

Minutes

Veterans For Peace, Chapter # 027

9 April 2017

President Dave Logsdon called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. commenting about the number of people showing up at the first Sunday meeting in a while. He asked Mike McDonald to read the Statement of Purpose. Then there was the Moment of Silence.

Health updates referred to a couple of veterans who have attended in the past but are not now.

In attendance were: Barry Riesch, Mary McNellis, Bill Habedank, Stephen Gates, Larry Johnson, Sharon Haire, Dick Foley, Robin Monahan, Lyle Steinfeldt, John Varone, Vern Hall, Mike McDonald, Dave Logsdon, Alex Moore, Steve McKeown, Tom Larsen, Jim Mengel, Jerod Martinson, Ronald E. Staff, Jeff Nordahl and David Cooley.

Check-Ins opened the group up to one another's stories.

Barry moved approval of the March Minutes, seconded by Dave C. and passed.

Following John's Treasurer's Report, Mary moved acceptance and Lyle seconded. A note to the motion was that John could move money out of the Neilson Account for the bus as he saw fit. With this proviso the motion passed. The current checking account balance is \$7,010.65.

Before we moved to Committee Reports Dave brought Peacestock out of New Business so Bill could leave early, if he needed to, for the long drive back to Red Wing. Bill handed out the card stock flyers/posters for the Saturday, July 15 event and told a little about it. Steve commented that even as we were speaking Bruce Gagnon was meeting at the 35th annual gathering of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space in Huntsville, AL.

Barry's report on the Membership Committee included an invitation to the new members present to respond to his circulating inquiry as to their areas of interest in the work being done by the group. It was also discussed that, now, during war rattling in the news is a good time to carry extra membership cards to distribute. People, particularly veterans, appear to reach out more often during these "rumors of war" times. Be prepared. Barry mentioned the paraphernalia, license plate frames, hats, flags and so on, which are available.

Larry talked about the success of National Story Telling Day and interest in the Peace Essay Contest, what with the increased prize money's encouraged by our donation. During discussion of the Highland Park Junior ROTC public debate it looks as though Veterans For Peace truth telling might have outweighed a Star Tribune editorial in favor of subjecting high school students to the joys of killing. Perhaps it is better to distribute education money to public schools through the education department instead of the Department of Defense. (A few members noted that JROTC might be viewed as another kind of child trafficking... to the military.)

Jeff Nordahl reported dropping off a copy of his self-published book, The Things I Saw, A Soldier's Story, at his high school alma mater, Southwest High School. He offered to be available to speak in classes. Dick reported that he has not done any speaking lately but continues his contacts with schools.

He suggested that this is a quiet time of the school year for such engagement. Steve took another tact, mentioning that the speakers bureau members need to follow through on their school contact commitments. Numerous members (including the secretary) quietly looked down at the tables. Larry mentioned he had spoken at nine different places. Steve mentioned an April 29 event at which he has received an invitation to table.

Dave and Barry saw the film John Trudell at the Walker and considered getting it shown at a theater as a fund raiser. They were both impressed.

There was some discussion about Native American movies and stage shows currently playing and John mentioned the appropriateness of bringing some sort of tobacco as a gift whenever relating to any Native American person. A documentary about Winona LaDuke shows twice in the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Film Festival at the Uptown (4-15-17) and St. Anthony Main (4-22-17). "The Buffalo Show" plays at 7:00 p.m at the Bryant-Lake Bowl April 25, 2017. The American Indian Movement (AIM) will be providing security at the May Day Parade and presenting the "red shirted ones" with tobacco proved useful to John at a previous parade.

Discussion about a group of young Native Americans from a school in St. Paul, who are planning to go back to Rome and consult with the Pope about the doctrine of discovery led to Ron's motion to provide \$200.00 to this group for their trip. David seconded and the motion passed. Barry said he had the name at home and would get it to our Treasurer to forward the money to them.

Larry's Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers report noted their meeting this coming Tuesday at Plymouth Congregational Church on Chicago and Franklin at 11:30 a.m.

At this point the group took a short break.

Arts/Direct Action Committee explained John's efforts as the meeting was assembling. He was attaching our flag to a number of poles after drilling holes in them at the point where the flag would be near taut. As the meeting started he took the assembled flags down to our basement office. Dave reporting for the committee said they'd be ready for the May Day Parade, Sunday, May 7 at noon.

Dave also reported for the Convention Committee and Penny that he had talked with Judy from the Landmark Center about our interest in their facility during our convention in 2018. As a by note he added that the National Office's slow response to our hotel proposal meant that we could not access a banquet room with windows over looking the St. Paul riverfront, since that space is now booked by another group.

For the Bus Committee Dave had a few remarks and the stop sign off the side of our "mobile peace activities center" sitting out on the street with two new front tires. Steve reported that it is now insured with a list of potential drivers. We need to get the yellow paint covered soon to meet legal requirements. He didn't say how long. Dave added that we now have the license plates, which brought suggestions that we seek "vanity plates." "PEACE" might be a possibility. Or "Chpt # 027". Or "VF Peace"

Barry presented the results of the Communications Committee meeting about updating the website. Mike moved and Alex seconded that we accept option #1 of the proposal from Lookwhoo LLC. Following some discussion, which developed a friendly amendment suggesting an "h" objective of, including training adequate for local members to be able to master the full functionality of the site, the

proposal passed unanimously. The agreed amount was \$1,650.00. Discussion on how to acquire funds through the website when on for a long time. There are a number of issues to look into on the financial end of on-line fund raising and payments. Committee discussion occurred as a sort of committee of the whole.

New Business brought mention of Chelsea Manning's May 17 release and that members may go to town to welcome her out.

In discussing Memorial Day, Barry reported he had the necessary permit for our gathering at the Vietnam Memorial site on the Capitol grounds. He said the program was prepared but we might seek a speaker. He also said he would be in Washington, D.C. for the National "Call To Action" event at the American-war-in-Vietnam memorial site there. Barry said he would sent out a press release for our action at the Capitol.

Dave talked about the Peace Pole rededication and presentation of the Kellogg-Briand Pact treaty banner to the owner of the Gandhi Mahal Restaurant (27th Ave. South and East Lake Street east of the Light Rail stop) Wednesday, April 19th. Food will be from 6 to 7 p.m. when the program begins. There is a \$10.00 suggested donation.

Steve sought a "raise your hand" endorsement of "impeaching the S.O.B," which happened.

Mary moved that we provide \$100.00 for food for hosting a program featuring Paul Baker here at 4200 Sunday, 4-23-2017 at 4:30 p.m. He is raising funds for activities in Nicaragua, where Mary and Stephen met him during their trip. The motion passed.

Mary then asked about the absence of our Vice President. Dave reported the newly elected individual has recently accepted a job which makes him unavailable for our Sunday night meeting. How to deal with this issue disappeared in Dave's request for a motion to adjourn, which Steve, so moved and Stephen seconded. The commotion of moving feet endorsed the motion.

Ron Staff
Secretary