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Veterans For Peace Board of Directors

Approved Meeting Minutes

January 2024 - Present

For View Only Access at www.veteransforpeace.org

Veterans For Peace
Board of Directors
Saturday, March 16 2024
Minutes

PRESENT: President Susan Schnall, VP Josh Shurley, Treasurer Mike Tork, Secretary Paul Cox (notes), Mike Wong, Ellen Barfield, Gerry Condon, Stephen Zollman, Ellen Davidson, Nick Mottern, Nya Anderson, Matt Southworth. National Director Mike Ferner. Absent: Kelly Wadsworth.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ann Wright, Art Roche, Arthur Ratcliffe, Barry, Becky Luening, Bill Tiwald, Bob Keilbach, Chris Antal, Clayton Tye, David Cooley, Doug Rawlings, Ed Brighton, Gary Butterfield, Gerald Hassett, Gerry Werthan, Gil, Jeffrey Humfeld, Jim Brown, Joe Marcikowski, John Amidon, John Spitzberg, Ken Mayers, Kenneth Baer, Larry Orr, Libby Frank, Michael Cervantes, Michael Kramer, Mike Marceau, Munjo Yu, Nancy River, Paul Edward Gringas, Rachel Clark, Ray, Rick Staggenborg, Robert Rhudy, Scott Johnson, Shane Meserve, Steve Morse, Susan Lamont, Thomas Leonard, Tim Farley, Tina Jayroe, VFP 757, William Hopkins, Woody, "Somebody in Korean"--(58 participants at peak)

Meeting opened: 12:40 PM ET
Videos were played of the Statement of Purpose and Indigenous Worldview
Public Comment:

- **Bob Rhudy:** Saw VFP's job opening announcement, like it, and will send it out to some folks who might be interested.
- **Gary Butterfield:** CCMP will do joint events with 350.org in a groundbreaking collaboration on militarism. Actions will include protesting military air shows (of which there will be 65 this year). He urged people to attend the event by Zoom on **Mar 26, Noon ET, 9 am PT**. To register: bit.ly/protest-airshows FMI: garyvfp@gmail.com
- **Ann Wright:** Thanks to everyone who went to DC to lobby Congress this past week. Thanks to Ellen Davidson for the new T-Shirt, VFP–Veterans Against Genocide
- **Paul Cox:** announced the next VFP Chapter 160 tour, Oct 11–27. If you are vaguely interested, FMI: Paulcox890@comcast.net
- **Susan Schnall:** asked people to present ideas for the upcoming August convention.

Board meeting opened: 1:00PM with **Checkins**

Minutes: February 17, 2024. Motion Gerry, Second Enya: Approved
Agenda: Motion Matt, second Mike Wong: Approved

Finance Report, Mike Tork: Presented the 2024 Budget and the P&L for February

- Current finances: Checking: **$132k**. Restricted: **$21k.** Savings: **$31k**. Ed Jones: **$36k**. Zinn: **$27** to be reduced by end of month by $8k (Deported Vets and Fresno Chapter Podcast Equipment).
- Opening additional CD's in Amalgamated Bank (for their socially conscious investing) is still in process.
- Mentioned the Swarthmore Peace Collection of VFP's papers that are available online and worth perusing.

National Director's Report, Mike Ferner:

- Sally Alice Thompson Fund: Motion Ellen, second Gerry: "A motion to establish the fund: that this Board of Directors, in an open meeting on Mar 17, 2024 approves and establishes on the records of the Veterans For Peace, Inc., a separate fund to be known as The Sally-Alice Thompson Legacy Fund administered by the Finance Committee. Interest generated by the Fund's investments may be transferred to the organization's operating accounts by recommendation of the Committee. However, the principal of the Fund may be expended only upon a vote of a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at an open meeting of the Board of Directors." Passed. Mike suggested that the Fund could be used as a place to park planned giving and bequests. The interest income, could be spent for capacity building–to increase membership and Chapter work and to improve communications.
- National will send out a Call To Action (CTA) this week about Gaza
- Casey Stinemetz will stay in her ¾-time position as membership director through June.
- We now have wallet-sized cards with QR code available from National here: https://www.veteransforpeace.org/download_file/5560 that can be used to get new memers.
- Urges chapter to organize the April 4 MLK memorial, possibly with a reading of his Beyond War speech. File with ideas for Spring Actions for Chapters: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xr2rN7kK1tcHQsxY7M4dgA6eksys7II1OPtvDJ8oR14/edit#heading=h.bc4s5yitlctf
- A Search Committee has volunteered to work on finding a replacement for Mike Ferner as National Director. Nick Mottern, Ellen Davidson, Matt Southworth, Gerry Condon, and Mike Wong comprise the committee and will meet next week. Suggestion for advertising the position from Shane Meserve in Chat: www.idealist.org.
- Recommended Uncle Devin's video about moving DoD money out of 'defense'. Also, recommended Peter Coyote's 4-minute video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPMxwVfIKhs&feature=youtu.be

Development Committee, Matt Southworth: committee met Feb 26 that included Rhudy, Zool, Dirk, Thomas, and Bruce. They have split into three task forces: Data Analysis, Solicitation and Stewardship, and Planned Giving. Next meeting on Monday, Mar 18.

