

Minutes

Veterans For Peace, Chapter #027

March 10, 2019

President Mike McDonald opened the meeting at 6:01 p.m. Stephen Gates read the Statement of Purpose, followed by a Moment of Silence.

Members all checked in briefly. In Attendance were: Steve McKeown, Craig Wood, Penelope M. Gardner, Mike Madden, Mike McDonald, Barry Riesch, Pat Young, Arlys Heren, Jeanne Stevens, Charlie Bloss, Thomas Chisholm, Dave Logsdon, Stephen J. Gates, Jeff Roy, Bill Habedank, Mary McNellis, Tom Larsen, Lyle Steinfeldt, John MacLeod, Ron Staff and Larry Johnson.

Mike Madden noted a single correction to the **Minutes**. He said the addition of “called the meeting to order” in the first sentence would make them complete. With this modification Barry **moved approval** of the February Minutes, seconded by Tom and this **passed**.

Barry **moved acceptance** of the **Treasurer’s Report** by Penny. Seconded by Craig. This motion **passed**. The Checking account balance is \$11,687.83.

Announcements and Direct Action Committee was next. First President McDonald circulated a calendar for members to note any actions in which they’d been involved for the past month. He wants to keep track of all our activities. Penny and Craig reported about communes in Venezuela. Other communal governing groups have been contributing to their efforts there.

Anti-drone activities in Iowa are going on near Des Moines soon. Larry circulated his “World Storytelling Day” flyer for the event at the Landmark Center in St. Paul, Wednesday, March 20 from 6 to 9 p.m. with scoop about some of the participants and their experiences.

Numerous activities were discussed.

Mike Madden **moved** that the Chapter will match up \$100.00 of funds raised from member donations to the **Golden Rule Project**. Seconded by Craig. It **passed** with one vote against it. Later in the meeting it was noted that the hat passing had brought in \$273.00 and that with the Chapter match, we would be sending them \$373.00.

Craig re-reported that we could get “grave sites to distribute” to veterans the V.A. won’t bury due to “bad discharges,” if we wanted to get into it. He reminded members that he’d brought this up a couple of meetings ago and has not gotten much by way of response. He noted that often veterans with less than honorable discharges are not allowed to be buried in national cemeteries, which might be the case with veterans who protested the war in Vietnam while in service and received such discharges. He wanted to know if the chapter was interested in taking up this on-going project. He suggested that we could also pass this on to the National Office. The potential complexity of this project with legal issues in different states, rules in the various burial grounds, how to establish qualifying entry hoops and so on led to Craig saying he would come back with more information later.

PeaceStock was next. It's July 20th this year. Dave **moved** that we contribute \$1,500.00 to the effort in exchange for 50 tickets. Mike Madden seconded. This motion passed. Ticket sellers need to ask whether people are planning to stay for dinner. Getting those numbers to Bill as soon as possible is important for their dinner planning.

Dave **moved** that Veterans For Peace donate \$200.00 toward the **MPAC** event costs on April 4 and March 30. Seconded by Charlie. This motion **passed** with one vote in opposition.

John said he would attend the monthly Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers meeting, representing us. He added he'd find out what they are up to and e-mail it out. When reminded, he agreed to sell some tickets.

Steve reported that the Newsletter would be mailed out and that an additional 1,000 will be delivered to the office. Members talked about a number of places where they drop them off for general public distribution. During discussion Lyle mentioned that the Newsletter could have a donation form printed somewhere in it seeking money and indicating where they could send it.

For the Communications Committee Barry noted that he, Lyle and Wade are on "this somewhat functioning committee." He noted he and Lyle take care of the web site. Then he noted that Wade takes care of the e-mail blasts, face book and instagram. Then he requested the Chapter consider buying assistance in getting out electronic communications on a regular basis. The e-mail blasts were the main focus. Barry **moved** that the Chapter spend \$1,400.00 year for two hours a week doing e-mail blasts. This motion was seconded by Jeff. The motion **failed** by a count of raised hands when a voice vote was unclear. The count was 6 in favor and 10 against with 4 abstentions. At this point John **moved** that the Executive Committee take this under advisement and come back to the group with some specifics for the next meeting along with a job description. SueAnn, who arrived late and forgot to sign-in, seconded this motion. Following extensive discussion, Jeff called the question and the motion **passed**.

Steve then **moved** that the editor of the Newsletter also get paid and that the Executive Committee come back with input on this topic, also. Tom seconded this motion, it **passed**.

The Education Committee did not report.

Barry, talking for the Membership Committee, reported that he recalled, we had met last year's goal of a new member a month, but added that he was not aware of any specific goals for this year.

Jeff spoke about the Save Our V.A. activities with David Cooley. Mary **moved** that the Chapter create a Save Our V.A Committee. Arlys seconded. The motion **passed**.

Mike called on Jeff and SueAnn to report for the Public Relations (PR) Committee and they provided minutes from their meeting. Mike thanked the PR Committee for their efforts.

Mike moved the agenda to the Bus Committee. Dave and Craig are not likely to drive the bus to Iowa but, if they did, Steve wondered if the insurance would cover it.

Dave reported on events occurring around the country in talking about his National Board experience. Dave asked that Mike sign-up for the MayDay Parade. Mike said he would.

New Business got to the “Sisters of Peace,” which was not clearly defined. Dave was going to check into it.

SueAnn **moved** to adjourn, seconded by Jeff. It **passed**.

Ron Staff
Secretary