

**CORRECTION TO MINUTES:** Change from Chante's original decision on \$100 sponsorship from Women Veteran's Initiative Group to Veterans in the Arts. Reasoning is that more has been done with VIA than the other group and that includes outreach for veterans to participate.

## GENERAL Meeting Agenda

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

**Attending:** Chante Wolf, Wayne Wittman, Tim Hansen, Mary McNellis, Dave Logsdon, Bruce Berry, Mike Madden, Greg Hagen, Larry Johnson, Elaine Wynne, Terry Burke, Barry Riesch, Vern Hall, John Sherman, Nick Theis, Mary Henley, Rob Ramer, Pat Riesinger, Tom Sullivan, Craig Wood.

**Video:** "We Teach Life, Sir." <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKucPh9xHtM>

### **A Moment of Reflective Silence.**

**Call to Order and Statement of Purpose** - Read by: Visitor ~ Craig Wood.

**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. Discussion ensued concerning a grant from National, but we need to have a project in which to apply. Barry suggested the flag and pole idea for all chapters. Mike supported Barry's idea. Howard Zinn grant application the deadline has passed.

**Fundraising:** John reported that he is no longer the point person and has passed it along to Greg Hagen who is willing to handle the tabling but not able to take on all the other tabling events either. He will take on Grand Ole Days, but we NEED someone(s) for the other events, Pride, Linden Hills, etc. April Midwest Mountaineering sale event and we need to get a new canoe. MayDay lost their parking place and that put a kink in our being able to table at the event. If we are to table, this time we are going to have to pay for a tabling space. Mary McNellis had brought up a question concerning the canoe event, does it make enough money to continue, there is storage and people to table, logistics etc. Wayne suggested counting tickets before the raffle to see what we sell. Tim did send out a graph showing that it is the second largest income maker for our chapter, not counting for expenses. However, it did more than pay for itself in the final analysis. We mail out tickets and we make a lot of income through that event alone. We get donations even if tickets are not sent. X-factor of the canoe is visibility and new membership, comrade and gives people permission to walk up and feel the canoe, then look over our information and have conversations with members about who we are and what are we out there for. Membership was discussed as the tabling people can sign up for information, emails and meeting information. Mary has ideas about tweaking our information. Mary is also working on the church outreach letters.

**Finance Committee:** One submission to give \$100 to victims of the fire on Riverside. Processed Chante's request and received a very nice hand written thank you from Veterans in the Arts.

**Education Project:** Larry reported that they did apply for the Howard Zinn grant concerning the Kellogg/Briand act, for a \$500 match. Interest in getting in schools meeting is March 25th at 10am, talking about what they are going to do next year. VFP is going to be at the Festival of Nations all 4 days, with an exhibit of our peace bells, {20,000 teachers and students go through one day alone}, Civic Center in St. Paul, theme is Peace and connection to Japan and our sister-connection to Nagasaki. They are building a peace garden in the Civic Center and found out what we were doing with the Kellogg/Briand Pact and hang the document along Summit Ave., plus expanding to include taking handouts with them. Now there are people saying that it Kellogg/Briand Pact doesn't work, yet we are making headway. "First they ignore you then they ridicule you and then you win". Bells grant coming to a close. Other grants etc., that we can tap into. Larry had handouts for our March 20th Bell event. Looking for someone to video tape the event and to sit at the door. Dave suggested KFAI, Lydia Howell and Don Olsen. We are looking to fill the room. Humanities center wants us to have a bell on display with the storyline about what it was all about. Thursday, March 13th at Edison HS, VFP is on the billet, Thursday at 9 am, to speak about alternatives to military. March 25th, Dave and Michael Orange speaking at Mary Schuster's class at the U of MN at 10 am. Need to restart the Speaker's Bureau at April's VFP meeting. Next Educational Outreach Committee meeting is March 25th, 10 am, at VFP office, to discuss what we're doing this year, and where we're going in the future. We'll be joined by Mary Henley, a Robbinsdale parent/activist, to brainstorm how best to give students the education that certainly is not offered by recruiters, but unfortunately often also not by the schools. We're signed into career fairs at South High School on April 24, 8:30-11 and Washburn, May 2, 9-11:30, so will need volunteers to be there and talk with students. We will be at Edison H.S. on the 13th and we have been invited to Anwattin Middle School to talk about World War 1.