Transformative Justice Committee, Kelly Wadsworth's written report: "TJC has 5 members and has met twice since the last board meeting. We are reviewing the TJC webpage and aim to have it up back up on the website within a month or so. At our next meeting we plan to review the steps and process for referrals as well as hand-off procedures to the Membership committee as well as the Board. We are

exploring how to provide some best-practices education to all of VFP. We are always accepting new members so if you'd like to join us, please reach out."

Membership Committee, Josh Shurley: Thanked Ken, who is stepping down, for his help with the committee. They are meeting first Wed of each month. Motion Josh, second Mike Wong, to approve creation of two new chapters: Norfolk, VA, Chapter 757 (their Area Code). And Chapter 122 in Auburn, CA. See written report, **Appendix 1**.

Peace Walk, Tarak Kauff: Thanked Nick Mottern for sitting in Jim McGovern's office. The Peace Walk will start May 7 in Algonquin, ME, and move to formal kickoff in NH. The Walk still needs donations. He expressed that we could benefit from participation by Quakers, Menonites, Buddhists, and anyone who supports all life, the environment, and peace. Ellen and Tarak just bought a 12-passenger van for the walk. They still need people to assist with finding places to stay, venues, etc. In response to Nick Mottern's comments, Tarak indicated that Justice for Palestine will likely be the focus for the Peace Walk since the war on Gaza is likely to be ongoing, but that a ceasefire in Ukraine is the other main topic. FMI, www.peacewalk2024.org

Communications Committee, Gerry Condon: he showed his T-shirt commemorating the Irish struggles created by and worn in memory of George Johnson. Gerry's written report is attached as **Appendix 2.**

Executive Committee, Susan Schnall:
There will be two zoom meeting on Gaza on Mar 17, and April 17, here?

1. Report from Washington, DC: several members met in DC to walk the Hill, and visited the spot where Aaron Bushnell self-immolated in front of the Israeli Embassy.
2. Zinn Fund Grants approved:
    a. Deported Veterans
    b. Fresno Proposal for equipment for podcasts
3. Recommendation that VFP donate $2,000 to the Palestine Children's Fund in memory of Aaron Bushnell. Motion Gerry Condon, second Nick Mottern. Passed. Mike Ferner promised to publicize this donation to allied organizations.
4. Start organizing for conventions 2024 (virtual) and 2025 (in person)
5. VFP Statement regarding attacks on progressive organizations by the press and politicians
6. Executive Director/National Director position posted, notice below as Appendix ZZZ

Next Board Meeting: April 20, 2024, 12:40 pm, ET
Adjournment: Motion Mike Tork, Second Gerry Condon. Passed at 2:56 ET

Appendix 1

Membership Committee Report, Mar 16, 2024

The Membership Committee is continuing efforts with improving how we orient new members, retain existing members, and reach out to lapsed members, while working through database issues.

· Welcome back Casey as Membership Coordinator. Expanded hours in order to help sort out our database issues and help get VFP Membership running smoothly.

· Immediate focus on orienting new members.

- Have been averaging 60 members per month during the past quarter.
- Committee is in the process of making phone calls/reaching out to new members each month. Each newly joined member will receive a call from one of us, asking about them and informing about projects, committee work, chapters, etc.
- Someone from Membership will be on each monthly New Member call.
- New Member Form to track these outreach efforts and gather useful membership data.

· Continued tracking, outreach to lapsed members. Will be organizing calls to lapsed members. Retention calls similar to welcoming calls

· Will have two annual membership drives: one in spring, one at Convention time.

· Someone from Membership will be on each Chapter Contacts call.

Josh Shurley, Co-Chair, Membership Committee, 3/16/2024

Appendix 2
Communications Committee Report
VFP Board Meeting, March 16, 2-24

The Communications Committee was established in order to facilitate coordination among the various VFP means of communication, including our printed newsletter – now twice a year, the VFP eNews – now twice a month, VFP Radio – weekly, the VFP Facebook page, social media and the VFP-All list serve – daily, and occasional eBlasts from the national office. VFP activists from all of these media are represented on the Communications Committee. I am serving as Board liaison and facilitator. We meet monthly, 3d Monday. We have a listserve which includes VFP staff and volunteers, as well as the Executive Director Mike Ferner, Board president Susan Schnall, and Ellen Davidson from *Peace & Planet News.* Over the last few months, we have achieved considerable coordination and impressive output.

During the last two months of February and March, we have been particularly productive. First of all, the VFP eNews is truly outstanding. Becky Luening does a terrific job putting together an attractive and comprehensive newsletter that reflects a definite uptick in the activity of VFP chapters and members, particularly in response to the US-backed genocide in Gaza, as well as the twin existential threats of Climate Catastrophe and Nuclear War.

We have also been able to promote and build participation in special VFP events. The VFP *Warheads to Windmills* webinar, Feb 29, by our Nuclear Abolition Working Group, was a huge success. Over 300 people registered and 150 attended, which I think may be unprecedented outside of VFP Conventions. The large participation was directly the result of coordinated promotion on multiple platforms, including the VFP eNews, Facebook, VFP-All, and a VFP eBlast, thanks to Shelly Rockett in our national office. Probably VFP Radio as well. So, good job, everybody. We have begun to do similar promotion for a March 26 webinar by the VFP Climate and Militarism Project, co-presented with 350.org US, the largest climate organization in the U.S.

