

The Page That Counts: “The number of libraries in the United States: 17,000. Number of McDonald’s: 14,000. The number of Starbucks: 11,000.” Yes! Magazine ~ Winter 2014.

The Page That Counts: Total hours U.S. adults spent watching TV in 2008: 200 Billion. Total estimated hours contributors spent creating all the entries in Wikipedia as of 2008: 0.1 Billion.” Yes! Magazine ~ Summer 2013.

BOOK: “**Sand Queen**” by Helen Benedict {story of a U.S. female soldier and an Iraqi family}. A MUST READ!!

DVD: “**Fear Not the Path of Truth: A Veteran’s Journey After Fallujah**” A film by Ross Caputi. <https://vimeo.com.80051615>

Quote: “We are not worth more, they are not worth less.” ~ S. Brian Wilson

EXECUTIVE Meeting Agenda

Chapter 27 January 12 2014 ~ 5:00pm

Attending: Chante Wolf, Tim Hansen, Wayne Wittman, Dave Logsdon, Mike Madden, Barry Riesch, John Sherman, Vern Hall.

Calendar of Events: There is one just below the TV/DVD in the office for events to be marked on. Wayne said he will get the items to Greg for sending out.

Harold Nielson Report: Tim reported meeting with the lawyer for his It will be another 2 months before the lawyers can get through his Will. So we have some time to talk about the wording. The lawyer understands our difficulty with the wording concerning ‘Office Space’, but still will be a little while before that gets ironed out and what our options are. Letter:

Dear Mr. Donald Fluegel:

Thank you for contacting us in regard to our status as beneficiaries in the will of Harold Nielson.

Per your request I am attaching a copy of our 501(c)(3) documentation letter and am including our ‘statement of purpose’ to show our ‘peace activity’ goals.

We are however wondering how to interpret ‘purchase of a building’ and would ask if the current location of our organization’s rental office could meet the requirements, as it is used as ‘a peace activity center’? We are also wondering if the will was made before we had secured office space?

Statement of Purpose. {Not included for space}.

Thank you for your help, Tim Hansen, VFP C-27 Treasurer. 612-922-2406. tjhansen4@gmail.com

Spending Options: General conversation to continue around what we spend our money on, books, DVD, product, rent etc.

Parliamentarian Process: Mike suggested that we have a more cohesive order to how we process our meetings. Suggestion is to make a motion and bring it up to the General meeting for voting. Motion. Second. Accepted.

Finance Committee: Moved to the General Meeting.

National Convention Bell Ringing Presence: The North Carolina hosting chapter for the next National Convention are already setting agenda and our intention is to keep the bell ringing for the opening of the annual convention. Dave will take the lead to get that on their agenda. Any ideas for workshops please bring to Dave as well: 612-203-9768.

Office Staffing: Dave's brother is coming in Wed. afternoons and Ron Staff would like to be involved as well. Will ask at the General Meeting. Pat Reisinger does the 'Thank-You' notes for those donations under \$100. Those donations over that amount, Dave, the presiding president will do the 'Thank-You' notes. Anyone wanting to come in their free time, {keys numbered and sign in/out} contact Dave: 612-203-9768.

Executive Meeting: The decision was made at the November meeting1st Motion that the General Meeting be held from now forward to begin at 5:30 pm, convening the Executive meeting at 5:00 pm prior, only when necessary. Can have our meeting earlier upon need. Second. Discussion. Tim would like to have the Exec. group to talk more with each other and continue with the Exec Meeting. However there was a feeling that the Exec. could meet half an hour before General meeting for pressing business. 2nd Motion: Executive meeting to be Permanently meeting at 5:00 pm. Voted down. 1st main motion was passed.

Paid Website/E-mail person: Tabled until next time or general meeting.

6:00 p.m. GENERAL MEETING - January 12th, 2014

Attending: Chante Wolf, Tim Hansen, Wayne Wittman, Dave Logsdon, Mike Madden, Barry Riesch, John Sherman, Molly Culligan, Vern Hall, Greg Hagen, Ken Logsdon.

A Moment of Reflective Silence.

Call to Order and Statement of Purpose - Read by: Ken Logsdon, Dave's brother and Vietnam Veteran.

Summary of Exec. Meeting: See above.

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

REPORTS:

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

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

Education Project: Larry's email detailing his tenure as the Education Outreach lead is in full at the end of notes {below}. Dave Logsdon is in contact with a Social Studies teacher at Anwattin Middle School to set up a speaking engagement, not a done deal yet. Also the St. Paul Como HS, Social Studies, March 19th, Wayne and Steve McKeown will speak. Mary Shuster's U of MN {Humanities} class invited Dave and Michael Orange to speak, March 25th.

