



Veterans for Peace Chapter 27

Minutes of The Meeting, Sunday, September 12, 2004, VAMC, Minneapolis

Members Present: John Varone, Todd Erickson, Wayne Wittman, Chante Wolfe, Barry Riesch, Tom Chisholm, Art Marty, Harold and Louise Nielsen, Kim Doss Smith, Tom Dooley and Vern Hall.

John Varone called the meeting to order at 1815 hours.

AUGUST MINUTES:

The minutes were not mailed. They were reviewed and approved. Tom Dooley is back in action and will help get the Minutes and announcements in the mail.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

A special meeting of the Executive Committee was scheduled for Wednesday 17 September at the Resource Center to discuss finances, the budget, and a new office location for the chapter.

The Winds of Peace Grant has not been fully utilized: \$8,805.00 remains. This will be discussed at the financial meeting. FY 2004, we are \$500.00 in the black.

The treasurer's report was moved, seconded and approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

John Varone attended a lecture by Dennis Kucinick just prior to the meeting. He summarized his and the Chapter's activities during the past year. He notes that we must coordinate more actively with other Peace Groups, become more active in communication with the local press at all levels by writing articles and letters to the editors.

Our chapter must assist formation and development of new chapters, such as Rice Lake, Wisconsin.

Red Wing is developing its own chapter but will continue to coordinate with Chapter # 27.

He has assigned Joe Johnson to greater action in fund raising, particularly regarding Canoe actions, increasing venues, and the sale of merchandise at those events. Better accounting of items sold at any event is important for understanding what sells and which items should be added or eliminated.

Volunteers will be needed to man the office when Shiloh is not present and Joe is doing canoe activities.

The current office is inadequate. Boxes marked for removal and storage have been identified and will increase space – but the effect will be minimal.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Todd Erickson outlined the annual Peace Makers Conference at the Hennipen Avenue Church on 21 September. VFP volunteers will help park cars as in past years.

SPEAKER'S BUREAU:

Chante continues organizing counter recruitment actions and planning. After speaking in Joseph, MN recently, she was contacted by a high school teacher who wants vets to discuss the Viet Nam conflict after reading *The Things They Carried* by Minnesota author, Tim O'Brien.

FUND RAISING:

Discussion of purchasing the video "OutFoxed" for review and sale regarding the Fox New Conglomerate and media bias. John Varone suggests selling coffee. He urges the membership to offer items for sale on E-Bay. John has been using that marketing device for some time and is certain that the chapter would increase income from sale of items donated by the members. Contact John for questions.

The need for a professional fund raiser was suggested but questioned with mostly negative remarks for a variety of reasons, including the percentage taken by the fund raiser.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

The committee will meet at Pat Downey's home on 25 September to plan the next issue. All are invited to submit articles. Letters to the editor and book reviews will be accepted; but space is limited as always.

MEMBERSHIP:

Attracting new members, especially Iraq vets, is urgent. We need PR – including ads in newspapers, such as the Minnesota Daily. The cost of the ads will be investigated. Articles describing VFP and our goals should be submitted to area newspapers and magazines of all types.

NEW BUSINESS:

Where shall the chapter commemorate Armistice Day on Thursday, 11 November? We were not received eagerly at the national Cemetery last year. Wayne Wittman urged members to consider the Memorial area on the Capital Mall. Kim Doss Smith suggested erecting crosses on the beach at Lake Calhoun simulating Arlington National Cemetery and the cemetery created in California. (See August minutes – Arlington West.) The site and program will be finalized at the October meeting but the Capital Mall seemed to be agreeable to the members.

The next meeting will be Sunday evening, 10 October in the Education Room on the 4th Floor of the VAMC.

The meeting adjourned at 2030 hours.