

# Veterans for Peace – Chapter 27

## September 8<sup>th</sup> Monthly Meeting Minutes

### **Chapter 27 Monthly Meetings, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month.**

5:05 PM to 6:05 PM Executive Committee Meeting (All Welcome)

6:05 PM to 8:00 PM General Monthly meeting

VFP office 1806 Riverside Ave., Minneapolis MN. (Above the Acadia Café)

Agenda items call Larry Johnson 612-747-3904

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**CORRECTIONS:**

**\*\* Bradley Manning article in the StarTrib:**

<http://www.startribune.com/politics/national/219813351.html?page=all&prepage=1&c=y#continue>

**\*\* MAP did have a meeting, but no representation from Chpt. 27. Their Annual Celebration on Oct. 21 features Matt Rothschild, Editor of The Progressive, who was the keynote speaker at the recent Nat'l VFP Convention banquet.**

**QUOTES:**

\* **“FREEDOM FIGHTER:** n. A State Department term referring to: 1) A mercenary attempting to install an authoritarian regime friendly to U.S. business interests; 2) A heavily armed islamic fanatic who wishes to impose his religious views upon others through the use of violence.”

(For our younger readers, this refers to the rhetoric of the Reagan/Bush administration during the 1980s, when it was—to the tune of \$3 billion—bankrolling Osama Bin Laden and the Afghan "freedom fighters" who were to become the Taliban; we'd also note that Reagan and Bush showed pronounced favoritism toward these extremist elements, in contrast to the more moderate Afghans.)”

~ **Chaz Bufe**, The Devil's Dictionaries ("American Heretic's Dictionary" section)

<http://www.seesharppress.com/warquotes.html>

\* "Experience demands that man is the only animal which devours his own kind, for I can apply no milder term to the general prey of the rich on the poor."

~ **Thomas Jefferson**

**5:05 p.m. EXECUTIVE MEETING**

Attending: Chante Wolf, John Sherman, Larry Johnson, Dave Logsdon, Wayne Wittman, Greg Hagen, Barry Riesch, Steve McKeown, Bruce Barry, Elaine Wynne.

**Canoe Raffle Dinner:** Dave Logsdon hasn't gotten the program together yet, if anyone would like to help him please contact: 612-204-9768. Larry will get the food. Event is at the WAMM office 4200 Cedar, September 21st, 6:30. Talking about a less structured event with more leaning to socialization time with some music.

**WAMM Silent Auction:** Table is already paid for and folks are ready to attend.

**Retreat:** 1st weekend in October in Twin Harbor on Lake Superior. Opening for 12 to 14 people or more if they want to camp out. 3 spaces for couples, others can sleep on couch, floor etc. Others can stay in town, or camping grounds. Discussed the option of a professional facilitator, whether or not to do that keeping the time for fluid for nature time, hikes and campfires. The idea was to spend time in nature, get to know each other outside of activism and talk about what our goals should be. Thus, the next meeting we could have it facilitated here in the cities. There were good point for the retreat to go

both ways. Gooseberry Falls, Split Rock or Duluth can accommodate people as well, as we don't want to limit those attending, just the first place Dave got for this can not house more than 14 people. If you want to participate contact: Dave Logsdon: 612-204-9768.

**Office Staffing/Cleanup:** John Sherman brought up a concern of his about the shape of the office, clutter, left over cups and trash not thrown away. Meeting Sept. 18th at 6:30 for a group of interested to all help clean up, clear up and then know where things are. Better to have more people know than just one or two. Suggested that we talk about hiring someone to staff the office and talked about an honorarium for Greg and all the work he is and has done with the communications portion of Chapter 27; website updates / upgrades and switch over; emails and reformatting information to have a more professional look. No decision, will bring up again after folks ruminate the ideas.

