

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

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

**BOOKS:** “**Rape and Sexual Power in Early America**” Sharon Block  
“**Rape: Weapon of War and Genocide**” Carol Rittner and John K. Roth  
“**The Reader’s Companion to U.S. Women’s History**” Wilma Mankiller, Gwendolyn Mink, Marysa Navarro, Barbara Smith & Gloria Steinem  
“**A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant, and A Prayer**” Eve Ensler

**QUOTES:** “**Activism pays the rent on being alive and being here on the planet**” ~ Alice Walker.

“**The Great Society: Bombs, Bullets and Bullshit.**” ~ American Hippy Proverb

**CORRECTION TO MINUTES:** I had Barry Riesch’s phone number incorrect. Correct: 651-757-8012.

## GENERAL Meeting Agenda

### Chapter 27 ~ February 9th, 2014 ~ 5:30pm

**Attending:** Chante Wolf, Tim Hansen, Mary McNellis, Steven J. Gates, Mike Madden, Tom Sullivan, Wayne Wittman, Dave Logsdon, Larry Johnson, Bruce Barry, Vern Hall, Dick Foley, Wes Davey, Greg Hagen, Andy Berman, Terry Burke, James E. Brown, Ray DeVogel, John Sherman, Steve McKeown.

**A Moment of Reflective Silence.**

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

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

### **REPORTS:**

**Executive Meeting ~ Cancelled UFN.** See last 3 months minutes for details.

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

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

**Finance Committee:** Moved to the General Meeting.

**Fundraising:** Looking to buy a canoe, Barry was going to take care of that but is out of town at this time, probably April timeframe. Looking for sites to table and at some point need to find another source/maker. Looking for other ideas to promote the ideas of peace and how to use what donations we get. Dave got a check from St. Luke’s Presbyterian for \$500. Waiting for letters to churches going out soon as Mary gets settled in from being out of town. Howard Zinn grant from National can be a

good amount, but that our chapter would need to match. Steve was talking about the Kellogg/Briand Act banners getting made up. Festival of Nations wants VFP to hang the flags along Kellogg Avenue during the festival. Steve proposes that the banners idea submits a grant for \$500 to National. Application available on the National website. **Motion:** that VFP file for Howard Zinn grant of \$500 and VFP put up in matching \$500 of the grant. Abbreviated: that VFP be willing to put up \$500 for the banners.

**Logo Cards:** Got permission from Dave to proceed and waiting to work with Cassie at National with official logo. On hold at this point, but still in process. Second. Passed.

**Education Project:** Larry reported that this week he is sending a letter, invitation to the March 20th event to the social studies departments of various schools to celebrate the various Armistice events with VFP. Larry is also writing an article in the newsletter giving people who have access to schools the idea of how to go about doing that, to get more outside members involved. John Sherman got a call from a parent in Robbinsdale concerning the recruiters coming in hoards to the school. He is also suggesting that we again begin going back to the MEA events like we use to do for more visibility. Other ideas is paying attention to who is leading schools and their military backgrounds. Dave suggested getting more involved in 'career day'. Need 2 to 3 people to table at these events too. Kellogg/Briand essay, April 15th deadline ~ For more information contact Larry: 612-747-3904. Dave talked with a social studies middle school teacher could get a speaking invitation by the end of March. He will get dates.

**SOA Watch:** Ward Brennan and Wayne Wittman are going to take on the organization for the trip with Mary willing to help coordinate. In the works. Lobby action is another way to be involved if people don't want to go on the trip to Washington D.C.

**MAP:** Tues., Feb. 11th at Meeting ... Franken did request that Move to Amend be motioned. New member Carondolet Peacemakers.

**WAMM:** Drone film by Robert Greenwald, "Unmanned: American Drone wars". Good turn out for Drone walk in silence in support of Drone Not Drones musical event. "Be a Peace Queen" 8th Annual Valentine's Party: Sat., Feb. 15th, 7-9 pm. 1425 West 28th St., Kenwood Isles Party Room, Mpls. Mother Agness discussion at end of meeting.

