

VETERANS FOR PEACE, CORVALLIS

Meeting Minutes -- March 22, 2010

I. Introductions of those attending: Bart Bolger; Jim Spain; Bob Stebbins; Todd & Esmeralda Allen

II. Administration

Treasurers Report Bart Bolger – A little over \$600 in bank, minus reserve of \$400 = \$200. Major expenses lately: Contributions for Josh Hough transferred to his account; renewed web site hosting; sent in deposit for BC Fair table (\$100); \$50 to Monadel talk (travel); \$35 entry fee for Sustainability Fair. Fundraiser letter going out this week along with membership interests survey. Todd suggested we do a garage sale. We agreed to consider it and plan (and announce it) well in advance so people had a chance to put sale items aside.

III. Past actions/events status and debrief

Monadel talk, February 27 – Monadel Herzallah, US Palestine Community Network (USPCN) and Rebecca Tumposky, International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network (IJAN) organizer, spoke on Gaza from both a Jewish and Palestinian anti-Zionist viewpoint. We agreed that Monadel's technical difficulties detracted from his effectiveness, but that Rebecca's talk was very inspiring and informative.

Peace Conference, March 5, Tom Hayden – Bart – We joined members of VFP 156 in Eugene for afternoon and evening events with Tom Hayden and other speakers. The evening event was very worthwhile and enlightening. For more on Tom Hayden: <http://tomhayden.com/index.html>.

Green Party Speaker, March 6, David Cobb – David Cobb spoke at the Pacific Green Party convention and at the Library regarding (among other things) his movement to amend the constitution to prohibit corporate personhood. For more see: <http://movetoamend.org/>.

Sustainability Fair tabling. Kyla Lyon's fact sheet, March 11 – Tabling at the Fair was reasonably effective. Kyla's brochure was good. Bart reimbursed her for printing. Plenty of good interaction with passersby. But there were so many tables, it was hard to get a lot of interest. Bob stayed for the town hall meeting and passed out cards that showed the amount of oil the Dept. of Defense uses.

Iraq War Protest Vigil, March 19 – Good turnout. Posted a video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCjJ9PTLNrA>. Also PJEP took part of our video and a still photo posted here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85FX1rgaxQk>.

Dana Visalli talk on Afghanistan. March 21 – Good talk although we expected more on women's and ecological issues.

IV. Action Team reports and planning

Peace clubs in Corvallis? – Bob S. – Bob and Roger Weaver are not aware of any student peace clubs in Corvallis. Bart passed info on a peace club at West Albany HS to the student at Philomath HS.

Truth in Recruiting – Bart & Bob S. – High schools visits continue. Bart passed on info on an encounter between a recruiter at the OSU job fair a week or so ago and some students who got aggressive with him. Not a major confrontation but interesting.

Bart mentioned the campaign being started by the VFP Rogue Valley chapter to foster Oregon legislation which would prohibit schools from releasing ASVAB scores to recruiters without parents' permission. All agreed that we should help support the effort. Bart will email that chapter back.

Philomath HS Student Peace Alliance chapter -- Soldiers of Peace movie, April 9, 5pm - Bart – While at the TiR visit to Philomath on March 16, Bart discussed preparations for the movie viewing with a student (Riley). Bart will be making some opening remarks at the film viewing. Bart is checking to see if it is open to the public and whether tabling is appropriate. He will put out further details by email.

Second Saturdays benefit concert, April 10; beneficiary: Oregon's Rural Organizing Project – Bart – Three Finger Jack is playing.

Daybreak Discussion group – Bart – Still ongoing with a small, but enthusiastic turnout each Friday, noon, at the UU.

Plans for Benton County Fair, August 4-7, booth, materials to be used. – Bob and Bart – Bart sent in the deposit and requested good corner booth locations. Bob agreed to talk to other peace groups in town about cost sharing and staffing the table (e.g., Alt2War, Albany Peaceseekers, BORDC, UU PAC).

George Mann & Mark Ross concert April 21, Eugene? – Bart – VFP156 unable to locate a venue. Bart will explore other options for Eugene. We agreed that Corvallis is not a good location this time.

Peace Jam Northwest 2010, April 25 – Bart – We're doing the same Truth in Recruiting workshop this year, since it was so well received last year. We need another young vet to play the "bad recruiter" role.

Plans for VFP national convention August 25-28 Portland, Maine – Bob – Leah & Bob (& Monine) are going.

Member interest survey – Bart – mailed along with fundraiser letter on 3-25.

OBTW...Bart mentioned the Peace Fair to be held in September around the time of the International Day of Peace (9-20). Leah will not be leading this effort, so would anyone be interested in taking the lead or sharing the lead with another organizer? No volunteers yet.

V. Scheduled Future actions/events

"Peace of the Action" in DC March 13-March 22 – Bart – Leah is attending for a week. Marches, rallies and lobbying.

Other Important dates:

April 26: Next VFP meeting

Daily, 5:00 to 6:00 pm—Corvallis Peace Vigil, Benton County Courthouse