



Veterans For Peace - Chapter 93

July 2022 Newsletter

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

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

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www.vfp93.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/VFP93

1. Next Veterans For Peace Chapter 93 Meeting – Saturday, July 23rd, 1pm At The Ann Arbor Art Fair

The next VFP Chapter 93 meeting is an abbreviated meeting that will be held at the Veterans For Peace information booth at the Ann Arbor Art Fair. The booth is on Liberty Street, between Division Street and 5th Avenue with a Google map link of <https://goo.gl/maps/W5MXzhMaPBjSVsym7>. Anyone can participate in this meeting, or any other VFP Chapter 93 event, be they veteran or not. The meeting agenda (which is abbreviated due to being busy at the Art Fair) is as follows...

1. Introductions and welcome
2. General Business
 - a. Previous meeting minutes
 - b. Treasury report
 - c. Membership
 - d. VFP Outreach & Meeting time/location
 - e. Other
3. Old & continuing business
 - a. Michigan Peace Alliance
 - b. Mayors For Peace Michigan - <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/>
 - c. Other
4. New Business
 - a. VFP convention ad for Chapter 93/74 - <https://shopvfp.org/product/2022-convention-ads/>
 - b. Other
5. Projects
 - a. Peace Studies Scholarship
 - b. Arlington Michigan – November
 - c. John Lennon Concert
 - d. Other
6. Upcoming events/announcements
7. Next meeting
8. Adjournment

2. Veterans For Peace Chapter 93 Meeting Minutes – June 15, 2022

Note: Names with all letters capitalized indicate action needed by that Chapter member

1. Introductions and welcome - The meeting began at 7:35pm via Zoom teleconference. Present were Steve Morehouse, Mike Muha, Bill Shea, and Bob Krzewinski.
2. General Business
 - a. Previous meeting minutes – May 17th meeting minutes accepted.
 - b. Treasury report - \$7027.94 in treasury at the Bank of Ann Arbor and \$50 in a PayPal account. Only deduction from the May meeting treasury report was an Earth Day VFP banner reimbursement to Mike Muha for \$24.46.
 - c. Membership – 29 in good standing, 3 lapsed.
 - d. VFP 93 Calendar - Women's Veterans Day was June 12th, Flag Day is June 14th.
 - e. Chapter elections for 2022. Vote held of members at the June meeting and reappointed were Chapter Chair: Bob Krzewinski, Vice-Chair: Bill Shea and Treasurer: Mike Muha. All terms end on January 1, 2023 with elections for the 2023 calendar year taking place at the December 2022 Chapter meeting.
 - f. VFP Outreach – A social dinner meeting was postponed for June and will be rescheduled.

3. Old & continuing business
 - a. Honorary Chapter member program – No new updates.
 - b. Truth In Recruiting/Opt-out – Bill talked to the Principal at Ann Arbor’s Community High School who confirmed there would not be any “college fairs” at the Ann Arbor high schools in 2022.
 - c. Washtenaw County Council of Veterans meetings – Discussed
 - d. Michigan Peace Alliance –BILL attends their online meetings and the group has a web page at <https://mipeacealliance.org> and a Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Michigan-Peace- Alliance-Page-100512129175722](https://www.facebook.com/Michigan-Peace-Alliance-Page-100512129175722).
 - e. Restorative Justice program for County veterans – No new updates.
 - f. Mayors For Peace Michigan – BOB will check if group is active again.
 - g. Rotary Club Peace Conference (September 23/24) – BILL still in contact for setting up a VFP information table at the event..
4. New Business
 - a. MIKE obtained peace-orientated poetry that would fit in well with the VFP Statement Of Purpose and will forward it on to BOB for placement in the Chapter newsletter.
5. Projects
 - a. Peace Studies Scholarship – BILL reported some mild interest in the Scholarship program and will report back when more details are received.
 - b. MLK Day – No new news.
 - c. Earth Day – No new news.
 - d. Peace Pole - No new news.
 - e. Arlington Michigan – Discussion on how to have more visitors view the Detroit Grand Circus Park Arlington Michigan display on Memorial Day, possibly involving students and staff from the Wayne State University Peace and Conflict Studies program.
 - f. Ann Arbor Art Fair – Bill confirmed the Chapter can have an information table at this event, scheduled for July 21, 22 and 23 (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday). Setup will be Thursday, July 21 from 9am to 10am.
 - g. Concert For Peace (formerly John Lennon Concert) – BILL communicating with Chris Buhalis for concert details with a new date of Thursday, November 3rd at The Ark in Ann Arbor. .
 - h. John Lennon Concert CD – Still plenty of CD’s for sale.
6. Upcoming events/announcements – None.
7. Next meeting – At the Art Fair in Ann Arbor on Saturday, July 23, 1pm, at the VFP table display.
8. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm

