

**Veterans For Peace Chapter 27**  
**1806 Riverside Ave. #3A, Mpls. 55454**  
**Draft Minutes May 11th, 2014**

\*\* Notes Taken by Mary McNellis, Chante is out of town.

**Attending:** Bruce Barry, Molly Culligan, Ray DeVogel, Dick Foley, Stephen Gates, Greg Hagen, Vern Hall, Dave Logsdon,  
Mike Madden, Mary McNellis, Barry Riesch, John Sherman, Wayne Wittman, Craig Wood.  
Guest: Graham Severson (Amicus)

**5:30 Call to Order** by Dave Logsdon. Statement of Purpose read by Graham Severson.

**Check-in :** Short introductions by members. Theme: remembering our mothers; telling stories of love, strength, courage, inspiration and overcoming adversity.

Meeting preceded by viewing 5-minute video clip (produced by Mary McNellis), excerpted from footage taken March 20, 2014 World Story Telling Day/Bell Celebration program held at the Plymouth Congregational Church. It was loop shown at Festival of Nations VFP table, featuring the ringing of eleven bells by the eleven VFP bell-casters.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vss2yxMtJNg&feature=youtu.be>

**Member Health Report:** A moment of **Reflective Silence**, in addition to the bell-playing video earlier, was offered in honor of former Chapter 27 member, **Ed Mucha**, who recently passed. PRESENTE. He was living in Florida with his wife, memorial plans unknown. Concern expressed for Ed Mucha's wife, who is ill, questions about how we can support her. Dave offered to write a letter. Chapter sends wishes for speedy recovery to Steve M. who is home recovering from surgery.

**Executive Reports:**

**Secretary** – Minutes from April 13, 2014: Chante, in absentia, submitted the following correction to minutes: *Regarding Harold Neilson Report ~ VFP authorizes Helen Abbott to represent VFP in the negotiations with Fluegel Law Firm. And that the second motion be amended to, Motion: VFP to authorize Helen Abbott to request from the Fluegel Law Firm that the funds from the Nielsen will be granted as VFP wishes to move forward with the process of acquiring a building for the purpose of a peace activity's center. Second. Discussion ensued. 3 opposed {Tim Hansen and two others}. Motion passed.*

There was confusion about this correction; approval of April minutes was tabled until next meeting.

**Treasurer:** John gave report in Tim's absence. \$1000 in canoe raffle tickets have already been sold, covering the cost of the canoe. Opening balance: \$10,207.60. Closing balance: \$7,618.27. Moved to accept - second - passed. Report attached below.

**Agenda additions:** Guest Speaker, Graham Severson from Amicus, discussed the role of Amicus in helping veterans in prison, many of whom have no visitors or support. Literature was distributed with details of how to become involved.

### **Committee Reports:**

**SAC- Greg:** Strategic Action (formerly Communications) Committee meeting is scheduled for **Wed. May 21, 7:00 pm**, VFP office. Attendance encouraged; interest sign-up sheet passed around. Contact Greg for more info. Some of the questions we will attempt to answer: \* Why do we do what we do? \* How could we do it better? \*How do our activities relate to and support our mission? \* What else might we be doing in addition to or in place of what we are currently doing?

**Education** - Larry submitted written report, see below. Brief recap: Our table at Festival of Nations was a huge success from our viewpoint; lots of teachers, students and others reached regarding Kellogg-Briand Pact and VFP bell-ringing project. Huge educational/profile VFP outreach. Our table included the actual bells which were cast by veterans. Also on display (thanks to Chante) were enlarged photographs taken during the several months it took to make the bells, illustrating the complex process.

Kudos to those who have spoken at high school career fairs. Wayne requested more attention on speaking engagements with IAM-Machinist unions. Molly requested to be included in more school engagements for readings.

**Direct action** – Bruce and Mike reporting. Sat. May 17 – Stop the Wars, Ground the Drones event on Lake St. Gather at 1:00 pm, 1:45 pm March, 2:15 Closing rally at Walker Church, 3014 16<sup>th</sup> Av S, Mpls.