Fundraising: Good shape, next fundraising is coming up in the Spring. John is feeling less energy to spend backing and foot work, looking for help along with Greg to help with mailing, tabling etc. Last canoe being made by Bob Barron, Barry will handle that process. Finalizing the letter for the churches and just need last editing and then sending out. Mary is out of town, Greg offered to help pick up the slack and will try to get the process back on track. Last minute nailing down the location for the raffle before getting the tickets printed. Vern offered a new printer, Vietnam vet he met and Vern will get it all worked out for the price quote.

Membership: Barry taking up this committee, nothing really to report. His main project is 'growth', if we don't then our group dies off with the members. Wayne talked about his being involved with membership over the years and watched it grow from 30 to over 250. Each month he sends those on our roster a letter inviting their involvement and membership. Those who are interested in this contact Barry: 612-269-8934. Tim Hansen offered at the Jan. 5th retreat, to make membership cards after getting with National to ensure their isn't duplicity. He is thinking a few examples to pass out for voting and that will be around 3 weeks. Discussion ensued as to the design particulars.

Outreach Delegate Teams:

WAMM: Mike Madden, delegate. Invited to the T3 meeting, {Tackling Torture at the Top} from Colleen Rowley. He spoke with Pepperwolf about him attending meetings as our liaison and she will get back with him. Drone film coming out will send it to the email list.

AWC: Tim listened to a talk and a film about drones. Production of them is on the incline and the advancement of automated D9~Caterpillar machines is frightening. CIA and FBI are using them in different ways. {Double tap process ~ like the film} ... Drones will be given the decision to kill people after eye recognition process is also a slide into the dark side. {Machines don't have emotions, don't refuse orders and don't sell stories after their murdering process}.

MAP: Wayne reported anyone else who wants to can come to the delegate meetings are the second Tuesday of February, April, June, August, October and December from 11:30am to 1:30pm. Mary McNellis and Steven Gates are the current POC for Chapter 27.

Finance Committee: Barry reported about SOA proceeds from the last trip, scholarships, SOA watch or a separate or general account. Send money to SOA Watch \$400. Still need to decide on the other issues. Discussion ensued around the money left over and that which Pepperwolf was concerned about. The money discussion was over where to place it, Tim argued against it being earmarked specially. As a matter of being open to those other groups who helped to get the bus going this year, Barry made a **Motion:** Proceeds from the 2013 SOA trip {approx. \$2,200} will be distributed by sending a \$400 donation to the SOA Watch with the remainder going to Chapter 27 general funds to be used as seed money for the 2014 SOA bus trip. Second. Discussion, Tim will record it accordingly in his monthly treasurer's report. Passed.

Communications Committee: Greg discussed the general look of the communications for the Chapter and for outreach, PR etc. They will get something going next month. Mike Madden asked that his retraction be voted on: Read. Second. Discussed. Passed.

RETRACTION To Email Chapter 27 Sent Out @ Syria: The Response of Veterans For Peace to the Syrian Conflict: A Time Line. Drafted by Mike Madden, Accepted by group.

"Veterans For Peace Chapter 27 hereby retracts the article published in its January 8, 2014 eNews titled The Response of Veterans For Peace to the Syrian Conflict / a time line. The article suggests that VFP has fallen short on Syria and that there is a move afoot within VFP to rethink its position.

"National Veterans For Peace board member Gerry Condon responded to the question of whether or not VFP is re-thinking its position by writing the following:

"Veterans For Peace absolutely opposes US intervention in Syria, and we will continue to do so. There is NO re-consideration taking place, only discussions about how we can express our opposition even more strongly. Our opposition to the bombing of Syria should in no way be interpreted as support for the Assad regime. We call for an end to all violence and for negotiations to end the war."

"Chapter 27 also regrets publishing a link to an inflammatory blog site in the article. The blogger suggests that by its opposition to armed intervention, "the left wants Assad to have the freedom to keep bombing [Syrians]". The blogger goes on to disparage Veterans For Peace by name, writing that members of VFP have done something worse than ignore the struggle of the Syrian people, "They took the dictator's side."

Our Statement of Purpose offers clear guidance. We stand behind National VFP. "Humanitarian War" is an oxymoron." ~~~~~

Parliamentarian Motion: Motion that Mike Madden made in the Executive Meeting concerning how Chapter 27 conducts its meetings. Second. Passed. With one dissenting vote.

MLK Day: Sunday, Jan. 19th, Greg Hagen, Molly Culligan, John Sherman & Paul Reidner will be reading Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "*Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence*", at the Guardian Angels Historic Church, 8260 4th St. N., Oakdale, MN (651) 738-2223 at 1pm. Bell ringing will follow by Wayne Wittman and Joan Bergman. Following Monday VFP meets up 9:30 at Central HS with our flags etc. Contact Barry: 612-269-8934.

