

Minutes

Veterans For Peace, Chapter #027

3-11-2018

President Dave Logsdon called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. after Barry returned to the room. He asked Bob to read the Statement of Purpose and moved us right into reviewing health updates of formerly active members.

In attendance were: Mike McDonald, Robin Monahan, Dave Logsdon, Penny Gardner, Kyong juhn, James Brown, Bill Habedank, Steve McKeown, Tom Larsen, Bob Rohland, Mike Madden, Barry Reisch, Vern Hall, Michael Orange, John MacLeod, Brock Morgan, Herb Grika, Larry Johnson and Ron Staff.

Barry moved approval of the Minutes for February, Tom seconded and the motion passed without opposition.

After talking about the Treasurer's Report, which Dave had brought, Barry moved acceptance of it. Penny seconded and this motion passed. The current balance is \$10,517.29.

Barry then gave the Membership Committee report, acknowledging Brock Morgan, and gave his regular membership statement that, if we don't grow, we will not continue to exist. And we need to exist to defend peace from the depredations of those who have and would profit from human conflict.

Mike McDonald initiated the Education Committee talking about his college contacts. Steve said the anti-nuclear petition drive has 10,087 signatures and growing daily. Several legislators, state and national have been visited. Legislation is underway at the state capitol for an endorsing non-binding resolution. He suggested that "opening day" was coming, another good time for signatures and presence (with flags). He also reported the soon-to-happen World Story Telling Day 2018 with the theme "Wise Fools: Wisdom on the Folly of War." It will be from 6-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 20 at the Landmark Center in the F.K. Weyerhaeuser Auditorium in St. Paul.

Penny gave the Convention Committee report. She said there was a conference call this week and another planned next week. Apparently they are still word smithing the topic around "reclaiming" armistice day. Speakers are still being worked out. There was extensive discussion of potential speakers.

Dave turned the Direct Action Committee report over to Craig, who with Barry, has been out with David Cooley at the Veterans Administration Hospital. The anti-privatization efforts are being made whenever possible ramrodded by David Cooley. Barry mentioned that David had bought the brochures that are being handed out for about \$250.00. No one noticed that there was no mention of perhaps reimbursing him for that rather large donation to our efforts. (It's noteworthy that the military budget has been increased, while lowering the costs of caring for veterans of that spending, is the new priority.) Michael Orange read a prepared statement supporting the "assault weapon" ban which has been reenergized from the newly active high school student victims. It went on for more than ten minutes and is very good. He sought chapter endorsement. Barry moved to support a ban on the sale

of assault weapons. Mike seconded and the motion passed without dissent. Then Michael displayed an eight foot banner with that claim already on it.

Barry gave the Communications Committee report. He noted that the secretary has volunteered to monitor Chapter e-mails for a year. Steve said that he has been checking phone messages off and on but that someone needs to attend to it regularly. Penny indicated some willingness. Dave talked about another member having volunteered to take over the "data base," which Mary has been doing "since whenever;" so organizational information flow-through is firming up. Discussion turned to "The Post" and how the movie might be used to our purposes. Steve suggested flyering at theaters where it is being shown. He talked about the increased interest in our "speakers bureau" after our preceding organization, "Vets for Life" had flyered "Platoon" in 1986. Craig talked about our effort to insert the newsletter into the coffee house scene. It could call for each of us to drop a few by the coffee houses we frequent. It would also be a way to "become known" in the community as one of the voices of reason in the neighborhood.

Dave moved the agenda to the Bus Committee. Craig and Dave both talked of the plan to get the inside of the bus up to snuff with whatever is going inside to make it supportively functional. Spring in the air (and calendar) portends lots of opportunities to get it out on the road carrying our message. The overdue tabs on the license were noted and Dave said he'd get right on it.

Dave noted that the Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers has no one to present about it. Then he proceeded to say that Larry told him they are still working on the Peace Essay Contest. Steve got the discussion going about going into high schools and speaking with them about the contest, into which Larry has put so much effort. A number of members took copies of the announcement and stated the schools they'd go to.

Dave said the School of America's Watch, which has been coordinating with events at Nogales, AZ, has changed the date of their protest, which might get a better response from our organization.

Dave moved the agenda to New Business and Peacestock. Mike Madden moved that we donate \$1,500.00 to the effort and actually sell the fifty tickets we get to make the donation a "wash." Mike McDonald seconded and this motion passed. Their theme this year is "American Empire; who suffers and who benefits!"

Dave told about the Benefit Concert, he has been promoting to raise funds for the indigenous youth who are headed to Rome to help end "doctrine of discovery" (a pillar of white privilege). It will be at First Universalist church on Dupont in south Minneapolis.

Steve talked about the 100th anniversary of the 1918 armistice. When will the human species go for it? Getting churches involved may help change the national narrative. Why war?

Dave called for a motion to adjourn. Vern moved, Bill seconded and we did.

Ron Staff, Secretary.