3. Veterans For Peace At The 2022 Ann Arbor Art Fair



Veterans For Peace Chapter 93 will be having an information table at the Ann Arbor Art Fair on the following dates and times...

Thursday, July 21 • 10AM – 9PM

Friday, July 22 • 10AM – 9PM

Saturday, July 23 • 10AM – 7PM

The display will be on Liberty Street between Division and 5th. Volunteers are needed to staff the information table, even if you can help for an hour or two, and it would be VERY much appreciated! If you can help out, please contact Bob Krzewinski at wolverbob@gmail.com or 734-218-3307.

4. VFP Statement On Roe Vs Wade

Veterans For Peace (VFP) was organized by military veterans and allies to bring an end to all war and the oppressive systems that enable it. VFP believes that everyone has the absolute right to control their bodies, including reproductive functions, and have access to adequate healthcare. The Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade constitutes a war on rights of bodily autonomy and self-determination, and as such, VFP has a responsibility to fight against it.

VFP Statement On Roe Vs Wade (continued from previous page)

Present and historical discourse centers the overturning of Roe v. Wade as a women's-only issue and within the gender binary. VFP recognizes the rights guaranteed under Roe v. Wade had a wider impact on the bodily autonomy of all gender identities and the present ruling is part of a larger push to reassert heteropatriarchal control over the population. This cannot be tolerated. This and other recent Supreme Court decisions are an exertion of white supremacist, patriarchal, and theological power and control and not about the preservation of life.

The Supreme Court's decision, in siding with white-supremacy, will most negatively affect the same populations who have been most impacted by previously existing restrictions on reproductive healthcare: people of color, who have the highest childbirth mortality rates in the United States, youth (particularly trans and non-binary), indigenous populations, and those in poverty.

These rights have historically been ignored by the U.S. government and its military, through the forced sterilization of the occupied sovereign population of Puerto Rico, in addition to many other black, brown, indigenous, and differently abled populations. It is a hypocritical policy to force birth under the guise of preserving life while the active foreign and domestic policies of our government result in the number one cause of birth defects and still-births in places where U.S. military weapons or assets are deployed. From environmental contamination to known abortifacients like Agent Orange and Depleted Uranium munitions to over-the-horizon bombings of civilian communities; it is clear that the U.S. government is not in the business of preserving life.

The health implications of the ruling are far-reaching. It affects the ability to choose to give birth or not and has the potential to increase domestic violence and decrease access to necessary healthcare. The attack on and inevitable closing of abortion clinics is dangerous and life-threatening as they are often the sole source for contraceptive, gender-affirming, and reproductive healthcare in many communities. In particular, this limits health care options for young people who are subjected to sexual assault and incest, whose healthcare is frequently under the control of their abusers.

Electoral politics, though important, is only one way to support the fight for human rights; it is critical to engage in other forms of organizing and resistance, particularly direct action, strikes, and mutual aid. Veterans For Peace encourages its members to support the community-led movements already rooted in and at the forefront of this issue. Veterans For Peace WILL AID, ABET, AND ASSIST our membership and staff and others impacted by these attacks in getting access to reproductive healthcare. It is imperative to ensure that Veterans For Peace will mobilize its members into systemic community-led resources for the care we need so we can continue to fight for Peace at Home and Peace Abroad.

