

Minutes of NWICAIW Meeting May 21, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Sy Moskowitz at 7:00 pm.
The minutes from the May 7, 2006, meeting were accepted as submitted.
The balance of the treasury is \$2147.

Old Business

Portage City Council Resolution: The resolution will be presented to the City Council at the June meeting by Elizabeth Modesto, Councilwoman. Helen Booth and Jan Stewart of Chesterton will be contacting Portage residents to encourage them to attend the meeting.

Vigils: All regularly scheduled rallies continue to be well-attended. New rallies in Gary and Miller are growing. The Gary rally will be held in front of IUN (parking lot) on future Saturdays.

Executive Committee Meeting: The May 16 meeting focused on how to create and maintain energy for actions throughout the summer. The goals continue to be increased visibility of the Coalition and the anti-war movement in NWI. A decision was made to send a mass e-mail to the database as a way to reconnect with that group and announce past and future actions. A new petition designed for all federal lawmakers will be finalized and made ready for use at summer actions. A fundraising letter will be mailed to donors who have given \$50 or more to the Coalition. Several summer actions were planned:

Memorial Day in Gary: Plan is to hand out leaflets to the spectators on both side of the parade route. Tony and Carolyn are the contacts for this event. Helen Boothe is organizing a team to leaflet the parking lot of the Dunes State Park on Memorial Day weekend.

July 4th, Chesterton: Helen Boothe will organize a team to leaflet the spectators at that parade. **Miller:** Bud Rosen will coordinate volunteers for leafleting, product sales and petition signing.

Gary Air Show, Labor Day: Carolyn McCrady and Julia Chary will coordinate volunteers for leafleting, product sales and petition signing.

Popcorn Festival: Sy Moskowitz and Lorri Cornett will coordinate booth rental and volunteers for leafleting, product sales and petition signing.

Taste of Miller: Tom Eaton is gathering information on this event.

Rally of NWI Interfaith Coalition: Carolyn McCrady presented a plan to the Interfaith Coalition clergy that calls for all member churches to set aside a day to focus on peace and an exit from Iraq. It is planned for August 6, which is the anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing. The two-part plan calls for each church to dedicate its sermon to peace and an end to this war; and then to have all the congregations join together at a collective gathering somewhere in the city. NWICAIW has committed to providing support in the form of literature, information, volunteers, etc.

Draft Petition for Federal Lawmakers: Jim Spicer has a draft available for review. It does not include a place for people to sign up for information or participation in

the Coalition. He would like to have a separate form for gathering that information.

Fundraising Letter: Jim Spicer submitted a draft of the letter to be sent to past donors.

New Business

Website: Jim Spicer is willing to take over maintenance of the website. The software necessary for doing that will cost approximately \$200. A motion was made to authorize that expenditure and was approved unanimously by those present.

Volunteers: Sy Moskowitz made a motion to pay student volunteers an hourly wage of \$5 to work at summer actions. Volunteers would be paired with an active Coalition member and would assist in leafleting, gathering petition signatures, selling products, dispensing literature and information at booths. Tony Shafton offered an amendment that would set the wage at or above minimum wage. Passionate discussion included opposition based on the following points:

- Loss of credibility and integrity if volunteers for the cause are paid.

- Ability of a paid volunteer to field questions well or offer accurate information

- Coalition ability to identify and recruit volunteers to cover all needs

A suggestion was made to recruit volunteers for clerical assistance in sorting petitions, preparing petitions for mailing, sorting database information, etc., rather than for working at events. Involving student-aged people in the Coalition was identified as a positive benefit of the plan.

Lorri Cornett made a motion at 8:30 pm to add 15 minutes to the meeting to finish discussion and take a vote. Sy Moskowitz granted the extension.

Lorri Cornett offered an amendment to the motion that would allow for the Coalition to pay the expenses (gas, food, drinks) of student volunteers and would require those recruiting the volunteer to provide adequate training for fielding questions, providing accurate information, handling critics, and selling products. Julia Chary seconded the motion. The motion passed with a count of 11 to 3.

Misc.

Sy Moskowitz presented rough drafts of a "Bush Buck" to be used as a leaflet. Text needs to be created for the back of the leaflet. Lorri Cornett will forward the corrected draft to Kay Rosen, who will work with Jim Spicer and Len Dreyfuss on the text and printing.

A motion was made and seconded to add Helen Boothe to the Executive Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Tony suggested the Coalition give t-shirts to those participating in summer activities.

Sy Moskowitz suggested the Coalition provide free replacements signs for those stolen or vandalized.

Tony Shafton will submit his proposal for billboard advertising at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2006.