

Minutes

Veterans For Peace, Chapter # 027

September 10, 2017

President Dave called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. ringing a bell. Secretary Ron read the statement of purpose. Dave called for a moment of silence with the bell and ended that moment in the same manner. Health updates were followed with the regular check-ins of people's service and or current concerns.

In attendance were: Ron Staff, Barry Riesch, Craig Wood, Dick Foley, Vern Hall, Larry Johnson, John McLeod, Lyle Steinfeldt, Rev. James Llewellyn Mengel, Tom Larsen, Dave Logsdon, Mike Madden and Steve McKeown.

Dave called for approval of the August Minutes. He noted that he is Dave Logsdon not David Logsdon in the list of attendees. (That correction will be made to the August Minutes. {Sec.}) Barry moved the approval, seconded by John and this passed.

The August Treasurers Report was circulated. Barry moved approval, seconded by Ron and passed. The closing checking balance was \$8,136.25.

Committee reports followed.

Barry, speaking for the Membership Committee, praised President Logsdon for his tireless efforts to reach out to veterans who have not had the good fortune to find our merry members.

The Education Committee had several people speaking about activities. Larry reported the Nobel Peace Prize Forum engagement with the Peace Essay competition. He said that our chapter would be involved with Carlton College on Thursday, September 21, International Peace Day 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. And he circulated the "Walk for Peace," Sunday, September 24th at 4:00 p.m. from the Lake Harriet Band Shell. Steve reported on our invitation to be involved with Macalester College's Professor Karin Aguilar-San Juan in her class on Race, Place and Space.

Dave spoke about the Twin Cities Public Television's "The Vietnam War" by Burns and Novak and all the activities around it. Barry added that his great concern was that there was little attention paid to the United States mere being there. His and our position is that Americans should have never carried guns in that country or used any other war ordnance there.

Steve then mentioned the anti-nuclear weapons petition and the on-going efforts to get our country involved in ending their availability to our and any nation's use of them. He is our fire brand in this effort. Along these lines he referred people to Representative Keith Ellison's video statement as to his position on the issue. Mike suggested encouraging a public forum on the issue. Larry then circulated the flyer on the Walk for Peace at Lake Harriet. Dave noted that we were not included as sponsors of the event and said he would look into getting us listed as being supportive.

On the Full Disclosure response to Burns and Novak's work, Barry said he would be responsible for getting scoop on local media contacts in to the national office for their distribution of press release responses to the series.

There was no report from the Direct Action Committee.

The Convention 2018 Committee said that the manager of the hotel and our national office were in direct contact about the convention. It appears that we are not in that loop. Dave said there would be more to report from that committee next month.

Craig, Steve and Dave gave the Bus Committee report. Craig and Steve said they would look at the door opening problem reported by Dave. Lyle reminded the Committee that there were bids let for inside work, which has been identified as Phase II of this project. Craig thanked Lyle and said he would follow-up.

Lyle and Barry talked about the Communications Committee and said that they were working at getting our web presence up to date. Anything which "should" be on it can be forwarded to them.

Dave mentioned Indigenous Peoples' Day, October 9 or 10 and wanted to be supportive.

Barry and Dave spoke about the SOA (School of Americas Watch) action at Nogales, AZ and mentioned that the national office was planning to send a letter noting our chapter's long involvement as well as our commitment to the armistice celebration on November 11; while noting that they also planned their activity that day.

It was noted to Larry that the Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers (MAP) website still shows our old office address. He said he would bring it to their attention. Then Larry talked about up coming events at MAP.

New Business found Dave talking about "The Long Road To Rome" action by Native Americans, he said he was working on a benefit concert to donate to their trip. He reported he had written a \$100.00 check to us with a memo note that its for "The Long Road To Rome." He said he left it in the treasurers box in our office and was looking for nine more members willing to make such donations. His idea is that when the amount reaches \$1,000.00 he would seek an equal amount from Chapter funds to seed the concert. He also passed around a sign-up for the retreat to the North Shore for the end of this month.

Larry then talked about a trip planned to Cottage Grove with Steve and Dave. They are going to see the mansion there where the Kellogg-Briand Pact was written. They are taking along a copy for them to display if they would like. The activity is Monday, 9-18-2017. You can call one of them if interested in going along.

Lyle moved to adjourn, Barry seconded. The motion passed at 8:30 p.m.

Ron Staff
Secretary