We are learning more about how to project VFP statements and actions into the media. I should say "alternative media" because the corporate media is really tough to crack. Progressive alternative media is gaining larger and larger audiences, however, so should not be taken lightly. Even progressive media needs to be approached systematically, including building relationships with the editors. When Veterans For Peace issues an important statement – such as calling for an end to US weapons shipments to Israel,

only rarely will that entire statement be published. So we tried summarizing those statements in shorter press releases, and didn't have much luck with that either. Finally, we decided to develop that press release into a full-blown article, with the VFP statements embedded, and we began to get published more often.

For example, VFP Board Vice President Josh Shurley and I collaborated on an article decrying the hypocrisy of Biden's airdropping MRE's onto the beaches of Gaza, while continuing to supply the bombs that are still being dropped on Gaza, and failing to pressure Israel to open up border crossings for the massive aid that is needed to stave off famine. It was titled, *Veterans Are Not Fooled by Biden's Mixed Messages on Gaza.* We embedded in the article links to the VFP statement on the self-immolation of Aaron Bushnell, and the VFP letter to the State Department detailing the illegality of shipping arms to Israel while it was violating human rights on a massive scale. The article was published by *Popular Resistance, Common Dreams, Antiwar.com,* and *LA Progressive.*

Another article by Helen Jaccard and me, marking the 70th anniversary of the Castle Bravo nuclear test – the largest ever US test – was also published in *Peace & Planet News, Antiwar.com, Common Dreams* and *LA Progressive*. The article included a link to the website of VFP's *Golden Rule* anti-nuclear sailboat.

So writing and submitting timely articles and linking to VFP statements and projects appears to be effective way of making veterans' voices heard. Which tells me we should be cultivating a team of VFP writers.

But we are not giving up on the mainstream (corporate) media either. Renowned progressive media activist Norman Solomon has offered to do a media workshop for Veterans For Peace – how to break into the mass media. We are talking with Norman about doing a webinar with him sometime in April.

Finally, Ken Mayers has suggested that the task of VFP recruitment is something that might most effectively be shared by the Membership Committee and the Communications Committee. We will be discussing how best to do that.

Gerry Condon Communications Committee Chair

Post-meeting informal discussion of August Convention :

- Ken suggests that there be concurrent in-person regional conventions in a few locations. Mike Ferner is concerned about the staffing issues that will arise with multiple conventions.
- Dates for the convention have not yet been chosen.
- Ellen B suggested Chris Antal, and Joe Wiinikka-Lydon be called in for discussion of Moral Injury.
- From Chat for Convention: Reproductive rights/women's rights/MST. Support for Lejeune families and GIs. Update on Ukraine (Peace and Justice in Ukraine Coalition, perhaps). On Gaza use advisory board members as speakers (e.g. Hedges, Peled, Cohn, Nadar, Bacevich, etc.). Film *Israelism* (https://www.israelismfilm.com/screenings). Substantial strategy discussion. Outreach to other allied groups. Naomi Klein as speaker: https://www.redpepper.org.uk/global-politics/palestine-middle-east/the-iron-dome-is-global-and-so-is-the-resistance/
- Tarak: South African Foreign Minister, Nalleti Pandor, Italian Clare Daly Francesca Albanize,
- Mike Ferner: Corporations: Citizens United and other corporate unjust rights and protections. Move to Amend You Tube video by Peter Coyote

- Joe Marcikowski: Max Blumenthal, Aaron Matte, Dabe Matte The Grayzone. South by Southwest musical festival
- Gerry Condon: wants a sharper theme about decolonization. Proposes convention dates to sync with GR, last Sat of July would be interesting with Kayacitists. Proposed **Free Palistine. Decolonize the Planet** as the Theme. Other offerings from Chat:' END CORPORATE RULE TO END INVASIONS AND OCCUPATION.' Or, 'FREE, FREE PALESTINE - Decolonize the Planet!'
- Nick Mottern suggests some direct action about Nukes at Congress.
- Ken Mayers discussed his chapter's thinking about doing Albuquerque convention in **2025**
- Josh Shurley, suggested that we need to oppose the increased gummit actions against progressive groups, support decolonization, and show solidarity with other states such as S. Africa and Ireland. Wants us to schedule the conference before schools start in mid-August.

Veterans For Peace
Board of Directors
Saturday, February 17, 2024
Minutes

Present:

Board: President Susan Schnall, VP Josh Shurley, Treasurer Mike Tork, Secretary Paul Cox (notes), Mike Wong, Ellen Barfield, Gerry Condon, Stephen Zollman, Ellen Davidson, Kelly Wadsworth. Excused absence: Nick Mottern. Absent: Nya Anderson, Matt Southworth.

Staff: National Director Mike Ferner, Shelly Rockett

Members: Alice Slater, Ann Wright, Barry Ladendorf, Bill Habedank, Bob Rhudy, Bushrod007@gmail.com, Charles Powell, Chris Berg, Dan Shea, Dave Logsdon, David, David Ransom, Denise Sellers, Denny Riley, Doug Monroe, Ed White, Ed Lorenz, Fernando, Gary Butterield, Gary May, Gerald Hassett, Hart, Helen Jaccard, James Williams, Jean Morris, Jeff Merrick, Jeff Gray, Jeff Humfeld, Jim Brasile, Jim Rine Jonn Vail, Keith Orchard, Ken Mayers, Ken Kohler, Larry Orr, Larry S,. Libby Frank, M Cervantes, Michael McPhearson, Michael Kramer, Munjo Yu, Nancy River, Paul Edward Gringas, Paul Dordal, Peace Action Maine, Phil Jossleyn, Phil Pflager, Rachel Clark, Ralph,, Susan Lamont, Regina Sneed, Tarak Kauf, Thomas, Tina Jayroe, Willam Hopkins.

