



Veterans for Peace Chapter 27

Minutes of The Meeting, January 9, 2005, St. Stephens, 2123 Clinton Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55404

Members Present: Todd Erickson, Doug Drews, Wayne Wittman, Dave Harris, John Varone, Tom Dooley, Chante Wolf, Kim Doss-Smith, Karla Caspari, Joe Johnson, Barry Riesch, Joan Johnson, Steve McKeown.

Called to order by President John Varone at 6:22 p.m..

John was expecting some guests. Members reported problems finding exact location and entry process. (Instructions below)

No secretary report. (Completed but not duplicated for distribution)

TREASURER REPORT:

Todd Erickson reported that:

1. Balances as of 12-01-04 were \$25,566.24
2. From Dec 1, 2004 to Jan 7, 2005: Income was 11,366.03, Expenses were \$15,987.94 (\$9,762 was SOA trip related), Net Income was (\$4,621.91).
- 3) Balances as of 01-07-05 are \$21,455.76

Erickson expressed his appreciation to everyone for their generous donations from the fall fundraising letter!!

Note: Per Harold Nielson's request to VFP #27 President John, Todd wrote a \$6,326.69 check on 01-06-05 to Harold for the balance of the unused funds from the \$25,000 Winds of Peace grant of September 2003 (WPF project 363).

John Varone said that EBay sales brought in \$507. He encouraged VFP members to donate items to sell on e-bay to benefit VFP #27. Pass the word to check closets, basements and garages.

Todd announced a Panel Discussion Event – Tuesday, Jan 11, 2005 at CWA Local 7200 to show solidarity for U of MN student/steel worker union member Elizabeth Nadeau, who will be going on trial this month for her arrest last November for protesting the SOA at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Minnesota vets for Kerry to meet at 6 p.m. at UAW Hall on Ford Parkway on January 12. Hopefully Michael Orange and Barry Riesch and Doug Drews will attend.

Kim announced that Thursday, January 20, 6 p.m. till late "Stop the War" music fundraiser at 5 Corners Music Saloon, 501 Cedar Ave. Members are asked to wear VFP apparel. \$15 in kind donation encouraged for Peace House. A donation of a food item gets \$5 off admission.

On Friday, January 21, 2005, there will be an event to honor the dead in Iraq and Afghanistan at St. Joan of Arc at 7 P.M. Kim has helped organize this event. VFP is invited to ring the bell and display John's casket that displays the names of the dead U.S. soldiers and allies. John said he's in the process of getting another casket built because he ran out of space in November. John will be there with the casket and his

grandfather's American flag. Barry will speak and participate in ringing of the bell. Kim will notify them.

Karla Caspari put Todd's calendar of events on the VFP #27 website. The VFP #27 Office has toll free no. 888-821-9117. The fax number is 612-871-2998. Karla will build a web site link to purchase material. Checks should be sent. The web site is not equipped to use credit cards. Total price for Arlington West DVD is \$15 for shipping. We originally ordered 30 and have about 17 left. Will be shown at ECAPC at 6:30 p.m., Monday, January 10, 2005. John will be there with casket. Might want the American peace flag. Chante has the bell.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Wayne: We have 447 members but now have 160 not renewed. Wayne will develop membership card. John Sherman had an operation.

FUND RAISING:

Joe wanted \$10 thousand goal. Varone complimented Joe and Barry for work. Barry got calling cards for Joe and Shiloh, Kim mentioned the possibility of Meridel Le Sueur feminist writer program. Kim hopes to put it together by March. Barry wants to put on an event on Saturday April 9. Would like to put on event at St. Stephens as a fund raiser and a state of the union report.

Members expressed wish for a good turnout at the IAW rally at Fort Bragg NC on March 20. Five people indicated interest. Might need van to rent. Would like good turn out for the event. Want to put a page in the newsletter. Shiloh and Kim still working and addresses. Thought of need to get notices out to organizational publications like WAMM about the EBay auction site. Tom Dooley is interested in making peace dog tags and will look into it for possible sale.

