



## Veterans For Peace - Chapter 93

### January 2023 Newsletter

... *The Utah Phillips – J. David Singer Chapter*

Serving Washtenaw, Livingston, Hillsdale, Lenawee, and Jackson Counties.

Local Contact: Bill Shea – 734-662-0818 (cell/text) – [billshea@umich.edu](mailto:billshea@umich.edu)

[www.vfp93.org](http://www.vfp93.org) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/VFP93](https://www.facebook.com/VFP93)

### 1. Next Veterans For Peace Chapter 93 Meeting - Tuesday, January 10th, 7:30pm

The next VFP Chapter 93 meeting will be held online only, Tuesday, January 10th at 7:30pm. If you would like to participate in the meeting online and your computer has a microphone and video, go to the Zoom meeting link of <https://zoom.us/j/95022299743>. No computer access? Dial 312-626-6799 and enter the Meeting ID of 950 2229 9743 if prompted. Anyone can participate in this meeting, or any other VFP Chapter 93 event, be they veteran or not. The meeting agenda is as follows...

1. Introductions and welcome
2. General Business
  - a. Previous meeting minutes
  - b. Treasury report
  - c. Membership
  - d. VFP 93 [Calendar](#)
    - File VFP Chapter 93 annual IRS 990 (May 15 deadline)
  - e. VFP Outreach
  - f. Other
3. Old & continuing business
  - a. Honorary Chapter member program
  - b. Truth In Recruiting/Opt-out
  - c. Michigan Peace Alliance
  - d. Washtenaw County Council of Veterans
  - e. Camp Grayling expansion – Issue updates: [Michigan National Guard wants to double Camp Grayling training land](#) (Bridge MI – 5/10/2022) - [Anger over National Guard air training plan over Grayling and the Thumb](#) (Bridge MI - 12/7/2022) – MI Sierra Club - <https://tinyurl.com/SCGrayling> - [Michigan Official: DNR Should Reject Camp Grayling Expansion Amid PFAS Woes](#) – (Bridge MI – 1/3/2023)
  - f. Other
1. New Business
  - a. VFP Golden Rule sailboat stop at Detroit
  - b. Other
2. Projects
  - a. Peace Studies Scholarship
  - b. MLK Day - January
  - c. Earth Day - April
  - d. Peace Pole
  - e. Arlington Michigan – May & November
  - f. Concert For Peace
  - g. Other
3. Upcoming events/announcements – VFP Regional “mini-conventions”
4. Next meeting
5. Adjournment

### 2. VFP Chapter 93 Meeting Minutes, December 13, 2022

1. Introductions and welcome – Meeting began at 7:30pm online over Zoom. Present were Mike Muha, Bill Shea, Bob Krzewinski and Steve Morehouse.
2. General Business
  - a. Previous meeting minutes – Accepted.
  - b. Treasury report – Mike reported \$7241.43 in the Bank of Ann Arbor and \$50 in a PayPal account

- c. Membership – 24 members on the roster with 6 lapsed. BOB will contact lapsed members urging them to renew.
  - d. VFP [Calendar](#) - Items discussed and BOB will highlight the items on the Chapter web & Facebook pages.
    - 12/10 – International Human Rights Day (celebrates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) - <https://www.un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day>
    - WW1 Christmas Truce - <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-story-of-the-wwi-christmas-truce-11972213/>
    - J. David Singer (Chapter namesake) birthday (12/7) - <https://tinyurl.com/VFP-Singer>
  - e. VFP Outreach – For college fairs at local high schools, Bill reported that more may be known in February.
  - f. 2023 VFP Chapter 93 officer elections. Note: Election subject to Chapter bylaws ([click here](#)). A motion was made by Bob to approve a slate of Chapter officers consisting of Bill Shea as Chapter Chair, Mike Muha as Chapter Treasurer and Bob Krzewinski as Chapter Secretary. Motion was approved unanimously with those listed starting their one-year terms on January 1, 2023.
3. Old & continuing business
    - a. Truth In Recruiting/Opt-out – BILL and STEVE working on updating material.
    - b. Michigan Peace Alliance – BILL will look into placing items on the MPA calendar (<https://www.mipeacealliance.org/get-involved>).
    - c. Honorary VFP Chapter 93 membership award – BILL said that Phil Larson, of the University of Michigan [Veteran and Military Services Program \(VMSP\)](#) office, would be honored to be an honorary member. BILL will look into this further.
  4. New Business
    - a. Camp Grayling Expansion – The Grayling area in Michigan has the largest US National Guard training facility in the U.S. and is seeking to lease 162,000 more acres of state land from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The Michigan Sierra Club has information about the base growth at <https://tinyurl.com/SCGrayling>. From a VFP context, BOB is working on a resolution against the proposed expansion and will contact the two other VFP Chapters in Michigan to possibly issue a joint statement.
  5. Projects
    - a. Peace Studies Scholarship – No new updates.
    - b. MLK Day – January – BILL checking locations (UofM and Ann Arbor District Library) and waiting to hear back from the Ypsilanti District Library (Michigan Avenue location) on a possible presentation there.
    - c. Earth Day – April – No new updates.
    - d. Peace Pole – Pole that was present at the Ark after the Concert For Peace has been retrieved.
    - e. Concert For Peace – Standing by for 2023 Concert.
  6. Upcoming events/announcements
  7. Next meeting – Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 7:30pm Zoom meeting.
  8. Adjournment – Adjourned at 8:05pm