**AWC:** Want people to attend a Drone Event at the U of MN when Professor Oren Gross is speaking about the legalities of using Drones in other countries, Tues., Feb. 11th, 3:30-4:30 pm, at the U of MN Law school. U of MN has been contributing to Drone research development since 2001. Members are encouraged to attend the lecture and/or leaflet and protest outside the hall. Another panel: "Victories in Resistance, Solidarity Against Injustice", Sat., Feb. 15th, 3-5 pm, 3747 Minnehaha Ave. S., Mpls., Minnehaha Free Space. Discussions and celebrations of the release of Palestinian Samer Issawi, People's Lawyer, Lynne Stewart and trans woman of color, CeCe McDonald.

**Communications Committee:** Future meeting to be announced and for those who do not get the VFP email-news give Greg your emails. E-news and emails ~

**Newsletter:** Still needing people to be involved and always need photos of our various events to support articles. Contact: Steve ~

**PeaceStock Meeting:** July 12th, on a park near Riverside. \$30 in advance, \$35 day of event. A regional meeting is proposed for this year's Peacestock. It would bring together the leaders of the various Midwest chapters for a break-out session lasting an hour or so. The topic for Peacestock is surveillance, Jeff Nyggard and looking for other speakers and perhaps Larry Long for music. The event this year is not at Paul and Trudie's farm, but rather an inside air-conditioned building. THANK YOU PAUL AND TRUDIE FOR YOUR GRACIOUS HOSPITALITY ALL THE PAST YEARS OF Peacestock!!! Looking for a commitment to 50 tickets, discussion followed. There is also a possibility of

Skype technology to cover those who are out of town, but looking more for local folks. Next meeting is March 5th. Favorable disposed for regional meeting in conjunction with PeaceStock.

**Bell Project:** Larry spoke about the March 20th event, "Bells Ringing Peace Around the World", 6-8 pm, Guild Hall, Plymouth Congregational Church, 1900 Nicollet Ave., Mpls. He handed out post cards and synopsis of the topics covered with the bell ringing of those that were cast by veterans. The event is on "World Storytelling Day" in over 25 countries, a celebration of stories, music of bells and the belief "If I can hear your story, it's harder for me to hate you." RSVP to Larry Johnson, 612-747-3904.

**Drone Recap:** Drone Not Drones concert at Cedar Center was a hit and potential connection made for future events. Acknowledged the following for helping: Bruce, Doug Drews, James, Wayne led March, Steve, John, WAMM, AWC members, Alex from Mennonite Church, Tim developed the flyer, Mike and to the musicians raising for Doctors Without Borders. Beautiful day and good turn out. Ground breaking event, VFP tabled with No Drones sign, information through most all of the 28 hours of continuous music, very meditative musical experiment, no applause and the groups just quietly synced with each other, fanfare was at the end of the 28 hours. Cedar wants to cooperate with VFP and do more events with us, so there are possible future events to happen.

**Telling Minnesota Project:** Feb. 22nd, 2 pm at Carlton College, Weitz Theater, Northfield, MN. Six Minnesota veterans will step on stage and give their first-hand accounts of their lives and the military. Last performed at the Guthrie Theater in 2013. {Excellent ~ highly encourage folks to go support them}.

**MayDay Application:** Get it off website to apply. 1st weekend in May 4th, John Sherman will work with Tim in getting this done and paid for.

**Flag Project:** Have them available for sale. It is nice to have them for parade and other events as they do make a dramatic impact. \$30 for the flags. Proposal: \$15 poles, with the intention to move them, but not give them away. There was a mention that there could be a loaner policy of flags and poles, but was not voted or agreed upon. Can be a discussion at another meeting.

**Community Programs Sponsorship/Endorsement:** Chante will write up a proposal asking for endorsement and financial support of the following projects & groups. She feels this is a great way to build our community bridges, support other veteran's programs and ongoing projects and networking for future events. Some of the programs have the potential all in themselves to help heal the veteran, their family and reconnect with the community. All present were in agreement. **Motion:** to accept the request for the \$25 support for each of the 5 listed below. Second. Amendment to that motion: raise one of those listed to \$100 of Chante's choice. Second. Passed.