Drone Not Drones: Concert at Cedar Riverside Center: "Drone Not Drones" Proceeds from the 28 hour marathon concert are going to Dr. Without Borders. Event happening, Feb. 7th and 8th, tickets available through the Cedar. Dave is in contact with the director to have VFP table sometimes during the event. Would be good for our visibility with our VFP flag banner flying.

Bus Ads: Tim found out the cost for a monthly ad: 11X28 sign inside the bus, with a minimum of \$3,500 including our non-profit of 50%, but the cost for a year. No route specifications, willing to eliminate some of the garages but nothing more than that. Postpone for later discussion. 30 buses for a year, seriously worth the contemplation.

Bell Project: Please **save the date and time, 7 p.m. March 20**, for an amazing **WORLD STORYTELLING DAY** event, **co-sponsored by Veterans for Peace Chapter 27 and the Plymouth Church Global Connections Committee**. It's made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

On March 20, at 7 p.m. in Guild Hall at Plymouth Church in Minneapolis, there will be stories and music reflecting the history of bells "ringing warning, danger, and love between our brothers and sisters all

over the world". There will be stories of bells melted down to be used for war, but especially bells used to signal the dire need to find better ways to resolve international conflict than by violent warfare. Yes, THERE WILL BE LOTS OF BELLS -- bells made by veterans, a "liquid bell", and one made from melted down artillery shells. There will be a bell bringing people out of poverty, and we hope the wonderful Plymouth bell choir. PLEASE PLAN NOW TO BE THERE, and bring your prayers for the ringing of the powerful force that can end war.

It's not necessary to RSVP, but we would appreciate it, because the grant provides refreshments. For more information, or to sign up, please respond to: Larry Johnson, larryjvfp@gmail.com; 612-747-3904.

History Theater: Things They Carried & Lonely soldier, Dave asked that Chante stay in touch for VFP logo, tabling etc.

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>

Film Night: Looking for 4 people who are willing to commit to one night a month for a movie night. Contact Dave.

Feb. 4th Caucus: Wayne's Resolution: ***"Whereas: The Democratic Party National Leaders have demonstrated extra-ordinary leadership this past year by the following:***

- 1. Representative Nolan introduced and garnered support for a Congressional resolution requiring the President to obtain Congressional approval prior to initiating a lethal military strike into Syria with the result that a United States military action was avoided thus avoiding our government actions adding to the death and pain in that poor country.*
- 2. Secretary of State John Kerry's responsive action in dealing with the poison weapons in the Syrian army's control appears to have defused the issue .*
- 3. Secretary of State Kerry's response to the government of Iran efforts to improve frayed relations contributes to our hope for peace in the Middle East..*

Therefore Be It Resolved: *That the Minnesota Democratic Labor Party commends both Minnesota Representative Nolan and Secretary of State Kerry for there leadership in avoiding armed conflict in the middle east and promoting peace in this area."* **Motion:** Chapter 27 endorses Wayne Wittman's resolution. Second. Passed.

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 Second Report on the Education Committee {with edits by Chante} – Larry Johnson, Jan 1, 2014:

From the Sunday, Jan. 5th retreat and other talking I've done, I have Cecil Ramnaraine, Dick Foley, Tom Sullivan, Dave Logsdon, Greg Hagen, Chante Wolf, Molly Culligan, and Larry Johnson on the list. Others are welcome. Contact: Larry Johnson ~ 612-747-3904.

My focus right now is to make the March 20th event happen to culminate the Bell casting project (which I agreed to manage the grant till its over, just to avoid confusion). I am pulling out my school contacts and will invite them to the event, as a start on letting them know they can invite us to their schools on or around Nov. 11th, to speak and/or do an Armistice ceremony with them at their assembly.

Next, I intend to check on whether the Kellogg-Briand essay contest is still functioning and promote it heavily to schools, as a main immediate way to let them know about the Pact and the Kellogg Nobel Peace Prize. If the contest has dissolved, I think we should create our own with a dollar amount/scholarship prize, as this is a main way that issues, not deliberately in the curriculum, get into schools. I am willing to start talking with curriculum people, but this is a long process. I've done it before, and the reality is that, even if its in the curriculum, doesn't mean it gets mentioned the way we want or even at all.

Third, I am starting to work on telling the story of Frank Kellogg, so it could be offered in schools. There are other peacemakers whose story I tell when I'm doing programs in schools, but I've not offered this before as deliberately from VFP. Cecil Ramnaraine's curriculum is now available on line to teachers (free download), and its built around the stories of great peacemakers, but Kellogg is not there. Could be added, and Cecil wants to be active with us.