Meeting opened: 12:48 pm ET with videos of Statement of Purpose and Indigenous Worldview

Open mic:

Tarak Kauf: Thanked board for letter to State Department.

Libby Frank: She would like to hear from chapters with a speakers' bureau? Also her chapter lost access to their email, etc. and would like for National establish a system to maintain information/access for the chapters.

Gary Butterfield: CCMP has been at it for 2.5 years and is negotiating with www.350.org for CCMP to give a presentation at their national meeting. 350.org has begun taking note of the military's role in pollution. Their presentation with 350.org will be March 6. CCMP will stress targeting the 65 military

airs shows this year. Here is an instagram video by 350.org slamming the military's contribution to pollution: https://www.instagram.com/reel/C3I0E_CJ6-t/

Ann Wright: Echoed Tarak's comment. Yesterday, her delegation on the Hill talked to 20 reps and gave them the VFP press release. No to NATO will be in DC for NATO's 75th Anniversary, on July 5-7. Lastly, the Gaza Freedom Flotilla will find a fast boat to challenge the Zionist war on Gaza.

John Vail: Liked the Indigenous Worldview video. Thinks that efforts to get money out of politics will address all the other problems in our society.

Phil Josslyn: Greetings from San Salvador, where he went to observer shit-show elections. Supports VFP's draft letter about the potential for a new McCarthy era that he thinks is on the horizon, and hopes that Board passes it.

Gerry Condon: Webinar that the Nuke Abolition Working Group is sponsoring will be Feb 29, 7 pm ET. Check VFP website.

Ed White: Suggested we protest AIPAC. Has been trying to do so in Chicago.

Jim Brasile: Shout out to Ann Wright for her work at UN and in DC. Also to Jim W and Harley Bennet for their VFP radio show. Thinks we need to focus on UN re: Gaza.

Dave Logsdon: Has been working with young anti-war folks in Minneapolis. He also plugged the movie ***Dome*** about Marshall Islander's efforts.

VFP Board Meeting called to order by President Susan Schnall at 1:17 pm ET

Merle Ratner: Susan Schnall passed the news that Merle Ratner died in a traffic accident on Feb 5 in NYC. A lifelong and tireless friend of Vietnam, Merle started Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign (VAORRC) with Dave Cline and her partner Ngo Nhan, and led the support efforts for first the lawsuit against chemical companies from 2004 to 2009. After the lawsuit was dismissed by the Supremes, VAORRC shifted to legislative efforts on behalf of AO victims from 2009 through today. She was awarded the Vietnam Friendship Medal in 2016. Paul also spoke about his work and friendship with Merle.

Ben Chitty: Susan Schnall, related how Ben was an early and long-time leader of VVAW, a two-tour veteran of the American War, and was active in labor struggles. He passed this week from cancer.

Board Member check in. Jan 20, 2024, Minutes approved, and agenda approved.

Finance Report, Mike Tork: Budget-2024; P&L December:

Unrestricted: Checking 137K, CapOne Savings 31K, Edward Jones (CDs) 36K: TOTAL = **$204k**
Restricted: Projects Account. 22K, Zinn Fund 27K: TOTAL **$49k**

Mike discussed the approved budget and PL, pointing out that our January income was better than predicted.

Development Committee: Matt Southworth–Tabled

National Director's Report, Mike Ferner: Casey Stinemetz will extend her work contract with membership through June. Membership Committee will have a subcomm in Recruitment and Retention. If we make our unofficial goal of 1,000 new members, it will eradicate our financial fragility. He also related that he has enjoyed his emergency year as interim ED, and helping with financial and

membership retention difficulties. Development Committee, to be run by Matt Southworth will be meeting soon. Contact MF if you are interested in helping with it. Urged all members to forward our E-News to all your friends as a way to extend our outreach. Chris Smiley is doing a great job with social media. We need to get started on the 2024 Convention and also the 2025 convention. The State Department letter is getting much attention, due to social media help from Sean Nestor and Terry Lodge (who drafted it). Also, Nick Mottern put us in touch with Josh Paul, a State Department employee who resigned over illegal weapons shipments, and who is sending out that letter to hundreds of other State Department employees to nudge them into their own actions. Also Ralph Nader's current column and radio show feature discussion of this letter. While individuals cannot sue the State Department, Ralph suggests that we all lobby our congressional reps to do their job.

Golden Rule, Helen Jaccard: Reported that the Great Loop was finished last year with many important actions and memorable moments. For example, every member of the House and Senate was handed a copy of VFPs Nuclear Posture Review. Also, the GR crew went to the UN and met with 13 international missions, including the Marshall Islands delegation. 2023 financials: income $105.5k. expenses: $111.6k. The 2024 Sailing Plan is to go to the Northwest from Jul 15 through Sep 30, to include Eureka to Seattle, and will show GR film, demonstrate, and talk about nukes. The 2024 budget: income $58k, exp $58k, with VFP's support to be $21.4k mitigated by $4k in restricted income to VFP. Currently GR has about $49k–close to the income goal already. Helen has put much of the GR report in a PowerPoint presentation on their website.

