

VETERANS FOR PEACE Monthly eNews



VFP eNews: May 18, 2023

Memorial Day, Statement on Ukraine, Korea Peace Advocacy Week, Spring 2023 Newsletter, WIRN Workshop, VFP is Hiring, SOVA Update, and more!

WHO DO YOU REMEMBER ON MEMORIAL DAY?

Memorial Day 2023

As we do every year, this [Memorial Day](#) we remember **all** who have died in war and understand that no one wins in war. Many of us have been personally touched by war. But we must also extend that mourning. We remember the civilian victims, and their families. Honoring and remembering some deaths while ignoring others not only perpetuates war, but also ignores the moral injuries of war, a significant [cause of veteran suicide](#)...

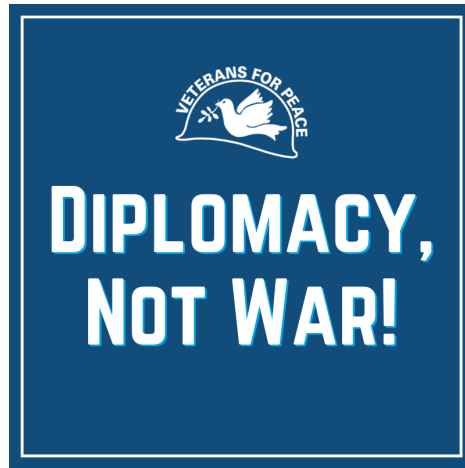
We do not seek to glorify either warriors or war. Rather, Veterans For Peace seeks to educate the public about the folly of war and the costs of war - human, economic, political, environmental/climate. On Memorial Day, VFP members march in parades, lay wreaths, give talks and speeches, recite poetry, and vigil to honor U.S. service members who died in and as a result of war, as well as all the civilian victims of war...

Our message for Memorial Day is to remember all who have died in war and to understand that no one wins. We understand that those who fight the wars gain the least from them and those who send us to war gain the most from war. There are many people who either profit from war or are misled by war mongers and profiteers. These are the people who seek to block our message to question war and to work for peace.

Read our full Memorial Day statement and check out some new resources on the [VFP Memorial Day webpage](#).

Events, Actions, and More!

Please scroll down to our "Member Corner" for a statement from the VFP Board on the unauthorized VFP "Ukraine Working Group"



Call To Action - Cease Fire in Ukraine: Contact Congress Now

The fighting, suffering and dying in Ukraine demands of us to do more.

When our government, the corporate media, every single so-called “progressive” in Congress and so many of our fellow citizens blindly follow the weapons companies and merchants of death, **VFP's voice is needed more than ever to ask our elected officials: “PICK A NUMBER. HOW MANY DEATHS ARE ENOUGH?!”**

Our demands are simple, achievable and lifesaving – IF we can rally Americans to demand an end to the bloodshed; to bring our money home where it is needed for so many things; to **CEASE FIRE AND NEGOTIATE!**

[Take action here](#)



[The Spring 2023 VFP Newsletter is out!](#)

There are some upsides to publishing an all-virtual issue (our first): It saves paper (and thus trees); it saves the time of printing and mailing; it allows us to publish a longer newsletter; and the hyperlinks are live! The main downside is the chance of electronic transmissions getting lost in cyberspace... a great reason to share this newsletter with your VFP sisters and brothers as well as your wider community! A whopping 40 pages (including an 8-page literary supplement), the news, reviews, and project and chapter reports contained in this issue reflect a vibrant Veterans For Peace with chapters and members activating for peace in so many different ways.... [READ ALL ABOUT IT!](#)

If you would prefer a print newsletter and would like to order a bundle or an individual copy, [please fill out this form.](#)



Beyond Earth Day Webinar Recording!

On Saturday, May 13th, the VFP [Climate Crisis and Militarism Project](#) hosted the free webinar, "Beyond Earth Day".

Speakers and topics included: Ian Mooney, outreach to youth climate activists; Cindy Piester, outreach to organizations and overview of COP27; Gary Butterfield, No MAS (Military Air Shows) project; Steve Morse, outreach to labor movement, Just Transition project.

Check out the recording for inspiring presentations and lively discussions. [Watch Now!](#)



"Washington Declaration" Sounds Like a Reckless Call to Ignite a Nuclear War between the US and North Korea

From [VFP's Korea Peace Campaign](#): On April 26, 2023, President Biden held another summit meeting with President Yoon of the Republic of Korea (South Korea), a pro-US hawk, at the White House, and issued a Joint Statement as well as a separate statement called the "Washington Declaration." It is very disappointing that the two leaders spent most of their time on ways of continuing their forever war against the DPRK (North Korea), instead of developing positive steps to end the lingering, costly Korean War...

