

## Minutes of NWICAIW Meeting 5-20-07

The meeting was called to order by Carolyn. The minutes of the April 22 meeting were approved. (There was no meeting on May 6.) Tony gave the treasurer's report. Total funds: \$5,725. Funds dedicated to signs: \$3,088, and general funds: \$2,637. A check for \$854, collected from the Cindy Sheehan event, was sent to Aaron Hughes of IVAW. Robert was reimbursed \$294 for buttons. UFPJ registration for Tony and Carolyn was \$130.

### OLD BUSINESS

1. Nick reported on Mario's walk from Chicago to D.C. Discussion was deferred until the next meeting to give a Nick a chance to speak with him on how we can support him as he comes through our area.
2. Advisory Board update: Carolyn reported that letters have gone out. Sy suggested follow-up in a few weeks. Jim and Elaine will host a welcome reception in their home for the new members in mid-summer.
3. NCLB report: Jim read a memo from Alex Wheeler that went out to the principals of the Gary schools from the superintendent.
4. Lobbying Visclosky update: Nick will call and set up a date and time when we can meet with Visclosky over the Memorial Day holiday.
5. UFPJ National Assembly in Chicago June 22-24: Tony and Carolyn will be attending. There was discussion about how involved our group should be. With our limited resources, many felt that it would be distracting and draining for us to participate on the national level and that we should keep our focus local. Sy moved that Carolyn and Tony be authorized to act on our behalf and come back to us with anything that requires our action. It was seconded and passed.
6. Report on follow-up actions to Cindy Sheehan event: Bob reported that (1) there will be a party in Hammond at 9 PM Monday to see the Comcast Cable Broadcast of the Cindy Sheehan event; (2) he also reported that there will be a march by Beverly Southsiders For Peace on Memorial Day at 10 AM beginning at 110th St. and Woodlawn. We are invited to join; (3) Bob reported on a possible Bike-a-thon. We would like a visible route especially where we don't have a lot of supporters, like Munster, but Bob thought there might be some safety concerns, especially for inexperienced bikers. More discussion will follow, possibly regarding biking or walking via the Air Show in July and the Mario tour; (4) names obtained from the Sheehan event have not been successfully integrated into our database due to incompatible formatting. Jim will reformat the names so they can be sent to Nancy.
7. Popcorn Festival: Lorri will send in the application.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. It was moved, seconded, and passed that we endorse the Eyes Wide Open boot display in Chicago on Memorial Day.
2. Memorial Day in Gary: It was moved, seconded, and passed that we would have a presence by standing in our t-shirts and with our banner opposite the reviewing stand and read the names of the Iraq War dead. At this point it is more important for us to have visibility than to collect petition signatures. Sy will contact groups who participated in the Sheehan event.
3. Nina Klooster visited our meeting: (1) she reported on the Senator Bayh forum June 25. The location and exact time has not been determined yet. After discussion, it was suggested that Sue give Bayh's people the time, place, and format that WE prefer which is 7 PM at Raintree Hall (holding 200) at IUN. (Savannah, which holds 400 is second choice.) People would write their questions out on cards ahead of time for the Senator. We would also like to have one or two of our people on the "stage." (2) Nina also reported on Network4Peace.org, a new website for which she is the state coordinator, which allows any group to post events, as well as petitions and boycotts, on their website, to be voted on by the groups. Jim moved that we affiliate with it, and Bob will be our representative.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be June 3.