

Veterans for Peace - Chapter 27

July 14th Monthly Meeting Minutes

Chapter 27 Monthly Meetings, 2nd Sunday of the month.

5:05 PM to 6:05 PM Executive Committee Meeting (All Welcome)

6:05 PM to 8:00 PM General Monthly meeting

VFP office 1806 Riverside Ave., Minneapolis MN. (Above the Acadia Café)

Agenda items call Larry Johnson 612-747-3904

5:05 p.m. EXECUTIVE MEETING

Attending: Chante Wolf, Larry Johnson, Wayne Wittman, John Sherman, Barry Riesch, Greg Hagen, Dave Logsdon.

Keith Ellison: First they changed the scheduler so things got off to a shaky start. So the next meeting will be in August sometime.

Canoe Raffle Day: 4200 Cedar Ave. S. Minneapolis. It is in the same building as WAMM is booked through the landlord. Same day as International Peace Day, September 21st at 6:30 pm. Dave Logsdon is going to pull it all together, Larry will order the food from Holy Land.

Veterans Voices: Humanities Commission, Larry nominated Paul Riedner an Iraq Vet, "Costs of War" article in StarTrib {attached below}.

SOA: Since Dave Culver left the question is, 'what do we do with this now?' However, there are those who are organized to go on their own, but if we cannot get a bus from our group, who will? Larry suggested some of the college students could pick this up? And/or VFP members go on their own, but we lack the exposure with the college students and others who may not be familiar with our group. But fewer and fewer VFP members are doing the bus which is done for education purposes. Bob Heberle called in and left a message on the phone, he suggested we just 'let it go'. Moved to the General meeting for voting.

Email Communication System: Greg Hagen spoke about not recreating the wheel and just polish the system we have going. WAMM sends out good things. The things that should get sent out are events coming up and Greg is willing to keep it going. He will also call a meeting for the committee to get more help for the canoe transportation.

Phil Restino Resolution: Brought up a new resolution to Impeach Obama for war crimes. Decided not to take it on as a Chapter, leave it for the National Convention vote.

Canoe: Events coming up, Saturday, Aug. 17th, Music Festival on the West Bank, U of MN. Kings Fair, Mathews Park, 1318 28th Ave. South Mpls ~ September 21st in the park by Seward CoOp.

Meeting Adjourned ---

“Those who love peace must learn to organize as effectively as those who love war” ~
Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Out of Step” Film: by Lynn Estomin
About 4 Iraq War Women Veterans ~ Kelly Dougherty, Jen Pacanowski, Robyn Murray, Chantelle Bateman are the women war veterans featured in this film.
www.lynnestomin.com

“Instructions for Peace” Art Show: Interactive multi-media art installation
June 20 - July 20th, Katherine E. Nash Gallery, Regis Center for Art, 405 21st Ave. S., Mpls. 55455

Distracted from Democracy

<http://billmoyers.com/episode/full-show-distracted-from-democracy/>

Rose Colored Glasses: MN Veterans Speak Out

<http://rosecoveredglasses.blogspot.com/2012/07/citizens-guide-to-critique-pentagon.html>

6:00 p.m. GENERAL MEETING

Attending: Chante Wolf, Larry Johnson, Dave Logsdon, John Sherman, Mary McNellis, Steve Gates, Wayne Wittman, Greg Hagen, Barry Riesch, Elaine Wynne, Dick Foley, Vern Hall, Cecil Ramnaraine, Steve McKeown, Tom Sullivan.

Call to Order and Statement of Purpose - Read by: Associate Member, Cecil Ramnaraine.

Check-in: Short introduction, check-in = Larry read the resolution about non-violent language towards others. {Get the resolution from Larry}

Recommended Books:

"The Bomb" Howard Zinn

"What Soldiers Do: Sex and the American GI in World War II" Mary Lou Roberts

"When The World Outlawed War" David Swanson

FREE Bradley Manning Event: Saturday, July 27th, part of International Day of Action ~ 1:30-3:30pm ~ Lagoon Ave. & Hennepin Ave. S. Bring signs ~ water, yourself and friends. freebradmpls@gmail.com.

