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Veterans For Peace
National Board
Meeting Minutes
Mansion Hill Inn

Albany, New York
May 10 and 11, 2003

In a special announcement by Gene Glazer he revealed that at 78 he had become a grandfather for the first time. Applause.

President David Cline convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Present were: David Cline, Lee Vander Laan, Frank Houde, Gene Glazer, Barry Riesch, John Amidon, Wayne Wittman, Bob Heberle, John Kim, George Johnson, Woody Powell, Jozef Hand-Boniakowski, Ellen Barfield, Ed Bloch

Cline presented 24 point agenda. Additions requested. January meeting requested by Wayne to be held at his daughter's home in Tampa, Florida.. Cline added:

Discuss issue of travel allowance costs. Vietnam Human rights acts. In awards issue on agenda #8 Corey and Barrigan. Barry suggested logo discussion Peace campaign. Woody has addendum to give to his report. Lincoln's absence was noted and reason given. He had a written report. Gideon had reported that he couldn't attend because of his recent trip to Vieques. John A. wanted everyone to share expenses. Discussion followed. Cline asked for delay on general policies and expenditures. George Wants GI Hotline on the agenda. UHL proposal added.

Minutes reported and Wayne moved to approve and Kim seconded Discussion: Ellen pointed out the Iraq Peace Team of Voices in the Wilderness add Ellen was able to go to Basra and Mosul. She did not visit and then patient died. Just take sentence out. Passed

George wanted board minutes, etc. mailed by snail mail. Discussion. David agreed that minutes be mailed by snail mail. Agenda, etc. Suggested to have an opt out. **To request snail mail, give office info.**

Exec. Director's report: Four pages. Woody reported that the membership shows that 3480 members going to back to 2000. The bulk of the membership is 2003.

The rate is dropping off but thinks the convention will attract new members. Five new chapters have formed plus several others, including San Jose. Got chapter in Juno, Alaska, Chapter#100.. Outreach report: Requests for speakers continues. Web site has helped. Woody pleased with volunteers and reception. Uses Chapter Contacts list. Barry reported that he's off of Chapter Contacts list. Lee reminded us that we have to reapply to be included. On "Financials" we have been able to build up and is averaging about \$34 per membership. Woody has included a budget for next year to \$185,000 revenue which doubles last budget and includes travel expenses. He sees growth coming from chapters expanding themselves. Juno and NC were given for examples how locals can increase membership.

Wayne saluted Woody in that the five new and eight forming chapters were added Cline suggested that Woody follow up with updates. Ellen reminded Woody that Baltimore should be recognized as being formed. He thinks the number is #16. The name for a chapter was suggested.

Lee moved Ellen seconded that chapters in formation will be designated as organizing committee. Discussion Passed.

Continued Ex Director report: Kim Gaynor quit. Woody explained how he's working to put together a personnel practices policies procedures. Lincoln recommended a person and it is believed that she will take Kim's position. Kim was the person who was given medical insurance. John K. expressed interest in maintaining invitations for employment to veterans. He suggested that notice be given that openings be posted. Woody was concerned that the job might not be sufficient salary to attract people from outside of the area. Frank suggested that the board accept the policy that gives preference to vets.

Barry moved, Frank seconded **that "A hiring policy for preference be given to veterans." Discussion.** Cline suggested tabling. Motion passed. Moved that discussion on hiring policy be given to a committee to develop a policy. Seconded by Wayne. Discussion Passed. One opposed.

Question about number of associate members. 1057 reported. as close. About one quarter to one-third of membership are associates. Kim wondered if the local could be notified when the National receives a membership. Woody suggested that chapter put request to office for update on memberships. Woody will put out a quarterly roster to every local. Lee felt that some memberships could be listed

Wayne moved with appreciation Woody's report be accepted. Ellen seconded. Passed.

