

VETERANS FOR PEACE, CORVALLIS

Minutes April 26, 2010

I. Attending: Leah Bolger, Bart Bolger, George Hutchinson (& son, Connor), David Mead, Todd Allen, Jim Spain, Bob Stebbins, Del Shirley.

II. Treasurers Report - Bart Bolger

Balance \$1294
Raised \$585 through fund raising letter drive
No major expenses since last meeting
In legal account \$400
Leaving our working account \$894

III. Past Actions/Events (status and debrief)

“Peace of the Action” in DC, March 13-March 22 – Leah
Saturday was not a good day for a demonstration because everything was closed and the permitted event meant the area was cordoned off. However, 10,000 turned out.
Leah visited Wyden, Schrader and others.
Leah attended the House committee hearing on the defense budget and she got herself escorted out.

April, Second Saturdays Benefit Concert– Bart
The benefit was for the Rural Organizing Project (ROP) and raised about \$300.
The Second Saturdays Benefit has raised approximately \$15,000 since its start.
River Rocks is the next monthly concert on May 8 and receipts will support Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) for the Iran project.

Daybreak (the book) discussion group – Leah Meets every Friday noon at the UUC. All welcome even if they haven’t read the book. They talk about how to take back our government, etc.

George Mann & Mark Ross concert April 21 (cancelled) – Bart
They are playing several gigs throughout the NW. George asked if we (VFP) could host a gig in Eugene but the chapter there was unable to work out a venue and logistics.
They will play at the Oregon Country Fair this coming summer.

PeaceJam Northwest 2010, April 25 – Bart
VFP does a skit about truth in military recruiting. Players were effective and students were engaged.
Following there was a group discussion and some good one-on-one discussions which gave an opportunity to provide students with individualized help.

Member interest survey – Bart
All results not yet compiled. Bart will have the results at the next meeting and he may put it out on internet when compiled.

VFP Board Meeting highlights – Leah
This was a face to face Board meeting. These are held once per quarter (other months are by conference call). The Board agreed that there is a lack of coordination of groups working on similar issues. So will be setting up Working Groups that deal with special topics of interest. The groups would be developing lists of resources, write up papers and compile findings. Output will appear on the VFP (national) web site. The intent is to become more effective by getting people from all over the country working together (and also involve members who are not affiliated with a chapter or who don’t come out to meetings.)

Homeless shelter—Funding for the Corvallis transitional housing apartments is assured and is coming from the City (\$250,000) and State (\$500,000). There will be a fundraiser at the end of May at the Majestic Theater. There is a need to raise \$85,000 from local individuals by June as a block grant

requirement. July is expected start date for renovation with completion in 6 months. The shelter will be at 17th and Harrison and host 15-18 residents.

IV. Scheduled Future Actions/Events

Anti war funding signature ad for the GT– Leah, Bob, and George, among others, have been collecting signatures. The ad will be as big as we can afford. Folks soliciting signatures have not always been requesting donations. Suggest getting \$5 donations per signature. We discussed options for raising money. We discussed groups putting logos at the bottom of the ad. Suggested we mail the ads to our reps.

Decision: Bart moved and it was unanimously decided to contribute \$150 from the VFP treasurer for a VFP logo at bottom of the signature ad.

Other groups will be charged the same for their logo.

Possible City Council resolution (war funding & local economic impact) - Leah

It would be modeled on the Portland, Maine resolution to get out of Iraq and Afghanistan and cite the economic impact on the city and on individual tax burden.

HR 5015 and Defense funding. Brown Bag Lunch Vigil (BBLV) visits to DeFazio and Schrader. Meets on the third Wednesday of the month and protests at their offices over lunch hour to oppose defense funding. HR5015 is a bill that would require an exit strategy for the war in Afghanistan.

Share on your social networks <http://www.lettertoiraq.com> Josh Stieber, is a former specialist, U.S. Army Ethan McCord, former specialist, U.S. Army. They wrote an open letter to apologize to the people of Iraq for killing citizens.

Philomath HS, April 28, 1:30pm -- Student Peace Alliance chapter is showing the movie **Soldiers of Peace** – Bart

Bart will provide brief opening remarks to the movie. Theme is peace breaking out all over. It features Michael Douglas and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, among others.

Academy of Lifelong Learning (ALL) Class, April 29th, 1:30 pm – Bring the Guard Home Campaign— taught by Leah. Possibility of new Guard Home legislation for 2011 for Oregon. Doug Clark asked Leah to do a presentation for one of his classes. The national campaign is still going on. Leah asked if our Chapter wants to promote the Oregon campaign again. We discussed. We could use as a gubernatorial campaign issue. Wisconsin has been very actively behind it and has legislation that could be used as a model. Vermont has legislation on the floor. A coordinator is needed if all 5 VFP chapters are to work together. A single leader is needed and no one has shown interest in doing it.

Hanford is proposed to be national nuclear dumpsite and there is the issue of thorough cleanup of the site - Action needed.

EPA has an open comment period on the cleanup. Advocates are needed for a thorough cleanup. Bart will e-mail more information to the Chapter.

Legislation to prohibit sending Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test/profile data to DoD without parental consent – Bart

Rogue Valley VFP Chapter 156 is working on this legislation. They are seeking a policy from the Oregon Department of Public Education and then State legislation to prohibit release by schools of data to the Department of Defense without prior parental consent. Privacy is the issue because other personal information is given to recruiters in addition to just name and scores. It enables recruiters to more efficiently target potential recruits.

National Fellowship of Recognition (FOR) is requesting nominations for peace prizes to individuals or organizations whose commitment to peace, justice, and reconciliation is recognized as extraordinary – Bob

We don't have enough information about it to make a recommendation. Bob will check his emails for more details of timing and award criteria.

Plans for VFP national convention August 25-28 Portland, Maine – Bob Leah and Bob Stebbins are going.
Does our Chapter want to propose a resolution? **No decision.**

Peace Fair/Pinwheels for Peace—Friday September 17. Leah attempted but has not been able to garner much interest in a stand-alone Peace Fair. So we will combine the Peace Fair activities with the Pinwheels for Peace celebration, hosted by LoErna Simpson.

Plans for Benton County Fair (Aug. 4-7) booth, materials to be used. Bob and Bart We decided to postpone discussion to the next meeting.

Arlington West Film showing? Showing of Soldiers of Peace film? We decided to put on hold until Bart views the films.

Other Important Dates:

April 4: Albany Peace Seekers peace award for HS students, 4:30, Albany Public Library

May 24: Next VFP meeting **TIME CHANGED TO START AT 6:30.**

June 22-26: U.S. Social Forum, Detroit. It is citizens getting together to discuss social concerns (how to help each other). Leah is going and will be putting on a workshop. The Forum comes up with action plans.

July 23-25: National Assembly Conference, Albany, NY.

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