

**CORRECTIONS:** \*\* Steve McKeown: Phil Restino's spoke to him about her work with Code Pink in promoting Mother's Day's real intention and he sent me some info. Also Larry and Steve spoke at St. Benedict College's Peace Club ~ not Holy Angels.

**THEATER PLAYS:** “**The Lonely Soldier**”: MN History Theater, March 16th - April 6th, 2014:  
<http://www.historytheatre.com/2013-2014/lonely-soldiers>

“**The Things They Carried**”: MN History Theater, March 15th - April 6th, 2014:  
<http://www.historytheatre.com/2013-2014/tim-obriens-the-things-they-carried>

### **QUOTES:**

\* “Millions of cubic meters of water used by tar sands companies in 2011 from the Athabasca River alone: 370. Amount paid by tar sands companies for water in 2012: \$0. Average amount paid by the typical Toronto household for water each year: \$674.”.  
~ **Yes! Magazine - Winter 2014.**

\* “Number of Trident submarines at Naval Base Kitsap, 20 miles from Seattle: 8. Missile capacity on each submarine at Bangor: 24. Factor by which the minimum explosive yield of each warhead exceeds the yield of the Hiroshima bomb: 25:1.”  
~ **Yes! Magazine - Winter 2014.**

### **5:30 p.m. GENERAL MEETING - December 8th, 2013 \*\* No More Executive Meetings \*\***

Attending: Chante Wolf, John Sherman, Larry Johnson, Dave Logsdon, Wayne Wittman, Tim Hansen, Steve Gates, Ron Staff, Wes Davey, Joey the Peace Dog, Barry Riesch, Elaine Wynne, Bruce Barry, Mike Madden, Mary McNellis, Greg Hagen, Vern Hall, Bill Habedank, Ray DeVogal, Erwin Marquit, Hank Brummer, Doug Drews {stepped in/out}, Steve McKeown.

**BOOK Suggestion:** \* “*Thank You For Your Service*” David Finkel

\* “*They Were Soldiers: How the Wounded Return From America’s Wars*” Ann Jones

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

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

**THANK YOU, MARY MCNELLIS ~ SOA TRIP AND MAILING GROUP!!!!!!!!!!**

**Member Welfare:** Ed Mugh, has pancreatic cancer 3-12 months left of his life, he is in Georgia in good spirits, standing in public for peace. Erwin Marquit is back in action and his lymphoma in remission. No further information was given on the other members who had illnesses or difficulty.

## REPORTS:

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

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

**Communications:** Nothing really to report. Thank you for the outgoing email format, Greg! Ava Dale Johnson sent a note in appreciation for the work we do: "Your emails and letters always interest me. I'm an 88-yr-old widow, small but enthusiastic contributor. Just want you to know I read and share information about your speaking and standing up for our cause. Your news about reaching into schools is great. Thanks! Ava Dale Johnson (many years a War Tax Resister)." Cable access show in White Bear Lake next week, Friday, December 13th at 11am, Dave Logsdon, Steve McKeown, hosted by Suzzane Linton.

**Fundraising:** \$600 profit from tabling sales. Started receiving incoming donations from our mailing. This really does bring in money for our group. Mary McNellis will get back to focus on the church outreach mailing.

**Finance Committee:** Clarification about the purpose of the committee. Barry described why it started, really for a clarification of where the money goes and the process for outgoing per: product or support to another group or individual, tabling, travel expenses, reimbursements, sponsoring etc.

**Holiday Party:** December 15th, 6pm, 4200 Cedar Ave. All set and can get in early. Pot Luck. Vern volunteered to make his gumbo. Wes volunteered to cook also and a list was sent around. Plates and silverware there and a kitchen. Harold will be honored with bell ringing.

**Nominations for 2014 Executive Officers:** Voting tonight. Motion: Wayne moved that the following order be done, second. President: Greg Hagen and Dave Logsdon; VP: Mike Madden; Secretary: Chante Wolf; Treasurer: Tim Hansen. President voted on: Dave Logsdon. All remaining offices are filled by those said.

