

Minutes

Veterans For Peace, Chapter # 027

March 8, 2017

President Dave Logsdon called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and asked Dick to read the Statement of Purpose. The moment of silence had the direction of thinking about how come we are here at this meeting and consider the gravity in our nation.

In attendance were: Dick Foley, Barry Riesch, John Varone, Craig Wood, Dave Logsdon, Bill Habedank, Ronald E. Staff, Steve McKeown, Lyle Steinfeldt, Max Moore and Penelope Gardner.

Health up dates included Dave's note that usually about now he would wonder about Charlie Bloss, who would then show-up. At this meeting we sought volunteers to ring bells at John Landgraft's memorial service. These discussions were followed by check-ins, which are particularly informative for new members and give individuals an opportunity to expand their stories.

February Minutes were discussed. Explanations for some motions were provided. The \$100.00 donated to Women Against Military Madness (WAMM) was to acknowledge their Annual Meeting. The \$100.00 to "Rise Up Times" (WAMM's newsletter) was for our subscription. The \$200.00 to KFAI was for the education provided by our times on their programs. Charlie Bloss did a nice job in the secretary's absence. Ron moved approval of the February Minutes as written, seconded by Craig and passed.

The approved Treasurer's report shows \$14,182.14 on hand. Lyle moved approval, Craig seconded and the report was approved.

At this point Treasurer, John Varone, presented Barry Reisch with a Native American gift in acknowledgement of his travels to support the "water protectors" protest of the Dakota Access PipeLine near Fort Yates in North Dakota. Many others have traveled with Barry and they were all recognized.

Barry reported that he is still attending to on going issues our indigenous peoples and fellow citizens find important.

So that John might leave to be with a friend during their surgery, Dave moved the Bus Committee report to the head of Committee Reports. Steve and Craig reported on a bus they had looked at and driven. The cost was around \$2,950.00. Ron moved to buy this bus. Craig seconded. This motion passed with one abstention, by Lyle.

To accommodate Bill, who also has a long drive home, Dave moved the Peacestock business up to next on the agenda. Bill told about the planned day's events with Bruce Gagnon, the coordinator of Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, and Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer, former primary senatorial candidate and Associate Professor at University of St. Thomas. Bill said Bonny and Clyde would be providing the entertainment. Then Craig moved that we buy the first 50 tickets at \$30.00 each for a total of \$1,500.00 to get the works on the road. Mike seconded and this motion passed. (Dave wanted to abstain, but was told he could not as his vote would only be counted if there was a tie; which he would have to break by voting.)

For the Membership Committee Barry told of the number of new members he has heard about and contacted. If you have met someone interested and have a name and contact information pass it to Barry (651-757-8012). Dave said that, if new members could survive a lunch with Barry; they'd do well in the group. Both Alex and Lyle told about how they arrived at the VFP door. At this time Dick moved and Craig seconded to move our regular monthly meeting back to the second Sunday of each month at 6:00 p.m. The motion passed with no nays and no abstentions.

Barry continued talking about the numerous issues that his involvement with the Dakota Access PipeLine protest (which he traveled to seven times) has brought to his attention. He noted that the "Line 67" issue has to do with increasing the flow in an already existing Canadian/U.S. petroleum line from 600 Gallons Per Minute to 800 (a one third increase). The leaders in most cases are indigenous people. Barry noted his deepening respect for the original people who were living here before European immigrants arrived in the late 15th century and began the genocide, which fortunately failed by a narrow margin. Dave moved the agenda.

As the Education Committee began Barry moved and Craig seconded to donate \$100.00 and endorse sponsoring Bruce Gagnon's conference in Huntsville, AL, April 7to9. Tom Dooley will be passing this on to the conference. This motion passed unanimously.

Dick told about his speaking activities and read from four different student responses.

Larry's written report for the Education Committee told about the up-coming storytelling event at the Landmark Center March 21, which Dave wanted to "really promote.". He reported there would be a VFP bell ringing and said Mike would be there to table for us. He reported a number of events scheduled around his book, Sixty-One, published last year (Rosemount Book Fair, March 18 [11:30-12:30]; an event in N.E. Minneapolis, March 24 [7:00 p.m.]; Black Dog Cafe, May 7 {5-7 p.m.}. He mentioned the "Peace and Democracy" event at the University of Minnesota August 2-6 planned by David Swanson. The sequence of peace activities in the schedule are ... PeaceStock (July 15), "Peace and Democracy" (August 2-6), VFP national convention in Chicago (August 9-13), Nobel Peace Forum at Augsburg College (September 14-16). Just plan to take a peace vacation from July through September.

Dave recapped the activities around Ann Wright's recent visit to the area which came as a result of Women Against Military Madness's (WAMM)'s featuring her at their annual meeting. She drew good crowds at their general meeting and also at MayDay Book Store and First Unitarian Society. She did all of this while battling serious illness. Her commitment to our work challenges us all.

Steve reported a new anti-nuclear petition is being circulated and copies are available. WAMM will accept all copies of filled in sheets. He takes them with him were ever he goes.

Dave reported the rededication of the Peace Pole at Gandhi Mahal will happen April 18, 19 or 20 this year. Steve moved and Lyle seconded to let Dave choose the date and set it up with the restaurant. The motion passed.

Mike then mentioned that we can get registered for tabling at Gay Pride (6-24,25-17) at a reduced fee, if we pay now. Mike moved and Craig seconded that we do this. This motion passed.

Penny's work for the Convention Committee involved get the hotel's price quote and sending it on to

the national office. We have not heard back from them, yet (probably busy with the Chicago gathering in a few months).

As to the new meeting time on Sunday's, Dave reported that he had even reserved time on Sunday the 12th of this month and he thought we could use that time to compare Communication Committee options for the web site.

Finally in the last moments there was a short discussion about putting Mike's communications with our representatives about the Ukrainian issue still bubbling on the horizon. Steve expressed concerns with labeling both parties as war parties. But publishing on the web site did win out.

The call for an adjournment motion occurred while people were packing up and heading out the door voting in favor of that motion.

Ron Staff, Sec.