In observation of the 70th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Agreement this July, we urge all parties involved in the Korean War to give top priority in taking positive steps to replace the unstable, outdated Korean military armistice with a peace treaty. [Read the full statement here.](#)



WIRN Workshop: The IMF and World Bank: Tools of Empire

Monday, June 12, 8 pm ET

The International Monetary Fund and World Bank were created after World War II by the victors at the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference. Dominated by the US, both institutions were from the beginning meant to further imperialism. While the IMF became the world's monetary police and financial gatekeeper from the get go, the World Bank's early years mainly focused on reconstructing war-torn Western Europe and Japan. A few years later, the World Bank shifted its focus to "developing" the Global South. By the 1970s the Bank proclaimed its mission was to reduce poverty. [Learn more](#) or [register here!](#)

Check out the new [WIRN website!](#)



Congratulations to Diane Wilson!

Diane Wilson, the great VFP and CodePink environmentalist is one of the recipients of the [2023 Goldman Environmental Prize!](#) The Goldman Environmental Prize honors the achievements and leadership of grassroots environmental activists from around the world, inspiring all of us to take action to protect our planet.

In December 2019, Diane Wilson won a landmark case against Formosa Plastics, one of the world's largest petrochemical companies, for the illegal dumping of toxic plastic waste on Texas' Gulf Coast. The \$50 million settlement is the largest award in a citizen suit against an industrial polluter in the history of the US Clean Water Act. [Read more!](#)



Golden Rule Peace Boat in NYC

The Golden Rule anti-nuclear sailboat is halfway through its epic voyage of the Great Loop around the eastern United States, having traveled down the center of the US, around Florida, a side trip to Cuba, up the east coast and to Washington DC, Baltimore and Philadelphia.

On May 19 they will be in Newark, NJ. From May 21-25 it will be center stage in a variety of Big Apple events, beginning with a stop at historic Riverside Church. See the rest of the [Golden Rule's schedule](#) as it continues up the New England coast to the Gulf of St. Lawrence and into the Great Lakes.



Order Peace & Planet News!

Chapters and members -- order your bundles of the NYC chapter's Peace & Planet News for events, bookstores and wherever people gather who care about peace and justice. Sign up here for [Peace & Planet News](#) eblasts.

Here's what Daniel Ellsberg said about the Ukraine issue: *I read it last night, and I'm bowled over! ... While all the articles are impressive and moving, I actually learned a lot from some of them, in particular the one by Aaron Mate. ... Congratulations and thanks on the whole edition! I hope it will get vast distribution and readership. Love, Dan*

[Click here to read the current issue](#)



SAVE OUR VA

HONOR THE NATION'S PROMISE TO VETERANS

Tell Congress to fully staff the VA and strictly monitor VCCP!

Tell your Members of Congress to support the VA by providing sufficient funding to fully staff the VA and to exercise strict oversight of the VCCP program. The latter is important so Congress and the people know the real costs of VCCP, not only in terms of money but also in diverting staff, unfair competition, unknown quality of care from the private sector and loss of continuity of care for veterans.

If veterans are to have the choice of the excellent care the VA provides, VA facilities must be staffed. The costs and effectiveness of VCCP must be known if comparisons are to be made. Tell your Representative and Senators to support the VA by clicking the button and sending a letter below!

Send a letter!

Click [here](#) to read the full SOVA Update for this month, and sign-up [here](#) to receive the SOVA Updates!



VETERANS FOR PEACE CONVENTION

Registration is now open for the [2023 VFP Online Convention!](#)

The 2023 VFP Convention will be held **Friday, August 25 through Sunday, August 27.**

Once again, the convention will be held online. We have had huge successes with our virtual conventions the past few years with increased attendance and the opportunity to hear from speakers around the globe. We are also happy that hundreds of our members and guests can join us in gathering without the environmental impacts (and health risks) of traveling. There are many international issues that need our attention and being able to connect globally is advantageous.

The Convention Committee is excited to announce the 2023 theme: **"Choose Peace: Stand Up! Speak Out!"**

We will be updating [the website](#) in the coming months with more information, and will do our best to make sure that everyone who wants to participate will be able to have the technological support needed. Stay tuned for more details!

Looking forward to seeing you in August,

[Register Now!](#)

Workshop Submission

We are asking members to submit workshop applications focused on one or more of the following themes:

- Demilitarization at home and abroad
- Shifting spending priorities of militarism to human needs
- Climate Impacts from War and Militarism
- Building a culture of peace: Personal/Individual Transformation and/or Community Transformation
- How different our work would be in a democracy
- Intergenerational organizing

Application Deadline: June 24th, 2023!

[Submit Workshop](#)

Purchase Ads

As we do every year, we are appealing to VFP chapters, businesses, or allied organizations to contribute to the 2023 VFP convention by placing an ad to be shown on-screen throughout the VFP Online Convention as well as in the printed commemorative booklet sent to people who register at the commemorative rate.

- Ad Dimensions: 7.75"W x 4.375"H
- \$125 for a single ad OR \$200 for two ads
- Design Fee: \$25.00 (Optional – for those who need design assistance)

ADS ARE DUE BY MONDAY, AUGUST 7TH, 2023!

[Purchase Ads](#)

Award Nominations will open on May 25th.

