



Madison, WI

Veterans For Peace, Clarence Kailin Chapter 25, Madison, WI

www.MadisonVFP.org

July 22, 2020, General Membership Meeting Minutes (4:00PM)

Meeting Chair Larry Orr opened the meeting at the Park in nice weather with a "COVID-19" check-in. Members in attendance were doing well so far. A question regarding next meeting places was answered by Paul McMahon reporting that library meeting rooms are currently closed, unfortunately, followed by a short discussions on future meeting places. Larry read the VFP Statement of Purpose. The June minutes were reviewed and approved. Larry also checked for any adjustment of the agenda. Other members attending included Tom Glassel, David Giffey, Brad Geyer, Phil Fransen, John Fournelle, and Steve Books.

Treasurers Report – Paul reported on the e-mailed report that June was a good month for donations to VFP clearing \$ 2,000.00. The ending checkbook balance is about \$ 4,000.00 plus savings for a total of \$ 7,000.00 with very little payout due to reduced activity. The latest fund drive is still going on and is still making good totals. If anyone knows anyone who would like to contribute to VFP, let Paul know their name(s).

Committee Reports

Counter Recruiting/Scholarship David reported the Dodgeville Chronicle will post the students essays. It will be good to see them. As far as military recruiting, the Army News Service is going digital. David reported on contacting a videographer and is still in the process to research the outlook of the project. Members still offered positive comments on going forward. Paul mentioned our VFP non-standing with schools compared to the recruiters, but we do have opt-out forms available, but need to be pushed with parents.

Memorial Day - no reported

Memorial Mile - Tom reported on the activity and good outcome of the Wisconsin Display at the top of the month. There was good feedback on the project, and only minor disturbance occurred of a Black Lives Matter sign taken, that was reported, and replaced.

Planning Committee Phil reported Doug Bradley has a new book "Who'll Stop the Rain -- Respect, Remembrance, and Reconciliation in Post-Vietnam America."

Tabling/Outreach Larry reported that WORT radio had a dedication on a Global Revolutions show of Judith Klehr, and that he used to see Judith at Greekfest, and called Larry a poet and protector. Paul mentioned that Judith had six daughters, and was still a supporter VFP Madison. Brad reports all members should promote cuts to the Pentagon Budget, and join in with groups opposing increased spending instead of cuts. Members should sign on with groups creating Petitions. No F-35s too. David mentioned that protests are important too, and that the Pentagon budget issue is a good action.

New Business

Actions to reach people on Virtual Media Brad and John reported an ad/hoc zoom meeting with Fran discussion how to bring in younger Vets to VFP. There was a discussion about using Zoom as a platform for a series of about an hour long conferences on topics connected by a theme "The Costs of War" maybe on every 4 months. An example could be on adverse health effects suffered by Veterans, from the Gulf War syndrome to Agent Orange. Speakers could talk on a topic, then take questions from the audience. Another topic could be the Military Budget, and showing films as Sir! No Sir! John is still interested in planning an event of interest to younger Veterans. Larry continues to monitor Facebook. The group will meet again.

Donation to a local organization regarding George Floyd Brad reported some groups to start the discussion. It's hard to decide with the good workings of the many groups – Urban Triage, Freedom Inc., NAACP, 100 Black Men of Madison. The topic will continue to be open for discussion.

Lanterns For Peace VFP donated via on-line discussion \$ 100.00. The event this year will be on-line, Tuesday, August 6, 7:45 pm, and anyone interested can send in a design for a lantern to PSR for the event.

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Writers Workshop - Paul reports that Doug Bradley is promoting the latest edition of "The Deadly Writers

P. 2. cont.

Patrol" available for \$ 10.00 that's very engaging. Members could consider purchasing a copy. Fran is in it. **Waging Peace in Vietnam, Norm Stockwell effort** - John reports the display is scheduled for Madison for April 2021, VFP Madison could consider helping with the effort. UW Madison will be the major funder. Ron Carver (Ft. Dix Coffeehouse) has been helping, originated the 17 4x8 panel displays. John attended the display at Notre Dame last year, and Phil and Larry viewed the display last year at the VFP Convention. The theme is anti-war activism by active duty GIs and Veterans during the Vietnam War. It was created in response to the 50th Anniversary of the war and the establishment's suppression of the fact the the oppositions by active duty troops was one reason the war stopped. Discussion the feasibility of the display. The music of the Vietnam era could be highlighted too. A focus on education could be promoted too. About Face could be involved. **A motion was made and 2nded** to support the Waging Peace in Vietnam Display for now for next April. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Select August Chair - Fran was selected to Chair for August.

Any other business - other issues were brought up as a wellness check for Lincoln Grahlf's, thinking of Porchlight of a group that does good work, a donation for Madison Quakers via Mike B. for the August Agenda, and research into the operation of WNPJ&S in Madison. The next August Membership Meeting will take place at the same place, Olbrich Park. Tom mentioned that the VFW has offered school scholarships too.

Announcements

A list of announcements was read of the next meetings. A reminder for chairs and masks for the next meeting, and for the same time - **4:00 PM** instead of 6:00 PM for the summer, at least.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Minutes by Books