**Direct Action:** Bruce talked about the light rail station which is just across the street from our office. Looking to connect who we are and our community. The Drone action in Des Moines Iowa, No Drones in Iowa Campaign, the whole weekend of St. Patricks Day, Kathy Kelly, Elliot Adams will be speaking. Looking for our chapter supporters to go to this. Important to support other chapters in our region. Bruce is driving, has room for 3 others. Passed the sign up sheet. Interested contact Bruce ... Wayne said he got a call from National asking if any of us were going. Looking to build the network. Greg suggested, April 4th, reading MLK Beyond Vietnam's Speech. The Penumbra Theater is also having something concerning that speech. Also we have the anniversary of Iraq invasion, March 19th and looking to do something out in front of our office. Rachel Maddow put a piece together about why we were there, very well done and that we should promote it. Wayne and Steve are speaking at Como High School concerning the invasion. March 15th, noon, an action for bringing to light the plight of the Syrian people and will be serving grass and olive soup to represent what they have to eat. Possibility of supporting Boston St. Patrick's day for next year. Tim suggested that we connect with WAMM, AWC and other groups for March 19th. Nick said he will take it to Student's for Democratic Society for endorsement, participation. Looking for someone tasked to do this, Mike will help with some of the organization through WAMM. March 19th will be at Marshall / Lake St. Bridge, 4:30 to 5:30. E-News will send out email. SDS April 17th, want to have a presence for Condoleezza Rice visit to Northrop. "Legacy of Justice" series, and she will be speaking to that theme. Looking for mobilization there. There are other group at the U of MN looking to get her invitation resented, though it would only happen on paper and not in reality. Looking for help for the statement, Mike and Dave volunteered to help with the statement. **Motion:** Wayne: Moved that VFP Chapter 27 endorse and participate in the SDS Condi Rice un-invitation action. Second. Passed.

**WAMM:** One event is their book club, March 15th, Cuban Revolution, any interest contact Mike Madden: [mike@mudpuppies.net](mailto:mike@mudpuppies.net). The other event is March 20th, Bell event, endorsed by WAMM.

**AWC:** April 12th, dinner, 6-8pm on Cedar Ave. AWC response for FBI arrests .... Asking for our endorsement. **Motion:** To endorse the AWC request concerning FBI arrests. Second. Discussion. Ongoing effort and not a single event. Passed.

**VFP Logo Business Cards:** Tim also reported that the card he is designing will have National information on one side and Chapter 27 on the other with a new logo that incorporates the state of MN. Passed around his drawings and asked for input, support for which one folks like. **Motion:** Tom Sullivan: that we do generate a logo for our chapter. Second. Discussion ensued. 11 yes. 1 Abstain. 4 nay.

**Visitor Presentation:** Rob Ramer talked about "Making Meaning of Vietnam: Understanding the War 40 Years Later" next year is the 40th year and looking to have ongoing event through the year up to it. Wants VFP to support, attend, endorsement. There will be concerts, book signing, readings, films and other types of events. Wants VFP to be fiscal sponsor for the donations. **Motion:** ~~Chapter 27 be fiscal agent upon the approval of the Treasurer, Tim Hansen. Second. Passed.~~ Discussion included National participation as a response to the government rewriting history of Vietnam.

**Art Projects:** There is another art event around the light rail. More information will be brought forward. BELL Project {already above} 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.

**Harold Nielson Report:** Tim asking if he should pursue this: "\$20,000 to be used to purchase a building to be used as a peace center." The lawyer answered back saying that he had spoken to other acquaintances that the intention of the estate not be paid as we were not able to fulfill the request. Does he contest or not? Do we know a lawyer pro-bono to put on this. Discussion ensued. Barry relayed memory of office space and felt pursuance is a lost cause. Chante suggested that any discussion of this contesting be put in writing with cc to others ~ executive committee. **Motion:** Larry that it be pursued. Second. Passed with 1 opposed.

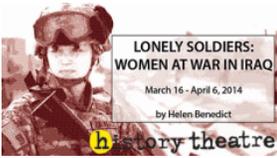
**History Theater:** Dave & Chante meeting: Free tickets for March 16th. Chapter 27, March 23rd, 7pm, Michael Orange and Dick Foley will be on the panel after the play. We need to table for the opening night, March 15th at selected times. March 30th panel discussion after the play at 2pm, Chante Wolf is one of 3 presenters. **Motion:** Wayne: Thank MayDay Book Store for 3 books "The Lonely Soldier" by Helen Benedict.

Things They Carried & Lonely soldier, discount tickets available: <http://www.mnhum.org/vets>



**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>

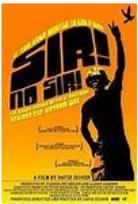
**PeaceStock Meeting:** July 12th, Redwing chapter looking for our support to purchase tickets. Tabled til next meeting. Theme is surveillance. River Falls poet willing to read at Peacestock.