[Read more on our Awards page!](#)

[View the Full VFP Convention Website](#)

VFP Member Corner

From the VFP Board: The VFP "Ukraine Working Group" is unauthorized.

As Veterans For Peace we raise our collective voice to build a culture for peace. As the fighting and dying in Ukraine continues, we call for an end to this evil and terrible war against humanity and all living things. We call for an end to the suffering of the Ukrainian people under siege and the refugees who flee for their lives. VFP has consistently expressed our opposition to Russia's invasion of Ukraine-as we are also opposed to sending more and lethal weaponry to Ukraine.

As soldiers who participated in U.S. wars abroad, we support war resisters who refuse to participate in the killing of other human beings. We support victims of war and those who provide relief and humanitarian aid to them. It is time to drop the weapons, embrace diplomacy and peace. For the people of Russia, the people of Europe, the United States, and Cuba. For the children, for the civilians, for the soldiers, for all living things. We demand diplomacy, not war. We demand Peace in Ukraine.

The VFP National Board of Directors has denied the creation of a "VFP Ukraine Working Group" and/or caucus at multiple National Board meetings, as well as any further use of or references to the "Veterans For Peace For Ukraine" or variations thereof; they are not authorized to use the "Veterans For Peace" or "VFP" name or logo, and there is no such officially authorized entity as the "Veterans for Peace For Ukraine Working Group" or variations thereof.

Postings by "Veterans For Peace For Ukraine" and comments by the group's leader Jeff Paterson and others claim that VFP National has treated them unfairly and discriminated against them. This is factually untrue. Some relevant points:

- Jeff Paterson's current formation, he says, is based on "promises" made by Board members in Board meetings. But in fact these were suggestions by individual board members as possible avenues to discuss ways to compromise, not promises made by the Board. The Board voted decisively against his group; it was clear that no permission was granted to authorize his group in any form.
- These suggestions for compromise included not just changing the name and logo of Paterson's group, but also acting within the same parameters as all other working groups. Jeff has clearly not done so, and by intent, not misunderstanding or miscommunication.
- One of the key parameters for all working groups is Board approval prior to the official formation or public action of any working group. No other group took public action or publicly announced its presence prior to approval by the National Board.

Veterans For Peace is hiring: Communications Coordinator

Veterans For Peace is looking for someone who can combine the skills needed for the job with enthusiasm for VFP's mission, a national organization with chapters across the U.S. that has exposed the true costs of war and militarism since 1985. The position starts at half time and may expand to full time. This is a remote position, coordinated with regular online staff meetings. Salary TBD.

Skills needed are:

- Proficiency in graphic programs including Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign on a Mac and/or PC, Zoom webinar platform, MS Office, G Suite, Canva, Wix and Wordpress
- High attention to detail, quality and consistency for all projects
- Well organized and detail-oriented
- Good written and oral communication skills

Veterans For Peace is committed to a diverse and welcoming workplace. Veterans have a high priority for this position. Those interested may apply by sending a letter of interest, resume and sample of work to vfpemployment@veteransforpeace.org

Let me know if you can help with either of these - mike@veteransforpeace.org

- Tell your story! VFP's "Merchants of Death" War Tribunal is looking for testimony from Iraq veterans who participated in any of the sieges of Fallujah
- Fundraising phone calling to members: We're starting a coordinated, thorough campaign of calling the entire membership list and have a good committee and coordinator. Many hands make light work!

Chapter General Liability Insurance

Veterans For Peace carries liability insurance for the national office, but chapters can also be covered under the National's policy, if they like. **The cost is \$50/year** (Apr 1, 2023 to Mar 31, 2024). The policy is \$1M/occurrence, \$2M/aggregate, \$500k/premise damage, and \$20k medical expense. For that you can also get Certificates of Insurance if you, say, rent a facility for an event that requires proof of insurance. Only those chapters that DO

NOT have their own 501c3 status can qualify. If interested, contact Shelly Rockett, Shelly@veteransforpeace.org, and she will send you the form to fill out.

VFP in the News

- [VFP Chapters working hard resisting the Nuclear Industrial Complex](#)
- [Mother's Day for Peace Everyday](#)
- [GOLDEN RULE PEACE BOAT BRINGS MESSAGE OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT](#)
- [Winners read poems during annual contest hosted by Veterans For Peace Gainesville chapter.](#)
- [Five anti-drone protestors arrested for blocking main gate at Holloman Air Force Base](#)

Calendar / Upcoming Events!

May 20 - VFP Board of Directors Meeting - 12:40pm ET | 11:40am CT | 9:40am PT. [Zoom Link](#).

May 22 - Northeast Regional Call, 430pm CT | 530pm ET. [Zoom link](#)

May 22 - Pac Regional Call, 7pm PT. [Zoom link](#)

May 25 - Next [Korea Peace Campaign](#) meeting, 8pm ET | 7pm CT | 5pm PT | 3pm HT. Please email kpc@veteransforpeace.org for Zoom information.

June 5-9 - [2023 Korea Peace Advocacy Week](#)

August 25-27 - [VFP 2023 Online Convention](#)

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