



VETERANS FOR PEACE

Veterans Working Together for Peace & Justice Through Non-violence. Wage Peace!

VFP National Board Meeting Minutes January 12 &13, 2002

Meeting minutes from its opening by President Barry Riesch until completion of the election of officers were kept by Ruth Flanery of the VFP National Office, there being no recording secretary present. They are presented as the first part of this report and are identified as hers.

Thank you for keeping us straight Ruth.

Ruth's Minutes

Barry Riesch, 2001 national president opened the meeting with a reading of VFP's "clearly stated purposes."

The board members and two other attendees, Joseph Farah, VFP member and management consultant and Ruth Flanery from the National Office introduced themselves. Fredy Champagne and David Cline were not present, Fredy having had his flight canceled because of the sudden closing of the Seattle Airport and David having had prior commitments of which the board had been told.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read. Wayne Whitman made a motion for acceptance of the minutes as read and John Amidon seconded. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

Some discussion followed in which a commitment was made to end the meeting by 1030 Sunday morning and do all substantial business on Saturday.

It was also agreed to move Agenda item No. 15, "Ideas for 2002 development and growth to the end of the meeting.

There followed some discussion of the advisability of having the treasurer from the same area in which the national office is located, to which the board agreed.

Joseph Farah made his strategic planning report, copies of which had been circulated for study the evening before. A copy of this material is attached to the office file copy of this report as Appendix I.

Wayne Whitman made and Paul Brailsford seconded a motion as follows:

Thank you to Joe Farah for his contributions. The Board looks forward to his continued involvement with VFP as an ex-officio member of the board to facilitate strategic planning for one year effective January 12, 2002. (Ruth's notes don't state the disposition of this motion. I remember unanimous passage but have no supporting information. flh)

John Kim made and Bob Heberle seconded a motion to amend and change the agenda. In the discussion that followed, Lee Vander Laan asked that all officers give their reports next, that he be permitted to give the treasurers report last and that a copy of that report be attached to the minutes of

this board meeting. This Motion was passed

All officers reports were given and duly discussed. Paul Brailsford then made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and Frank Houde seconded. The report was accepted as given. Some discussion followed in which Bob Heberle raised the issue of conflict of interest regards hiring Ruth Flanery's daughter as the CPA for VFP. (My memory is that the sense of the meeting was that this was not a problem. flh)

Nominations for service on the executive board were as follows:

Bob Heberle nominated Ellen Barfield for vice-president.
Lee Vander Laan nominated Lincoln Grahlf for treasurer.
Ellen Barfield nominated Frank Houde for secretary.
Gideon Rosenbluth nominated David Cline for president.
Bob Heberle nominated Barry Riesch for president.

Voting proceeded by secret ballot with the following results:

David Cline-----President
Ellen Barfield-----Vice-President
Lincoln Grahlf-----Treasurer
Frank Houde-----Recording Secretary

Ruth's notes end.

The meeting was re-convened after election of officials with Frank Houde now acting as recording secretary. Wherever there is a parenthetical note that a report or other paperwork has been attached as an appendix, that attachment has been made only to the original file copy. The term 'ex-officio' is used in these minutes as it was used in the meeting. It may be in conflict with interpretations or uses of the term made subsequent to the meeting. The naming of committee members is tentative, because not all those named were present to express their preferences.

Lee Vander Laan gave some information on the Zones of Concern and Struggle Fund (ZOCS). VFP members Billie Ledger and Brian Wilson have put us in touch with the Pond Foundation in New Mexico. The foundation has provided \$28,000 in matching money for ZOCS. Lee cautions that the foundation wishes not to be named in the media.

It was noted that we have a membership problem in that many who consider themselves to be VFP members pay dues and are responsive only to their local chapters. This is particularly true of members of some of our strongest chapters in Minnesota. The fact is that Veterans For Peace is a national organization and those who do not pay national dues and therefore are not carried on the national roles are not truly VFP members. All present acknowledged that this situation needed to be addressed and cleared up at national, chapter and individual level throughout VFP. Woody Powell noted that the current Dues Letter being sent out to everyone, active or inactive, carried on our roles, should go a long way toward clearing up this problem.

In line with membership matters, Paul Brailsford noted that there is an urgent need for outreach to potential women members.

National Administrator, Woody Powell gave the report for the VFP National Office (Copy attached as Appendix II) There was some discussion of office computerization and how mailings were done that would help to make things more efficient in those areas. Honorary election of all living members of the Lincoln Brigade to VFP membership was brought up. Woody will work with Lincoln Brigade member Gideon Rosenbluth on the letter that will be sent to each of them. A Pond Foundation grant to VFP in the amount of \$5400 has been signed. It is designed to be used at the discretion of the National Office. Joe Farah suggested that hard copies of Woody's National Office report could have several

beneficial uses beyond informing the board—they could be used when approaching granting organizations—they could serve as a talking point when approaching potential new members—they could be mailed to current members to show them how their dues money was being used.

