

Minutes

Veterans For Peace, Chapter #027

14 May 2017

President Dave Logsdon had called the meeting to order and Barry was reading the Statement of Purpose as the Secretary arrived (late) at about 6:07p.m.

Health updates covered several of our veteran acquaintances.

In attendance were: James E. Brown, Dick Foley, Barry Riesch, Mike McDonald, Dave Logsdon, Penny Gardner, Larry Johnson, Vernon Hall, Rev. James Ltewellyn Mengel, Steve McKeown, Pat Young, Tom Larson, Lyle Steinfeldt, Ron Staff and Craig Wood plus one other whose name I could not read.

Lyle moved approval of the April Minutes. Craig seconded and this motion passed.

Barry moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report, Vern seconded and this motion passed. The current checking account balance is \$6,420.09.

The Memorial Day discussion was moved from the bottom of the Agenda to the next item, despite Dave's suggestion that the Membership Committee item was next and very important according to it's chairperson, Barry.

Barry said that the local event was all planned, with the necessary permit, press release and Bill MaGrath has agreed to play. He added that he had not planned the program at the Capitol due to his program not being followed last year when he was also gone. He said the event usually runs from 9:30 a.m., Monday, May 29. He said John Varone would be smudging the event but that he would like to see more Native American involvement due to our connection to the "black snake."

Then Barry talked about the events planned in Washington, D.C. that Monday, including the "Full Disclosure Project," and the next day's march to the White House. Barry moved that we donate \$200.00 to a video production about that event which our organization can use. Lyle and Larry seconded at the same moment. Larry and Lyle never did decide who should get the credit for the double seconded motion. Yet, the motion passed. Barry said he would get the scoop to John Varone as to where to send the check and for whom to make it out.

Barry then noted other Direct Action events, the reading of Martin Luther King's "Beyond Vietnam" speech on the State Capitol front steps (not well advertised or attended), the Climate March, Tax Day at the Post Office (as people are rushing to get their returns stamped) and the Science March. During this time Barry also gave a shout-out to Dave for bringing his daughter and granddaughter to the Mayday Parade. They were an energetic addition to the old walking guys.

Then Barry talked about the Membership Committee and how he is attempting to get new people involved, noting that Mike McDonald read at the Capitol and Dave said that he'd done a great job. Then there was a discussion about "give-away" hats and shirts with our memberships, especially by the national organization.

Steve talked about the Education Committee and told of Roy Wolff out speaking at a grade school resulting in him being approached later by the teacher for more “End War” stickers to pass out to the children at his school. Steve then turned additional reporting on their outreach to Holy Angles school to Larry, who told about their contact teacher having left her position and that the new teacher deferred inviting our speakers in this year. Larry noted that Steve had been going into the school for 17 years and that he had gone with him for the last six years. More will be revealed. The advantage of the program was that we talked to every junior in the school each year. Larry then circulated a one page resource inventory and bibliography of anti-war references. He told of Amy Bloomenshine and Al Bostelman and their regular and on-going work with veterans. Larry said he found out that the first person who held the chair funded by Frank Kellogg at Carlton College wrote a biography about Frank. He had a copy with him.

Dave asked about the Democracy Conference sponsored by Liberty Tree at the U. of M., which has eight or ten sub-conferences about aspects of democracy. This is occurring August 2 through 6 with David Swanson heading up the peace/war conference. Larry noted that the conference will conclude with conferees attending the Hiroshima/Nagasaki Event near the Rose Garden by Lake Harriett. David Swanson will be the main speaker at this event at 7:30 a.m. on the 6th.

Vern talked about the tabling event at the Lake Harriet community church on Upton Avenue, noting that Steve had been there all day. Steve said that they had invited us back for next year.

Dave talked about the Gandhi Mahal event and spoke about rededicating the Peace Sites and offering them copies of the Kellogg-Briand Pact for display. Dave is driving at seeking to coordinate with other peace organizations.

Steve told about the JROTC at Highland Park and noted that it looked like it was a “done deal.” Dave suggested that we might have been the reason it was turned down. And if that is the case; everyone involved thought it was probably Dick, “the counter-recruiter’s” honest story that did the trick.

Under Direct Action Committee report, Dave called for a wrap-up of the Mayday Parade. Barry thought the interactions with children along the route was the high lite. Dave said his granddaughter had made a little sign with a peace sign on one side and the word “now” took up the whole other side. He would walk up to one side of the street and yell, “What do we want?” She would hold up the peace sign side and the crowd would yell, “Peace.” Then Dave would ask the crowd, “When do we want it?” His grandchild would flip the sign and the crowd would yell, “Now!” Dave did say that she kind of faded a little towards the end of the parade, but said that her granddad kept right on going.

Steve, Mike and Barry carried “Ban Nuclear Weapons” petitions in the parade and as the parade contingent disbursed into the Powderhorn Park crowd. He said they got a thousand signatures. Steve noted that they got lots of signatures at the lines waiting to use the porta-pottys.

When Penny told of the Convention Committee’s activities, she said she was waiting for Shelly at the national office to approve the hotel we have suggested. She got their audio/visual estimate, which came back at \$25,000; then with further research about the equipment needed the estimate came back at \$13,000.

Discussion segued to the Chicago convention this August. Also, there was discussion of our having a promotional video about the 2018 convention here, to show this year.

The Bus Committee reported the bus doesn't leak any more (through the roof). There are other issues which continue to arise and get addressed. Craig got a hand at Steve's suggestion for his efforts. Dave hopes to have the bus ready for a June 21 event in Kenyon, the home town of Harold and Lois Neilson, who's bequest funded the "mobile peace center." Dave noted that we are well within budget due to the sweat equity members have contributed.

The Communications Committee report was presented by Barry. He said everything was underway and that the check was on the way from John. Craig agreed to be on the committee because he suggested that the bus (work) would be over by then. Computer skills were promoted for all members to keep our message in the current internet conversation. Lyle invited critiques and desires for our website from members (Lyle's e-mail is <lylestein@msn.com>). He suggested getting the scoop to himself or Barry or any member of the committee as a method for enriching our message. Barry noted that simplicity is the underlying need. Simple is elegant.

School Of America's Watch Committee report was given by Dave. The gathering at Nogales, AZ is scheduled for Armistice Day (11-11-2017). Some of our members will be traveling there this year, but we also have events planned locally. Both activities may help peace break out. Sort of what we want.

Larry was asked for the Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers report by Dave. Larry said "Building Local Power For Peace" is the subject sought for a speaker to address at the Democracy Convention in August. Dave volunteered to do this.

Dave moved the agenda to New Business. He noted that our plan to be on hand when Chelsea Manning will be released this week, Wednesday, has been abandoned at Chelsea's request.

The Peace Site rededicated at Gandhi Mahal was reviewed by Dave.

Dave mentioned the availability of Peacestock tickets from Dave, Larry and Steve and at the Women Against Military Madness office (the tickets they sell will be from the stock we have purchased).

Dave mentioned the WAMM walk against weapons June 3 (starting at 10:30 a.m.) going from Perkins (Riverside and I-94) to the MayDay Plaza on Cedar Avenue. Jean Heberle will be walking for her deceased husband, Bob (a former member).

Vern moved to adjourn. Larry seconded. This motion passed.

Ronald E. Staff
Secretary