

VETERANS FOR PEACE, CORVALLIS

Minutes for Monthly Meeting: February 22, 2010

I. Present: Bart Bolger, Del Shirley, Bob Stebbins, Leah Bolger

II. Administration

Treasurer's Report -- Bart Bolger

- Changed Bank. We moved our VFP banking from Bank of America to OSU Federal Credit Union. This is to support local banking rather than the large corporate banks that used TARP money to become larger by buying out other banks instead of helping local borrowers.
- Fund raising letters. Bart presented a draft fund raising and a draft member survey. To go out in the next couple of weeks .
- \$760 in the bank account. \$367 usable funds. \$400 in reserve fund. Contributed \$50 to the Monadel talk (Feb 27, UU). We renewed the VFP132 website (www.vfpcorvallis.org) hosting for 3 years costing \$114.

III. Past actions/events (status and debrief)

Truth in recruiting. Bob reported that at CV that only about one person comes by so they will go to one time per month. Often no students come by.

At Philomath the table is in the dining hall and a lot of students come by. One young woman asked about forming a peace club. Bob will ask around about peace clubs in Corvallis. Del will contact Sharon Gisler to see about peace clubs in Albany. What we find out will be sent to Bart so he can give the information to the Philomath student.

Daybreak Discussion Group – Leah Bolger. David Swanson was here and spoke about his book *Daybreak: Undoing the imperial presidency and forming a more perfect union*. A weekly discussion group was formed and meets Fridays at noon in room 7 at the UUFC. There will be about 3 more meetings.

Afghanistan 1000th U.S. Fatality Commemoration – Sunday, February 21st. We were given good coverage in the GT and on Chanel 13 as we rang the church bell at the Methodist Church.

Second Saturdays – February proceeds (~\$1300) went for Haiti relief. Greatly exceeded average contributions. Funds were passed on to Partners in Health. They build health networks and train health workers in Haiti.

The beneficiary for the March benefit has not been determined yet.

VFP co-sponsors the event. Leah prepares the fliers and handouts to promote the event.

IV. Future actions/events

Peace volunteer Kyla Lyon – Bob Stebbins. Kyla is a junior in sociology at OSU. Her project is to collect materials for the Sustainability Fair, to promote the relationship between peace and sustainability. Bob is feeding her information. We talked about the Chief of Naval Operations doing a cost study of petroleum fuels used in the Navy.

Cheyney Ryan, OSU Peace Studies, "Obama & the Peace Prize. Did he deserve to get it?" – February 24, 7pm, MU Lounge.

Monadel talk February 27 – VFP is one of the cosponsors of the event: "One year after Gaza—What Happened—What's next—What can we do now?" We contributed \$50 toward their travel expenses. June Forsyth Kenagy is organizing. There will be a potluck luncheon at 1pm at Bob Stebbins' house. Posters are out. The UUFC Peace Action Council is also cosponsoring it. The intent of the talk is to increase awareness of the situation in Gaza.

Federal Spending: The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) sent a letter to Senators Wyden and Merkley. Bob Stebbins, as chapter president, signed onto the letter. See the letter here: <http://tinyurl.com/y8uxdcd>. It urges reprioritizing our federal budget to reduce defense (war) spending and shift more funds to e.g., education, health care, environment, etc.

HR 3699: Defund the war in Afghanistan. VFP 132 sent letters to Reps. Schrader and DeFazio strongly urging them to become a co-sponsor of H.R. 3699, which states, "No funds appropriated or otherwise made available under any provision of law may be obligated or expended to increase the number of members of the United States Armed Forces serving in Afghanistan so that the number of members serving in Afghanistan exceeds the number so serving on the date of the enactment of this Act." We also sent letters to Sens. Merkley and Wyden urging them to offer a companion bill in the Senate. National VFP sent an action alert to those VFP members in districts where the congressman indicated opposition to the Afghanistan escalation but has not yet signed onto 3699, such as Schrader. The point being, "If you oppose this war, why would you support the war by funding it?" Go to VFP national web site for more info.

Peace Conference – Tom Hayden – March 5, 6pm, Lane CC. Tom Hayden and Anita Weiss (South Asia expert) will speak. Jim Page will be playing his original music. There is a pre function at 3pm at Cosmic Pizza in Eugene. It's a no host reception which might be fun to go to. One car is full and we have an additional car to fill. Contact Bart or Bob for rides. The Peace Conference has a web site: <http://www.lanec.edu/peacecenter/2010%20Conference/>

David Cobb Talk – March 6, at 7pm in the Benton/Corvallis Library. He is a lawyer activist and dynamic speaker. He is against corporate personhood and is advocating amending the Constitution. We are a co-sponsor for this talk. Charles Newlin, Pacific Green Party, is the organizer. For more on the "Move to Amend" effort: <http://movetoamend.org/>.

Sustainability Fair & Town Hall 2010. We will have a table in the CH2M Hill Alumni center, March 11. Bob, Bart, and Kyla Lyon are working on handouts. It starts at 5:30p with a fair (exhibits & snacks) and then at 7p there is the town hall program. Individual attendees must register (on line) because space is limited. Our intent is to inform (about the relationship between peace and sustainability) and motivate people to do something about, for example, the oil used in our wars and the depleted uranium we are spreading.

Second Saturdays Concert -- March 13th. Beneficiary is not decided yet.

Local action for **anniversary of Iraq war**, March 19th? Considering starting at 4 pm before the vigil and taking over all 4 corners at 3rd and VanBuren. Form up at the Courthouse and walk to the corner. We will coordinate with the other peace groups.

Presentation on Afghanistan by Dana Visalli, March 21 at 7pm at the UUFC. We are co-sponsoring with UUFC Peace Action Council. Presentation will be on the people, history, and culture of Afghanistan and about the upheavals caused by decades of war. He is currently in Kabul working on women's and environmental issues with a group from Global Exchange. How the fighting has messed up the environment will be included. Bob offered to put him up and Bart will coordinate other activities. We are considering an informal pizza get together before the 7pm meeting.

"Peace of the Action" in Wash, DC, March 13 to March 27 <http://peaceoftheaction.org/> Leah is attending and will report back. You can follow her tweets: @leahbolger. Schedule is out now for the first week of activities. Set up camp on the 13th. First week will have trainings on nonviolent confrontations. On the 20th there will be a big march. Then the following week they will do civil disobedience to stop business as usual. It will be low key such as blocking traffic, taking over overpasses, etc. The tent city is planned to stay set up until their demands are met. See web site for the demands.

VFP 132 Member Interests Survey – Bart is working on this. It will be included with the request for donations to the chapter. The idea is to get member input into what we should be doing and how we want to do it.

Peace Jam Northwest 2010 – The weekend of April 24/25, Nobel Laureate (1997) Jody Williams will be in Corvallis. There will be a presentation April 23, 7pm, at the MU Lounge. VFP will participate by putting on another truth in recruiting workshop. Because Benji Lewis is out of town, we will try to recruit someone to play the role of recruiter and we will use the same script.

Other Important Dates:

Friday, March 12th, Noon: DAYBREAK Discussion/Action Group, UUFC

Monday, March 22, 7:00 pm: Next VFP meeting

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