**SOA:** The trip made over \$2,000.00, question is; are we going to do this again next year? Concern that attendance was down and the new National president was fired up and willing to support our chapter to even get a second bus for next year. Plus we could try to get the college students to come with the help with Pepperwolf. Motion: made that Chapter 27 will do the trip again next year, second, passed. Lobby involvement can happen here and we should be working that end as well. Motion: Mary McNellis moves that the money made be divided up for \$600 scholarships; \$400 donated to SOAWatch; rest to general fund. Moved that finance committee make the decision on what to do with the funds, Mary removed her motion.

**Bell Making Meeting:** State Arts Board grant, Gita Ghei has another set of classes starting in January and that invitation has been set out in email. Promotion of the bell, March 20th at .... Interested in participating, please notify Larry: 612-747-3904 or [larryjvfp@gmail.com](mailto:larryjvfp@gmail.com)

**Harold Nielsen Passing:** Possible bequest: VFP Chapter 27 be granted \$20,000 with direction that it be used to purchase a Peace Development Center ... Larry suggested that himself, Tim Hansen get with the lawyer for better interpretation of the legal document and the possibilities of fulfilling in a different way. The Pillsbury House is up for sale, approx. \$2.5 million and the great potential for direction, questions etc. Barry moved that Larry and Tim meet with the lawyer. Second. Passed. Suggested that an emergency meeting to follow up afterwards as there is a time limit for us to move.

**Peacestock Preliminary Evaluation/Plan:** Change in site from Hager City, to Colvill Park, Redwing, holds 200-250 people. Better for weather, easier to find right off of Hwy 61, kitchen. Planning:

speakers, cost, outings, food types, music, discussion, forums, publicity, transportation, budget, ticket prices. Barry suggested that for speakers, there are plenty of local talent that can be tapped into and the use of Skype for some at a distance. Want to get more into colleges, P&J groups etc. Date: July 12th. Bruce Barry asked why the summer when so many students would not be around and Barry told the history of why it started as a retreat then turned into Peacestock. Anyone interested in getting on the planning committee, contact Bill: [habedank@charter.net](mailto:habedank@charter.net)

**Retreat Evaluation:** Barry spoke about: recruitment, SOA, Armistice but the main goal be recruitment and other strategies and suggests another meeting to work on strategies.

**Syria/Processing Meeting:** Be moved to after the strategy meeting.

**Bullying Resolution:** Wes Davey drafted an "Anti-Bullying" resolution and read it to those present. Some discussion ensued, and it was accepted unanimously. SEE BELOW FOR FULL TEXT.

**Flagpoles:** Available for \$25. We have about 20 left.

**Strategy Meeting: {Meeting is set}** Meeting voted for Jan. 5th, 1 to 2 for lunch and 2 to 4 or 5 at the Plymouth Macalester Congressional Church: 1658 Lincoln Ave. S., St. Paul, 55105. Conference Room. Facilitated: passed with 2 no. Executive group put together the agenda. Passed.

### **Meeting Adjourned.**

**Larry Read: Tony Bennett:** Drafted at 18 and sent to France as an infantryman:

"It was right after the Battle of the Bulge, and we were sent in as relief soldiers for those who had just won that fight. It was a bloody, bloody battle, and I'll never forget the faces and the psychological trauma of the soldiers that I met coming off the front lines. You just knew that they would never be the same. They all looked like they were going mad and heading straight to the insane asylum; they'd never get over what happened to them. I watch what is happening today, and it deeply saddens me to see the same thing still going on. It's absolutely disrespectful the way the veterans are being treated after they've put their lives on the line. [Sic] When you first go to the front line and see a dead person, even if he's the enemy, you look at him and just say, 'What a tragedy.' To me, it seemed inhuman to kill somebody. After that experience, I became a pacifist for the rest of my life. Killing is the lowest form of human behavior; it's so ignorant for people to maim and hurt one another. [Sic] The soldiers in my group were eighteen to twenty years old. We just wanted to stay alive<sup>3</sup> and make it back in one piece, but many of my friends were not so lucky. The whole time I was there, I was just waiting for the war to be over so I could go home. [Sic] During my time in the army, I helped to liberate the Landsberg concentration camp, which was thirty miles from the notorious Dachau. This impacted me deeply, and further shaped me into a pacifist. Words can't express the emotions I felt when I saw the horror of what had happened there - the faces of the people who had suffered; these pitiful human beings who had nowhere to go. Simply put, it was an absolute tragedy. Every war is insane, no matter what the reason. It is amazing to me that with all the great teachers - including Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Nelson Mandela - the great masters of literature and art, and all the contributions that have been made on the planet, we still haven't come up with a more humane approach to working out conflicts. War is archaic. Simply put, violence begets violence; history has proved this to be true."

