOT TELL WITH SUCH HIGH ZEST TO CHILDREN ARDENT
FOR SOME DESPERATE GLORY, THE OLD LIE; DULCI ET DECORUM EST PRO PATRIA MORI.**

— Wilfred Owen 1918 and Horace in his Odes



ADJOURNMENT:

Slowly but persistently we proceeded, concluding at 2115.