Lincoln's treasurer report: New memberships are advancing but renewals are not coming. Unexpected income will come from sales of goods. "Addicted to War", caps, etc. sales having proven successful. Kim pointed out that he wanted the

legal and accounting category be separated to give better idea of account. It was explained that no expenses can be attributed to the word "legal." Woody explained that "legal and accounting" is a standard identification for the category.

Wayne Moved that income of \$65,688.60 and expense statement of \$59,831.99 of March 31, 2003 on pages 3 and Frank seconded to accept treasurer's report. Discussion followed. Passed unanimously.

#3 & #4 Cline decided to skip "Strategies for Waging Peace" on agenda.

5. Convention report: George said that we've all received the information from Paul Cox. Registration notice distributed by email. "Defeating Militarism and the Politics of Fear" is the theme. \$160 for convention package. On web site under "donations." \$30 for each of the two meals. Crystal Hotel is six blocks away from convention sites. Busses run the route and some special shuttles might be arranged. Don't plan to leave early Sunday but try planning for departure Monday. All workshops are full. No more space available. Steve Morse is in charge of workshop.

Board is reminded that the board will meet the Thursday before, August 7, 2003.

Wayne moved and Riesch seconded that Chapter 69 be commended for preparing for a very interesting convention. Maxine Hong-Kingston has been picked for the keynote speaker because of her long involvement in veterans' issues. Discussion Passed. Jozef suggested getting tickets to Oakland is cheaper. Southwest has a \$199 round trip. Can take train to San Francisco. Work is being done on cheaper rentals.

Wayne urged the board to get notices out to seek out the 2004 convention site. Wants someone cited to take responsibility for that convention. Lee wanted notices brought by July to announce possibility of Boston.

6. Lee said a small amount of ZOCs funds are still available. Questioned speakers as legitimate use of ZOC funds. Felt it's possible. Woody will work out way to use. Lee thinks about \$10,000 is left. Brochure wanted to help explain uses. Lee distributed April 2003 "Peace Poetry" booklet with supported by ZOC funds to North Shore, Massachusetts, Samantha Smith Chapter's sponsored work. John Amidon reported on ZOC funded Anger Management sessions held in Albany. Found some difficulty in locating qualified instructors. Frank Houde pointed out the success of John's extra efforts.

7. Nominations: Deadline is convention. John Grant dropped out of nomination. Have Riesch, Cline, and Houde, will run for re-election and Hand-Boniakowski, agreed to run. Names suggested and *Wayne requested that*

members send names to him. Ellen moved and Barry moved to accept nominations committee report. Accepted.

David reminded the board that we meet on August 7 in San Francisco. Wayne offered to hold the next board meeting in Tampa at his daughter's home. Proposes that we meet in January. **Wayne moved and Gene seconded that we meet in Tampa in January. Motions passed.**

Discussion of equity of travel. Costs can be about \$1000 per year. Need to have adequate representation. Frank addressed the issue. Equity and exclusivity(elitist) under present system of non-reimbursement. For real equity, we should add up everyone's costs, and divide by those attending. Then after reaching that figure, the national reimburse an even stipend to the individual's cost. Kim read constitution that applies that allows authorized expenses. Long discussion followed.

Riesch moved, Ellen seconded, that "All travel and lodging expenses, subject to board approval, be equally divided among the board members." Discussion. (Ellen offered to assume temporary responsibility for doing the figures.)Failed. Woody offered that we work out this question before the board meeting.

Gene moved and Frank seconded that we give a flat fee for the three board meetings a year for each member to use or not use. Discussion. Failed

It was concluded that, because Woody said that \$3600 will be allotted to reimbursement for travel and lodging expenses and that President and Executive Director will be granted authority to authorize that action.

Wayne moved Riesch seconded, because of official request by David Cline and Arnie Stabler, Rachel Corrie be granted honorary membership because of her martyrdom in non-violent action in Palestine. Discussion. **Passed** (Official approval required at national convention.)