### 3. VFP Chapter 93 MLK Day Talk Theme - *MLK and Militarism: What Would MLK Say Today?*



Martin Luther King declared there were three issues that adversely influence American culture: Racism, Extreme Materialism and Militarism. We are now at the edge of a new international militarism; what would MLK have to say about today's current events? Bob Krzewinski and Bill Shea of local Veterans For Peace chapter 93 will discuss MLK's point of view on Militarism and suggest what he might say about today's situations.

Presentations will be given on Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, at the following locations and times...

- University Of Michigan, Wolverine Room/Michigan Union, 530 S State St., Ann Arbor, MI 48109  
2pm to 4pm

- Ann Arbor District Library, 343 South Fifth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
Main Floor General Purpose Room  
6pm to 7:30pm

#### 4. VFP Voting Results

The national office of Veterans For Peace congratulates the members who will be joining the VFP Board of Directors in January 2023: Louis Raprager (Returning), Stephanie (Steph) R. Atkinson, Michael L. Wong and Brian Trautman. Thank you to everyone who put themselves forward for consideration. And thank you to our outgoing board members for their service to the organization: Adrienne Kinne, Joshua Shurley, and Ben Schrader. All proposed Resolutions & Bylaws were approved. You can find the vote counts on our 2022 Ballot Results page - <https://www.veteransforpeace.org/2022ballot>. From a VFP Chapter 93 standpoint, elections were held at the December 13, 2022 Chapter 93 meeting and elected to office starting on January 1<sup>st</sup>, Bill Shea will be Chapter Chair, Mike Muha Chapter Treasurer and Bob Krzewinski as Chapter Secretary.

#### 5. Opposition Grows To Expanding Grayling National Guard Base

In June 2022, the National Guard announced plans to lease 162,000 acres of state land from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to expand the Camp Grayling base. The requested land lease would essentially double the size of the base, with the current Camp Grayling already being the largest National Guard base in the United States.

While a base expansion could be an economic boon for surrounding communities, many homeowners, fishers and other river users who worry about impacts to recreation, public access and livability in an area beloved by outdoor enthusiasts. Resolutions of opposition from Kalkaska County, 15 townships in Kalkaska, Crawford, Montmorency and Roscommon counties, and the state's largest environmental and conservation organizations, including Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Michigan Environmental Council, Michigan League of Conservation Voters, Sierra Club, Trout Unlimited and Anglers of the Au Sable.

In late December 2022, Randall Rothe, District Supervisor for the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy's Remediation and Redevelopment Division in Gaylord, wrote that DNR officials should reject the expansion of Camp Grayling based on the Guard's "inability to take timely action to investigate, mitigate, and remediate significant areas of contamination at Camp Grayling." The letter outlines a litany of shortcomings in the Guard's PFAS response over the past five years, from minimizing "known impacts" to foot-dragging on investigating and cleaning up contaminated drinking and wastewater and refusing to extend public drinking water to areas with contaminated wells.

PFAS chemicals are known as "forever chemicals," a family of potentially thousands of synthetic chemicals that are extremely persistent in the environment and in human bodies. PFAS is short for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances and includes chemicals known as PFOS, PFOA and GenX. The Department of Defense has identified at least [400](#) active or closed military installations or bases with potential PFOS or PFOA. At many of these sites, the contamination is due to the use of firefighting foam that utilized the contaminants as an ingredient and has migrated into the groundwater. The Pentagon has identified at least [36](#) military installations where drinking water levels of PFOS and PFOA exceeded the EPA's health advisory. Camp Grayling appears on the lists of 400 and 36 above.

