

Minutes

Veterans For Peace, Chapter # 027

October 8, 2017

President Dave Logsdon called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. (a little late out of attention to the "WAMM silent auction."). Secretary Ron Staff read the Statement of Purpose. Dave called for a Moment of Silence with his bell.

Health Updates included references to the health brought with drinking good, clean water. Dave suggested that he was feeling well.

Dave introduced "check-ins," by suggesting and modeling brief ones. Most observed his request.

In attendance were: James Llewellyn Mengel, John Varone, Timothy Parker, Dave Logsdon, Barry Riesch, David Cooley, Vern Hall, Dick Foley, Mary McNellis, Stephen J. Gates, Tom Larson, Lyle Steinfeldt, Steve McKeown and Ron Staff.

After this Barry moved approval of the September 2017 Minutes, seconded by Tom, and passed by voice vote.

John Varone presented the Treasurers Report, which was accepted following Barry's Motion and Tom's second. Mary thanked John for his efforts to get her the addresses of letters that have been returned as undeliverable. Those returned letters cost a lot of postage and the number has dropped significantly since they have been tracking it and deleting those addresses.

Steve noted that there was no fundraising on the Agenda. Dave said at the November meeting the annual "fundraising letter" will be presented.

David moved that the chapter donate \$1,000.00 to match money raised from members for the use of young Native Americans in their "Road Trip to Rome" when they will address the "Doctrine of Discovery" with the Pope. If more than \$1,000.00 is collected from members that full amount will be added to this \$1,000.00. Craig seconded the motion. This motion passed. John noted he would be leaving due to the distance of his drive. He also sought an Assistant Treasurer to help keep the books straight. Apprentices are sought.

Committee reports began with Membership presented by Barry. He introduced Tim as one of the new members. Barry also had a coffee date with another new member. Dave was grateful to Mary for her work in getting the lapsed members list to him. She said she would get the list to Barry, also. Barry talked about the "Road Trip to Rome" fund raising he promoted at his own church. Annual membership was noted to be \$40.00. Steve noted to the group that there are "hardship" memberships available from the National office.

Steve opened the Education Committee reports with the story about events at Carlton College on the International Day of Peace, where the Kellogg-Briand Pact reproduction was presented to both the Kellogg endowed chair and Mayor of Northfield, who lead off the program. He mentioned his upcoming talk to the Fargo Unitarian Church at the request of the Red River Valley VFP chapter on November 12. He said he and Ron would be at Macalester two times in November, the 6th and the 18th.

Steve then passed to Dick to tell about all his lined-up talks. Dick told of speaking and planning to speak at Cretin-Durham Hall, Benilde St. Margaret, Christo-Ray and a number of other sites. He says he always tells the truth and admonishes the students to engage their “critical thinking” about what he has said. Dick says he’s always been invited back. Dave noted that he had talked with John McLeod who said he was attempting to get into a school he’d attended to tell his story. Barry then mentioned that “The New Yorker” had an article about the Kellogg-Briand Pact in a recent issue.

Dave shifted the discussion to a few movies, which he said had “washed up on the shore.” “The Testament of Youth” will be being shown by WAMM on November 13 at 4200 Cedar. Dave would like to find a venue for running “Hearts and Minds,” the Academy Award winner for best documentary in 1974. He would like to bill it as a single, better summary of the Burns and Novak “The Vietnam War” documentary.

Barry brought us back to the Burns and Novak documentary and the complex nature of the whole endeavor; then and continuing. He was focused upon the lack of looking for any clarification on “accountability for the mess.” Craig pointed out a local editorial which attempted to conflate elements in the movie with one of the current issues around tearing down statues of racists and their confederacy.

Dave suggested that discussion of “The Vietnam War” could go on for hours and asked Steve to move us on to a discussion of “The Testament of Youth.” He noted that WAMM will be showing it at our request. Steve then said they had thousands of signatures on the Anti-Nuclear Petitions. The organization, which has been pushing this, got the Nobel Peace Prize this year. Many groups are part of this effort.

