



Veterans for Peace Chapter 27

Minutes of The Meeting, 14 September 2003, VAMC, Minneapolis

Members Present: Wayne Wittman, Tom Chisholm, Tom Dooley, Art Marty, John Sherman and Joe Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 1830 hours, thirty minutes late. Introductions and the Statement of purpose were waived.

AGENDA:

Non specific.

MINUTES, JULY AND AUGUST:

There were no minutes available for July nor August. Tom Dooley stated that the meetings were small and not extraordinary.

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:

See the Calendar of events that comes with the minutes and bookmark our web site: www.twincitesVFP.com. Click on events.

How many members have computers and e-mail? Notify Joe Johnson at the office.

See Announcements in addition to the following: Christopher Hedges at the Westminster Forum at noon 2 October. Westminster Pres. Church, 12th and the Mall. The forum is a weekly event every Thursday.

Kathy Kelly, October 13th, Jeanne d'Arc Church, Mpls.

Weapons of Mass Deception, Tuesday, 11 November. 1830 hours at Hennepin Methodist Church.

AntiWar Protest, 9/27 Saturday at 1300 Summit and Snelling.

March on Washington Protest: 25 October, Saturday, Anti War Committee. Plan to attend. 500,000 protesters cannot be ignored!!

We have been asked to be a partner with Earth Charter and attend their second summit at the College of St. Catherine. Learn their sixteen principles of building a sustainable Peace 10-11 October.

A motion was made and seconded to support The Iraq Peace Coalition. We are asked to help distribute Peace information bulletins door to door. The motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to buy ten copies at \$ 5.00 of a music CD entitled *Amaze Me* containing Songs in The Key of Peace. The motion passed. We will sell them for a small profit. A Release Concert is scheduled to introduce the disk, the composers and players at the Cedar Cultural Center in October.

Jerry Rau: Jerry, a Viet Nam Vet and original member of Vets for Peace will celebrate his 65th birthday on Saturday, 9 September at the Cedar Cultural Center.

Armistice Day: Tuesday 11 November at 1030 hours. We will be planning the annual Bell Ringing Ceremony at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery. Brief speeches, poems and songs. We do not need more cemeteries!

TREASURER'S REPORT AND BUDGET FOR 2004:

Wayne Wittman financial statement was examined as he discussed income and expenses. We lost 1,500 dollars on the Retreat. Income was up for the fiscal year, close to the projected budget but we ended the year with a deficit of \$1,200.00. For fiscal 2002 we were plus \$ 3,000.00. There are 1,000 Bring The Troops Home signs for sale at five and ten dollars. Selling them would cancel the deficit. Wayne Wittman has written a Grant proposal to Winds of Peace requesting \$25,000.00 to supplement the VFP office providing persistent and efficient coverage eight hours daily and supporting all aspects of disseminating Peace information particularly the Speakers Bureau.

STAFF REPORT:

Joe Johnson reports that with the return of our Intern, Shiloh, the office is operating with greater coverage and efficiency. Your calls and e-mails will be answered. He recited past and future activities. Read the minutes and the announcements of forthcoming events, our own and those we sponsor.

NATIONAL VFP:

Wayne Wittman reported that the San Francisco meeting in August was one of the best he has attended. Great speakers, including Rep Dennis Kucinick, vital and timely presentations, enthusiastic participation and stimulating events including a visit to Lawrence Livermore Laboratory where the atomic and nuclear problems began. See this issue, of the Newsletter. (Summer)

MEMBERSHIP:

Approximately 350 for 2003.

EXECUTIVE MEETING:

No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Newsletter Committee: No members of the committee were present. The Newsletter recently arrived. Much improved appearance, thanks to Karla Caspari who designs the newsletter—gratis. Send your articles and pictures to any member of the newsletter committee or to the officers. Greater participation adds to the quality and breath of the quarterly News Letter.

Speakers Bureau: No recent activities reported. Chante is designing a new brochure and Karla will assist. We will be represented at the annual Minnesota Teachers Conference in October. Another opportunity to join the Picket Line for Peace. Speak with teachers and students from across Minnesota. Help man the booth and distribute our literature.

Canoe and Fund Raising Committee: Action in Northfield during Jessie James Days, and in the Stewart Neighborhood in Mpls. near the Franklin Ave. Bridge 13 September raising \$1,100.00 in tickets and products. Great cooperation in Northfield from their Peace Group. One interesting discussion from the opposition. We will be at Calhoun Square the weekend following Thanksgiving and the weekend prior to Christmas. St. Anthony Village on Como Ave. in St. Paul on Saturday October 4th. Help raise money to sustain Vets for Peace and exercise your right and duty to dissent. We need volunteers with courage and ability to correct misconceptions of US history, policy, trade and economics.

A motion was made to purchase small calendars for distribution to the members during demonstrations and at Canoe venues. The motion to provide \$ 50.00 for the calendars passed.

SOA: Annual Protest at Ft. Benning, Ga. The bus leaves Friday morning 21 November and returns Monday evening 24 November. Make your Reservation now!! Half scholarships will be offered to several students this year. See announcements for a benefit to raise money for the scholarships at May Day Books this Saturday 20 September at 1830 hours and watch the new video Hidden in Plain Sight about the SOA. The video is scheduled at the Bell Museum Theater through the University Film Society on the campus, Friday, Nov. 7th thru Thursday, Nov. 13th

WWW.TWINCITIESVFP.ORG:

If you want to know what is going on, click on www.twincitiesVFP.com. Look for information and events. There will be many this autumn. Tell others to click and get involved. Send in your comments, suggestions, ideas and criticisms. See also the schedule of events included with the minutes.

ADJOURNMENT:

Concluding a pleasant interlude, the meeting adjourned at 2030 hours. Col. Chisholm, Secretary

**"THE VICTOR BELONGS TO THE SPOILS,"
— F. SCOTT FITZGERALD**