

VFP 109 Rachel Corrie Chapter Meeting Minutes - 2009, January 18

Location: 1:30-4:30pm at Traditions Fair Trade, 5th and Water STS; Olympia, WA

Present: R.Poteat, D. Mills, J. Mackey, K. Schwilk, C. Dawdy, R. Smith, M. Fleming, L. Davis, M. Fleming, D. Ryan, T. Zander, J. Breitmun, L Kerschner, S. Stahl, K. Griffis, D. Mackey, D. King, C. Burns

Round of introductions and check in:

- J. Breitmun (pronounced bright moon) announced he and Molly's new name and Molly's new business called Bright Moon Therapy 651-366-0070.
- J. Breitmun announced that his job with Quality Millwork - Bernie Miller 360-790-4500 - is going very well and thanked VFP member, K. Schwilk for the referral.
- K. Schwilk announced Big Shoe III - Love Makes the World Go Round a benefit for homeless youth in the area put on by Entertainment Explosion on FEB 21 and 22nd the WA Center.
- D. King mentioned that assistance and program ideas are always welcome for the VFP radio program recorded on the last THU of each month at KAOS.
- B. Poteat seconded that appeal for the TCTV VFP program. He thanked C. Burns for her interest and help on the media team. He also announced that he is working on new chapter in Portland for The American Monetary Institute, which explains how the US military industrial complex (as described by Eisenhower) perpetuates our economic and socio/political dilemmas.
- S. Stahl noted that he is contributor to VFP and would like our attention given to the effort of protecting the waterfront - environmentally and otherwise. He gave a rundown of the history and current efforts and asks for our support.

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C. Dawdy gave an oral Treasurer's report. She mentioned that she had spoken with S. Manzel of Coffee Strong and he welcomed VFP109 meeting at that location and working together more closely for mutual benefit.

D. Ryan asked for VFP financial support for the Vietnam Friendship village. \$200 was agreed upon and C. Dawdy wrote him a check.

D. Mackey asked for VFP financial support for the Iraq Memorial to Life. It is hoped that this project will happen in Olympia as well as Washington DC. It is anticipated that expenses for this project will exceed \$40,000. US veterans will not be honored in the same place as Iraqi civilians, but US veterans will have a place somewhere on the Mall as well. He asked for \$400 for a laminator. It was agreed to give \$200 and C. Dawdy wrote a check to him.

There was some discussion about the direction of VFP109. There is interest to keep going, but no leadership or ideas beyond financially supporting projects that our members are working on outside of VFP. Nothing was decided upon and no officers were voted upon. T. Zander offered to be president but there was no vote.

S. Stahl sent the following recap in response to the meeting minutes: ..."a very essential aspect covered at the 1/18 meeting was the fact that attendance/participation has been generally very poor, and the idea of continuing on with the chapter is in question. A lot of time was spent towards the end of the meeting discussing the future of the chapter, and the meeting actually went beyond it's allotted time.

Many suggestions were made for stimulus of attendance and participation, such as a spirited self-nomination by Terry Z, desiring to take a more aggressive lead as President. I suggested we make the meetings more attractive by having specific topics featured at each meeting. Since it is a rather tiresome job to continuously find new specific topics or speakers, I suggested the huge effort to produce the TV series could get a lot more mileage in a re-play of those shows, especially since many people don't get cable and never see them at all. Other suggestions were made about the frequency of the meetings to be lengthened or shortened, but no unity of mind was arrived at. Jody, as Chair,

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recognizing that there was not enough time at that meeting to properly address this very large and important topic, asked for an intermediate meeting solely dealing with the future of the chapter so there is adequate time to go into it. I don't remember if a specific meeting date was set for that or not. However, I do see it as the title of today's meeting.

I cannot attend today's meeting, but would like to again say that the TCTV productions take an enormous amount of energy to produce, and simply thanking the crew for the effort is not really enough. Those shows need to be presented to another audience beyond the limited TCTV audience. I would suggest that the group take a poll at today's meeting to see how many in the room have access to TCTV and of those how many watch the show, with what frequency (including the seven replays following the live show, if it is in fact live???).

As to frequency of meetings, I think the present cadence is fine, not needing any change of timing or venue.”

Between pass the hat and T-shirt sales there was \$103 collected.

The meeting was adjourned without mention of the VFP Regional meeting and our possible financial support of that effort.