Peace Walk, Tarak Kauff: "Silence the Drums of War, Justice and Democracy" will be their slogan, and will likely be connected to the Gaza debacle that can reasonably be expected to be an ongoing disaster. There will be a workshop at 5 pm ET today(Feb 17) on this matter (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83426011852?pwd=RzRzTisvLzJuV0ovYUQ4a3NFa3lrZz09). Walk will start Apr 27 in Augusta Maine, and end 700 miles later in DC by July 5 in time for actions around NATO's 75th anniversary. The project needs help! FMI www.peacewalk2024.org .

Executive Committee Report: Susan

1- **Socially Responsible Investments:** Recommendation that VFP investments be made through socially responsible banking institutions.

- Motion Mike Tork, second Stephen Zollman, to put additional CD's into Amalgamated Bank (started by Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America in 1923). Our current checking has $137k. Move $40k of that into a 7-month CD in AB. Passed.
- Motion Mike Tork, second Mike Wong: Withdrawing money from any of our CDs will require the approval of the majority of the VFP Board. Passed.

2- **Administrative Fee:** Motion Paul Cox, second Mike Tork, to reduce 8.5% administrative fee to 5%. Passed.

3- Start organizing for conventions 2024 (virtual) and 2025 (in person). Tucson has offered to host 2025, and Santa Fe/Albuquerque chapters will also consider. Note that 2025 will be the 40th Anniversary of VFP!

4- **Attacks on progressive organizations** by the press and politicians Mike Wong drafted a statement, opposing such slander, which is attached as Appendix1. Ellen Barfield suggested that references to "Americans" be changed to "US" or "US citizens". Ellen Davidson thought the

statement was too long, and suggested that she edit it for length without changing its meaning. Gerry Condon thought that we should run the statement past Code Pink since they are mentioned so often. Josh Shurley also thought it is too long and needs to be shortened. Compromise suggested by Susan is to put it up on PPN and on Website, but Ellen D will shorten it and seek approval through ExComm. No vote. Accepted without objection.

5- **092 Greater Seattle Washington:** Requested name change to Daniel Ellsberg Chapter 092. Motion Mike Wong, second Josh Shurley, to approve. Passed.

6- **Board Committee List** of chairs/liaisons and members, Accepted without objection. Susan pointed out that committee membership is open to all members, not just board members.

ExComm: President Susan Schnall, Vice President Josh Shurley, Secretary Paul Cox, Treasurer Mike Tork, National Director: Mike Ferner

Membership and Chapter Support: Chair Josh Shurley, Nick Mottern, Dave Logsdon, Enya Anderson, Ellen Barfield

Recruitment and Retention: Chair Gerry Condon

Transformative Justice: Chair Kelly Wadsworth, Mike Wong, Stephen Zollman, Ellen Davidson, Barry Reich, Greg Corning

Communications: Chair/Liaison Gerry Condon, Ellen Davidson

Delegations: Chair Ellen Davidson, Josh Shurley, Enya Anderson

Finance: Chair/Treasurer Mike Tork, Ellen Davidson, Paul Cox,

Development: Chair Matt Southworth, Stephen Zollman

Personnel: Chair Paul Cox, Enya Anderson, Kelly Wadsworth, Nick Mottern

Convention: Co-chair Susan Schnall, Co-chair Mike Ferner, Board of Directors

Awards: Chair Josh Shurley, Becky Luening, Nick Mottern, Mike Tork

Bylaws: Chair Josh Shurley, Stephen Zollman

Resolutions: Chair Josh Shurley, Bob Gryzinski

Nominations: Chair Ellen Barfield, Enya Anderson, Dave Logsdon

VFP Advisory Board: Chair Paul Cox

Next Board Meeting: March 16, 2024

Adjourned at 3:20: **Rump Session** followed: Barry Ladendorf brought up that Jerry Genesio and a few others started VFP in July ,1985, and suggested we plan 40th Anniversary events. Also suggested Advisory Board members be asked to write why they joined VFP statements that we can use to drum up interest. He is willing to work on the Advisory Board Committee. Mike Ferner mentioned that Matt Hoh may also be willing to help with AB.

Appendix 1: **Veterans For Peace denounces false allegations of foreign funding to peace groups by Nancy Pelosi, the media, and Washington politicians.**

California Democratic Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi's recent claims that Code Pink and other peace protesters calling for a ceasefire in Gaza are either Russian or Chinese funded is absurd and insulting, and Veterans For Peace calls on her to withdraw such allegations and apologize. In October of 2023, Pelosi told a group of Code Pink protesters (all of whom were White US citizens), to "Go back to China where

your headquarters is." Then in January of 2024, Pelosi said in an interview, “I think … some of these protesters are spontaneous and organic and sincere ..... Some, I think, are connected to Russia. And I say that having looked at this for a long time now, as you know.” When asked whether she thought some pro-Palestinian protests were Russian plants, the responded, “I don’t think they’re plants.... I think some financing should be investigated... and I want to ask the FBI to investigate that.”

"Go back to China!" is a common racial insult that historically has been hurled at Asians, but now Pelosi has crossed racial lines and thrown the insult at Whites. It should also be noted that prominent White members of Veterans For Peace have reported that in advocating for peace, they have in the past been told to "Go back to Russia!" The stereotyping and irony is embarrassing, defies reality or logic, and highlights the absurdity and falsehood of these claims.