**Rice event** at Northrup Auditorium - Mike described the event and reaction to SDS protest. It was mentioned that disciplinary action is to be taken by the University against students who protested. Wayne moved that we send a Resolution to U of M concerning this. **Motion made and second:** *Vets for Peace, Twin Cities Chapter 27, is concerned that the University of Minnesota is considering disciplinary action against students for their participation in a peaceful protest at Northrup Auditorium. We stand in solidarity with the students and will monitor the situation.* Motion passed unanimously.

**Arts-** Bruce reported that our No Drones Banner has been getting lots of use, maybe we need to change up the expression, i.e. No Killer Drones?

**Finance:** Barry said there was nothing new to report.

**Fundraising:** John reported that we need to work on the letter writing campaign. It was scheduled for 1:00 Thursday May 15, at MayDay bookstore. Everyone welcome. An interest sign-up sheet was passed around.

**Bryn Mawr Garage Sale:** Dave reported that we raised close to \$500 from canoe ticket sales.

**Midwest Mountaineering table:** Barry reported we made close to \$500 from canoe ticket sales. Vern talked to people at Midwest Mountaineering event re people who make canoes, we need to gather names.

**Linden Hills Neighborhood Festival:** Question - who signed us up, who's in charge? Larry, Tom Sullivan?

**Church fund-raising letter:** Mary is drawing up list of churches to approach.

**AWC:** No report.

**WAMM:** Mike reported on the rally to be held May 17<sup>th</sup>, VFP is a co-sponsor. Do we need new banners? Worker drones make hives, killer drones take lives? Bruce reported we need to come up with new chants.

Barry commented that WAMM had presence at Bridge re Nigerian girl kidnapping – so far no VFP presence on that issue.

**SOA:** Wayne reported that he has two paid registrations thus far: himself and Ward Brennan. Cost: \$275 per person for bus and shared double room if payment is received by Oct. 20. ***\*\*There are also early and late registration rates, and options for rooms with one, three or four persons. See below\*\****

<b>** Payment received by:</b>	<b>9/20/14</b>	<b>10/20/14</b>	<b>11/20/14</b>
Bus/one person per room	\$330	\$350	\$390
Bus/two persons per room	\$260 pp	\$275 pp	\$310 pp
Bus/three persons per room	\$238 pp	\$250 pp	\$285 pp
Bus/four persons per room	\$226 pp	\$240 pp	\$270 pp

Wayne emphasized the need to bring students/young people onboard, need to grow young activists. Greg suggested perhaps we have a student "Essay on SOA" contest? Award scholarship to winner?

**Membership:** Barry expressed frustration at our apparent low-priority re generating new members; it needs to be our #1 priority. We're spread thin, yet this item doesn't even get on agenda. He encourages more professionalism vis-à-vis presentation of sign-up sheets, etc. We have to grow new members. At National Convention in Asheville there is going to be a convention plenary on growing organization.

Dave expressed consternation that he has no way of knowing who joins, who is a member, who has lapsed? Apparently the information is out there but he doesn't know how to access it, it doesn't come to him.

**New Business Cards:** Huge appreciation and kudos to Tim for designing and ordering new business cards. There are both business card size for carrying in wallets and postcard size to be used at tabling events. They look great, good job Tim!

### Other Business

**Peacestock:** Wayne reported that our chapter bought 50 tickets for \$1500. We need to sell and recoup money! Need Email blast to advertise. Please EVERYBODY do your part - purchase a ticket. If you can't go sell or give it to someone who can; this can be a membership recruitment opportunity. Does anybody recruit at Redwing schools? Redwing chapter should do this.

**Convention Van:** National Convention is July 23-27. Dave suggested that our chapter pay to rent a van to accommodate 4-7 people to attend convention. After discussion, it was decided the chapter will not pay to rent the van. Members urged to attend. Here is a link to registration info: <http://www.vfpnationalconvention.org/>

**Nielson letter:** Letter was sent to estate claiming the bequest to acquire a building for peace education. There was a response indicating it was being processed, that if the money is sent it will be towards end of year. Tone of estate's response indicated they are willing to work with us. If/when the funds come they will be put it into an escrow account until a plan is in place to make sure our actions are within parameters of the bequest.