\* Combat Paper Project, the National CPP ~ \$25

\* Veterans in the Arts ~ \$25

\* Women Veterans Initiative Group ~ \$25 + \$75 = \$100

\* History Theater ~ \$25

\* MN Humanities Center ~ \$25 ~ There was a discussion about the direction of this center in giving a right leaning voice of veterans and not those normally not heard. Mike included that should also be those veterans who refuse orders due to moral rejection of current occupation. Wes was concerned about veteran, Pete Hegseth who was one of the leaders in Veterans For Freedom, a swift-boat group with a \$9 million dollar budget to discredit the Iraq Veterans Against the War. Hegseth was one of 25 veterans who were honored last year sponsored and orchestrated by the Humanities Center. Chante chimed in that it was important for us to show the courage to step into a group who do not agree with our positions or points of view. Other veterans groups do not have the tenacity to come to our meetings, we shall show that we do as well as finding common ground. It is also important that our voices NOT be silenced in any way. Chante also stated that Mr. Hegseth is now a leader of the new

organization: Concerned Veterans Of America, a group that is funded by the Koch brothers looking to privatize military pensions. Others eventually agreed and Andy Berman told of his story and the VFW with VFP going in and at least offering an extended hand and conversation and Steve said that he got a lot of signatures at the VFW and American Legions for his anti-nuclear petition.

\* [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jon-soltz/where-do-vets-stand-on-pe\\_b\\_4718237.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jon-soltz/where-do-vets-stand-on-pe_b_4718237.html)

\* [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/small-veterans-group-advocates-for-military-spending-cuts/2013/06/01/cb252296-c921-11e2-9245-773c0123c027\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/small-veterans-group-advocates-for-military-spending-cuts/2013/06/01/cb252296-c921-11e2-9245-773c0123c027_story.html)

**History Theater:** Dave and Chante met with the organizers of the two plays listed below and there is a potential opportunity to have art/photos/writings posted in the theater against the surrounding walls. VFP is encouraged to table as well as have speakers sit on panel discussions following the performances. Dave will ask Michael Orange and mentioned it to Dick Foley {attending}. Chante may sit on a panel following the Lonely Soldier.

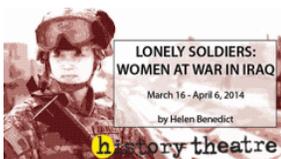
Things They Carried & Lonely soldier, discount tickets available:



March 15 – April 6, 2014

**Tim O'Brien's The Things They Carried:** Based on the quintessential book about the Vietnam experience, *The Things They Carried* is the powerful telling of Tim O'Brien's personal journey from his innocent years in a small town in western Minnesota, to the jungles of Vietnam as a young American soldier, and back again. This award-winning book is adapted for stage by Jim Stowell, one of Minnesota's finest storytellers and a fellow veteran, and performed as a one-man show by Stephen D'Ambrose. It is a powerful, clever, and provocative story of loss and redemption.

<http://www.historytheatre.com/2013-2014/tim-obriens-the-things-they-carried#sthash.L0tOww1k.dpuf>



**Lonely Soldiers: Women at War in Iraq, History Theatre:** The stories of soldiers on the front lines of American's most recent wars are unlike any that came before – especially for women in uniform. This provocative and timely play by award-winning author Helen Benedict is based on interviews with soldiers stationed on the front lines in Iraq; these are the real words of eight battle-tested women warriors recounting their traumatic experiences on battlefield and in the barracks, and their personal journeys toward recovery and justice. Honest, heartfelt, and current, this play opens the door for conversations about war, gender, and the challenges facing the next generation of American soldiers.

Show runs March 16 - April 6, 2014. Discount offer: 2-for-\$40 at any 7 or 8pm show. Call the History Theatre Box Office at 651-292-4323 and mention "Minnesota Theater Alliance." More info at: <http://www.historytheatre.com/2013-2014/lonely-soldiers>

**\*Movie Night:**

**Afghanistan/Iran Issue:** Wes Davey asked the group about the best way to get peace people and other groups to call/email their Senators urging them NOT to okay another 10 years in Afghanistan and let Kerry/Obama continue with diplomatic strategies in the region. Wayne suggested him going to MAP meeting which is Feb. 11th at 11:30 am, Hennepin United Methodist Church. Wes also has a son who is deploying for his second tour to Guantanamo this month {hold them both in pleasant thoughts}.