### **Meeting Adjourned ---**

**PRESENT'E ~** This Month's Meeting is Dedicated to the life work of Bob Heberle, who passed away on Sept. 6th, 2013 ~ Our sincerest condolences to the Heberle family. He was VERY involved in the peace community, VFP, St. Joan of Arc and many, many other organizations and committee involvements. He will be GREATLY MISSED!! ;-{  
**Memorial for Bob Heberle:** 11 am, Saturday, Sept. 14th at Joan of Arc ~ 4537 3rd Ave. S., Mpls. 612-823-8205.

**BOOK Suggestion:** "The Untold War: Inside The Hearts, Minds, and Souls of Our Soldiers"  
Nancy Sherman.

### [6:05 p.m. GENERAL MEETING](#)

**Attending:** Chante Wolf, John Sherman, Larry Johnson, Dave Logsdon, Wayne Wittman, Greg Hagen, Steve McKewon, Vern Hall, Barry Riesch, Elaine Wynne, Bruce Barry, Lee Eklund.

**Call to Order and Statement of Purpose** - Read by: .

**Check-in:** Short introduction, check-in.

\* **Member Welfare:** Bob Heberle passed on Sept. 7th, 2013 ~ memorial mentioned above. Charlie Bloss keeps going, but having concerns with his eyes. Andy Berman still active. Steve landed in hospital for 4 days, colitis, the night of Kellogg/Briand event. Steve is doing better and ready to push on for peace.

**EXECUTIVE REPORT:** Report above.

**REPORTS:**

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

**Treasurer:** Moved to accept - second - passed. Attached below.

**Finance Committee:** Tim Hansen paid for the brochure for the convention and new requests for small vinyl signage's about Kellogg/Briand Pact.

**Communications:** Dave brought up that he had the 1st meeting at Britt's Pub for Armistice Day and he is looking for speakers, Michael Orange will read out of his book. They are also interested in getting pieces of the Christmas Truce represented as well. He feels that we are really becoming a large part of the event and have been given more time at the table sorta speak. Dave also submitted a KFAI Wave Project submission and is waiting to hear confirmation. Dave also talked with Don Olson about getting on his show to discuss Syria and possibly the Ellison 'hearing' town hall meeting. Southside Pride invited Dave to do an article with photos about VFP moving our office back to the West Bank. Meeting with Ron Peluso who is putting on the play, "The Things They Carried" and a play about "The Lonely Solider" by Helen Benedict. Suzanne Linton with the community TV station wants to have us on her show in the future. **Thank you to Gary Hendlin and associates** for taking GREAT care of VFP's website for the past years, helping to update and initially setting up the switch over from our previous caretaker. THANK YOU for donating the time and your knowledge and expertise to VFP. Bruce Barry talked about maybe getting a movie night going, like one Wed. night per month, right after the Lake St. Vigil. Nothing firm, still in the planning stage and just wanted to throw it out there for people to think about.

**Newsletter:** Wayne will pass along the statement of the medal that was given to Bob and it will go into next month's minutes and if gotten in time the newsletter. This quarter's issue has had 4 more pages added this. Greg Hagen wants to archive past newsletters to the website.

**Syria Communication/Signage:** Bruce talked about getting ideas and statement together about VFP's stance on Syria and how that can translate into signage.

**Fundraising:** Barry suggested that we table at the Mpls. Farmers Market. We could take the canoe. Winding up season as the tickets keep coming in the mail just in time for the drawing. John Sherman said that what we get through our mailing list is almost larger than what we get tabling. He is also gearing up for the end-of-year donation appeal mailing and then we are looking forward to next Spring and a new canoe.

**Wayne Wittman on KARE:** Wayne was just interviewed at the protest against bombing Syria and it was aired.

**Nomination for the Representation of the Minnesota Peace Association:** So moved, second, passed making Wayne Wittman, who has been VFP Chapter 27's representative for many years already, now is our official rep. We need someone to come forward for the chair, but also to fill in as President. Kudos!!!

**VFP YouTube:** Elaine suggested getting our outreach and communications concerning our stance on war and peace on YouTube to reach a wider audience than what we are doing now.