EXECUTIVE REPORT: (See Above).

Welfare Issues of VFP Members: Andy Berman despite his struggle with cancer and treatments he still marched with VFP at Pride and attended PeaceStock. Bob Heberle still follows what is going on and still undergoing chemo treatment. Vern's father, 90 struggling with health. Charlie still helping out. Jim Steinhagen still recovering from back surgery.

60th Anniversary of Korean Armistice: Discussion at 9:30 A.M. Plymouth McAlester Church in St Paul Sat., July 27th.

REPORTS:

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

Treasurer: Moved to accept, second and passed. Report attached below.

Communications Committee: Greg will send out information about the next meeting. Kudos for the work he did around Bradley Manning. Great job.

Fundraising / Tabling: Barry Riesch's church came through with a donation of \$900. Thank you.

U of MN VFP Presence: Talk about our extending outreach and presence on the U of MN campus.

Ad in National: Tim Hansen created a flyer for the program for the National Convention around the Kellogg/Briand Pact. Kudos to him for the work and for the checking tap dance around the SOA bus!!!

Cecil Ramnaraine: donated \$500 to our chapter. Thank you for your continued support of

VFP Chapter 27 over the years!! And your continued efforts to get Peace Curriculum into schools!

Leah Bolger: Resigned from the board and Margaret Stephens is replacing her. Larry is going to contact her about her transition.

VFP Flag Pole Assembling: July 27th at Tim Hansen's house, Barry is needing help with this as he readies to take them to the National Convention for sale. If interested please contact Barry: 612-269-8934.

State Arts Board Grant: We just got the check for the bell making project that Gita Ghie is leading. Hoping to get 8 veterans to participate in this project. Looking for stories about bells, the bell at Plymouth church of Leslie's is made out of armaments.

VFP Retreat: Dave Logsdon is trying to set up a retreat up north.

Chapter 27 Sending Funds to Red Wing: Perhaps to help with some funds due to lower attendance and Barry willing to send some VFP flags to them free of cost for all the work they do around PeaceStock. Motion of support to Red Wing made by Vern Hall, second, passed.

Peace Education Project: Cecil Rammaraine talked about his peace education curriculum for grade school and high school. He is a 38 year teacher, retired. Website: www.cecilram.com he wants Chapter 27 to take him along and let the students know they have access to these 'electives' off the internet. VFP has access to free curriculum for the schools. For those of interest to get these curriculum into the hands of teachers, contact him ~ 612-623-7787. {VFP has available for FREE ~ peace education curriculum for high school ~ Elective 2990 Peace ~ www.cecilram.com}

Move to Submit: Chapter 27 so moved that Wayne can submit his financial report to the Attorney General. Second Passed. Also for MayDay to have a second set of keys in case we get locked out. Second. Passed.

SOA: See report above. Now moved for discussion and decision how to move forward ~ to be voted on. So, we are looking for someone to take this on, or partner with other colleges who would be willing to take this on. Larry will get with Steve for some names he has of students and teachers who may be interested.

Finance Committee: Okay the pizza's for the Open House, not many folks coming to get approvals.

Hiroshima Days VFP Bell Ringing: As with each year pasted, Chapter 27 will be present at the Lake Harriet Peace Garden to ring the bell for remembrance and peace. August 6th at 11 am, VFP will ring our bell. The event begins at 7:30 am. For more information: WILPF {Women's International League for Peace and Freedom}

August 17th Music Festival: West Bank ~ see above notes. Contact Greg Hagen if you want to help with the tabling: 651-730-1143.