John reported that the executive board approved the following membership for EB:

1. President: John Varone, [HYPERLINK "mailto:minn.jar.nut@prodigy.net"](mailto:minn.jar.nut@prodigy.net) minn.jar.nut@prodigy.net
2. Vice President: Chante Wolf, chantewolf7@hotmail.com
3. Treasurer: Todd Erickson, todd9500@msn.com, 612-789-0739
4. Secretary: Bob Heberle, bobandjean384@msn.com, 612-789-9020

5. Membership Coordinator: Wayne Wittman, wjwittman@aol.com
6. Counter Recruitment Committee Chair: Kim Doss-Smith, bluewillow@hotmail.com
7. Fundraising Committee Chair: Barry Riesch, bwrvp@earthlink.net
8. Newsletter Committee Chair: Pat Downey, downe006@tc.umn.edu
9. Past President: Doug Drews, no e-mail, 612-986-7737 (cell #)

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

Steve McKeown: John wants to be reminded about the need to write an article. There was a long discussion about an insert and other miscellaneous issues to determine where breakdown occurred. We have a 12-page newsletter.

Joe said he was not notified about meeting of the last newsletter committee. Steve suggested that outside tutelage like Frank Fuller not needed. Karla wants to change the banner. Todd said he would continue giving Pat Downey the calendar of events for the newsletter.

David Harris offered the chance to recommit yourselves to working on peace. 12 veteran peacemakers from the Red Wing area formed VFP Chapter #115. The peace group met for two years every Friday to demonstrate publicly against the war. Lenny Anderson is the president of VFP #115.

OFFICE REPORT:

Varone wants to get a copier. Doug knows where to get one for free. He will review and check with St. Stephens about possible use. He will get model number. Karla has chair available just needs someone to haul it. Pointed out how the office is designed nice. Chante, Todd, (Todd knows who has keys). To get in building (they will let you in during the day), go to west door and buzz. Please speak into the intercom and identify yourself when you buzz the door. There are many people seeking (sometimes illegitimately) entrance into the building, and Shiloh needs to know who you are for safety reasons. Then enter the designated security code. Only six people have outside keys. But all other members will have an office key.

NEW BUSINESS:

David Harris explained about sending out a letter about SOA history and desire for massive non-violent crossing the line at SOA. SOA will have a meeting in February in Washington DC. Chapter #115 wants the chapters around the country to endorse the non-violent peace action. Wants massive non-violent training around the country. Asked that Chapter #27 endorse the concept to help with recruitment, to get people willing to do training,

Barry moved that we support the endorsement of massive non-violent invasion of SOA, help with recruitment and get people to help with the training. Seconded. Steve moved to amend that the motion be forwarded to the National Board. Maker accepted the amendment as friendly. Discussion. Passed. Barry will present to board meeting this month in "Dallas.

John Varone reported that the Speaker's Committee was moved under the Counter Recruitment Committee, and that Kim Doss-Smith is the new chair of that committee. Tom Dooley handed out a paper that included his usual innovative ideas he would like adopted.

1. Issue press release once a month about items that concern our group.
2. Flag should be flown at half-mast for major tragedies like Fallujah and Abu Ghraib.
3. Form alliance with other peace groups to buy decals and bumper stickers.
4. Newsletter should devote one page to orders that VFP sells.
5. Advise people to buy only CITGO gas because it is the only gas that is 100% owned by Venezuela and profits go back to Venezuela.
6. Sell "vomit bags" for TV news watchers. The note included Tom's telephone number: 651-645-0295.

Tom Dooley will participate in a monthly letter.

Adjourned at 8:35

Respectfully submitted, Bob Heberle, Secretary
January 18, 2005

THE SECOND COMING, a poem by W.B. Yeats

*"Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity."*