**Drone Protest at Camp Ripley:** Folks wanting to go contact Barry Riesch: 612-269-8934 ~ it is this weekend, Sept. 15th. Steve said there was room for a late breaking article for the newsletter. There is also a protest in Chicago, leaving on Sept. 28th. Mendota Powwow in Mendota, Sept. 15th and 16th, John Varone will lead the Honor Guard bringing in the flags and Chante will be the first woman veteran ever to do this. A flag will be tied to John's to honor the passing of Bob Heberle.

**Next VFP National Convention is in Ashville:** October is 'Story Telling month', Larry suggested that more veterans get their stories out there ~ this is associated with the next convention. Tell them why you joined VFP.

**2018 National Convention Mpls.:** Wayne wants permission to look into hotel accommodations at Crown Plaza and it was moved for him to do so.

**MAP Annual Event:** October 21st, Wayne has tickets, main speaker is Matthew Rothschild, "Our Vanishing Liberties. \$5, 6 pm beginning and presentation 7 pm. Hennepin Ave. United Methodist Church, 511 Groveland at Lyndale, Mpls. 55403

### **Events:**

**Nominations for 2014 Executive:** Larry wants to have a 'Nominations Chair' that had been filled by Bob Heberle. Larry is ending his 5th year as president and asking for someone to step up and fill his shoes. Larry is going to put together a list of actions a president's job entails.

**SOA:** Mary McNellis is doing a WONDERFUL job getting this event together working with Pepperwolf and WAMM and Dave Logsdon getting educational films plus filling the bus. Thank you for picking up the ball. It is still important to continue this and to get young people to go down and get the educated experience of a lifetime.

**PeaceStock:** Redwing group came up with the amount they were short, \$1500. Last time \$200 was suggested. Suggestion was made for \$500 to give from our chapter to Redwing. Motion made: \$500 be given from our chapter to Redwing. Second. Passed.

**MAP:** Larry agreed to look into getting Mary McNellis and Steve Gates on the list for meeting notifications, as to why no one was at the last meeting. Fix in the works.

**Kellogg House Event:** Steve wants to send a VFP hat to the poet, Peter Rossling and the hosts for a total of 4 hats: Motion made, second and passed. Steve was in the hospital for 4 days and had to miss the event he worked so hard on. Steve wants everyone who helped take up the slack that he was very appreciative and to his wife, Joan who helped out tremendously. Thanks to all who came and supported. Steve received a letter back from Klobuchar's office and had a representative from Keith Ellison's office show up to the event. Next event is coming about the essay contest. Dave Thune suggested VFP try and get the idea into St. Paul schools.

**Bell Making Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for either October 10th or 24th 9-12. Waiting to get a consensus of who will be able to attend. The meeting will be at Gita's studio. A note was sent out to other veterans groups to get a few more veterans involved.

**Syria & Ellison's Meeting:** Steve McKewon, Dave Logsdon and Bruce Barry went to a special meeting that we were invited to at a Mosque downtown Mpls. With Syrian American's. Some people from WAMM and a few other veterans. Rules were given and people were only given 1 minute to speak of which Keith took up much of the time. He was very aggressive towards local peace people and gave most of the time to the Syrian people. Steve spoke about B-52 bombs and what that was like the verbiage of "international norms". He went on to talk about turning away a veteran for Agent Orange exposure. Steve was then called a liar, Steve was talking about VFP former president, Doug Drews.

**Resolution:** Wayne suggested that a motion be made that VFP Chapter 27 do everything possible to help promote our statement of purpose and block the bombing. Second. Passed.

### **Meeting Adjourned.**

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

VFP - TREASURER'S REPORT 8/17/13 to 9/7/13

**OPENING BALANCE** **\$10,659.28**

**EXPENSE**

Shell oil - gas purchase - J Sherman	\$25.00
NCLP - rent, September.	\$600.00
LiZ Gibba - programs/food Kellogg-Briand event	\$148.99
Wayne Wittman - printing & postage for minutes, July.	\$207.29
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$981.28</b>

**INCOME**

Donations	\$130.00
Product sale	\$35.00
Raffle tickets - 2013	\$286.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$451.00</b>

**CLOSING BALANCE** **\$10,129.00**

**BELL GRANT ACCOUNT**

(Grant from MN State Arts Board for bell casting project) **\$8,700.00**

## “Do it for the children”?

Hello Rep. Ellison, (Klobuchar)    Submitted Sept. 10, 2013

I am a member of Veterans For Peace ~ who dutifully served my nation for 12 years in the Air Force and first Gulf War, Desert Storm.