There was discussion re: some members being upset about perception that we're being disingenuous regarding our ability to procure a building for \$20,000. Suggestion made that we should reconsider. Comment made that owning, managing, paying taxes and insurance on a building would not be worth it. Question about whether we need to decide the issue now before next meeting to be in compliance with Roberts Rules of Order? Mike said the letter has been sent. Discussion open-ended, not sure how to interpret Chante's Correction to Minutes. Issue tabled. Would a mobile home (think Peace Van) qualify? How about building or acquiring a building in Vietnam? Options are wide open.

**Memorial Day:** Barry reported event is May 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am at the St. Paul State Capitol Vietnam Veteran Memorial. We need to publicize event. Jim Northrup will be there. Larry Long has not confirmed. Theme is to honor Pete Seeger, playing of his songs. Wayne has invited singers, is working on the program, perhaps reading a list of names including suicides with a ring of the bell after each one. No flag-folding or peace pipe ceremony this year.

**Grand Old Days: June 1<sup>st</sup>.** This is a very important event money-wise. Greg has sign-up sheet – we need more volunteers to staff table. To sign up call Greg: 651-271-5122

**Festival of Nations:** covered under Education report.

**MayDay:** Nice turn-out, but not large. Could use more people. Flags were impressive, looked great. Could have used more ear plugs re the \$15 Minimum Wage folks behind us who had a large, effective and loud group.

**Movie Night** – Wed. **May 14** 7 pm – “Unmanned – America’s Drone Wars”  
June – Ghost of Jeju June 18, 7 PM Director: Regis Tremblay

**Fresh Air Radio:** Sunday **May 25**, 10-11 am - Dave and Barry, TBA

Bruce – purchased copy of book Dream of Nation which he is leaving in the office. Recommends reading the chapter written by VFP Executive Director Michael McPhearson.

**Meeting adjourned 7:48 pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary McNellis** (filling in for Secretary Chante Wolf)

**Treasurer’s Report:** see attached

**Reminder of Upcoming Events:**

**Memorial Day Service:** Monday **May 26** 9:30 – 10:30 am - VFP #27 will be holding its annual Memorial Day gathering to remember the casualties of war. Location: grassy area beside the Minnesota Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the state capitol grounds on John Ireland Boulevard. Program: speaker/poet Jim Northrup, reading the names of Minnesota’s fallen, poetry, songs honoring Pete Seeger. Bring chairs; umbrellas/rain gear optional. FFI: Barry Riesch 651-757-8012

**Grand Old Days:** Sunday **June 1**. Volunteers needed, please sign up: Greg Hagen 651-271-5122.

**Upcoming Reading:** Chante Wolf and Deanna Griffin {Ret. Army} will read some of their own work, **June 11**, 6:30 pm at the Mosaic Cafe, 3019 Minnehaha Ave., Mpls.

**Frogtown Community Peace Celebration:** Friday June 20, 2-6 pm. Need volunteers, please sign up: email Mary McNellis [vfpsow@yahoo.com](mailto:vfpsow@yahoo.com)

**Gay Pride: June 28th & 29<sup>th</sup>.** Need volunteers, please sign up: Mike Madden 651-644-2288.

**Education Report submitted by Larry Johnson:**

I noticed Education and Festival of Nations are listed separately on May 11 agenda. I'm going to call in exhausted, so this is my report. Festival of Nations was wonderful, amazing, but I was there all day Thursday, Friday, and Sunday, and a fair amount on Saturday. Thanks so much to Dale Rott for finding us and building the peace garden and Frank Kellogg exhibit at the Festival, and to Linda DeRoode, festival director, for asking us to have the Peace Bell exhibit at the Civic Centre Festival.

Thank you to John Sherman, Jim Lovestar, Dick Foley, Tom Sullivan, and Mary Henley, for managing our VFP presence at South and Washburn High Career Fairs April 24 and May 2. I'm told we had many valuable conversations with students. Dave Logsdon spoke at Antwatin Middle school in April, on World War I, Armistice and our work with that. The full day Steve McKeown and I have done for a number of years with all Jr. Classes at Holy Angels Academy is coming up week of May 20. This is in conjunction with their Christian Nonviolence, Conscientious Objection, and Just War study unit.

