

Minutes for the November 27 meeting of the NWICAIW

The meeting was called to order by Jim Spicer. Julie C. made three corrections to the Nov. 13 minutes: Crown Point weekly rallies are on Tuesdays; The next Valpo branch meeting is Tuesday, November 29, at Trinity Lutheran Church.

The treasury has \$1564.97.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Filled out postcards to Cong. Visclosky were passed around to be stamped while the meeting was going on. Ursula Cano proposed adding the IUN Social Justice group list from 2003 to our own.

2. Report on Visclosky initiative: Our next offensive will be attendance at the Town Hall meetings that he will hold during the recess. Helen will call his office to find out when they will be held and if there is an order of business. Lorrie will put it on the List Serve. Sy had a conversation with state senator Anita Bowser and they discussed arranging a meeting between Visclosky and state officials or to send him a letter signed by state officials who support our position on the war. She will give Sy a list of state representatives who agree with us.

3. Distribution of Coalition merchandise:

Nancie Tharp, at Jim's and Tony's suggestion, sent out 244 emails listing our items for sale. Jim passed around a list of 14 email addresses which bounced back to correct.

Joyce Davis at Lake Street Gallery and Lifestyles in Valpo will sell our yard signs. They each have 20.

Steve Johnson listed the items with pictures on the website. With handling and shipping the car signs cost \$6 and the t-shirts cost \$11.

4. The postcard email campaign which asked recipients to respond if they wanted to participate in grassroots community organizing and to join us was deemed not to be successful Jim reported.

5. Report from Valpo by Janet French and Lorrie Cornett: The second branch meeting of the Coalition will take place on Tues., Nov. 29. They are brainstorming about anti-war ideas which will tie into Christmas, the season of peace. Lorri was on a local radio show with a VU professor. She also reported on their meeting with the Valpo School Board, who was much more receptive than they were at the previous meeting. Some of the issues raised regarding military recruitment in the schools were the Opt Out policy (which they would like to redesign to be an Opt In policy-notify the School Board if you WANT to be contacted)

and notification to families that their private information is being given to military recruiters. The School Board agreed that their policies should reflect the community. Lorri and Janet will continue to attend all School Board meetings. Jim did not have a report on the Gary School Board. Helen reported that Chesterton students are forming a group as a result of her "Not Your Soldier" ad in the paper.

7. Website update: Steve Johnson has added a lot of new material to the website. In addition to the merchandise page, there is a sign-up form that is coordinated with the database, a news site linked directly to the BBC, and a forum for discussions.

8. The next fundraiser is at Sue's house in Highland on December 4 from 2-4.

9. Report on recent actions by Nick: The Boots exhibition at the Flags Memorial in Highland was successful and was reported on by the Times. The Social Justice Club Symposium at Purdue went well. About 50 people attended and there was a good discussion. Nick was on the panel. Steve T. mentioned that the community PR effort was very good but that they weren't as effective in reaching the student body. People are still attending the hour-long rallies at the Flags Memorial, but in smaller numbers. There was discussion about winter events. Movies at branch libraries was discussed as a possibility.

10. Lorrie brought up the need for a Corresponding Secretary. Jim wrote thankyou's after the last fundraiser and Elaine has volunteered to write them after the next one. But there is still the need for someone to handle hard copy correspondence.

NEW BUSINESS

Nick raised the possibility of going door to door to get people to put up yard signs at no charge, however a donation would not be refused. There was much discussion. Bud moved, and it was seconded, to let Nick try it out in his neighborhood and for Janet and Lorri to try it out at their Tuesday meeting and see how it goes. Helen mentioned classified ads.

The next meeting will be December 11 at 7 PM at Temple Israel in Miller.

The meeting was adjourned.