

VETERANS FOR PEACE, CORVALLIS

Meeting Minutes: December 28, 2009

I. Introductions of those attending. In attendance: Bob Stebbins, Bart Bolger, Leah Bolger, David Meade, Jim Spain

II. Administration

Treasurers Report Bart Bolger In the past month, reimbursed Leah \$38 for publicity (printing expenses dating back to September) and \$84 for homeless shelter food during our week of staffing the shelter. Total in bank is \$1040, with \$400 set aside for legal expenses, leaving balance of \$640.

III. Past actions/events status and debrief

Truth in recruiting, TiR efforts continued at CVHS (Roger Weaver and Bobbi Hall) and PHS (Bart Bolger and Bill Orner). Uncertain if visit was made to CHS during December. Received a thank you note from PHS student Emily Dunham.

men's cold weather shelter Bob S. thanked everyone for the successful staffing of the men's homeless shelter during the second week of December. We had good participation from many members of our chapter. Jim Spain reported that the Corvallis Homeless Shelter Coalition is moving forward with a plan to buy or lease Ed Epley's apartment building which was heavily damaged by a fire. Plans are to make it into a permanent residence for 18 men, under the "Housing First" project.

The temporary women's shelter has been housing a small number of women, and is staffed by Love INC.

Speaker: Mary Beth Tinker, Mary Beth Tinker, sister of recently deceased local activist Bonnie Tinker, was in town visiting a friend and agreed to give a presentation on civil rights and her history as the plaintiff in an historic Supreme Court case, Tinker v Des Moines. Mary Beth was suspended from high school for wearing a black arm band as a memorial to those killing in the Vietnam war. The ACLU represented them and they won their case, which set a precedent for children's first amendment rights.

IV. Action Team reports and planning

VFP members from Lane, Linn and Benton counties meet together? Bob S. will contact the leader of the Eugene VFP chapter, Jim Schmidt, about organizing a social get-together.

Gaza Freedom March solidarity action December 30 6:30-8:30 pm 128 NW 9th ST pot luck This event will feature a live conversation with OSU student Jessica Campbell, who is part of a 1400 member humanitarian aid delegation. Many VFP members, including 85-year old Holocaust survivor, Hedy Epstein are part of this delegation. Hedy is one of three Honorary VFP members; the others are Rachel Corrie and Philip Berrigan.

DU prohibition: Letter to Rep Schrader? Leah has a 15-minute phone call appointment with Kurt Schrader on Jan 4th. She intends to talk to him about refusing to fund the Afghanistan escalation, as well as possibly introducing legislation to prohibit the manufacture, use, and sales of Depleted Uranium weapons.

January 16: Vigil & nonviolent action, Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor 8:30 am – 4 pm If anyone is interested in participating in this action (protest against nuclear weapons), contact Leah who can put you in touch with the organizers and possibly make transportation arrangements.

V. Scheduled Future actions/events

Plan to support "Peace of the Action" in DC March 13-March 22 action@peaceoftheaction.org and www.peaceoftheaction.org. VFP is one of many organizations who are co-sponsoring this campaign which will protest U.S. military actions while bringing attention to the many humanitarian needs of our own citizens. Plans are to organize a tent city and provide services to the homeless, near the White House. The organizers are also planning to "disrupt business as usual" with a series of civil resistance actions. Leah is planning to participate in this campaign.

Important dates:

January 8: 7:00 pm, UUFC, David Swanson and David Rovics “Double Dose of Political Righteousness” This is a FREE event and should be really great. David Swanson is a great speaker and will be talking about his latest book (which will also be available for purchase) called “DAYBREAK: Undoing the Imperial Presidency and Forming a More Perfect Union.” David Rovics is a political singer/songwriter who has travelled the world performing his edgy, satirical music.

January 9: 6:00 pm, Sunny Side Up Café, Second Saturdays Concert—beneficiary: “Yes on 66 & 67 Campaign.” Performance by “The Flow,” with special appearance by State Representative Sara Gelser.

January 14: L. S. 7 pm John Perkins on Global Economy Author of “Confessions of an Economic Hit Man.” Sponsored by OSU.

January 25: Next VFP meeting

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