**WAMM Event and/or Mother Agnes Protest: {Notes taken by Mary McNellis as Chante left the meeting}:** Each person present allowed one minute to argue pro or con.

Arguments **for** endorsing:

\*We owe it to WAMM to support them. It shouldn't even be on the agenda to question this.

\*We need any and all information. We won't know if it is valid until we hear it.

\*We should endorse any WAMM event.

\*According to our statement of purpose, our actions should be directed to our goals. We should get all the info we can.

Arguments **against** endorsing:

\*Noam Chomsky does not support Mother Agnes. She repeats Assad's assertions, is an Assad mouthpiece. We add to the pain of the Syrian people when our peace community allows Assad's lies to be repeated.

\*WAMM is off-base on this issue. We do not have to be in lock-step with WAMM.

\*It is important to go to the event to hear the information. Curious why Jeremy Scahill refused to share a stage with her. Doesn't endorse event or protest.

\*Encourages people to go to event, but opposed to endorsing it.

**Neutral:**

\*Endorsing is a moot point. Event is a week from today. Whether or not we endorse, there isn't enough time for it to make a difference.

\*Question about are we endorsing EVENT or SPEAKER? Answer is EVENT.

By a show of hands, motion to endorse the event was passed with **11 votes in favor, 8 votes against.**

**Discussion on whether or not to endorse a protest of Mother Agnes event, as requested by Andy Berman:**

Andy withdrew his request for endorsement, citing how divisive an issue this has become. He encourages VFP members to

- 1.) Come to event to listen and protest.
- 2.) Work with groups who are offering humanitarian aid to the besieged Syrian people.

**Meeting Adjourned.**

**Minutes respectfully submitted, Chante Wolf and Mary McNellis. [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 1/9/14 to 2/8/14**

<b>OPENING BALANCE</b>	- Checking, Savings & Petty cash accounts	\$11,548.19
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<b>EXPENSE</b>	SOAW - \$150 from 2013 - \$250 from 2014	\$400.00
	Shell oil - gas purchase - J Sherman	\$20.00
	NCLP - rent, February.	\$600.00
	Century Link - phone and internet	\$109.31
	Tim Hansen - reimbursement, handout printing - 120	\$37.73
	Postmaster - load to our "returns" account	\$50.00
	Wayne Wittman - printing/postage for member letter, Jan.	\$177.56
	Steve McKeown - four pizzas for "Drone not Drones"	\$33.96
Total	<hr/>	\$1,428.56
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<b>INCOME</b>	Donations	\$1,145.00
	Product sale	\$45.00
Total	<hr/>	\$1,190.00
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<b>CLOSING BALANCE</b>	- Checking, Savings & Petty cash accounts	\$11,309.63
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<b>BELL GRANT ACCOUNT</b>	(Grant from MN State Arts Board for 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
<b>CLOSING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$4,341.36</b>

## **Eulogy**

It happens on a Monday, at 11:20 A.M.,  
as tower guards eat sandwiches  
and seagulls drift by on the Tigris River.  
Prisoners tilt their heads to the west  
though burlaps sacks and duct tape blind them.  
The sound reverberates down concertina coils  
the way piano wire thrums when given slack.  
And it happens like this, on a blue day of sun,  
when Private Miller pulls the trigger  
to take brass and fire into his mouth:  
the sound lifts the birds up off the water,  
a mongoose pauses under the orange trees,  
and nothing can stop it now, no matter what  
blur of motion surrounds him, no matter what voices  
crackle over the radio in static confusion,  
because if only for this moment the earth is stilled,  
and Private Miller has found what low hush there is  
down in the eucalyptus shade, there by the river.

**PFC B. Miller**  
**(1980 - March 22, 2003)**

~ **Brian Turner, 2005**