Speaking Events: Sept. 15th at Camp Ripley protest against Drones. Obama's allowing Drones to fly in U.S. airspace. Also he is pushing a secretly negotiated TPP {Trans Pacific Partnership Economic Agreement ~ it is much worse than NAFTA.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trans-Pacific_Strategic_Economic_Partnership

Here's a link to an article about the Trans Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (TAFTA). Steve M mentioned this at the last meeting, said we should put it on our radar.

<http://wammtoday.org/2013/07/18/if-you-thought-what-alec-and-the-koch-brothers-are-doing-was-bad/>

This article (and others like it) emailed to me by WAMM; if you're not on their mailing list, consider signing up. (Mary McNellis)

MN ASAP: Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer liked the same model of the Marriage Amendment. What: Free organizer 101 training. The trainer (Nathan Ness, MN ASAP Director) has experience organizing around: arts, organized labor, health care, environmentalism, corporate personhood, and the anti-war movement. Whether you are new to organizing / activism or a seasoned veteran, this training will offer fresh angles and tips. Note: This training will be delivered through the lens of the MN ASAP (Pentagon spending) efforts, but the same organizing principles can be applied to any issue. Where: 2720 E. 22nd St., Minneapolis, MN (Faith Mennonite Church). Enter the annex (gray) building to the left of the main church entrance. When: **Saturday, July 27th, 2013, 10 am - 2:00 pm.** RSVP is helpful but not required. Please RSVP on Facebook or via email at minnesotaasap@gmail.com / [612-338-1230](tel:612-338-1230).

Peace Essay Contest: The West Suburban Faith-Based Peace Coalition {WSFBPC} is sponsoring next year's Peace Contest that will be due April 15th, 2014. The contest is to spread the word about the Kellogg/Briand Pact. The rules for the next one have yet to be set, but the direction is to direct the essay to some person of influence from whom a timely response is requested. An electronic copy of this directed essay will have to be submitted by April 15th, 2014. Confirmation of receipt will be an assignment of an Essay ID. When the author receives a response it must be forwarded to the WSFBPC by May 15, 2014. Prize is \$1,000. Contact: www.warisacrime.org/kbp OR www.faitpeace.org/node/278.

Kellogg~Braind Pact {See Definition Below}: Steve McKeown has over 9,300 signatures. Wants to know if our Chapter 27 is willing to jump in and help make this happen. It is a great focus, was originally passed here in Minnesota and gives us the edge to make it happen. Press conference before this Council hearing. One good way of getting the information out there. Aug. 21st, 3:30, St. Paul, Courthouse Council hearing to adapt the Kellogg/Briand Pact with a press conference to follow. Council person, David Thune. Suggestion: **Contact your libraries to see if they will order "When the World Outlawed War"**, by David Swanson.

Kellogg Mansion Free Celebration: Must Call Steve to sign up ~ Limited space! The

current residents of the Kellogg mansion has agreed to open it up for a social on August 27th, 6:30 social time, 7 pm to 8:30 pm is the program. The woman who lives there, will do a concert. Her mother has been involved with the WWI Christmas Truce theater and Liz's husband was a member of VFP in California.

People interested in going s.h.mckeown@hotmail.com or [612 869 2040](tel:6128692040)

Call out for spent bullet shells: Chapter 27 will be making bells to ring for November 11th and other memorials of members/supporters, and would like to add the empty shells as a symbolic show of changing the energy of the bullet into a bell for peace. Anyone with empty shells they would like to contribute can contact Chante: 612-327-0111 or Larry: 612-747-3904.

VFP National Convention: Details for the transportation ~ housing ~ Mega Bus {website ~ roundtrip}The 2013 National Convention will be in Madison, WI, August 6-11th, location to be announced. FAQ / Registration:

https://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/826/p/salsa/donation/common/public/?donate_page_KEY=9756

!!! VFP Monthly Meeting !!! : August meeting was voted on last month to move the meeting to the following week after the National Convention. 3rd Sunday, August 18th, 6:05 pm.