The Iraq Water Project committee report included information on two new projects Nos. 3&4. Lee Vander Laan gave the budget accounting for projects No. 1&2 . It was noted that the contract for the two new projects would obligate VFP National and its board members if fundraising failed to meet the specified cost amounts. A motion was made by Wayne Whitman and seconded by Ellen Barfield to approve the contract for the new IWP projects. After much discussion the motion was tabled until the contract could be reviewed and amended and a concrete plan for raising the full amount of funding needed could be made.

The Award Committee report was made, during which an Award Nomination Form (copy attached as Appendix III) was submitted for use as a tool in making awards to worthy individuals. John Kim moved to accept the Award Committee's Award Nomination Form as submitted, Bob Heberle seconded. The vote carried.

ZOCS Committee—Lee Vander Laan moved that we fund three ZOCS grants of \$670, 500 & 500 respectively Bob Heberle seconded. The vote carried. (Details of these grants are attached as Appendix ??)

UN Representative Committee—we need a new representative to the United Nations since Michael J. Carley has resigned that post. A job description of the position was submitted (copy attached as Appendix). Wayne Whitman, with Lincoln Grahlf's second, moved that this job description be amended to require the representative to be a VFP member (Carley was not) and that the term of office be one year. The submitted job description should then be approved with these amendments. The vote carried. John Amidon moved, Frank Houde seconding, that Ellen Barfield be appointed interim UN representative and John Kim her alternate for six months from this date (Jan. 12, 2002) The vote carried.

Wayne Whitman volunteers to be Chair of the 2002 Board Nominating Committee. John Amidon moved that Wayne's offer be accepted. Bob Heberle seconded. The vote carried.

Paul Brailsford stated that little had been done by the Membership Committee since the last meeting. Woody Powell noted that Membership had increased by some 200 plus members due to the September 11 tragedies and their aftermath. He further stated that regular dues reminders, mailings and generally improved communications by a fully staffed national office should be of significant value in increasing membership. Wayne Whitman moved, with Paul Brailsford seconding, that the membership and fundraising committees be consolidated into one and that it be called the Membership and Development Committee. The vote carried. The committee members were then named as follows: Lincoln Grahlf's (Chair), Paul Brailsford, Fredy Champagne, Joe Farah (ex-officio), Ruth Flanery (ex-officio), Woody Powell (ex-officio).

Wayne Whitman moved, with Lee Vander Laan seconding, to create the new Strategic Planning Committee. The vote carried. This committee is meant to carry forward the strategic planning work commenced at the strategy meeting Dec. 10, 2001. Committee members were named as follows: John Amidon (Chair), Fredy Champagne, Bob Heberle, John Kim, Peter Shaw, Lee Vander Laan, Wayne Whitman, Joe Farah (ex-officio), Ruth Flanery (ex-officio), Woody Powell (ex-officio).

Wayne Whitman moved, with Lee Vander Laan seconding, that the Annual Convention Committee become a standing committee instead of being created anew each year. The vote carried. Committee members were named as follows: Wayne Whitman (Chair), Andy Anderson, John Darling, John Grant, Jim Steinhagen, Sally Thompson.

Woody Powell moved, with Bob Heberle seconding, that we create a Communications Committee. This committee to be responsible for marketing, public relations, the VFP website and the VFP newsletter. The vote carried. Committee members were named as follows: Paul Brailsford, Julie Price, Gideon Rosenbluth, Peter Shaw, Lee Vander Laan.

Lee Vander Laan moved, with Gideon Rosenbluth seconding, "that the website be augmented to facilitate board communications and decision-making." The vote carried.

The motion was made and seconded to keep the Awards Committee in force. Secretary's notes do not reflect who made and seconded same. The vote carried. Larry Goodwin was named to the committee.

John Amidon moved, with Frank Houde seconding, that National Board meetings be held at various locations around the country for the purpose of increasing VFP's visibility and letting local members experience the meetings and give feedback. The vote carried.

Woody Powell reports that there is no word yet on Alan Pogue's trip to Afghanistan. However, he thinks that Alan may have arrived back in the states, yesterday (1/11'02). There is about \$20,000 that can be used to fund dissemination of Alan's material. Joe Farah recommends an exhibit on the VFP website.

John Kim moved, with Lee Vander Laan seconding, that Alan Pogue submit a proposal to the board for his Afghan project. The vote carried. Lee Vander Laan will implement the website display.

