

Northwest Indiana Coalition Against the Iraq War

Meeting Minutes for January 7, 2007

Meeting Called to order 7:02 P.M.

Minutes

Minutes-the minutes of December 3, 2006 were approved as posted on web site.

Treasurer's Year End Report (Tony Shafton via Jim Spicer)

Total Expenses	\$10,562.05
Total Income	\$13,209.55
Harris Account Balance	\$5,688.40
Dedicated to Signs	\$3,646.00
For General Purpose	\$2,042.40

A discussion was held regarding the Toll Road Billboard. The committee has not received a bill for three months from the new owners of the company. It was noted that although our sign is still there the lights have not been on for some time. Motion to not pay if billed for any currently unbilled months. (Sy & Nick) Motion Passed.

Old Business

A. Reports on Activities and events.

Senator Lugar Petition & Meeting-Lorri

Discussion of Move On campaign to send picture petition (picture with message). Consensus to add to committee petitions when presented to Lugar.

Discussion of who will attend Lugar meeting. It was agreed that Lorri would send Lugar eight names starting with the committee executive committee and others and get a date to meet with Lugar or his staff.

Billboard Project Discussed above

Labor Forum

Ed Johnston reported that he had discussed the forum idea with the Federation Of Labor President Jerome Davison and that he was receptive to the idea. The Federation is buying 10 seats on the SEIU bus for the January 27th Peace March. Discussion followed regarding the content and form the forum would take.

Opt-Out initiative in the schools (Lorri & Jim)

Lorri reported she is trying to have an article in the Valpo paper followed by paid ads. Previous response in Valpo was poor (less than 10).

Jim reported no response yet from Gary Bd. Members Alex Wheeler. The Superintendent has said probably O.K.

B. Buttons, yard signs, window stickers (Jim)

Discussion of status of yard signs that are showing signs of age. There will be free replacement for any previous owners.

C. T-Shirts and thank you for Steve Johnson

Carolyn reported a new order of 30 t-shirts came and is available. In recognition of Steve Johnson's service to the committee on our web site a 42x14 Out of Iraq sign will be presented to Steve who has moved to Valparaiso and continues to pay for our web site as his continued support of our efforts.

D. Peace Ad (Len by Sy)

Sy brought an ad and flyer developed roughly by Len. Discussion followed.

Motion made to develop an ad for to be ready for placement in shopper, etc. (Sy & Ed) M.P. Sy, Bud, and Kay will be development committee.

New Business

A. Presentation by *La Dolce Vita* Restaurant in Miller (Robert Briggs & Charles Love)

Owners Robert Briggs and Charles Love told the committee they wanted their restaurant to a part of the community and especially a part of the progressive committee. They are opening *La Dolce Vita* to the committee for a meal without cost in appreciation of the committee's work and as a trial run for their staff on Wednesday January 17th from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. The committee is free to ask for a donation or not. Also the restaurant will have memberships and the committee will also be offered those memberships at no cost. Committee accepted the offer. B.Y.O.

Wednesday January 17th from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 Address: 5721 Melton Road (Old Pizza Hut), Gary
To RSVP Call *La Dolce Vita* at 219-938-7995

B. Empowerment of the Executive Committee for endorsements and affiliations (Jim from Tony)

Discussion followed by Motion to authorize power of Executive to make endorsements and affiliations. (Nick & Carolyn) M.P. Jim stated power will be used cautiously.

C. Endorsement of "Redress of Grievance" (Nick or Jim from Tony)

This is a movement of active duty service personnel who are prohibited from criticizing the President or the armed forces but can petition Congress for redress. Motion to endorse and donate \$50.00 (Sy & Nick) M.P. Nick will contact.

D. Declaration of Peace March in Washington (Jan 27th) and busses from area.

Service Employees International Union has reserved a bus to leave from Gary. Seats are \$100.00 Motion to support with publicity and by paying for 5 seats or \$500.00 with preference for those who cannot afford to pay. (Sy & Carolyn) M.P. Those interested contact Alice Bush at 884-4901 or if a van ride to the airport is needed call Helen at 757-9255.

E. New Cable Access Channel

Carolyn reports Gary is building a broadcast center for a new access channel that may be a venue for our message.

F. Support for Lt. Ehren Watada's mother. (Nick)

Lt. Watada has served in Iraq and is refusing to be returned on the principle that the Iraq war is illegal. He is soon to go on trial. His mother is coming to Chicago January 30th for four days and is looking for speaking locations. Discussion of possible speaking locations. Motion to support and contribute \$100.00 for expenses. (Ed & Lorri). M.P.

G. Representation at the regional UFPJ meeting in Chicago on January 13th and contribution to travel expenses of national coordinator Judith LaBlanc.

Motion to support with \$25.00 (Sy & Ed). M.P. Lorri will attend meeting.

H. Endorsement of Witness Against Torture and Courage to Resist.

Discussion of both groups aims. Motion to support both. (Ed & Nick) M.P. Nick will contact.

I. Visclosky Forums: East Chicago: Monday, 1.22.07 (9:30 am) at E. Chicago Public Library 1008 W. Chicago Ave., and, **Hammond:** Monday 1.22.07 (11:30 am) at the Jean Shepherd Center 3031 Mahoney Dr.

Sy strongly encourages we all attend if possible to keep the pressure on Pete to act on the war.

J. Serious conflict with February meeting date.

Jim brought to everyone's attention that Super Bowl Sunday is on our first February meeting and may cause a conflict with some committee members.

Next meeting January , 21st at 7:00 P.M.