

Minutes

Veterans For Peace, Chapter # 027

December 10, 2017

Ron called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. when members present asked him to get things rolling. Since he was the only chapter officer on hand, they suggested that it fell to him to begin. He did and John read the Statement of Purpose. During the Moment of Silence late-comers settled in. A few names of former regular members were mentioned and some present said they'd contact those for whom there was no scoop. Check-ins occurred and a few of us were nudged into more concise reports.

On hand were: Steve McKeown, Timothy Parker, Lyle Steinfeldt, Barry Reisch, David Cooley, Dick Foley, John MacLeod, Craig Wood, Vern Hall, Mike Madden and Ron Staff.

Barry moved acceptance of the November Minutes, seconded by Craig and approved by voice vote with Mike abstaining as he was not at the last meeting.

Barry moved to table the Treasurers Report, since John was not present. Lyle seconded and this motion passed (note it will take a 2/3's vote to take this motion off the table).

Since the Secretary was the only officer still present; the sense of the group was to delay the Election of Officers until later in this meeting.

Committee reports were begun with Barry reporting for the Membership Committee. He said he'd be calling lapsed members soon. David told of three possible members, who might show up at the seasonal celebration this coming Saturday, here (4200 Cedar Avenue South) from 6-9 p.m.

For the Education Committee Dick reported a few presentations and read from one of the seventy-six letters he'd gotten in response to his talks. Steve told about speaking at a Unitarian church in Fargo over the Armistice Day weekend at the invitation of VFP Chapter member, Ron Saegar. Secretary Ron reported about our involvement with Macalester College at a Race, Place and Space class. Steve then noted Larry's written request for a formal endorsement of World Story Telling Day, March 20, 2018, which he "so moved," adding that we do everything we can to assist Larry, and Mike seconded. This motion passed unanimously. David reported about a Korean peace walk scheduled this coming spring. John said he would be in contact with Mike McDonald about school presentations.

Barry reported that the Convention Committee has been meeting. Barry said the regular events have their places but the particulars are not set.

Direct Action/Arts Committee brought a report from Craig that it was nice to see Bruce Berry at a recent action. David showed the "Save the VA from Privatization" banner, he had acquired. He plans to call folks as opportunities to use it arise. House File # 4242 is being heard in committee as to the privatization efforts by the wealthy. There is even a well-funded sudo-independent veterans group. Then he talked about his efforts with "Amicus." He highly recommended it as an outreach to imprisoned veterans. Dick also reported being involved. He said, "This is a way to bring peace to a person."

The MAP Committee report was that John promised to go this coming Tuesday to represent our group. There was a question as to whether there is a current, regular representative from VFP on MAP.

The SOA Committee report was put off for lack of reporters on hand.

Barry reported for the Communications Committee that he's trying to keep the web site as up to date as he can. Lyle noted that we have collected \$193.00 through the site so far. He wondered to whom that scoop should go. Lyle stressed the importance of sending out thank you notes for all the donations, which come in through the web-site. Who will be responsible?

Mike moved that the Communications Committee address the issue of how to communicate with the chapter members on all issues. John seconded. Steve noted that the motion addressed e-mail communications only and excludes those who do not have e-mail. The motion passed. How this committee announces it's meeting is up to the committee. This important issue needs to be widely aired. How the committee solves the issues should be part of their report.

Craig reported that the Bus is at his place. He said it was off the street; parked in his back yard. He reported that research on insurance continues. David asked about whether having drivers over 55 who took the safe driver training would reduce our costs.

Steve reported for the Newsletter Committee that the year-end edition would be out on December 21. Six hundred extra copies were ordered partly due to Craig's work of trying to cultivate coffee shops which would be willing to accept copies for their customers. Barry reminded members to always carry a number of them in their trunk to pass out at shops they frequent. The cost for our newsletter runs under dollar a copy, which includes printing and mailing.

Under New Business the holiday party was reviewed. Steve asked if it was appropriate for our chapter to buy alcohol. Barry moved that Chapter # 027 never purchase alcohol for any reason. Steve seconded. This motion passed. Dick reported experience with an organization buying booze and that it resulted in endless headaches; legally and otherwise.

Ron noted that V.A. privatization had already been discussed.

Barry suggested that we had done a review of Armistice Day activities at the last meeting.

No one knew exactly what Dave had in mind for the 2018 Planning Session or the date; so that will be clarified later.

Steve thought that the date for PeaceStock 2018 was July 14th. And it will happen.

The Trip to the Vatican with Mitch Walking Elk is seeking \$20 to \$30 thousand. Craig said that they were \$13,000 towards their goal.

Steve showed everyone his map of the state with pins in towns where the anti nuclear war petitions have been signed by at least one person.

Barry called the group to attend to the election. After some discussion each of the offices up for election had just one person willing to serve. Barry repeated the call for any other nominations three times. Then John moved the slate. Mike noted we should name the people and offices. Dave Logsdon – President; Mike McDonald – Vice President; John Varone – Treasurer; and Ron Staff – Secretary. Barry seconded. This motion passed.

Steve noted that it was a democratic vote.

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

Ron Staff
Secretary & (Temporary Chair)

