

Minutes for the July 24, 2005 meeting of the NWICAIW

The meeting was called to order by Jim Spicer.

The minutes of the July 10 meeting were approved. Tony Shafton reported that there was \$1436 in the treasury.

There were 4 new guests, including Nick Egnatz from Viet Nam Veterans Against the War and the organizer of a rally in Highland, Indiana on Saturday, July 23 as part of the nationwide AfterDowningStreet.org action. 40 people attended the rally, petitions were signed, and there was an article with photos in the Hammond Times. He hopes to hold protest rallies on a regular basis.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The meeting with Congressman Peter Visclosky will take place Saturday, July 30, at 9:30AM at his Merrillville office. As of now, the delegation will consist of Jim Spicer, Carolyn Mc Crady, Ron Mattlock, Geri Solomon, Ed Johnston, Nick Egnatz, Imam Charles Muhammad, and Steve Tallackson. Jim is also going to ask Alex Wheeler, member of the Gary Common Council and School Board Member. They will meet after the regular business meeting to plan their strategy.
2. Air Show report: Bud Rosen reported that the two hours spent by Carolyn, Kay, and Bud on Sat., July 16, at the Gary Air Show collecting 300 signatures on petitions and selling signs and bumper stickers and passing out flyers was very successful. The response was overwhelmingly positive. If there is a next time, Bud suggested that we arrive earlier to meet the buses and have more members there over the 2-day event.
3. Bud moved to change our web address to something catchier and easier to remember. The motion passed. Jim will ask Steve Johnson to research possible names.
4. Jim had a telephone interview with Robert Blaskowitz from the Hammond Times about the NWICAIW. The publication date has not been set yet.
5. Church letters: Judi Tallackson sent out letters and flyers to 64 area churches.
6. Gary School Board: Jim reported that he initiated a meeting on Tuesday, July 26, with Alex Wheeler, of the Gary Common Council and Gary School Board, regarding military recruitment policy in the public schools and how the school board and parents can respond to protect their children. The No Child Left Behind Act allows recruiters access to high school students but also lets parents opt out via a "do not contact" provision. We hope to bring this loophole to the attention of the school board, guidance counselors and other school

officials, and parents. Jim presented a position paper, there was discussion, Jim will redraft the paper.

7. The Christ United Methodist Church, in cooperation with the NWICAIW, will hold a community forum on Saturday, July 30, at 11AM to discuss "War, Recruitment, and the Future of Our Youth." She asked for 2 people from our group to share the 4-person panel along with 2 church members. Jim and Geri will participate. Tony will set up a table to sell our items and pass out flyers. Ed Johnston suggested a press release which Carolyn will write. Geri urged others in our group to attend.

8. Although there is a slim chance that Rep. John Conyers will have time in his schedule to speak in Gary on behalf of our group's mission, Geri will write a follow-up letter to him.

9. Taste of Miller Thursday, July 28, 4-7PM: Paul Kaczocha will set up a table, and Judi and Steve Tallackson and Julia Chary will pass petitions. The space costs \$15.

10. The canopy will be returned. It takes 2 hours to assemble and has 1 million parts.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Tony reported that the CAWI (Chicagoans Against the War) is coordinating with ANSWER to send buses to Washington D.C. for the September 24 national rally against the war. He moved that we subsidize 3 places on the bus for \$80 each/total \$240. The motion was passed. 4 people plan to go from our group. Paul said the union is hoping to have buses going as well.

2. There will be a peace fair in Oak Park, IL in September.

The meeting was adjourned.

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