SOA: Nothing to report. Ward and Wayne still willing to coordinate with Mary McNellis's help. March 11th, 6 pm, Room 319 at Coffman Union, sponsored by SDS.

**National VFP Convention:** Dave suggested for Gita to do one on the Bell making process. Need to pass to her. Tim asked if we are going to take out an ad. Motion: Put a full page ad in the National booklet. Second.

Passed.

**Movie Night:** Actually going to happen. "Sir! No, Sir!" Wed., March 12th, doors open at 6:30 pm, event begins at 7 pm. VFP Chapter 27 office, 1806 Riverside Ave., #3A, Minneapolis, FREE Admission.



**Chante Proposal: #1 Motion:** VFP obtain a copy of Invisible War for the Educational Outreach Committee to show at schools. Second. Passed. **#2 Motion:** Purchase copy of "It's Time to Take a Stand: No Bullying", same reason above. Second. Passed. **Statement:** That VFP Chapter 27, {the Educational Outreach Committee} take on the bullying in schools issue, going a step further showing similar aspects of bullying that exists in military basic training. This training later encroaches into the schools by way of unlimited military recruiter access. They come as they please and roam freely in hallways, lunch areas and classrooms in their uniforms, which represents a certain power of authority intended to intimidate students psychologically, attempting to coerce them into joining. It is suggested that VFP Chapter 27 negotiate for limiting recruiter access. Recruiters can thus be allowed in on assigned days and times to one room under supervision. That way any interested students may approach under their own free will. It is suggested that VFP as a whole approach the topic of governmental agencies and the use of the Pentagon by connecting how they incorporate intimidation techniques, hazing, sexual violence, torture and warfare as extended components of bullying towards other nations/militaries and their civilians.

**AFCLIO:** Wayne been named as liaison, moved that he be accepted. Second. Passed.

**Motion:** To reimburse Vern for food preparation at the Christmas party. Second. Passed. Done.

**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 2/9/14 to 3/8/14**

<b>OPENING BALANCE</b>	- Checking, Savings & Petty cash accounts	\$11,309.63
<b>EXPENSE</b>		
	Greg Hagen - website hosting	\$36.00
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	Shell oil - gas purchase - J Sherman	\$20.00
	Steve McKeown - 10 banners for Kellogg events	\$90.00
	Combat Paper Project - donation	\$25.00
	Women Veterans Initiative Group - donation	\$25.00
	History Theater - donation	\$25.00
	MN Humanities Center - donation	\$25.00
	Veterans in the Arts - donation	\$100.00
	NCLP - rent, March.	\$600.00
	Century Link - phone and internet	\$109.31
	Wayne Wittman - printing/postage for member letter, Feb.	\$163.06
<b>Total</b>		\$1,428.56
	INCOME - Donations	\$1,215.00
<b>Total</b>		\$1,215.00
<b>CLOSING BALANCE</b>	- Checking, Savings & Petty cash accounts	\$11,270.26
<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
	Gita Patina - 1/3 of workshop payments	\$1,200.00
	Gita Patina - event related costs	\$234.00
<b>CLOSING BALANCE</b>		\$2,907.36

**Book/Articles / Radio Interviews:** “**The Menace of the Military Mind**” Chris Hedges  
[http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/the\\_menace\\_of\\_the\\_military\\_mind\\_20140203](http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/the_menace_of_the_military_mind_20140203)

“**For Military Couples, It’s A Long Recovery When We Get Home**” Kayla Williams {Author of “I Love My Rifle More Than You”} <http://www.npr.org/2014/02/10/274670026/for-military-couples-its-a-long-recovery-when-we-get-home>

“**Breach of Trust: How Americans Failed Their Soldiers And Their Country**” Andrew Bacevich, 2013

**Review:** <http://www.americanempireproject.com>

**Quote:** “Civilization and violence are antithetical concepts. Negroes of the United States, follow the people of India, have demonstrated that nonviolence is not sterile passivity, but a powerful moral force which makes for social transformation. Sooner or later all the people of the world will have to discover a way to live together in peace, and thereby transform this pending cosmic elegy into a creative psalm of brotherhood. If this is to be achieved, man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression, and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love” ~ **Dr. Martin Luther King in his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech.**

**Theater:** “**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>



"What if our religion was each other  
"If our practice was our life  
"If prayer, our words.  
"What if the temple was the earth  
"If forests were our church  
"If holy water - the rivers, lakes, and oceans  
"What if meditation was our relationships  
"If the Teacher was life  
"If wisdom was self-knowledge  
"If love was the center of our being"

~ Ganga White

Alberto Villoldo's Photo