David Cline mentioned that Peter Shaw had been assigned awards chair and he be requested that David Silk be granted an exemplary service reward by the VFP Board of Directors. **Riesch moved and seconded by Ellen that award be granted for David Silk's family. Discussion. Passed. Paul Brailsford will be contacted to conclude award and Woody develop methods of contacting the Silk family and make arrangements.**

Liz MacAlister's presence was sought for the national convention in San Francisco. Remarks conducted about how to arrange for her to attend. **George offered to check into it.** Cline wanted further reports from George. He agreed.

Discussion of awards for Lincoln Brigade members. **Woody to prepare generic**

awards.

Lee moved that Iraq Peace Team be granted a special award to each of the members who participated. Seconded by Bob. Lee Vander Laan will name individuals. Discussion. Vote. Passed

David C. talked about some award to the Vieques participants for their successful achievement. Discussion about need for this to be given to Awards Committee. **Riesch moved and Ellen seconded that all members who participated in the successful Vieques effort receive an award. Discussion about type of award.** Quality pins, patches. Those eligible will be invited to request the award. A consensus seemed to prefer pins. Motion passed.

UN NGO report from Ellen. Participation limited because of members' activities in Iraq campaign and family health. Harold Burnham introduced himself and the reason for his involvement VFP behalf. Identified himself as a lawyer and a Mass. resident familiar with VFP. The American Coalition for International Criminal Court AMICC American Institution related to the Criminal Court. He feels that the U.S. and Great Britain should be accused for violation of international ward crimes for their attack on Iraq. A committee of U.N. is working on a case to accuse Blair and Bush of violating laws. Blair could be charged because Great Britain is a signatory to the World Court.

19. Belgian War Crime discussion. Group to work on war crimes and make recommendations if there is a place where we can take a positive role. Ellen, John A. and Harold will bring back some information for a future meeting.

John spoke to impeachment resolution. Other pros and cons discussion, including the advisability of taking action on this issue, was offered. Some felt that we should devote a small portion of our efforts to a regime change instead of expending much time in an impeachment effort.

Frank Houde moves that we adopt John's impeachment resolution as written. Barry seconded. Discussion. Passed.

Woody said that the implementation of the resolution would help to support his recommendations in his report as initiated on page 3 titled, "THE FUTURE"

Korea report: John Kim mentioned that seven people have indicated an interest in going to Korea with his group. Kim moved and Wayne seconded that **Members of VFP going to Korea in July be designated as a VFP official delegation.** Discussion. Passed. Ellen mentioned that she was going this week. KTC will help underwrite a portion of her next trip to Korea.

13. Report on Vieques. Cline explained the history of the ejection of the Navy from Vieques. Bombing had occurred 180 days a year originally. Starting May 1.

it will be free to be developed as a nature preserve. Other law suits about health claims against the U.S. government/private industries? Will be filed. On April 30 a large celebration was held at 10 pm. At midnight they crowd attacked the fence. Put a humvee on fire. David Cline was there and there was no violence in spite of misleading media hype. On Sunday May 4 he participated in a memorial for a Vietnam vet, Esquivel, who had years earlier protested and eventually died in a Florida jail. Dave recommends celebrating the victory but no avoid the residue toxins resulting from the years of naval bombing. David was applauded for his efforts in the Vieques effort. Dave will write an article for the web site.

15. El Salvador report by Wayne Wittman. Reported that twelve reps went and monitored elections. Salvadorans appreciate the “Ballots without bullets” effort. March 21, 2004 is the next election. **Wayne moved to support the VFP delegation. Seconded by Ellen, Passed.** Will meet with group during SOA demonstration on November 22, 2003 at 7 pm at Howard Johnson motel at 1011 Veterans Parkway, Columbus, Georgia.