Groups such as Code Pink and others have been around since the "War on Terror" began with our tragic and foolish wars on one nation after another in the Middle East. Now that the US has declared Russia and China to be our latest enemies, she's trying to connect dots that simply aren't connected. For example, why can't Pelosi decide whether peace folks are funded by Russia or by China? Because there's no evidence for either, simple as that. She is claiming things that just don't exist.

On August 5, 2023, the New York Times attacked Jodie Evans and Code Pink and other peace groups in an article entitled, “A Global Web of Chinese Propaganda Leads to a U.S. Tech Mogul.” But if one reads the article carefully, the evidence provided actually shows that the headline was false, the US tech mogul in question made all his money in America, and is donating his American money to American and international peace organizations. The tech mogul lives in Shanghai and has a wide range of contacts there, including Chinese officials. But it’s perfectly normal for business people in any country to have many contacts including government officials, just as both American and foreign business people in America normally have contacts in both government and private agencies in order to do business.

The peace groups he donates to criticize American foreign policy, but based on fact, not anyone’s propaganda.

Yet following the NYT article, Republican US senator Marco Rubio asked the United States Department of Justice to open an investigation into Code Pink and other entities for potential violations of the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA). Then in November of 2023, ten Republican House members of Congress signed a letter saying that they are 'deeply concerned' with Code Pink's ties to the Communist Party of China and requesting documentation.

When multiple people and groups make similar observations about US aggression around the world and support each other in speaking up about it, the US mainstream media calls it a "conspiracy." But when the CIA and its offshoot the National Endowment for Democracy fund projects such as the "Voice of America" and "color revolutions," stage coups and fund, arm, and train insurgents in foreign countries around the world, they call that "democracy." And when Washington politicians receive money from pro-Israel lobbying groups, the right wing Taiwan DPP party, or American weapons contractors supporting our (big money making) foreign wars, that is considered business as usual. There's a double standard here: peace groups are falsely accused - without evidence - of having funding from foreign sources, while Washington politicians are openly taking money from compromised sources with serious conflicts of interest as a "normal" practice.

One has to ask, if this is how much our American leaders falsely stereotype and demonize our own citizens advocating peace, how much are they doing the same to the foreign nations and governments that they oppose?

This is a bipartisan attack on peace and those who advocate it, in essence, a new McCarthy Period. The McCarthy Period was one of the darkest periods in living American history, and Veterans For Peace denounces a return to such a period. We must rise above such darkness, seek diplomatic rather than military solutions to problems, and cultivate peace rather than war with other nations. In today's world of high tech and nuclear weapons, either we humans will all learn to live together, or we will all die together. Veterans For Peace urges our American leaders to promote living together.

–END Feb 2024 Notes–

Veterans For Peace
Board of Directors
Saturday, January 20, 2024
Minutes

Present: President Susan Schnall, VP Mike Wong, Treasurer Mike Tork, Secretary Paul Cox (minutes), ED Mike Ferner. Board Members: Josh Shurley, Enya Anderson, Gerry Condon, Ellen Davidson, Ellen Barfield, Nick Mottern, Kelly Wadsworth, Stehen Zollman, Matt Southworth. Staff: Shelly Rockett, Chris Smiley, Casey Stinemetz

Members: Alice Slater, Al Glatkowski, Anthony Donovan, Adam Toohaker, Bob me, Carole Baraldi, Chuck T!, Chris Antal, Daniel Guy, David Ransom, David Cooley, Denny Riley, Don Kimball, Doug Rawlings, Elsa, Frank Campbell, Gary Ghirardi, Gerald Hassett, George Jiracek, Jack Gilroy, Jim Rine, James Brown, Jane Huntington, Jeff Gray, Jeff Roy, JeTina Jayroe, John Amadon, John Vail, Kathleen Michele Gilberd, Ken Embers, Ken Mayers, Larry Meisgeier, Munjo Yu, Nancy S., Paul Edward Gingras, Phil, Regina Sneed, Robert Williams, Roger Erlich, Scott Alexander, Sal Jimenez, Sammy Jones, Stan, Susan Lamont, Taylor, Thomas Leonard, Tom Larsen, Tom Wilber, Vince Dijanich, Woody Powell, Zool Zolowicz.

Open Meeting Convened: 12:44 pm ET with Video of Statement of Purpose and poem by Jennie Pacanowski

Member Comments:

Jack Gilroy plugged the Ban Drones efforts to put out PSAs to expose war industries. He has been working with Nick Mottern and encourages people to contact them.

Chuck Ti expressed thanks to VFP, and wants to revive legislative and lobbying group

Nancy S: We should add "ending Colonialism" to our Statement of Purpose

Alice Slater: the news about Boeing's recent airplane skin failure is the result of them buying off safety rules through Congress, and we could use that corporate corruption to change policies

Anthony Donovan: This monday is the 3d anniversary of the TPNW, and encourages chapter activities. Encourages people to come to DC for action. Encourages people to invest in non-military banks.

Board Meeting Convened: 1:08 pm ET

Introductions and swearing in of board members: new Board members: Kelly Wadsworth and Stephen Zollman-veteran VFP members and Ellen Davidson-VFP's first associate board member. Paul Cox and Susan Schnall were re-elected. "I, <state your name>, will uphold the Veterans For Peace Statement of Purpose, and fulfill my responsibilities and obligations to the organization as a national Board of

Directors member to the best of my abilities. I will work together with other Board members to foster the growth, integrity, and well being of the finances, membership, and chapters so that we may fulfill our mission of abolishing war."

