

CORRECTION TO MINUTES: Under “Visitor”: The motion was in support of the April 10th event, “Making Meaning of Vietnam”, by Rob Ramer, not for the fiscal agent. That will happen at a later time.

QUOTE: “Congress is not preparing to defend the people of the United States. It is planning to protect the capital of American speculators and investors.... Incidentally this preparation will benefit the manufacturers of munitions and war machines.... Strike against war, for without you no battles can be fought! Strike against manufacturing shrapnel and gas bombs and all other tools of murder! Strike against preparedness that means death and misery to millions of human beings! Be not dumb, obedient slaves in an army of destruction! Be heroes in an army of construction!”

~ Helen Keller at Carnegie Hall, January 5, 1916.

Books: “Redeployment” Phil Klay

“Fire and Forget: Short Stories From The Long War” Edited by Roy Scranton and Natt Gallagher.

“Drone Warfare” Media Benjamin

GENERAL Meeting Agenda

Chapter 27 ~ April 13th, 2014 ~ 5:30pm

Attending: Chante Wolf, Wayne Wittman, Mary McNellis, Steve Gates, James E. Brown, Tim Hansen, Dave Logsdon, Greg Hagen, Wes Davey & Joey the Peace Dog, Barry Riesch, Charlie Bloss {and his driver}, Dick Foley, Mike Madden & Johann the Peace Dog, John Sherman, Terry Burke, Larry Johnson, Ellen Abbott, Vern Hall, Rob Ramer, Bruce Berry, Garrett Tomczak.

A Moment of Reflective Silence.

Call to Order and Statement of Purpose - Read by: Ellen Abbott, Associate Member.

Check-in: Short introduction, check-in - with comments of what is on our minds.

Member Health Report: Chapter 127 member, Evangelos Kalambokidis passed, 88 years old, March 30th ~ Presente’. Wayne Wittman rang the bell in his honor at the MAP meeting, April 8th. Jim Steinhagen doing well, Charlie Bloss is present and doing well.

Inside Report on Syria: Handout by Terry Burke inviting members of VFP to attend the story of Qusai Zakarya, Sunday May 4th, the Afghani Buffet Dinner, 5:30 pm, cost \$10, Crescent Moon Bakery, 2339 Central Ave. NE, Mpls. \$5 pizza for children under 10. Sponsored by CISPOS, MN Committee in Solidarity with the People of Syria. He will also be speaking on Monday, May 5th, 7 pm at Plymouth Congregational Church 1900 Nicollette Ave., Mpls.

REPORTS:

Secretary-Last Months Minutes: Moved to accept - second - passed.

Treasurer: Moved to accept - second - passed. Report attached below.

Fundraising: Greg reported on events coming up and the need for help. If you are wanting to get out with us, we could use the help, need Grand Old Day, June 1st, from 9 am to 5 pm. It is one of our largest events, contact Greg: 651-730-1143. He also mentioned to ask for donations from you church and the need to get back to the letters going out to the churches. Barry spoke about April 26th Midwest Mountaineering event with the canoe. To sign up for that contact Barry: 651-757-8012. Dave talked about Bryn Mawr Garage Sale, May 3rd all day. Contact Dave: 612-203-9768. Linden Hills Festival is Sunday, May 18th, beginning at 10:30 am. Festival of Nations is May 1st-4th and need help with that, contact Larry: 612-747-3904. John Sherman talked about the mailing that needs to go out and help is needed with that. Over 700 letters to be stuffed and addressed, date to be determined will probably come out through email. Gay Pride is June 28th & 29th and need volunteers for that, sign up sheet went around.

