

Minutes

Veterans For Peace, Chapter # 027

November 12, 2017

President Dave Logsdon called the meeting to order at about 6:00 p.m. Joan (who's son is an Iraq War veteran) read the Statement of Purpose. Dave rang his bell for the beginning and ending of A Moment of Silence for the salivating group. Health Updates covered Dave's memories of members who were not present at the meeting, but believed to still be alive.

In attendance were: Joan Najbar, Dave Logsdon, Dick Foley, Barry Reisch, John Varone, Larry Johnson, Mike McDonald, Craig Wood, Tom Larson, Penelope Gardener, David Cooley, Vern Hall and Ron Staff.

Barry moved acceptance of the October 8th Minutes, seconded by Craig and passed by voice vote, without dissent or corrections.

John presented the Treasurer's Report, which Barry moved to approve, Craig seconded and this was also passed without comment. We have \$5,208.79 on hand in checking.

Dave rushed the group on to Committee reports due to the late start. Barry gave a nice presentation on the value of adding members as they bring new ideas, which can blow the cobwebs from our mincing motions. Numerous members endorsed his efforts as well as comments. Dave highlighted Barry's call for "active" new members.

The Education Committee limped along without Steve's guiding hand as he was still in Fargo or on his way home from an outreach there to the local Unitarian church. Dick easily filled in with his description of many different talks he has recently given to high schools in the Metro area. He also had a bundle of written responses from his high school audiences. Mike reported that he and John McLeod were finalizing plans at a number of different schools. Dave reported Steve McKeown's plan to get signatures on the anti-nuclear petition from people in every town in Minnesota. He said Steve was carrying a map of Minnesota and the Metro area with him to display his own progress.

Barry told about the Newsletter meeting for the winter edition at Jennies, which Steve usually ramrods. He reported on Craig's efforts to develop a list of coffee shops, statewide which would be willing to receive copies of our newsletter. Craig said he'd not completed that task, yet.

Dave noted that Dick had stuck around at the talk at Macalester College headlined by author, Tim O'Brien (an honors graduate of the school) and Lynn Novak on "The Vietnam War", which was featured on Public Television. Dave said Dick had spoken with Mr O'Brien and had also asked if he was a member of VFP. Dick said he got him to sign his copy of The Things They Carried. It could happen.

Then Dave spoke about a couple of appearances on KFAI radio discussing the same show in light of issues brought up by chapter members in our program of "Full Disclosure."

Dave moved the discussion to the Direct Action (Arts) Committee. He noted that member, Bruce Berry was at the protest outside Senator Klobuchar's office, in the freezing cold. He has passed a serious physical ailment that had us all on edge as to his health (Back in the peace brigade full strength.).

Penny was on hand to give the Convention Committee report, which both Dave and Barry supplemented. Generally, while the National Board of Directors were here to have their meeting and view next August's convention site, the local committee came to understand the range of issues to be engaged and how tasks will be divided. Whether the bell tower will be dragged out here from North Carolina remains to be seen. Who featured speaks might be remains to be seen. Suggestions should be forwarded to both local committee members and national board members. Send suggestions now, while yet early.

Craig reported for the Bus Committee that off-street parking will occur in his back yard as soon as he makes room for it. How to reduce insurance costs was discussed. Using a "broker" was offered as a means to the best possible price. No decision was made.

Lyle was not on hand to help Barry provide the Communications Committee report. He said he was doing his best and there was talk of one new member planning to help provide a "facebook" presence.

Dave said that he'd heard from Mary and that she and Stephen were underwhelmed by their experience at the border in Arizona this year. He said she reported that there was no mention of Armistice Day or Veterans For Peace and that she and Stephen would probably not go next year.

John helped create a slate of officers before leaving for his long drive home. Dave Logsdon for President, Mike McDonald for Vice President, Ron Staff for Secretary and John Varone for Treasurer. To vote this crowd in (or out) show up at the December meeting to find out about the annual winter celebration and have your vote count.

Larry, reporting for MAP, implied that Mary was a little worn out and John Mcleod (See what you get; when you are not on hand to defend yourself!) was recommended to be our representative to that group.

Dave mentioned the Doctrine of Discovery after Barry asked him about his earlier suggestion of a benefit concert for the Road to Rome group.

There was general agreement that Armistice Day activities at the Minnesota History Center were successful and that our bell ringing was a great closure for their WWI exhibit, which was outstanding.

Dave asked Penny if she would check out whether Women Against Military Madness would be interested in having a shared winter celebration.

Dave started the ball rolling about Mike Madden's defense fund, which apparently has a web site, that showed it was over pledged already. Great. But the group is prepared to back stop the needed cash.

Barry moved we adjourn, Vern seconded and this motion passed with moving chairs and people.

Ron Staff
Secretary