

Minutes of NWICAIW March 11, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Jim. The minutes from February 25 were approved. The Treasurer's report as of March 8 was \$4747 (Billboard Fund \$2418; General Fund \$2598). Jim added \$220 which had been languishing in Valpo since September, 2006.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Report on billboard initiative: Jim reported for Tony that 6 sets of billboards had been signed for with Lamar for 6 months. The first up will be on March 20. \$1120 was paid for the 1st and last month rental plus printing. They will be shown in E. Chicago/Gary; Hammond/Gary; Valpo/Portage; Valpo/Merrillville; Chesterton/E. Chicago; and Chesterton/Hammond. We may drop the Duens sign in May.

2. Report on actions and lobbying efforts:

- Tony attended and spoke at the Public Forum called by state congress people Earline Rogers and Charlie Brown. He got them to agree to introduce an anti-escalation resolution in the Indiana Houses the week of March 12 or 19. Resolutions have been passed or are pending in 20 other states. Sy recommended contacting other NW Indiana congress people about the efforts. Jim will speak to Tony about it. Carolyn will write a press release to get it to the media.
- Tony wrote a "thank you" note to Chuck Hughes for his help in passing the anti-escalation resolution in the Gary City Council
- Carolyn reported that the meeting with Visclosky was good, but that the multiple resolutions in the House have created a lot of confusion.
- Labor Forum report: Dates for the Forum have been assigned to one of the vice-presidents, who will meet with Ed and Paul. As Nick is in charge of Cindy Sheehan's visit to the area on April 11, we will explore the possibility of her being the featured speaker for the Forum. Jim will speak with Ed.
- No Child Left Behind: Jim sent an email to Alex regarding the inconsistent follow-up by high school principals to the opt out forms. Alex will follow up.
- March 20 (4 year anniversary) actions: Chicago-Nick is coordinating transportation via the South Shore. Everyone get on first car/6pm train. The march is at 7:30 and the program is at 8:30 at Daley Plaza.

Local-The local rally will be in Highland at the Veterans Memorial on Sat., March 17, from 1-3pm. Names of the dead will be read. March 17 is the 4th anniversary of Cong. Waxman's letter to President Bush protesting the war (ahead of it). Monday night a rally will be held at the same location in Highland from 5-7pm. There was some discussion about protesting at the Recruitment office in Merrillville. There is also a recruitment center in Highland near the Veterans Memorial....protesters could move there from the Memorial site. Sy reported that there will be a statewide student rally at Monument Circle in Indianapolis

on March 24.

6. Lending Library: Sy reported that it would be brought up at the next Temple Israel board meeting.

7. Establishing an Advisory Board: Carolyn- It is a way of expanding our influence into other constituencies – churches, cities, labor unions, etc. Jim suggested that the names could be added to our letterhead. Names were suggested. Sy moved that an advisory board be established. It was seconded and passed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. UFPJ petition drive. Jim passed it around for us to see. It seemed disorganized and awkward.

2. ANSWER is sponsoring a bus from Lafayette to D.C. for the March 17 march on the Pentagon.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is March 25 at 7:00 at Temple Israel.