Bradley Manning Walk: Every Tuesday night at 6 pm, a walk across the Stone Arch Bridge started by Melissa Hill. For more information contact Dave Logsdon: 612-203-9768.

Meeting Adjourned. Greg Hagen showed YouTube song by Graham Nash & James Raymond, "Almost Gone". <http://www.rootsaction.org/news-a-views/331-graham-nash-song-on-bradley-manning->

Minutes respectfully submitted, Chante Wolf. chantewolf7@gmail.com (Any corrections, please bring to next meeting and they will be addressed in the minutes).

VFP - TREASURER'S REPORT 6/6/13 to 7/13/13

OPENING BALANCE

\$7,132.03

EXPENSE

VFP National - product for sale - buttons

\$43.45

AXE MAN Surplus - product for sale - FP (flagpole hardware)

\$45.47

Home Depot - product for sale - 30 FP

\$396.49

Home Depot - product for sale - FP

\$85.81

Jerry's Hardware - product for sale - FP

\$23.68

Shell oil - gas purchase - J Sherman

\$25.00

Courage to Resist - B Manning banner - info cards

\$200.00

Steve McKeown - food for open house party	\$61.71
Tim Hansen - Jerry's hardware- FP	\$111.89
Wayne Wittman - printing & postage for minutes, June.	\$159.28
VFP National - full page convention add	\$200.00
Postmaster - product mailing, postage	\$6.60
Century Link - phone and internet	\$105.04
Wallace/Carlson Printing - newsletter, postage	\$97.79
Wallace/Carlson Printing - newsletter, 870 - volume XVII#2	\$946.97
West Bank CDC - copier usage, lit-not for sale	\$9.52
Wayne Wittman - printing & postage for minutes, July.	\$141.97
Home Depot - product for sale - FP	\$49.70
NCLP - rent, July.	\$600.00
Shell oil - gas purchase - J Sherman	\$32.85
Total	\$3,343.22

INCOME

Return - cash, out for Grand Old Days	\$100.00
Donations - Pride	\$1,324.00
Donations - Pride	\$18.00
Donations	\$1,659.00
Product sale	\$40.00
Raffle tickets - 2013	\$741.00
TCF Account - closed, transferred funds.	\$1,552.97
Donations - for petty cash fund	\$150.00
Total	\$5,566.97
CLOSING BALANCE	\$9,355.78

Kellogg-Briand Pact

Kellogg-Briand Pact (brēän) [[key](#)], agreement, signed Aug. 27, 1928, condemning "recourse to war for the solution of international controversies." It is more properly known as the Pact of Paris. In June, 1927, Aristide [Briand](#), foreign minister of France, proposed to the U.S. government a treaty outlawing war between the two countries. Frank B. [Kellogg](#), the U.S. Secretary of State, returned a proposal for a general pact against war, and after prolonged negotiations the Pact of Paris was signed by 15 nations—Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Great Britain, India, the Irish Free State, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Poland, South Africa, and the United States. The contracting

parties agreed that settlement of all conflicts, no matter of what origin or nature, that might arise among them should be sought only by pacific means and that war was to be renounced as an instrument of national policy. Although 62 nations ultimately ratified the pact, its effectiveness was vitiated by its failure to provide measures of enforcement. The Kellogg-Briand Pact was given an unenthusiastic reception by many countries. The U.S. Senate, ratifying the treaty with only one dissenting vote, still insisted that there must be no curtailment of America's right of self-defense and that the United States was not compelled to take action against countries that broke the treaty. The pact never made a meaningful contribution to international order, although it was invoked in 1929 with some success, when China and the USSR reached a tense moment over possession of the Chinese Eastern RR in Manchuria. Ultimately, however, the pact proved to be meaningless, especially with the practice of waging undeclared wars in the 1930s (e.g., the Japanese invasion of Manchuria in 1931, the Italian invasion of Ethiopia in 1935, and the German occupation of Austria in 1938).