Barry Riesch recounted the Iraq Water Project. Underscored that it is not a humanitarian effort but done for political purposes. Reported that the IWP web site is shut down. Debate continues about whether to continue or not. Looking for possibility of keeping it going. Now the project has taken the name of Iraqi Peace Project. **Kim Moved that the board encourages the RIWP committee to send a fact-finding team to Iraq to report back the current situation and develop other liaisons with other groups to determine the situation.** Frank seconded. Discussion followed. Passed.

Ellen reported on the conference to end Iraq sanctions and spoke on the IWP and militarizing the youth. Barry wants the members to take home his “Support the Troops” signs.

11. The Charley Liteky letter to the U.S. military was read by John Amidon. Charley wrote on behalf of Iraq Peace Team to US government. In his letter Liteky briefly recounted his rejection of his Medal of Honor in 1986 in opposition to U.S foreign policy in Central America. He shares his thoughts on his country’s lies and immoral and illegal use of military force on a sovereign nation.

Cline reported on information on a bill that would harm the Vietnam-US relations put out by the Vietnam support group. It’s called the “2003 Viet Nam Human Rights Bill”. It says that the “document distorts the human rights situation in Viet Nam.”

21. Lee reported on his review of costs and recommendation of new computer system for the office. It offers, for \$2,500 a fairly high ended and sophisticated system. Price plus installation and training of about \$1,300.

That would include transportation. A competing offer of approximately \$2078.00 was offered. Discussion ensued over the plusses and minuses of the two offers.

Frank moved and Bob seconded that **the board accept Lee's company, Eastern Computers, bid of \$3,300 to purchase their operating system.** Discussion. Secret ballot taken. Vote for purchase of Lee's system prevailed.

17. Fundraising. Barry announced that we could purchase the mailing system from a magazine for \$70 per 1000. Barry offered to put out the mailing if Woody and/or David would put out the letter. Sending out a solicitation letter around Armistice/Veterans day was suggested. Woody offered the name of someone that he could consult. Other sources were suggested.

Barry moved that we move that **the "GI Rights" be listed on the Veterans For Peace letterhead under "projects."** seconded by Lee. Discussion. Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6 pm to reconvene at 8 am, Sunday.

Meeting reconvened Sunday, May 11 at 8:20 am.

President Cline opened with acknowledging costs of stay. Amidon mentioned that a \$50-\$60 donation would cover most expenses with a little extra for Ed who spoke of his Iraq experiences.

David asked Gene to explain the resolutions' committee recommendation so that resolutions will be prepared before the national convention. Members of the resolutions committee are Amidon, Kim, and Wittman.

July 15 is the committee's expected deadline for submission of resolutions but really only ten days are required according to the bylaws. The ten days don't allow enough time. Discussion ensued about time and how to combine similar resolutions. The possibility of the by-law change was offered. Important for list of key issues. Put reminders on VFP All. Put link on web site about resolutions.

Nomination procedures were discussed with requests for bios of candidates be requested so that a document can be prepared before the convention. Time could be used during the Saturday speak out time. Woody will ask the member with concerns about the possibility of voter machine fraud to prepare a resolution and submit it for presentation at the convention. David thought there could be a committee to handle "democracy in elections" but would have to have those interested to develop guidelines. Appeals for interested could be put on web site.

By-laws issues. Cline suggested a change in Statement of Purpose have a plank about just treatment for veterans. Statement about "end arms race" is antiquated and the need to put in treatment of veterans. Interest was expressed about the

possible need for a standing committee on by-laws committee. **Dave would like that everyone come to meeting with by-laws and if we forget, to have extras available.** Anyone interested in joining committee? It's on the web and can be downloaded. Modifications that are suggested should be brought to the board at once. **John Kim, Jozef, Woody and David will work on it.** John A introduced Lou Spellich, visitor and member and candidate for future VFP board.