I'm checking into a group called Athletes united for Peace, which may have some biography power, since sports and entertainment celebrities have such student power in today's celebrity driven world. I will also check back with the Peace Sites organization. I have tried twice in the past 5 years to get them to promote our availability to speak in schools. Either they didn't get it, or I didn't have enough 'outside the Presidency' energy to push it hard enough. I was a specialist in the first Minnesota Peace site school in 1986, and I went with Lynn Elling to sell the new Commissioner of Education that year on the program. I will also check in on the Achieve Career Fairs mechanism, which has been our main avenue for talking with high school students about alternatives to being recruited. It seems always in flux, but this will not happen in the next month.

Fourth, Bill Habedank called and asked if we had made a committee to help plan Peacestock. I wasn't planning to manage that anymore, but I'm interested enough to go to a meeting on it. Sounded like Wayne might be too. I'd be glad to get back to him on this, or defer in a minute to someone else who would do it.

Fifth, I had offered to organize a gathering with AWC, WAMM, FNVW, VFP {including Terry, Andy and Steve} and maybe Kim Doss-Smith, if she would process how we have been operating with each other around the Syria issue, or other issues, where people forget and get into part line, "I'm right, you're wrong" mentality. I'm still willing to do that, or turn it over to someone else, or leave it alone. {Wisdom of the group}?

Finally, I am going to have coffee with George Mische, and invite Greg, because he and I talked with him after the film showing. Anyone else interested is certainly welcome, but the issue is something like, "Okay, the media attention to the string of 60's draft card burnings by young people, often in suits, had some heavy duty impacts." Given that the media has learned to often, to just plain ignore, or twist, things that don't fit the war party line and what might be a way to turn that around today. Relative to one of the Sunday, Jan. 5th retreat discussions. What good does it do to go to Washington and chain veterans to the fence in protest, if no one ever finds out about it or why it happened? I didn't feel much energy about that Sunday. Maybe we were tired. Maybe I'm the only one who thinks it could be valuable? Anyway, I'm planning on doing it. Maybe not this month.

I may be absent, but remain your loving and faithful servant, Larry.

VFP - TREASURER'S REPORT 12/8/13 to 1/8/14

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

EXPENSE

Mary McKellis - SOA office supplies	\$27.70
Mary McKellis - SOA office supplies	\$13.59
Dave Bicking - holiday party - room rental	\$50.00
Shell oil - gas purchase - J Sherman	\$20.00
NCLP - rent, January.	\$600.00
Cretin Derham Hall - SOA refund	\$400.00
St Catherine University - SOA refund	\$200.00
Wayne Wittman - printing & postage for minutes, Dec.	\$197.35
Dave Logsdon - green mill - strategy meeting - food	\$75.34
The War Crimes Times - 4 bundles - literature - not for sale	\$100.00
Century Link - phone and internet	\$109.09
Wallace/Carlson Printing - newsletter, 860 - volume XVII#4	\$927.60
Wallace/Carlson Printing - newsletter, postage	\$96.58
Frank Fuller - donation from VFP for newsletter help, 2013	\$100.00

Total **\$2,917.25**

INCOME

Raffle tickets - 2013	\$30.00
Donations	\$3,922.34
Product sale - SOA	\$20.00
SOA - Reservations	\$800.00

Total **\$4,772.34**

CLOSING BALANCE - Checking, Savings & Petty cash accounts **\$11,548.19**

\$8,700.00

BELL GRANT ACCOUNT (Grant from MN State Arts Board for bell casting project)

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**

1916

16 years old when I went to the war,
To fight for a land fit for heroes,
God on my side, and a gun in my hand,
Chasing my days down to zero,
And I marched and I fought and I bled and I died,
And I never did get any older,
But I knew at the time that a year in the line,
Is a long enough life for a soldier,

We all volunteered, and we wrote down our names,
And we added two years to our ages,
Eager for life and ahead of the game,
Ready for history's pages,
And we brawled and we fought and we whored 'til we stood,
Ten thousand shoulder to shoulder,
A thirst for the Hun, we were food for the gun,
And that's what you are when you're soldiers,

I heard my friend cry, and he sank to his knees,
Coughing blood as he screamed for his mother,
And I fell by his side, and that's how we died,
Clinging like kids to each other,
And I lay in the mud and the guts and the blood,
And I wept as his body grew colder,
And I called for my mother and she never came,
Though it wasn't my fault and I wasn't to blame,
The day not half over and ten thousand slain,
And now there's nobody remembers our names,
And that's how it is for a soldier.

~ Lemmy Kilmister, 1990