

## Minutes for the August 21 meeting of the NWICAIW

The meeting was called to order by Sy Moskowitz. The minutes from the August 7 meeting were approved. The treasurer's report was \$1200.00. Everyone present introduced themselves.

Sy passed out a summary, compiled by Jim Spicer, of the group's activities since its inception in January, 2005. Sy reiterated our goals to raise the consciousness of NW Indiana residents about this wrong war and give them a way to oppose it. We have done a lot. but much remains to be done.

### OLD BUSINESS

1. School Board Policy Committee report: Jim S. met with Alex Wheeler about a form to be provided for students to "opt out" of the NCLB law's requirement of release of personal information to recruiters. Alex Wheeler will take it to the entire School Board. There was discussion. Julie C. suggested getting a parent of a school-age child involved to push for it. She also suggested writing letters to the editor about the issue.

2. National Anti-War Demonstration in D.C. September 24: Two major anti-war groups have united for this purpose and if there is a strong attendance, the media will cover it. Geri S. reported that vans will be going from Gary, leaving at 6PM Friday night and returning Sunday. The cost is \$80 per person. There was discussion about \$240 (3-\$80 fares) which our group already committed through a motion on July 24 to subsidize attendees from the Chicago Anti-War Coalition, before we knew we were sending vans. Paul K. moved that Sy be empowered to speak with Tony to see if it is too late to switch our support to participation by our local group instead, and make a decision or bring it back to the next meeting. It was seconded and passed. There was also discussion about whom we should subsidize, members or non-members. Geri also brought up plans for a national anti-war march in Chicago on March 18-19, 2006 to commemorate the 3rd anniversary of the Iraq War.

There was discussion about how or if we should deal with the National Rally on a local level since many cannot attend the D.C. event. After much discussion about timing of a local action, media coverage, and the nature of a local event, it was moved by Paul K., seconded, and passed that we all attend, support, and publicize the September 24 rally at the Veterans Memorial in Highland, which is part of the ongoing rallies organized by Nick Egnatz of Viet Nam Veterans Against the Iraq War on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month. There is space for at least several hundred people. At the next meeting we will discuss publicizing the rally at the Fest in the First event and the Valpo Popcorn Festival on Sept. 10.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. New positions: Sy brought up the need for a Press Director, who would be a liaison with the press, and a Corresponding Secretary, who would broadcast our events and news to a comprehensive data base of organizations and interested people. Carolyn agreed to take the job of Press Director and Paul agreed to fill the position of Corresponder, with help from Nick and Carolyn in building a data base. Judi said that she tried to get back the 1400 petition signatures from Visclosky's office. They were sent to Washington to be answered individually, but the office will send them back to us in the form of sheets of mailing labels, which we can add to our data base.

2. Steve T. suggested that we use the rejection by Visclosky to generate a form letter for people to sign and mail to the Congressman's office in Merrillville expressing disappointment with his position in support of the war. Sy added that we should form a "Visclosky Task Force" to organize community resources to try to get Visclosky to change his position. There were enthusiastic offers to help Sy by Steve T., Tony L., Julie C., Nick E., and Tim B.

3. Judi and Steve recommended that we attend community vigils and other events to generate new membership.

4. Nick suggested that we consider adding a plaque to the Veterans Memorial in Highland which would include names of casualties from the wars in Viet Nam, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

5. Tony L. suggested putting links to press about our group's activities on our website. Carolyn will speak to Steve Johnson about it. Paul said the Post-Tribune archives are terrible, but the Hammond Times are excellent. Tony also brought up the possibility of another location for our meetings which might bring more people.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is Sunday, September 4 at 7:30 at Temple Israel.