

## **February 2017 Minutes for Veterans For Peace**

Dave Logsdon called the meeting to order.

New member Alex Moore read the statement of purpose.

A moment of silence was observed for Charlie Litkey. Doug Drews mentioned that he met him when Charlie fasted to protest the School of the Americas with Father Roy Bourgois, Brian Willson, and Duncan Murphy on the Capital steps in D.C.

Check in took place. In attendance, Dave Logsdon, Mike Madden, Carson Starkey, John Varone, Vern Hall, Charlie Bloss, Michael McDonald, David Reed, Lyle, Doug Drews and Dick Foley.

Minutes from January meeting were approved. (Michael moved, Doug seconded)

John Varone presented treasurers' report from December and January. We are still in great shape, his monthly audit was right on the money. Dave mentioned that we should continue to look for ways to advance our mission statement with the funds donated to us.

Both reports were proposed, seconded, and approved unanimously. (Michael moved, Doug seconded Dec.) (Dick Foley moved, Vern seconded January)

Mike Madden stepped down as our Vice-President. He was thanked for his service. He said it was an honor to serve as Vice-President, but after conversation with President Logsdon about expanding the scope of the office to include heading chapter communications that his computer skills would not be adequate.

Carson Starkey was nominated for Vice-President. Mike Madden moved, Vern Hall seconded, unanimously approved! Mike asked about his comfort level with computers. Carson said he was familiar with the necessary software when he worked at another non-profit. Carson is the first Iraq War vet to take office at our chapter! It was mentioned by Dave that our communications with WAMM should get even better because he is married to WAMM director Suzanne.

Membership committee report was given by Dave in lieu of chairperson Barry Riesch. He mentioned the need to get younger and noted that two newer members present were Iraq veterans plus another being a Gulf War vet.

Education committee was also missing it's chairperson Steve McKeown. Dave talked about a recent meeting where the focus was to try to get into more area schools and Universities to tell our stories. Steve had pamphlets made to distribute to area schools and department heads that explain the availability of VFP members to speak. Dick Foley talked for awhile about all the schools he speaks to, including, Highland Park High (new), Cretin, Benilde-St. Margaret, and how he's had conversations

with a few more! He bills himself as the anti-recruiter and talks about the worst day of his life (in Vietnam), but encourages critical thinking before making such an important decision. Dave mentioned that he and Dick were at Anwattin Middle School being interviewed by two students about our perspective about war and anti-war protests.

Dave mentioned that Ann Wright will be coming to town before our next meeting and passed out flyers for the event. He also mentioned National Storytelling Day, March 20th that will be discussed in more detail at our March meeting.

Direct action/Arts committee was absent it's leaders but Mike talked about his efforts to get to talk with Rep. Betty McCollum about her recent constituent letter that Mike felt raised the hysteria level against Russia. He talked about the feeling he was getting the run around by her and her staff. Mike also mentioned that he was arrested at the Airport protesting the Muslim ban.

Penny Gardner was not in attendance to give the Convention committee report, but Dave said that we are waiting for National VFP to approve our hotel site.

The bus committee met a couple of weeks ago (Vern Hall, Steve, Dave and Barry) and agreed to focus on a small bus. Discussion at the meeting about how to vet out the purchase procedure, insurance, maintenance, etc. ETA is sometime this spring.

Communications committee report centered the website and how it can be a resource connector to link vets to navigate the system better. Once the new website designer is selected there needs to be a group to discuss what we want it to look like. John mentioned that PayPal requires a Social Security number which he had no desire to render his. Doug Drews mentioned based on his past experience as former chapter president that we need to pay someone to maintain the website once it is up and running.

Motion by Charlie Bloss, seconded by Mike McDonald for \$100 donation to WAMM. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Mike Madden for "Rise UP Times" for \$100 seconded by Vern Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Mike Madden, seconded by Vern Hall, for \$300 honorarium for Ann Wright. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion Alex Moore, seconded by Charlie Bloss, for KFAI for \$200. In support of Northern Sun News and Catalyst. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Dick Foley to adjourn, seconded by Vern Hall. Meeting adjourned!

(Done by Charlie Bloss)