



Veterans for Peace Chapter 27

Minutes of the Meeting 14 March 2004, VAMC, Minneapolis

Members Present: Karla Caspari, Kim Doss-Smith, Pat and Jennie Downey, Todd Erickson, Shiloh Fetzek, Vern Hall, Joe Johnson, Jack Knies, Arthur Marty, Harold and Louise Nielson and granddaughter, Barry Riesch, Paul Schaefer, John Varone, Wayne Wittman, and Chante Wolf.

President John Varone called the meeting to order at 18:15. The people in attendance introduced themselves. Chante Wolf read the VFP Statement of Purpose.

AGENDA:

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

MINUTES, DECEMBER

Neither the December nor the January Minutes have been mailed. Copies of those minutes were given to the President for his review.

The secretary will work with the office staff to improve reproduction and prompt mailing.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kim Doss-Smith gave a report on grant-writing. Kim has reduced her paid work hours at her regular job so that she could dedicate 10 hours a week on grant-writing. Kim submitted a written report that had short and long term objectives. Kim made a motion to pursue grants from Headwaters Fund and Ben & Jerry's Foundation for the purpose of getting funds dedicated to the annual July event near Red Wing, MN. Paul Schaefer seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Motion passed.

Kim talked about long range plans of getting grant money to develop a video game system that shows the human element that goes along with the random killings in these war games. VFP #27 encouraged her to continue pursuing this unique project. John Varone and Wayne Wittman both commended Kim for her outstanding work.

Paul Schaefer talked about the July 10-11 VFP #27 social gathering in Hager City, WI. (near Red Wing, MN) – that will include music, speakers, workshops, food, music, etc.. Paul is looking for suggestions for speakers, workshops, etc. Paul will bring a tentative agenda to the April meeting for the purpose of getting feedback from other VFP #27 members. Efforts will be made to extend invites to VFP chapters in nearby states.

Joe Johnson read the letter addressed to VFP #27 from the director of the Fort Snelling National Cemetery (FSNC). The FSNC director addressed activities they deemed inappropriate at the FSNC on Veteran's Day in 2003. The FSNC did not approve of VFP #27 members handing out flyers on things like Depleted Uranium nor did they approve of signs hung up that were deemed to be political, like the one that said "No to Cuts with Veteran's Benefits". We had a spirited discussion. Wayne made a motion that we send a letter to the director of FSNC

that we accept their criticism and we intend to honor all of their requests at the next Veterans' Day. And that we once again apply for permission to be at the FSNC on Veteran's Day. Barry Riesch seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Doug Drews gave a report on the efforts to re-design the VFP #27 office to make it more functional.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:

John Varone talked about the March 7th Executive Board meeting at the Downey's home that was attended by John Varone, Todd Erickson, Chante Wolf, Pat and Jennie Downey, and Tom Chisholm. John complimented Jennie Downey on the great Lasagna dinner that she served. It's John's expectation that by having regular monthly E-Board meetings and active Committees, that we should be able to shorten the regular meeting so that extra time is available at the membership meetings for things like, guest speakers, showing videos, etc. His goal is to make meetings more interesting so as to encourage others to show up at future meetings. John talked about the importance of having at least two large social gatherings per year. John talked about Chante's efforts in targeting Peace Site schools (<http://www.peacesites.org/>) for counter-recruitment in regards to military enlistment. Chante said the plan is to send out a letter to Peace Site schools and follow it up with a phone call.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

John Varone talked about the March 20th Global Day of Protest event in St. Paul. VFP #27 members plan to march together under the VFP #27 banner. Barry Riesch handed out post-cards to members present to assist with putting labels on the postcards. The postcards went out to remind VFP #27 members of the Saturday, March 20th Global Day of Protest on the one year anniversary of the US invasion of Iraq. John talked about the excellent work that Code Pink has been doing. Code Pink had a candlelight vigil on a bridge in Chanhassen the night of our meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Wayne Wittman gave a treasurer's report. Wayne made a motion to accept the treasurer report. Todd Erickson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORT:

Shiloh Fetzek is working on the set-up the new Quick Books financial software system. It has taken her more time than she anticipated. Shiloh has been working with Kim Doss-Smith on grant-writing. Shiloh has been working on completing the database transfer into the new computer system.

Joe Johnson said that he and Chante Wolf, Todd Erickson, Doug Drews, and John Sherman participated in tabling at the annual MN Social Studies Teachers Conference on March 4-5. Joe talked about upcoming events:

THURSDAY, APRIL 1**Augsburg Annual Peace Event**

Tabling from Noon to 2 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22 – Non-Violent Peace Event

St. Paul Como Park Senior H.S. Tabling from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 2 – Mayday Parade

Tabling at Powderhorn Park from 2:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 8 – Cinco de Mayo

Canoe Raffle Sales from 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 5 – St. Anthony Park Arts Festival

Tabling from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 6 – Grand Old Days

Canoe Raffle Sales from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 18**Canoe Raffle drawing at the Day by Day Café**

7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, JUNE 26-27**Gay Pride Festival**

(Saturday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sunday Noon to 6 p.m.)

SUNDAY, JUL 11 – Longfellow Street Festival

(Set-up: 10:30 a.m., Tabling Noon to 5 p.m.)

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:

Wayne Wittman said there is a national officers meeting in April.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:**Newsletter Committee:**

Chairperson Pat Downey said that the newsletter committee has decided to change to a new printing process. The money was in the budget to handle the increased cost and it was approved by the E-Board. The newsletter deadline is March 19th and its expected that it will go to the printer on April 19th.

MEMBERSHIP:

Todd Erickson sent out a VFP #27 Membership Reminder Renewal letter out on March 1, 2004 and the VFP #27 office is getting a great response from members. Todd talked about working with Karla to put together a new brochure for VFP #27 membership. A recommendation was made to send out a welcoming letter to any new member that signs up with VFP #27. Todd said he will work on this letter.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 2000 hours. An excellent video called, "Uncovered" (<http://www.truthuncovered.com/>) was shown after the regular meeting. The next regular membership meeting has been changed to the 3rd Sunday of April – April 18th – due to the 2nd Sunday landing on Easter.

THE ONLY UNIVERSAL SIN IS IGNORANCE...

THE ONLY SALVATION IS KNOWLEDGE...

– Socrates