**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 11/10/13 to 12/7/13**

**OPENING BALANCE - Checking, Savings & Petty cash accounts** **\$7,836.79**

**EXPENSE**

Shell oil - gas purchase - John Sherman	\$25.00
Postmaster - bulk mailing fee, yearly permit cost	\$200.00
MARRIOTT Hotel - SOA rooms	\$1,794.44
FedEx - fundraising letter, printing	\$74.25
Postmaster - fundraising letter, postage	\$386.40
EMC Insurance Company - umbrella payment, six months	\$575.17
NCLP - rent, December.	\$600.00
KFAI - donation	\$100.00
Dave Logsdon - SOA trip - product delivery, gas expense	\$100.00
Code Pink - anti drone campaign	\$250.00
Wayne Wittman - printing & postage for minutes, Nov.	\$207.11
DNR Printing - product for sale	\$514.20
Century Link - phone and internet	\$203.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,029.69</b>

**INCOME**

SOA - Reservations	\$3,500.00
SOA - Scholarship funds	\$85.00
Raffle tickets - 2013	\$10.00
Donations	\$655.00
Product sale - SOA	\$636.00
SOA - Reservations	\$2,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,886.00</b>

**CLOSING BALANCE - Checking, Savings & Petty cash accounts** **\$9,693.10**

**BELL GRANT ACCOUNT (Grant from MN State Arts Board)** **\$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

**CLOSING BALANCE** **\$5,181.36**

## **A Resolution to Support “The Safe and Supportive Minnesota Schools Act”**

WHEREAS, a 2011 report from the U.S. Department of Education rated Minnesota’s anti-bullying law the weakest in the nation,

WHEREAS, Current Minnesota law requires school districts to have a policy against bullying but doesn’t specify what the policy should say or who should be protected, doesn’t require training for educators or learning activities for students on bullying prevention or intervention, and doesn’t address what should be done to help students who engage in bullying to examine their attitudes and change their behavior.

WHEREAS, The Safe Schools for All Coalition supports the passage of comprehensive legislation that requires all Minnesota school districts to adopt policies to protect all students in accordance with the Minnesota Human Rights Act and provide adequate support to teachers to effectively implement their local policy to keep students safe. Research has shown that the best way to protect students is to provide clear declarations in laws and policies that discrimination and harassment based on the characteristics for which students are targeted is prohibited.

WHEREAS, **The Safe and Supportive Minnesota Schools Act** is a comprehensive anti-bullying bill which would repeal the current law and replace it with a state model policy that will require every school district to establish a policy that includes the following components:

- Clear definitions of bullying, harassment, and intimidation
- Enumerated protections for students who are most likely to be bullied or harassed because of their actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, disability, sex, age, national origin, immigration status, marital status, family status, socioeconomic status, status with regard to public assistance, academic status, physical appearance, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression
- Training and resources for students, staff, and school volunteers on bullying prevention and intervention
- Specific procedures that school staff must follow when bullying incidents are reported, including the use of remedial responses that emphasize restorative justice to correct prohibited behavior,

WHEREAS, Veterans For Peace members endeavor to bring peace to our world yet realize that there can be no peace without justice, and that there can be no justice without equality for all people.

BE IT RESOLVED, Chapter 27 of Veterans For Peace supports “**The Safe and Supportive Minnesota Schools Act**” so that all students in Minnesota schools may know that their schools are a place of peace for them, where they may develop and learn to their fullest potential and become peaceful citizens of our communities, state, country, and world.