President Schnall expressed thanks to Michael Dempsey and Ken Mayers for extraordinary years of service and dedication to Veterans For Peace.

Checkins/self introductions by board members
Minutes for December 16, 2023: Motion Shurley, second Wong to approve. Passed
Agenda: Motion Wong, second Barfield to approve: Passed

Board election of officers: President Schnall passed gavel to VP Emeritus Mike Wong
President: Susan Schnall only nomination
Vice President: Josh Shurley only nomination
Secretary: Paul Cox only nomination
Treasurer: Mike Tork only nomination
All positions filled unanimously

REPORTS:
Finance, Mike Tork:
Cash On Hand: $156k
Savings: $31k
Ed Jones: $35k CDs mostly
Restricted Funds: $22k
Zinn Fund: $27k
TOTAL: $271k
P&L: 2023 Income: $523,177.62; 2023 Expenses: $400,118.67; finished with $123,058.95 excess.
Budget 2024, Mike Tork: Motion Tork, second Shurley, to add line item of $5k to the 2024 budget for assistance with members' travel costs. Approved. Secretary will change Policies and Procedures to reflect application procedures as proposed and passed. Proposed Budget for 2024 Projected Income $482,809; Expenses $434K; Expected $54,367 excess. Motion Barfield, Second Shurley to approve budget as submitted. Approved.

Communications/Youtube, Chris Smiley: reported social media growth across all platforms. In Youtube, we now have the ability to sell ads, and a test program made $10. If we had used ads for the Ann Wright video a few months ago that got more than 100,000 views, we could have made $5k-ish. We will not have control over which ads get shown with our videos but do decide when videos get set up for ads. We decided to give the process a chance.

National Director's Report, Mike Ferner: He welcomed Casey Stinemetz back on staff as our membership organizer on an initial three-month contract. Casey is working to rejuvenate several chapters. He also thanked the other staff–Shelly, Chris, Becky, and Gail for their hard, smart work. Thanked Ken Mayers and Michael Dempsey for their time on the Board. He discussed membership numbers and set a goal of 1,000 new members this year. Last year we got 372 new members, but lost 987 for a net negative 615. With this 1,000 new-member goal we will have a net gain of 13, so need 84

per month. Urged us to undertake various organizing efforts to recruit new members. In that vein, the National office has wallet-size cards available with our contact information and a QR code directly to the "Become a Member" page on our website. They can be found on the Downloadable Resources page on our website (https://www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/downloadable-resources) and can be printed up as business cards on Avery stock. Or you can design your own at one of the online vendors.

Spring organizing opportunities for chapters and indy members. See this document for details and "how to" suggestions:

1. **April 4**: anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination. Many cities have public readings of his "Beyond Vietnam" speech he gave at Riverside Church, exactly one year before his murder. **VFP chapters and independent members need to join those efforts that are already being planned and organize ones where there aren't any.** Keep your QR code membership card on you!
2. If we want to recruit younger members, the ongoing ceasefire rallies are where we'll find them – and many are post 9/11. Keep your QR code membership card on you!
3. We've started circulating VFP's 30-second "Climate Crisis PSA" to members with these instructions on how to get it aired on local TV stations
4. An excellent indy documentary, "What I Want You to Know," is available for chapters and members to show for very reasonable rates. One chapter has done so and more should. The vets in the film are all post 9-11. The interviews are stunning.

2023 Endorsements: This document lists them all from April 1 to December 31.

Convention: This year's convention will be virtual again, with an in-person convention for sure in 2025. Be sure to see the great job Becky Luening did on the program book for this year's convention. Mike sent one to Ralph Nader and they're good for sending to major donors.

Development Committee, Matt Southworth: First meeting is this coming Monday, Jan 23, 2024. They will create a development calendar. Expects to be running full speed by summer.

Summary of Board's Accomplishments for 2023, Susan: We have been successful in stabilizing VFP. The only way that has been possible was due to teamwork and members stepping up. Yurii Sheliazhenko, peace activist in Ukraine, is our new member of the advisory board. We will not have an in-person convention for 2024, but wants to have one in 2025–need a chapter to step up to host. Please let national know if you want to be on either 2024 and/or 2025 convention.

VFP Board Member Expectations: The collective responsibilities of the Board are described in the VFP Bylaws and Policies; the following expectations are a guide to individual member responsibilities:

1. Be familiar with the VFP Bylaws and Policies
2. Attend monthly VFP Board meetings
3. Support and participate in fundraising efforts for: Funding the organization. The board is responsible for the continued funding and financial health of the organization. Maintaining fiscal accountability. The board approves and closely monitors the organization's expenses and

income. The board oversees the organization's resources (including the time of volunteers and staff) are used appropriately, and ensures that the organization has enough money to operate.