5. Ukraine War Resources



The Ukraine war goes on, and so does the debate over how those working for peace should respond. United for Peace & Justice (www.unitedforpeace.org) - VFP national is a member of UFPJ) continues to update its [Ukraine resource page](#) with materials ranging from organizational statements by peace groups to commentary from the Ukraine independent Left to statements by the Russian government. Some links worth visiting include a [new site featuring commentary](#) from

Russia, Ukraine, and their neighbors, including [interviews with Russian student anti-war activists](#), and the [Permanent Assembly Against the War](#), bringing together antiwar activists from across Europe.

6. Annual VFP Concert For Peace Fundraiser Tickets Now Available



Tickets are available now for the annual Veterans For Peace Chapter 93 Concert For Peace (Formerly the John Lennon Birthday Concert) on Thursday, November 3rd, 2022. This is the annual fundraiser at [The Ark](#) in Ann Arbor for the Chapter's Peace Scholarship Program and will be emceed by Chris Buhalis. All artists will be performing peace-themed songs. Concert starts at 7:30pm. Tickets \$20 at <https://theark.org/event/concert-for-peace-221103/>.

7. U.S. Conference of Mayors Adopts Bold New Mayors for Peace Resolution

At the close of its 90th Annual Meeting in Reno, Nevada, on June 6, the final plenary of the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) unanimously adopted a sweeping new resolution, titled "[Forging a Path to Peace and Common Security](#)." The resolution calls for a negotiated end to the war in Ukraine, global elimination of nuclear weapons, and the redirection of military and nuclear weapons spending to support safe and resilient cities and meet human needs. This is the seventeenth consecutive year the USCM has adopted resolutions submitted by U.S. members of Mayors for Peace. The USCM is the official nonpartisan association of America's big cities. Resolutions adopted at its annual meetings become official policy that guides the organization's advocacy efforts for the coming year.

Mayors for Peace (www.mayorsforpeace.org/english) is an international organization of cities dedicated to the promotion of nuclear disarmament. Its vision statement reads: "The purposes of the "Mayors for Peace" campaign are to contribute to the attainment of lasting world peace by arousing concern among citizens of the world for the total abolition of nuclear weapons through close solidarity among member cities as well as by striving to solve vital problems for the human race such as starvation and poverty, the plight of refugees, human rights abuses, and environmental degradation". In Michigan, there are four official "Mayors For Peace cities, these include Ann Arbor, Benton Harbor, Detroit and Grand Rapids.

8. Our Newest U.S. Bases: Norway

On June 3, 2022, a majority in the Norwegian Parliament approved a bilateral [Supplementary Defense Cooperation Agreement](#) (SDCA) with the U.S. government, which the conservative Norwegian government had signed on April 16, 2021. The SDCA allows the creation of four permanent U.S. military bases on Norwegian soil: one in the south-east (Rygge), one in the south-west (Sola), one in the mid-north (Evenes), and one in the far north (Ramsund). That last one is the closest to Russia, the understood justification for the bases.

The SDCA allows immunity from Norwegian criminal prosecution for U.S. troops, and allows U.S. military activity beyond the locations of the bases. This means that U.S. troops will be able to engage in activities anywhere within Norway that the Norwegian government approves, and that all U.S. troops will be completely immune from accountability to Norwegian laws for any crimes they may commit. An extensive record of crimes by U.S. military members at foreign bases has been documented by numerous non-governmental organizations.