Education Project: Larry read a letter that had been sent to VFP last year from Ava Dale Johnson, who died March 30th, her memorial is: A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. June 14 in the Weyerhaeuser Chapel at Macalester College, 130 Macalester St., St. Paul. Chante will check with her family about VFP to ring the bell for her service. Larry mentioned the resource list that was put together for the March 20th Bell Ringing Event. He suggested for us to call or send a letter to thank our legislators for voting to pass the bill which allows money to go into the State Arts Board for that passing, as it funded the Bell Casting. He went on to talk about the Festival of Nations, which VFP was invited to show case the Bells, and that in one day there are typically 20,000 visitors. So we will get a lot of visibility and have been asked to ring our bells as well. There will also be information about the Kellogg Briand Act. The whole event is "Peace" oriented. He talked about the handout too. He sent around a sign up sheet. If others are interested, contact Larry: 612-747-3904. VFP members are in South High School, April 26th, May will be Dick Foley and Jim Lovestar. Michael Orange and Dave Logsdon was in Mary Schuster's class, U of MN Social Humanities class. Larry and Dave will be at Ann Watson Jr. High. Steve and Wayne presented the Kellogg/Briand Act in Roy Magnasons Social Studies classes on March 28th at St. Paul Como High School.

Direct Action: Bruce Barry reported SDS {Students for a Democratic Society} from the U of MN organized the protest event, April 17th, 4:30pm at Northrop Plaza, of former National Security Advisor and former Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice visit. Mike Madden discussed the needs for a megaphone and Tim Hansen said he has a small one. Barry offered his, but encouraged the Chapter to own their own. VFP members are encouraged to bring their flags. Ms. Rice is being paid \$150,000 to speak. Ann Galloway is looking for someone to film the event. If people need a flag you can get on at the office, contact Tim: 612-598-0896, Or Barry: 651-757-8012.

Arts: Bruce applauded Larry and Gita for the Bell project. It took 5 months to go through the process. That project and "The Turning Points: An Installation of Steles", the History Theater productions were all a great expansion of our visibility and medium for our voices. Veterans really enjoyed participating and many returned for others. May 19th-24th, the Red Wing Arts Association is hosting the MN Veterans Art Experience.

Finance Committee: No requests at this time.

MAP: Suggestions from MN ASAP asked members to submit letters to the editor in this tax season to address the mass amounts of money going into the military war machine. Examples:

<http://mapm.pjep.org> MAP is just a part of a larger network of over 1,600 organizations in the PSJ communities. MAP is moving to the Plymouth Congregational Church on Nicolette and Franklin. Next

meeting, Tuesday, June 10th, at 11:30 will be there. Thanks to Larry Johnson and Wayne Wittman for



negotiating the new space. **15 Talking Points & Ideas to Help Write a Letter to the Editor:**

If you would like help writing a letter to the editor or information about where to submit it, please do not hesitate to contact us: minnesotaasap@gmail.com or at 612-338-1230.

SOA: Wayne read his notes and he needs approval. **Motion made to approve:** MN Coach offer of \$8,300.00, need 42 paid riders, of a bus capacity of 48 to break even if the transportation charge were \$200.00; accept the Marirott Motel bid of \$119.00 + \$19.00 tax room rate that can be split between 4 people. Tim spoke as the Treasurer about a better procedure to make it much easier and cleaner process. Still some more tweaking, but a good start. Second. Passed.

Membership: Barry reported, thanked Dave for getting us into the History Theater and it widening our image and outreach. Wants to think about our office space, how we are represented and even for sign up sheets at events. Encourages us to outreach and be professional. Looking to have boxes ready to go for events that have brochures, newsletters, sign-in sheet, etc.

WAMM: Hosted Tom Neilson, folk singer. Upcoming is the peace vigil on the bridge, the last Wed., of this month, 5 - 6pm. Looking for VFP to come with flags.

AWC: Come to the Condi Rice event. Information about this is above.

Harold Nielson Report: Ellen Abbott, guest, legal aid concerning his will and what we should do. She proposed pro-bono to help with the will. Motion to accept proposal. Second. Discussion ensued concerning the will. **Motion:** VFP would move forward with the process of acquiring a building for the purpose of a peace activity's center. Second. Discussion ensued. 3 opposed {Tim Hansen and two others}. Motion passed.

History Theater: Nice contacts and Dave will write a 'Thank you' letter, Michael Orange, Dick Foley, Chante Wolf did after discussion. More mainstream and a good opportunity to get our voices out there.