4. Participation in board activities. The board has monthly zoom meetings. Please let the President of the Board know when you are unable to attend.
5. Chair and/or actively serve on Board committees
6. Participate in the planning for the VFP National Convention
7. Be available to membership for questions and concerns about VFP
8. Be a strong voice in promoting VFP at the national and local level
9. Actively participate in financial oversight
10. Support Board decisions
11. Acknowledge the Code of Conduct

VFP National Board Committees and chairs

1. Communications Committee–Gerry Condon
2. Convention Committee–Susan Schnall **and Everybody!!**
    a. Convention Committees (Program committee, workshops, outreach, communications, etc.)--TBD
    b. Bylaws–Josh Shurley
    c. Resolutions–Josh Shurley
    d. Nominations–Ellen Barfield
    e. Awards–Josh Shurley
3. Delegations Committee–Ellen Davidson
4. Development Committee–Matt Southworth
5. Executive Committee–Susan Schnall
6. Finance–Mike Tork
7. Membership & Chapter Support Committee–Josh Shurley
8. Personnel Committee–Paul Cox
9. Recruitment and Retention–Gerry Condon
10. Strategic Planning Committee–(on hiatus)
11. Transformative Justice Committee–Kelly Wadsworth
12. Ad Hoc Advisory Board Committee–Paul Cox

Liaisons with National Projects / Working Groups: (to be assigned)

1- **National Projects:**

Climate and Militarism
Courage to Resist
Deported Veterans Advocacy
Full Disclosure: Toward an Honest Commemoration of the American War in Vietnam
Golden Rule
Iraq Water Project
Korea Peace Campaign
Save Our VA (SOVA)
VFP Peace Walk (new)
Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign (VAORRC)
Vietnam Full Disclosure Campaign

2- **Working Groups**

Be the Change Book Club
China
Democracy and Peace
DU, Cluster Bombs, and Landmines
Homeless Veterans
No Drones
Nuclear Abolition
Russia
SOAW/Latin America

Descriptions of Committees

Communications Committee: Charged with promoting VFP and bringing visibility and recognition to VFP actions and principles. Involved in oversight of VFP communications as well as monitoring the publication of VFP materials (e.g., VFP Newsletter, VFP papers, etc.).

Convention Committee: Charged with the planning and organization of the annual convention. The membership of the Convention Committee changes with each convention but will include at least representatives from the previous year's convention, the current year's convention, the upcoming year's convention, the Executive Director and the President.

Awards Committee: Charged with developing the annual award categories, criteria and nominating procedures, found in Awards section, plus recommending award recipients to the Board.

Nominations Committee: Charged with identifying qualified members to run for election to the Board of Directors, as required by VFP Bylaws and will perform its duties as described therein.

Bylaws Committee: Charged with ensuring that the bylaws meet the evolving needs of the organization. To this end, and in accordance with our Bylaws and Policies, the committee will:

1. Receive proposed amendments or suggestions from a member, a chapter, or the Board.
2. Study, draft, or redraft proposed amendments as appropriate.
3. Make a recommendation to the Board as to their disposition.
4. Periodically review the bylaws to identify needed amendments, or rescissions.

Resolutions Committee: Charged with facilitating the resolutions procedures as described by the bylaws and developing any other necessary procedures, found in the section on Resolutions.

Delegations Committee: Charged with assisting our members in organizing and applying for Board approval of all VFP U.S. sponsored delegations, and making a recommendation to the Board regarding approval.

Finance Committee: Charged with creating strategies that will develop the financial strength of the organization (e.g., major donors, foundations, mailings, planned giving and special events), and supporting and assisting the treasurer by reviewing professional accounting reports and giving advice on investments and disposition of endowment. The committee is chaired by the Treasurer and consists of at least that position, the President and Executive Director.

Development Committee: New committee split from Finance, Policies require some revision to separate charges.

Membership and Chapter Development Committee Charged with supporting individual members and chapters. Membership support: building an outreach campaign and supporting new and existing members to include orientation of independent members and connecting members to local chapters. Chapter support: assist in the chartering, formation, and ongoing support of VFP chapters and providing support and assistance to reinvigorate inactive chapters. Staff provide direct assistance to the committee by verifying veterans' status, providing reports, and issuing charters and related paperwork. Due to the intense workload of this committee, it shall include a steering committee made up of two members of the Board of Directors (chair and co-chair of the committee), two members of staff (the executive director and membership coordinator) and one member at large as appointed by the President of the Board of Directors. Additional members can serve to help support the committee's goals as needed.

Transformative Justice Committee: Charged with overseeing the internal health of the organization, to include continued exploration of Transformative and Restorative Justice, updates to the Code of Conduct based on member input, and investigating complaints and grievances about members and chapters. Because of the sensitive nature of this committee's work, this committee will be composed of members with a specific background in restorative justice, misconduct/harassment investigations, social work, or other applicable areas. The committee shall work to ensure that our Code of Conduct and Misconduct/Harassment policies and procedures are transparent and serve the needs of our community.

Personnel Committee:Charged with hearing grievances (see Grievance Procedures), and making recommendations to the Board regarding personnel policies and staffing. The committee is also charged with developing evaluative criteria for the Executive Director and ensuring that periodic evaluations are completed. The Personnel Committee shall be composed of 2 or more board members.

Strategic Planning Committee: Charged with developing, overseeing, and updating VFPs national strategic plan and evaluating its effectiveness. The strategic planning committee shall be comprised of members of the Board of Directors, staff, and VFP members, and will elicit input from the broader Board, staff, and membership. The strategic plan will be subject to the approval by the full Board of Directors and the Full Board will review the committee's recommendations at least twice a year, if not quarterly. This committee does not replace working groups or national projects, or the activities of chapters, but will be the guiding document for national VFP activities.

Executive Session to discuss personal behavior of a member, 3:05 pm ET to 3:57 pm ET. Action: The board appreciates the member's offer to seek counseling. Member will be allowed to resume participation in working group emails with the understanding that any additional violations of the Code of Conduct may result in expulsion from VFP.

Next Board meeting: February 17th, 2023