VFP Chapter 93 will be discussing a resolution opposing the Camp Grayling expansion at its January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. For more information on the proposed base expansion, visit the Bridge Michigan

- [Michigan Official: DNR Should Reject Camp Grayling Expansion Amid PFAS Woes](#)
- [Michigan National Guard Wants To Double Camp Grayling Training Land](#)
- [Map Reveals Michigan National Guard's Proposed Camp Grayling Expansion](#)
- [National Guard On Camp Grayling Expansion: Troops Won't Be In Your Backyard](#)
- [Anger Over National Guard Air Training Plan Over Grayling And The Thumb](#)

## **6. Announcement, Anniversaries & Reminders**

### Every Friday – Ann Arbor Anti-War Rally

The Ann Arbor Committee Against War (AACAW) has been gathering for small anti-war rallies every Friday at 5:30 pm, and we always welcome everyone to join them at the Federal Building. For more information about the AACAW visit <https://www.annarborcoalitionagainstar.org>

### Veterans For Peace National Weekly E-News List

Veterans For Peace puts out a weekly eNews that features a weekly summary of news from Veterans For Peace members, chapters and the National office. To sign up for the Weekly eNews, [click here!](#)

### VFP John Lennon Birthday Benefit Concert CD



Our VFP Chapter has a compact disc (CD) recording of the musical artists performing at our October John Lennon Birthday Benefit Concerts over the years for our Chapter's Peace Scholarship program. And like the Concert, a purchase of the CD also goes to benefit the Peace Scholarship program. The John Lennon Birthday Benefit Concert CD can be purchased for \$15, plus \$3 for shipping, by PayPal by visiting [www.vfp93.org/john-lennon-concert-cd](http://www.vfp93.org/john-lennon-concert-cd).

Selections on the John Lennon CD include Revolution (Chris Buhalis, Peter "Madcat" Ruth), Maggie Mae (Dave Boutette, Peter "Madcat" Ruth, Dave Keeney), You've Got to Hide Your Love Away (Annie & Rod Capps, Jason Dennie), Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds (Billy King with Emily Slomovits and band), In My Life (Emily Slomovits with Billy King), Dear Prudence (Jo Serrapere), Across The Universe (Jen Sygit), Rest Easy Little Darlin (John Latini), Crippled Inside (Dave Keeney, Sophia Hanfi), Working Class Hero (Rochelle Clark), Come Together (Shari Kane and Dave Steele) and Imagine (Billy King).

### Metro Detroit VFP Chapter

The Metro Detroit Chapter of Veterans For Peace covers Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and Monroe Counties and also has regular meetings. For more information visit <https://www.vfp74.org>.

### Our VFP Chapter Can Use Your Help

Currently our VFP Chapter has only a few people doing all the work and projects and to say we could use help is an understatement. Most of these jobs don't take up that much time at all, and would help out the Chapter immensely. One thing we are trying to promote is for people to sign up for a "volunteer email list." We always need extra people to help staff events like the Arlington Michigan display on Memorial/Veterans Day or the VFP booth at Earth Day or the Ann Arbor Art Fair. Just tell us you want to be on the volunteer e-mail list and when an event date starts rolling around, we will email you to see if you can help out. If you can, great. If not, we understand. Even if you are not a veteran, we could still use your help.

To be placed on the "volunteer email list," just send an email to Bob Krzewinski at [wolverbob@gmail.com](mailto:wolverbob@gmail.com) and he will get back in touch with you. Thanks in advance for your consideration of this request!!!

### Thinking About Joining The Military? Already In The Military Seeking Conscientious Objector Status, Delayed Enlistment Problems, Or Release From Service?

Visit our "Thinking About Joining The Military? - Please Read This First" web page at [www.vfp93.org/military-recruiting](http://www.vfp93.org/military-recruiting). The page includes before enlisting, how you should be able to honestly answer some basic questions, and have realistic expectations, about military life, a link to the 24-hour GI Rights Hotline for people already in the military, and a link to Project YANO (Youth And Non-Military Opportunities) with information about military enlistments, the delayed entry program, and resources for alternatives to the military. Also, you will find a link to the Center On Conscience And War which has information on Selective Service registration, the draft, and conscientious objector status.