

Minutes of NWICAIW Meeting 4-22-07

The meeting was called to order by Jim. The minutes from the last meeting were approved. The treasurer's report showed that our total funds were \$6,908. \$3,049 was dedicated to signs, leaving \$2,690 available in the general fund. Donations from the Cindy Sheehan event totaled \$1,519. Coalition expenses were \$665. Funds that will go to Iraq Vets Against the Iraq War \$854. Sale of coalition merchandise \$221.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Cindy Sheehan event report: Nick. There were about 550 people at the event. Cindy's tour also included Chicago, Lafayette, Indianapolis, South bend, and Terre Haute. Greg Geffrey filmed it on DVD, and it could possibly be used for a future fundraising event or on public access channel. Sy initiated a discussion about building on the event. Carolyn suggested a bike-a thon or walk-a-thon in various communities to raise awareness and money. Sy mentioned a picnic. He suggested penetrating inactive communities. Carolyn recommended a committee to look into it. It will consist of Carolyn, Nick, Ed, Julie.

2. IVAW: Nick invited them to come to this meeting but they couldn't this time. We discussed how to get the money we raised to them. It will go to Erin in Chicago. The local chapter doesn't have an account.

3. NCLB report: Jim. Nothing really new from Alex Wheeler regarding a standardized method of collecting Opt Out forms among Gary schools.

4. Anti-escalation Resolution in Indiana General Assembly: Tony reported that it is dead, but he suggested writing "thank you's" to our legislators Rogers and Brown for trying.

5. Advisory Board update: Carolyn. She is working on a letter to go out soon. She is gathering addresses. There will be a welcoming reception at Jim's and Elaine's during the summer.

NEW BUSINESS

1. It was moved, seconded, and passed that we add Ed as a new executive board member.

2. Cities For Progress suggests a resolution opposing war against Iran . Carolyn will follow up with Chuck Hughes.

3. Local lobbying of Visclosky during May 28-June 1 recess on Iran War question: Carolyn will try to get a date. Nick will also call. We will also persist on getting out of Iraq.

4. UFPJ National Assembly in Chicago June 22-24: Tony. It was moved and passed that we subsidize up to two persons to go, at \$155 each. Possibly Tony and Lorri will.

5. Iraq Wrong Way poster: do we want to add it to our merchandise? Tony has 250 and can get more. Ed moved that we give them away. It passed. (Sy suggested that we put up anti-war signs among the local political signs.)

6. May 4 action at Sen. Bayh's office in Hammond at 3 pm, sponsored by Voices for Creative Non-violence and others. Nick will bring boots. Names of Indiana casualties will be read.

7. Carolyn reported on a cross country walk for peace by Mario _____ in June and recommended that we welcome him. The Walk-a-thon committee will explore it and report back. Perhaps we could join in at some point as part of our walk/bike-a-thon.

8. Memorial Day parade: the VFW declined our petition to join the annual Gary parade.

9. The application for the Popcorn Festival in Valpo will be passed on to Lorri.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is May 6, at 7PM at Temple Israel in Miller.