Frog Town Event: VFP was invited by Melvin Giles to table, Friday, June 20th, 2-6 pm, at the 18th Annual Community Peace Celebration, Ober Community Center, 376 Western Ave., St. Paul.

<http://peacecelebration.weebly.com/> **Vision:** Persons living in the Summit-University and Frogtown neighborhoods feel safe in and belong to the community. **Mission:** The Peace Celebration is a tool to instill healthy community and cultural values, promote Peace Poles and a message of Peace, and create a shared vision of peaceful relationships in the Summit-University and Frogtown communities and greater St. Paul. **Values:** Nonviolence, Peacemaking, Multiculturalism, Inclusion. **Motion:** We sign up for \$50 to table. Second. Passed.

PeaceStock Meeting: Motion: Up front purchase 50 tickets for PeaceStock at \$30 a piece and members would be asked to sell the tickets {\$1,500}. Second. Passed. Wayne encouraged our chapter to be completely supportive of their event {surveillance} since it began with us and Red Wing took it over.

MayDay Parade: May 4th, Sunday, gather at 24th and 24th off Bloomington, 12pm at Cedar Park. Barry wanted a theme. Drones was mentioned. Bring flags. Barry will mail out post cards advertising that and Memorial Day.

VFP Cards: Tim had cards drawn up with the new logo and passed them around for a vote. Then a vote for business cards or a larger card. Voted for business cards and the large cards {for tabling}.

Motion: To award Tim go ahead 500 large and 1,000 small. Second. Passed. Tim to get them before April 26th.

Bryn Mawr Garage: May 3rd, 8 am to 2 pm. Contact Dave. Right next to pizza cart off of Penn.

Memorial Day: Barry's theme is to 'Honor Pete Seger' and was trying to get a hold of Larry Long. May 26th, 9 am. Wayne has invited singers. Location is the Vietnam Veteran Memorial. He is working on the program, perhaps reading the list of names including suicides with a ring of the bell after each one.

Making Meaning of Vietnam: Rob Ramer wrapped up event. 60-70 attendees, a lot of veterans. Ideas for ongoing events, small groups, sharing stories, topics about stories, panels on resistance to war, about people losing friends family, music, connecting across generations, etc. Looking to do something big April of 2015. Reading coming up Chante Wolf and Deanna Griffin {Ret. Army} will read some of their own work, June 11th, 6:30 pm at the Mosaic Cafe, 3019 Minnehaha Ave., Mpls. Next year The Writer's Union event literary conference will be in Mpls., and is expected to draw approx. 1,500 writers, professors, etc. from around the country. Dave spoke of the Govt. spending millions of dollars to re-write history of Vietnam and that it is important for us to support Rob's efforts with the Vietnam experience. Thank you Rob for the work you are doing!

Movie Night: "Dirty Wars" this Wed., 7pm at VFP office. Doors open at 6:30.

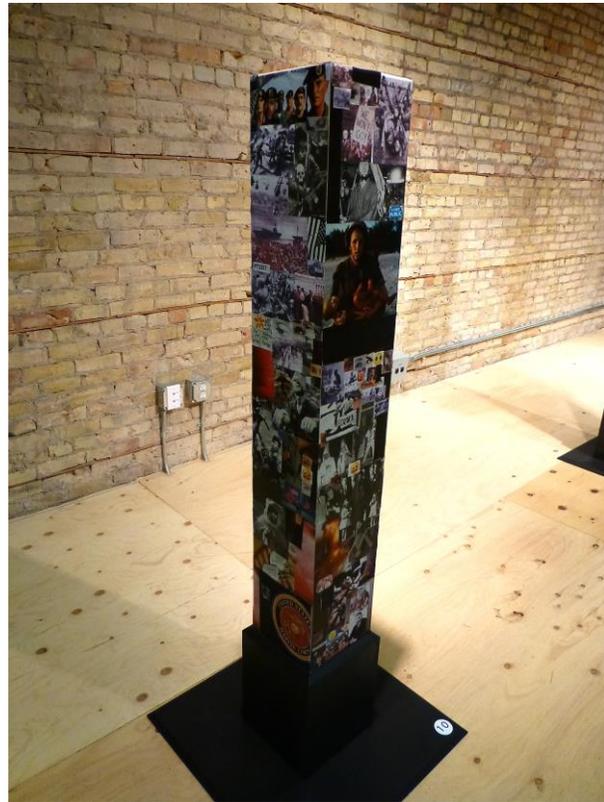
National VFP Convention: Thinking about workshops, Barry submitted Membership and Focus on What are we doing and what can we do better. Dave mentioned about getting a van to get us to the convention, hotel cheaper and other ideas.

