

Northwest Indiana Coalition Against the Iraq War

Minutes for Meeting of September 23, 2007

The Meeting was called to order by Carolyn, at 7:00 pm. Introductions were made; new member Sandy Rodriguez volunteered to take minutes.

The minutes of the meeting of September 9 were approved with a motion by Carolyn and a second by Jim and a unanimous vote.

The Treasurer's Report was read by Carolyn in Tony's absence.

Total Treasury is \$1,711. Dedicated to signs is \$671. General Funds are \$1,040. Recent expenses included \$750 for CAWI from fund raiser letter for Oct 27; \$295 for Popcorn Fest expenses; \$100 for web expenses. Anticipated expenses include \$300 for junior billboards and \$150 for buttons.

Carolyn mentioned that buttons are running low and will need to be re-ordered. A motion was passes to order more buttons.

Carolyn stated that the coalition needs more fund raising efforts to generate money. She will confirm and coordinate an art auction and sale with Joyce of Lake Street Gallery to take place possibly in November.

Jim mentioned he is hesitant to propose more fund raising activities at this time because of the response to and success of the fund raising letter which was written and USPS mailed to donor database. The Treasurer's report was unanimously accepted.

Old Business:

Report on status of Moratorium Activities on 3rd Friday of every month. Armbands were distributed as follows:

100 IUN

100: SEIU

50: Rev. Jesse Jackson

25: Lake Street Gallery

A discussion regarding stickers on armbands took place.

Regarding sticker artwork, Nina presented existing sticker artwork.

Discussion regarding cost of producing stickers and ease of participant use of stickers ensued. Sandy affirmed idea of placing number of dead on sticker with date was very effective way of remembering and tallying U.S. soldiers (and possibly Iraqis) killed in war with date and how it affirms timeliness of moratorium efforts.

Discussion took place regarding feasibility of posting pdf. template of artwork for sticker on Coalition website for armband participants to download and print.

Tom will look into costs of printing stickers at Kinkos and other sources.

Report on October 27 march and activities. Anti-war demonstrations coordinated with several cities in

US are planned. Coalition will coordinate sending Coalition participants to Chicago demonstration.

Nina presented map and diagram of march route.

The idea of a South Shore “peace train” leaving from Miller was discussed.

Nina contacted union organizers and secured name of labor organizer Helena Marchesi as contact in Coalition efforts with unions. She needs name, title, organization and phone number of a Coalition contact to give to Helena.

Sue raised issue of weekly contact with e-list database, a tactic used by UFPJ and other organizations, to remind members of upcoming events, especially for Oct. 27. Does the Coalition have such an e-list? Sue suggested weekly postings regarding activities and issues to e-list is effective way to reach out to members and remind them of activities.

Nina offered that there are problems with weekly e-mailings to a Coalition e-list. CAWI requested the Coalition database with the promise not to share info. There is a sign-up list on 10/27 website if you want to get emails directly from CAWI.

Nina stated that there are obstacles with regard to coordinated e-mailings to database.

10/27 organizers are also looking for volunteers urging marchers to use cell phones to call legislators and also to clean-up after march.

Jim asked that Nina send him contact info on Helena Marchesi.

Nina also reported on October 6 Terre Haute activity. Several themes will be in place such as “Healthcare Not Warfare.” Possible speakers include Leon Finney, Jesse Jackson, Cardinal George.

Sue suggested contacting as possible speaker the steelworker from Gary (?) who has been getting a great deal of press, including appearances on *Oprah* and *Good Morning America*, and an interview in the *Post Tribune*.

A list of things to do to prepare for 10/27 was discussed. SEIU will send two buses (just for union people?). Will there be extra seats?

There was strong support for the idea of a South Shore “Peace Train.” Jim will send an Evite to database of 300 people.

It was agreed that as information comes in, members can disseminate via list serve.

Jim reported that we missed deadline for an ad for February 1-16 Chicago Street Theater *Letters from Home: Voices of American Soldiers* at the Valparaiso Theater. We can, however, have literature available.

Carolyn reported that NAACP is holding its general membership meeting/statewide convention on weekend of 10/27 march in Hammond. Barbara Bolling asked that someone from the Coalition give a 5-minute report re Saturday march to mass meeting on Friday evening after Soul Food Dinner at 5:30. Carolyn stated she would be there and would read the Coalition Statement of Mission from the website. Julia might attend.

An op-ed piece titled *A Declaration of Peace* written by Carolyn, Sue and Nina was published in 9/21/07 *Post Tribune*.

Nina reported that she had the chance to speak with Visclosky when she was in DC with Code Pink and he was straightforward about his unwillingness to vote for no more funding of war. She reported it was a productive meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

A discussion of holding General Meetings once per month with Exec Meetings on alternate two week schedule was held.

Jim stated that participation at Exec Meetings was near 100%. General Meeting participation has declined to about 8 people.

Tony proposed supported, via email, holding a General Meeting to every four weeks and Exec Meetings every four weeks.

Sue stated she thought General Meetings need more spark, perhaps a theme or speaker would help. She also suggested keeping the business part of the meeting limited to Exec Meeting. She suggested that more discussion regarding what coalition is going to do to impact election might be more relevant at this time. She also suggested that perhaps the coalition needs to go to Iowa. She felt her experience in Iowa with Howard Dean was invaluable.

Carolyn agreed themed meetings might engender more lively discussion of ideas.

Sue also suggested showing films at General Meetings.

Julia brought to the group's attention two forums sponsored by the Cluster Parishes. Ron Young will be talking about Peace in the Middle East at Holy Name on Oct. 28; St. Mary of the Lake will also host a forum presenting Islamic perspectives on the war. She will provide more details as soon as she learns of them.

Regarding speakers at coalition General Meetings, Tom suggested he'd rather hear from members than speakers.

Sue is worried about diminishing turnout and what coalition can do to attract new members.

Sue suggested that meetings be devoted to action and theme. She wondered why local press doesn't give more space to antiwar perspective. She suggested inviting local press to meeting and ask them this question.

Nina reported that lack of press coverage was a major theme at the FCC meeting.

It was agreed that further discussion of the content and frequency of the General Meetings will be tabled until after 10/27.

Jim (via Tony) updated status of billboard. It is now removed from the Tollway. Jim read email from Tony regarding new billboard on the Borman expressway.

Nina senses Visclosky is about to move. She suggested recruiting Advisory Board to call or email him regarding current bill concerning military appropriations. The agreed upon language is "fully funded safe and orderly withdrawal."

Nick's resignation from the Executive Board was discussed and accepted.

Sue stated she would be available to coordinate a fund raiser for 10/50. Jim again reminded meeting participants of the \$750 donations brought in by Tony's letter to donor database.

Nina and Sue are finalizing plans for a Code Pink Concert Fund raiser to take place in November.

Submitted by Sandy Rodriguez/Jim Spicer