John Amidon suggested developing a political arm of the organization to avoid the tax-exempt threat. Wayne moved to explore the possibility of creating a political action committee of the VFP to lobby on behalf of group. Rejected. Ellen and others might review and inform group. Idea of following legislation that impacts on veterans by a committee could be established. **Joe Volk is already doing it and be asked to forward it. David will contact.**

18. National sponsorship of World Peace flags for Vermont Peace Institute Global Peace Summit proposal was presented by Barry Riesch. Wants the Earth Flag to represent a symbol for world peace. Proposal want the flag to be used worldwide. Flags would be \$25 and hopes that each chapter purchases two flags. He wants the VFP to be the sponsor for the 190 flags around the world. George thinks he can buy them for \$6-\$7. Discussion seemed to revolve around value but feelings was that it would take too much energy and distract focus from other more valuable efforts.

Barry read article about the General John Kelly saying about the Iraqis, "We shoot them down like the morons they are."

22. Lincoln's suggestions about regional representation were presented by Jozef. Vermont has 8.2% per 1000, highest percentage in country. Jozef explained how regional representation was allotted. Done by membership in population. Opposition to region identification was expressed. Whether by population, regions by arbitrary designation or any other way, regional coordination was discussed. How to arrive at regional structure with contacts or representation? Need help to define regions. A workshop on organization will be held at the convention.

Membership cards can be provided for all members. George and Jozef offered to help develop individual cards. (Will the office provide them for all board members?) There should be an expectation that the convention workshop will conclude with a genuine regional recommendation. **Woody urged the board members to travel to areas to scope out potential for possible attendance at workshop in SF.** Pres and VP should talk regional representation. Agenda for national convention was suggested along with outline of officers addressing the regional possibilities.

Wayne read off current candidates for nomination to board: Ken Mayer, Barry Riesch, Pat Driscoll,, Jozef Han-Boniakowski, David Cline, John Kim, Lincoln

Grahfs, Sharon Kinfeldt, Lewis Spelich.

Wayne moved **that \$1000 from the current fiscal year to be allotted to the President for travel to sites to develop organizational promotion. Seconded by Frank Houde. Discussion. Passed**

Frank Houde **Moved to hold convention 2004 in Boston July 23-25, and put on agenda for convention business meeting for approval of those dates. This does not preclude other cities from considerations offered before July 1, 2003.** Barry seconded. Discussion. Passed

Lee offered to provide funding from web site connections. Lee Thorn is the contact who made the offer and wanted to partner. **Lee moved to partner Jhai foundation under the standard 10% this can be applied to other VFP member sponsored projects subject to board approval.** Seconded by Gene. Discussed. Concern over other commercial ventures exploiting site and getting overloaded on special project buttons. Vote . Approved.

Frank moved to add \$300 a month to Woody's remuneration from \$2200 to \$2500 a month. Ellen seconded. The addition would bring the total to \$30,000 annually. Discussion. Vote held. Next discussion was: George moved that the pay be retroactive to January 1. Gene seconded **Vote held and passed unanimously with special acknowledgment of board's appreciation for Woody's work.** Lee pointed out that the web had brought in over \$7000 in the month of March.

John N. Sutcliffe offer. Woody reviewed his application. He asks for \$550a month plus expenses. Phones and meals. Discussion followed about the possibility of accepting Sutcliffe's offer. John A. moved that the offer is declined. George seconded. Discussion. Passed.

Barry mentioned the logo issue. Read from Genesis's book "Veterans For Peace the First Decade" citing part about black and white use. Page 28

"We are on a temporary reprieve on a downhill slide for federal funding help for veterans." David remarked **and offered to put together an update on what really is happening.**

Michael Uhl's proposal. Discussion. George mentioned that he and Fredy want to present to the convention a proposal about supporting a "Peace Bus." Send info to George.

John Amidon mentioned that he has more substantial crosses available designating victims of SOA graduates. Contact him.

Lee and Jozef offer hosting local information on web site. There are costs.

Meeting adjourned,

11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted.

Bob Heberle, Secretary