



Veterans for Peace Chapter 27

Minutes of The Meeting, 8 June 2003, VAMC, Minneapolis

Members Present: Wayne Wittman, Tom Chisholm, Paul Schaefer, Tom Dooley, Art Marty, Harold and Louise Nielsen, John Varone, Bob Heberle, Jim Steinhagen and Karla Caspari.

Wayne Wittman called the meeting to order at 1820 hours and read the *Statement of Purpose*. The members introduced themselves per custom.

AGENDA:

The agenda was approved.

MINUTES, MAY AND APRIL:

No minutes for May. The April Minutes were read and approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tom Dooley reported that the compensation approved for Greg Palmer more than a year ago was never consummated. Greg apparently did not need it. However, his work and others at May Day Books collating and mailing the minutes and newsletters should be rewarded. No decision was made. Tom will consider appropriate options.

NEW BUSINESS:

John Varone, active politically for many years in Carver County, a conservative county, asked for help for People For Peace, a group he has organized for the annual Independence Day Parade in Chanhassen. The theme is Home of the Free and the Brave, not exactly a creative title but consistent with that Republican stronghold. He needs Peace flags, signs and creative quotations supporting his courageous legion countering the anticipated banal administration propaganda. The members approved a motion to endorse and support his efforts. Those who can attend and actively participate are asked to call him at 952 448 2665. We will be busy at the annual retreat in Hager City WI (see below) but it may be possible for some to Wage Peace in Chanhassen.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND BUDGET FOR 2004:

Chapter #27 is fiscally stable. The budget will be altered for 2004 but will not change radically. Income will meet expenses. The salaries for the Interns and the recent bonus approved by the Executive Committee for Joe Johnson will add to the expenses. The membership approved payment for an additional 15 hours of work at 12 dollars an hour. This figure will increase by one dollar FY 2004. A motion to approve the treasurers report and the new budget was made and approved unanimously.

STAFF REPORT:

Joe Johnson was absent. Computer problems have been solved. A member knowledgeable in MAC computer use and its programs, especially making and printing labels and using mail merge would simplify and expedite all mailing.

NATIONAL VFP:

The National Meeting is scheduled where little cable cars go half way to the sky. Your heart will be lost in Frisco on 8-10 August at the Cathedral Hill Hotel. See the VFP web site for details, schedules and special events: www.VFP.org

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership has increased to 320. 2300 receive the quarterly newsletter.

EXECUTIVE MEETING:

5/2/03 Memorial Day activities, the July 4th retreat activities, guests and schedule; the future of the Intern and canoe venues on Grand Ave and Calhoun Square were discussed. A motion was made and passed after discussion providing \$12.00 an hour for 15 weekend compensating Joe for his additional duties. (See Treasurer's Report.) Six members were present directed by President Drewes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SOA: Plan to ride the bus to Ft. Benning in November for the regular protest. Two have made reservations thus far.

Iraq: The water project is currently postponed. Private enterprises approved by the Bush administration may preempt voluntary efforts to restructure water systems and other critical life sustaining projects.

FUND RAISING:

No specific report. Sales of all items has been very good.

VIDEO COMMITTEE:

No recent sales other than at the canoe venues.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

The summer issue will be mailed very soon.

SPEAKER'S BUREAU:

No report.

CANOE:

2300 tickets were sold on Grand Avenue on 1 June. Cinco de Mayo on Concord Ave in St. Paul was a beautiful and successful day. Tickets well be sold at Calhoun Sq. on 13-15 June. The Canoe for 2003 will be raffled at the Day By Day Cafe on Friday 20 June.

RETREAT COMMITTEE:

Although Barry and Chante were not present, Paul Schaefer outlined the place, date and anticipated schedule including music. National VFP President, Dave Kline will be the principal guest and speaker. You may camp on the evening of 3/4 July and take a break for fishing in the Mississippi. The admission fee to cover costs will be \$ 25 dollars. The cost of producing the retreat is estimated to be from 2 to 3 thousand dollars. A motion was made and approved to cover expenses over those not anticipated. Volunteers will be needed to supervise various activities, including parking, admission and collecting money. A vigorous program has been planned. Solid, practical input to energize the Peace effort and squelch persistent war and propaganda during the forthcoming 16 months prior to the Presidential election will be the essence of the retreat. See the flyer in the Newsletter. Check our new web site at www.twincitiesVFP.org

WWW.TWINCITIESVFP.ORG:

Karla Caspari has been working feverishly on the new web site consuming many hours in design and format. Thanks to her expertise our chapter will have indefinite dissemination not only locally but world wide. Please open to the web site, read and send her your comments and ideas. You will find the

Retreat under special events. The membership expressed their gratitude to Karla for her talents and generosity. Web sites are not free. Karla's time and talents are a gift to all of us.

ADJOURNMENT:

After a lively meeting, the meeting closed at 2100 hours. See you at Paul Schaefer ranch for the retreat on 4 July.