

Minutes of NWICAIW meeting, Dec. 11, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Sy Moskowitz; only 7 members were present.

Sy also gave the treasurer's report as the treasurer, Tony Shafton, could not be present. We have about \$2200 in the bank account, of which c. \$1000 was donated at the affair at Sue Eleuterio's on December 4. With about \$400 in expenses to be paid, we apparently cleared \$500 to \$600. Sy suggested that we might try doing local fund raisers in the various areas where we have members.

Janet gave a report of the Valparaiso branch's activities. Their meeting on November 29 included fifty people and also a Post-Tribune reporter, who wrote up a good article on the activities of this group. At the meeting the group tried our new proposal of giving our signs and magnets away and asking for a donation rather than charging for them. This netted \$160, more than the price of the items if sold. The Valpo group also had a courthouse rally on December 1. The planned rally at the live Nativity scene was held, but the group did not participate in a rally at a university concert due to police reports that a counter rally was planned. Janet reported that the anti-war faculty at VU did demonstrate and hand out leaflets with no trouble

As for the Valpo School Board's response to our Opt Out information demand, Sy reports that Lorri is spearheading action about this. The high school handbook does include information about Opt Out, but no form has yet been given to parents. In fact, the school board members think that giving this information to all parents constitutes taking a stand against the war. Sy and Lorri also met with the school board attorney and an assistant superintendent about recruiter access to students. The school officials stated that recruiters are in the school only once a month.

Three members of the Valpo group were on the Conversations program on Valpo radio. They are also hopeful that an Interfaith Youth Group will participate with us and perhaps plan an action for Martin Luther King Day or President's Day. The next meeting of the Valpo group is Monday, January 10, place to be announced.

Carl Wolf spoke about the Hammond group's attempt to get the city council to pass an anti-war resolution. Six people on the Hammond data base came to the meeting and decided to mail letters to Hammond councilmen with signatures of the Hammond residents, in hopes of obtaining a sponsor for the resolution. There was much discussion about other tactics which might prove useful, such as contacting individual council members personally.

Last week Tony Shafton met with Alex Wheeler about the Gary School's promise to

provide parents with the Opt Out information. Thus far, none has been given, but Dr. Mary Steele, the superintendent, has sent a memo to high school principals quoting the provisions of the No Child Left Behind law and stating that an Opt Out form was enclosed. There was, however, no Opt Out form. We will keep an eye on this.

As regards the Visclosky task force--Sy talked to State Senator Bowser of Michigan City, who is willing to send a letter to other state senators in Visclosky's district, asking him to support HR 35 and 55. On Monday, Jan. 9, a Visclosky forum is planned during the Congressional break. We plan to be there with signs, literature, etc. Julia Chary volunteered to go to Visclosky's local office and get information about all planned meetings and venues while the Representative is home in the district.

New Business:

Carolyn McCrady reported that she has contacted Alex Wheeler, Tammy Davis of the NAACP, and Chuck Hughes of the Gary City Council about a Gary anti-war event, possibly on Martin Luther King day or sometime during Black History Month. We want to have the support of unions, churches and university groups on this.

Sy asked the questions: How can we do better? Where are or should we be going? He detailed the progress we have made through this year, and a discussion of how we can get union and church support followed. Paul Kaczocha reported that the central labor council of the Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor had already passed a resolution against the war when the war began. They are now trying to pass an updated version. Carl Wolf suggested further contact with soldiers and their families, who may express anti-war sentiments. Sy declared that we need to interest the under 25'ers, especially at the local universities. Can June Long help in this endeavor? Julia will contact her.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m. Our next meeting will come after the holidays, probably on January 8.