Peace activists from various groups including Stop NATO, Antiwar-Initiative, and IKFF (Norwegian WILPF) have opposed this agreement through street demonstrations, newspaper articles, and social media campaigns. World Beyond War (<https://worldbeyondwar.org>) is launching [this petition](#) in hopes of getting through to the Norwegian and U.S. governments, with this campaign is in collaboration with Kristin Jacobsen Leganger and Gitte Sætre from the Antiwar-Initiative, Bergen, Norway. [Please sign and share!](#)

9. Web Page Poetry

Poetry by Lily Jarman-Reisch

- [Pantoum for a Veteran of the Great War](#)
- [I Never Talked About it After the War](#)
- [Bullshitter](#)

Lily Jarman-Reisch graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She has been a journalist in Washington, D.C., and Athens, Greece, where she lived aboard a small boat she sailed in the Aegean and Ionian Seas. She has held administrative and teaching positions at the Universities of Michigan and Maryland, sailed across the Atlantic, and hiked on four continents. Her poems appear or are forthcoming in [Calyx Journal](#), [3rd Wednesday](#), [Snapdragon](#), [The Fourth River](#), [1807](#), [Route 7 Review](#), [Rise Up Review](#), [The Military Review](#), [Light](#), [Journal of Veterans Studies](#), [The Dewdrop](#), [Gleam](#), [Mediterranean Poetry](#), and other international literary journals.

Lily also urges you to explore other poetry at Military Experience And The Arts - <https://militaryexperience.org>.

Military Experience & the Arts
militaryexperience.org



MEA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose primary mission is to work with veterans and their families to publish short stories, essays, poems, and artwork in our bi-annual publication, [As You Were: The Military Review](#), periodic editions of *Blue Nostalgia: The Journal of Post-Traumatic Growth* and others. Each author or poet that submits work to us is afforded the chance to work one-on-one with a mentor to polish their work or learn new skills and techniques.

Our staff is based all over the country and includes college professors, professional authors, veterans' advocates, and clinicians. As such, most of our services are provided through email and online writing workshops. All editing, consultations, and workshops are free of charge. Veterans and their families pay nothing for our services, and they never will.

Under our Publications tab, there are nearly a dozen volumes of creative work crafted by veterans and their family members as well as a virtual art gallery. Our blog posts feature short pieces that cover a wide range of opinion editorials, literary reviews, and profiles on veteran artists and writers.

Please consider spending some time navigating our site (such as at <https://militaryexperience.org/as-you-were-the-military-review-vol-14/> (where some of Lily's poetry is published) and reading and seeing the fine work of veterans and their families from around the globe.

10. Announcement, Anniversaries & Reminders

VFP National Online Social Hours – NEW TIME! Every Tuesday At 7pm EDT

VFP has experimented with VFP Social Hours and members enjoyed the chance to chat and catch up (or meet) with other Veterans For Peace members. VFP will continue these every Friday at 6pm. (EST). To join the Social Hour, go to <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/324812650> or go to Zoom <https://zoom.us/Signin> and click join meeting and enter in Meeting ID: 324 812 650

August 25th-28th - VFP Annual Convention

Veterans For Peace will again hold its annual convention online with a theme this year of "War Making to Peace Seeking". Details, including workshops, awards, how to submit a proposed resolution and/or bylaws change and more, can be found at <https://www.vfpconvention.org>.

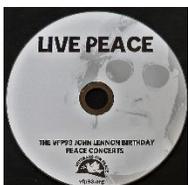
Veterans For Peace National Weekly E-News List

Get updates on upcoming VFP national actions, ongoing campaigns, and news from chapters across the country. Additionally, the e-news provides resources and helpful tips for engaging your own actions. To sign up visit <https://veteransforpeace.salsalabs.org/eblast0/index.html>.

Support Those Who Supported Us For Our John Lennon Concert!

We again thank our musical artists who are contributing their talent to make our 2019 John Lennon benefit concert a success and urge you to support them throughout the year by attending their performances and purchasing their recordings. Visit <https://www.vfp93.org/john-lennon-concert> for a listing of concert musicians.

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.

Selections on the John Lennon CD include Revolution (Chris Buhalis, Peter “Madcat” Ruth), Maggie Mae (Dave Boutette, Peter “Madcat” Ruth, Dave Keeney), You’ve Go 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 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. 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.