Now the Festival. Thank you to John Thomas, Bruce Berry, Ted John, Steve McKeown, Steve Gates, and me for leaving their heart-created bells to ring out their stories to the many people who came. We rang bells every day at 11 and Friday at 7, as a group. Elaine and I told the Sadako story every other hour on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday, and I told the Frank Kellogg story same days on the alternating hours. (I was going to share that with Steve, but thankfully he is getting better and being careful about it). Many people stopped to hear what we're doing and to take the one sheet handout ARMISTICE BELLS FOR PEACE, which I wrote and Chante turned into a piece of art. We talked to many teachers Thursday and Friday, and I believe this will amp up our requests to be in schools so we need to get ready. Steve arranged for multiple copies of WHEN THE WORLD OUTLAWED WAR, which we gave out when there was clear, deep interest -- A main contact at Hill-Murray, where we do speak regularly; a history teacher from Missouri who does teach the Armistice etc, and who thought our statement of purpose was the most stunning thing he'd read and would deepen how he taught. Many others, including a young woman studying Intl Relations at St. Cate's. I will write in more detail for next newsletter.

Thanks to people who spent time in our booth, Cecil, Elaine, Bruce, Mary and Steve, Greg and Joyce, Barry, Molly, Mike M, Dave L, Vern, Ted John, Ron Staff, and Doug Drews. Hope I'm not missing anyone.

Kinmen Park in Taiwan has a Peace Bell made from shells fired at them in 1958. Many more stories like these from the cultural exhibits.

I have committed to a major public event with Paul Chappel (West Point, Iraq veteran, who wrote Art of Waging Peace, and spoke at Natl) during Nov 14-20 and filling the rest of the week with him speaking in schools, colleges, churches etc. Stand by. Talk to me if you have ideas. More coming.

Sorry I can't be there. I have things I have to do this week, including the necessary, therapeutic, and ceremonial brush cutting and building Most Valuable brush pile for the city to pick up. It's the only thing I share in common with G. W. Bush, but your tax dollars are not paying me big bucks to do it. Larry

**VFP - TREASURER'S REPORT 4/12/14 to 5/10/14**

<b>OPENING BALANCE - Checking, Savings &amp; Petty cash accounts</b>	<b>\$10,207.60</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	
Steve McKeown - Kellogg / Briand - banners and books	\$345.00
Shell oil - gas purchase - J Sherman	\$25.00
Grand Ave Business Assoc. - tabling	\$320.00
Robert Baron - 2014 canoe	\$1,500.00
Office Max - Printing - 1000 business and 500 tabling cards	\$67.71
NCLP - rent, May.	\$600.00
West Bank CDC - copier usage, lit-not for sale	\$26.28
Wallace/Carlson Printing - envelops, 6000	\$440.09
Wallace/Carlson Printing - raffle tickets, 2014	\$748.00
Century Link - phone and internet	\$109.36
The War Crimes Times - 2 bundles - literature - not for sale	\$50.00
Wayne Wittman - printing/postage, member letter, April.	\$224.89

	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,456.33</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	Raffle tickets - 2014	\$1,062.00
	Donations	\$125.00
	Product sale	\$100.00
	SOA - Reservations- 2014	\$400.00
	Peacestock tickets - 2014	\$180.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,867.00</b>
<b>CLOSING BALANCE - Checking, Savings &amp; Petty cash accounts</b>		<b>\$7,618.27</b>

---

**BELL GRANT ACCOUNT (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
Chef Jeff - catering, food for event	\$600.00
Plymouth Church, - printing programs	\$28.00
Gita Patina - final workshop payment	\$1,400.00

Sharon Haller - supplies for event	\$118.09
------------------------------------	----------

Ivy Arts Copy and Print - flyers for Festival of Nations	\$210.00
--	----------

<b>CLOSING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$551.27</b>
------------------------	-----------------