Myself with many hundreds of thousands of other troops are the ones who carried out the policies of our government. Many times those orders came from people who have never worn a uniform, nor been to war. It has been my observation that mostly those members of congress who have sat many years in their comfort, still bang the drums of war and have yet to ever see up close and personal the other side of the bombing strikes or gotten blood on their hands doing the cleanup of those missions either.

Killing people who kill people just to show that killing people is wrong makes all sides just as culpable for murder the second the trigger is pulled or button pushed to release the bombs. The United States is not without it's own record of using weapons of mass destruction or invading other countries who were no threat, made no threat and held no real standing military or WMD themselves (Iraq & Afghanistan).

The United States is the country that first used Napalm during WWII and since. That is a chemical weapon. The intention is that the jellied compound sticks to the target burning it's way through a human being. White phosphorous does a similar thing and was used extensively during the battles of Fallujah, Iraq. Those agents are chemical weapons. Agent Orange is a chemical weapon that was used during Viet Nam in the tons. To this day people in that country and U.S. service members are suffering miserably. I have seen limbs turn black before falling away from the veteran. It is a horrible way to die and for the children born with drastic deformities is a horrible way to come into this world.

I have yet to recall that any orders were offered up to bomb Monsanto or Dow Chemical for producing such suffering. Was the military that turned jungles into desert never to recover held accountable for using WMD?

During my war, Desert Storm, we used a new weapon, DU ~ basically using residual nuclear waste ~ which makes a very hard metal to pierce tanks like a hot knife in butter. Friends of mine traveled through and helped to clean up Death Highway. Some are dead now from very aggressive cancers and other suffer terribly from respiratory and other debilitating conditions. The human beings on our receiving end of 'shooting fish in a barrel' were charred like those Japanese of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. DU is a lethal WMD that makes a ton of money for Alliant Tech.

I am saying this as a very war tired veteran who begged her nation not to invade Iraq or Afghanistan based of fabricated lies and \$1.6 billion dollars of tax payers money spent on PR firms to convince us that people who did nothing to this country needed to die for oil and other regional resources, ego, corporate cleanup contracts and military promotions all masked behind sick mission names like

'Operation Iraqi Freedom' and 'Operation Enduring Freedom'. We were told that Iraq had WMD, just like Syria now. Hussein cooperated with the weapons inspectors, but we changed the leadership of the inspectors and fabricated lies that he did not.

During Desert Storm we bombed that country for 24 hours a day, seven days a week for 42 days straight. We dismantled his military and sent those home whom we did not shoot or bury alive, with their tails between their legs. They had nothing to use against us but sticks and stones. Our country bombed them anyway off and on for the next 12 years while holding them under intense sanctions. How is that a characteristic of a humanitarian nation poised to tell other nations what is and isn't criminal behavior?

I am begging again and reminding you as well why I voted for you wholeheartedly each time because I believed in your character, heart and community resolve in doing what is right for human beings and the planet.

Please, Mr. Ellison, there is going to come a time when war will put an end to us. Stop bombing other countries as a means to an end!

If we do not want them killing their citizens, then we must stop arming them. If we do not want people to be gassed, then we must hold the companies who make and sell those products criminal and disband the companies.

Join Tammy Duckworth, who gave two legs to her country and Tulsi Gabbard credit for understanding what bombing and war is more than you do and join them in voting NO.

Thank you for your time in reading this.

Sincerely,

Chante S. Wolf

Air Force 1980-92

Desert Storm

Veterans For Peace

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/11/military-suicide\\_n\\_3902350.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/11/military-suicide_n_3902350.html)

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/onpolitics/2013/09/09/tulsi-gabbard-syria-obama-congress/2785323/>