Steve said the Newsletter would come out about 12-21-2017. He said there were many positive comments about our Newsletter. Dave reported seeing plenty of yards with peace notes in them. Provide “swag” as prizes to for those able to identify the location of certain yard peace ornaments may be a part of future Newsletters. Dave said he often notices peace signs in their yards while he’s biking around the city.

Representative Keith Ellison’s name came up around some of the comments he’s put out about nukes and his vote against the Defense Department budget (the only one in our state to so vote). David suggested a group letter of support for his actions and Dave endorsed the idea. David suggested a written letter on our letter head. Barry included the suggestion to contact our Senators about the same issue; opposing the huge increase to the budget of DoD.

Dave spoke about the Macalester gathering with author, Tim O’Brien, and Lynn Novak of “The Vietnam War” on the 18th.

Dave again moved the group along to the Direct Action Committee with his bell and discussion of the “Black Dog” event where he observed that the sound qualities at the venue were less than conducive to hosting an event there during the convention. He called for a recap of the events at Camp Ripley where our bus made the trip up without incident carrying Vern, Penny, Dave and Craig. Dave reported that we parked right near the front gate. Then they digressed into an inflated description of the break down right by the sculpture garden on Dunwoody and Hennepin, almost home. Vern was the “road guard” without a yellow during the break down. Dave also reported the St Alberts bell ringing event.

Dave said Penny was not available for the Convention Committee report because she was at the WAMM silent auction action right at the time of our meeting. Barry said the National Office had been

in to see the site and had made a \$1,000.00 earnest money deposit. He noted that they will be having a Board of Directors meeting here near the end of this month. Barry said we should “impress” them. This will be an opportunity to find out what times during the convention will be up to our chapter and what they will need. These discussions led Dave to seek a \$3,000.00 “Contingency Fund.” Craig moved that we establish a \$3,000.00 contingency fund for the Convention Committee; Lyle seconded. At this point Barry mentioned the need for housing for people who cannot afford the hotel. Dave called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed with one no vote.

Craig gave the Bus Committee report saying he had found a person to work on the inside of the bus (Tom’s Remodeling). Craig said we wanted a table and a couple of cabinets installed. Craig said he would get a bid. Steve chimed in that we have done quite a bit with the funds allotted. A question of dropping the insurance for the winter came up to save money. No motions came out of all the chatter. Craig said he would look into it.

Dave moved the agenda. Barry reported for the Communications Committee telling about the Website and how it will be working and how it has been improved. He says he’s been doing his best to keep it current. Barry reported a new member (Wade) of the committee will be giving us a Face Book presence. He reported a large amount of stuff in our archive. How deep the archive should be remains a question. Barry and Lyle should both be contacted with information for the web site. They will get stuff on the calendar or other parts of the site. Tim, the webmaster, gives us a report of how people got to our site on a monthly basis.

SOA Watch Committee report by Mary noted that she and Steve were headed to Nogales this November 9th through 12th. One national board member has suggested that the organization could use the Nogales gathering as an occasion to have a nation wide gathering of our “regular suspects.”

Mary also gave the MAP report saying that the Black Dog event (Snap Crackle and Stop) raised more than \$200.00 for the Peace Essay contest winners. MAP held an all day training at the Richfield Wood Lake Nature Center yesterday.

Dave reported he was trying to do the benefit concert for Road to Rome group. Armistice Day activities were reviewed. Then Mary suggested coordinating with the History Center and its World War I show. Dave said he would check with them. He thanked Mary for the idea. He thought we could have activities here, if nothing else.

Lyle moved to adjourn and Stephen seconded. Vern injected a note that he “scored a light table” he’d be willing to share. Dave called for a vote, which was unanimous, and he rung us out with his bell.

Ron Staff
Secretary