Meeting Adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Chante Wolf. chantewolf7@gmail.com (Any corrections, please bring to next meeting and they will be addressed in the minutes).



"The Turning Points: An Installation of Steles" exhibit, April 12th, 6-9 pm at the MN Center of Book Arts. Stele's depicting the turning points of 11 veterans lives. Below {L to R} are Suzanne Asher, "Lessons From a Cold War" and Michael T. Slayton, "The Whole World is Watching.



From a 1946 copy of the Reader's Digest: ~ *"Peace Begins on Our Street"* ~

For many years Miss Ann Grace Sawyer of Elgin Avenue in Forest Park, Ill., had watched small boys play cops and robbers and later Japs and Commandos on her street. She saw one generation of boys grow up and go off to war. For them, "Bang, you're dead," turned into reality.

Then one day when a small overalled figure streaked through her garden aiming his ack-ack gun at pursuers, this frail, 68-year-old lady called him to her. As all of the boys gathered round, she talked to them of war, of guns, of the senseless shedding of men's blood. She spoke glowingly of peace and great adventures it offers. She talked them into leaving their guns in a heap and helping themselves instead to baseball bats, footballs, croquet sets and games which she had provided.

Next day a formal petition was drawn up and signed by Miss Sawyer and the boys. It read, "Peace begins on our street. Our world would be better without guns and with more fairness and kindness. Elgin Avenue Boys' Peace Club." The little ceremony was concluded with a bonfire ~ the burning of all discarded ammunition.

Miss Sawyer looked proudly at her little band of ex-Commandos. "Peace begins on our street," she murmured.

VFP - TREASURER'S REPORT 3/9/14 to 4/11/14

OPENING BALANCE	- Checking, Savings & Petty cash accounts	\$11,270.26
EXPENSE		
	Vern Hall - food for holiday party, reimbursement	\$50.00
	Shell oil - gas purchase - J Sherman	\$27.56
	NCLP - rent, April.	\$600.00
	Wayne Wittman - printing/postage, member letter, March.	\$170.77
	Cretin Derham Hall - SOA refund	\$400.00
	Century Link - phone and internet	\$109.31
	Wallace/Carlson Printing - newsletter, postage	\$118.02
	Wallace/Carlson Printing - newsletter, 1105, XVIII #1	\$962.00
	Rob Ramer - MMoV, transfer	\$100.00
Total		\$2,537.66
INCOME		
	Donations	\$960.00
	Donations - to MMoV	\$100.00
	Product sale	\$15.00
	Cretin Derham Hall - SOA refund (VOID check # 5485)	\$400.00
Total		\$1,475.00
CLOSING BALANCE	- Checking, Savings & Petty cash accounts	\$10,207.60
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BELL GRANT ACCOUNT	(Grant - bell casting project)	\$8,700.00
	Gita Patina - Books	\$58.64
	Smith Sharpe - Equipment & supplies	\$1,900.00
	Gita Patina - 1/3 of workshop payments	\$1,200.00
	Gita Patina - Casting Material	\$360.00
	Smith Sharpe - Casting Material	\$840.00
	Gita Patina - 1/3 of workshop payments	\$1,200.00
	Gita Patina - event related costs	\$234.00
	Chef Jeff - catering, food for event	\$600.00
	Plymouth Church, - printing programs	\$28.00
	Gita Patina - final workshop payment	\$1,400.00
CLOSING BALANCE		\$879.36