Wilfred (Andy) Anderson proposes that this year's convention theme be, What Is Real Patriotism? The suggestion was well received. No further action taken.

It was decided to hold the next VFP National Board meeting in Albany, New York on April 6 & 7, then the meeting was adjourned for the evening.

The meeting reconvened at 9 am Sunday, Jan. 13, 2002. Those present were: John Amidon, Ellen Barfield, Paul Brailsford, Joe Farah, Ruth Flanery, Lincoln Grahlf, Bob Heberle, Frank Houde, John Kim, Woody Powell, Barry Reisch, Gideon Rosenbluth, Lee Vander Laan & Wayne Whitman.

John Kim wanted assurance that VFP can support its \$88,000 budget for this fiscal year. Woody Powell provided a lot of information about actual and projected incomes and after considerable discussion left everyone assured that the budget could be met. Wayne Whitman, with Bob Heberle seconding, moved that the National Administration Budget be approved as it stands. The vote carried.

Lee Vander Laan, with Ellen Barfield seconding, moved that VFP donate \$490 to an Afghan family in Ipswich, MA for the purpose of 'educational outreach' for their kids. The vote carried.

Joe Farah donated ten dollars out-of-pocket to round the donation off to \$500 and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank L. Houde
Recording Secretary
Veterans For Peace

Summary of Motions and Their Disposition

- 1. Wayne Whitman moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as read, John Amidon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2. Wayne Whitman made and Paul Brailsford seconded a motion as follows:
Thank you to Joe Farah for his contributions. The Board looks forward to his continued involvement with VFP as an ex-officio member of the board to facilitate strategic planning for one year effective January 12, 2002. (Ruth's notes don't state the disposition of this motion. (I remember unanimous passage but have no supporting information. flh)
- 3. John Kim made and Bob Heberle seconded a motion to amend and change the agenda In the discussion that followed, Lee Vander Laan asked that all officers give their reports next, that he be permitted to give the treasurers report next and that a copy of that report be attached to the minutes of this board meeting. This Motion was passed
- 4. All officers reports were given and duly discussed. Paul Brailsford then made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and Frank Houde seconded. The report was accepted as given.
- 5. A motion was made by Wayne Whitman and seconded by Ellen Barfield to approve the contract for the new IWP projects. After much discussion the motion was tabled until the contract could be reviewed and amended and a concrete plan for raising the full amount of funding needed could be made.
- 6. John Kim moved to accept the Award Committee's Award Nomination Form as submitted, Bob Heberle seconded. The vote carried.
- 7. Lee Vander Laan moved that we fund three ZOCS grants of \$670, 500 & 500 respectively Bob Heberle seconded. The vote carried.
- 8. Wayne Whitman, with Lincoln Grahlf's second, moved that this job description be amended to require the representative to be a VFP member (Carley was not) and that the term of office be one year. The submitted job description should then be approved with these amendments. The vote carried.
- 9. John Amidon moved, Frank Houde seconding, that Ellen Barfield be appointed interim UN representative and John Kim her alternate for six months from this date (Jan. 12, 2002) The vote carried.
- 10. Wayne Whitman volunteers to be Chair of the 2002 Board Nominating Committee. John Amidon moved that Wayne's offer be accepted. Bob Heberle seconded. The vote carried.
- 11. Wayne Whitman moved, with Paul Brailsford seconding, that the membership and fundraising committees be consolidated into one and that it be called the Membership and Development Committee. The vote carried.
- 12. Wayne Whitman moved, with Lee Vander Laan seconding, to create the new Strategic Planning Committee. The vote carried.
- 13. Wayne Whitman moved, with Lee Vander Laan seconding, that the Annual Convention Committee become a standing committee instead of being created anew each year. The vote carried.

- 14. Woody Powell moved, with Bob Heberle seconding, that we create a Communications Committee. This committee to be responsible for marketing, public relations, the VFP website and the VFP newsletter. The vote carried.

- 15. Lee Vander Laan moved, with Gideon Rosenbluth seconding, "that the website be augmented to facilitate board communications and decision-making." The vote carried."

- 16. The motion was made and seconded to keep the Awards Committee in force. Secretary's notes do not reflect who made or seconded same. The vote carried.

- 17. John Amidon moved, with Frank Houde seconding, that National Board meetings be held at various locations around the country for the purpose of increasing VFP's visibility and making it possible for local members to experience the meetings and give feedback. The vote carried.

- 18. John Kim moved, with Lee Vander Laan seconding, that Alan Pogue submit a proposal to the board for his Afghan project. The vote carried.

- 19. Wayne Whitman, with Bob Heberle seconding, moved that the National Administration Budget be approved as it stands. The vote carried.