See R. H. Ferrell, *Peace in Their Time* (1952, repr. 1968).

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Read more: [Kellogg-Briand Pact | Infoplease.com](#)
<http://www.infoplease.com/encyclopedia/history/kellogg-briand-pact.html#ixzz2ZEB7tANi>

Article by: PAUL RIEDNER Updated: December 13, 2011~

<http://paulriedner.com/about/pauls-path/>

Among Iraq war's many losses: Trust

•<http://www.startribune.com/opinion/commentaries/135544583.html>

We've seen too much manipulated to benefit few at a high cost to many.

Is it possible to account for what we've lost and learned over the last nine years in Iraq?

Personally, I sacrificed four years in support of the war effort -- one deployed as an army engineer diver.

As with so many of my peers, that's the easiest piece to quantify. There remain countless inner struggles that lurk in dark corners of my psyche. They are difficult to measure or even explain.

What does it mean to have been a part of this war?

To have been a part of: 4,500 American deaths; 33,000 Americans wounded; estimates as high as 600,000 Iraqi deaths; more than \$1 trillion in taxpayer money spent; \$9 billion lost or unaccounted for; huge corporate profiteering; a prisoner-abuse scandal; a torture record worthy of the Hague; a hand in the financial crisis, and runaway unemployment when we get home.

I've learned that we are easily duped and that we quickly forget. Saddam has WMDs. No, we are exporting democracy. No, we are protecting human rights, and by the way, their oil will pay for it all.

I've learned that 9/11 was used against us. We gladly handed over our civil liberties in the name of security. And recently our Congress quietly re-approved the unconstitutional Patriot Act.

Do you recall the deafening drumbeat of the war machine? Displaying a flag meant you were a good citizen, and any dissent about going to war meant you were unpatriotic.

I've learned that many communities are far too insulated from war's hardship, while others are consumed by it. Many of those I served with in the Army couldn't get another job.

A few were 9/11 patriots, and others were selfless warriors. But wouldn't a two-year

mandatory service or a perpetual draft allocate our national sacrifice better? Maybe then coverage moves to the front page.

I've learned that war is big business. Some \$206 billion was paid to government contractors during the two wars.

A new congressional study conservatively estimates that \$31 billion to \$60 billion of that can be attributed to waste. The ever-opportunistic KBR (Halliburton), Blackwater and Dyncorp were some of the biggest winners of this war, not to mention the manufacturers of traditional weapon systems.

A staggeringly high number of Pentagon war contracts are noncompetitive or sole-source. These no-bid contracts are doled out to whomever has the inside track.

You can imagine the culture that such arrangements create. Not only are these transactions not market-driven, the contractors take zero risk with cost-plus contracts that don't incentivize quality deliverables.

KBR was sued by the mother of an Army Green Beret recently. Her son was one of 18 soldiers who died of electrocution due to shoddy wiring in Iraq. KBR lawyers are seeking protection under local law, because they say they did meet Iraqi standards.

Many people are calling these last 10 years "the Lost Decade." I agree, because we've lost a lot.

We lost the goodwill of the world. We lost so many young people. We are losing even more, with more than 30 percent of servicemen dealing with various psychological issues.

As President Dwight Eisenhower warned us, the military-industrial complex is real. After my experience in the military, I refuse to work for another large organization again, much less a corporation. Iraq was the last time.

There is no wonder why so many veterans like myself are supportive of the Occupy Wall Street movement. We understand the power structure of the status quo; we know whose best interest our foreign policy is designed to protect, and we know who benefits from our sacrifices.

I've learned that we can't account for all that we've lost and learned, because the numbers cannot tell us the whole story. So if 9 years, \$1 trillion and 4,500 American lives seems expensive, now imagine what real problems we could have solved with that investment.

If our so-called leaders ever say that a certain initiative isn't economically or politically feasible, it's because big business doesn't benefit from it.

* * *

Paul Riedner is a graduate student at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management.