



Veterans For Peace - Chapter 93

May 2021 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. Veterans For Peace Chapter 93 Meeting – Saturday, May 15th, 2021

The next VFP Chapter 93 meeting will be Saturday, May 15th, 2021 at 10am. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the meeting will be held by teleconference only using Zoom (<https://zoom.us>). To participate, at 10am, if your computer has a microphone and video, go to the Zoom meeting link at <https://zoom.us/j/96774053939>. No computer access? Call 312-626-6799 and enter the meeting ID of 967 7405 3939 to join the meeting via phone. 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. Chapter Secretary
 - d. Membership
 - e. VFP 93 [Calendar](#) - Utah Phillips (Chapter namesake) birthday (5/15), Women Veterans Day (6/12) www.military.com/benefits/june-12-women-veterans-day.html, Flag Day – (6/14)
 - f. VFP Outreach
 - g. Other
3. Old & continuing business
 - a. Honorary Chapter member program
 - b. Truth In Recruiting/Opt-out
 - c. VFP at Washtenaw Council of Veterans meetings
 - d. U.S Representative Walberg Meeting - 2002 Iraq Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF)
 - e. Mayors For Peace Michigan Organizing
 - f. Other
4. New Business
 - a. Other
5. Projects
 - a. Peace Studies Scholarship
 - b. MLK Day
 - c. Earth Day
 - d. Peace Pole
 - e. Arlington Michigan
 - f. Ann Arbor Art Fair
 - g. John Lennon Concert
 - h. John Lennon Concert CD
 - i. Other – My Lai Ann Arbor exhibit
6. Upcoming events – Next meeting – June 19th
7. Announcements/Adjournment

2. Veterans For Peace Chapter 93 Meeting Minutes – April 17th, 2021

The meeting began at 10:01 a.m. via Zoom and adjourned at 11:02. Present were Lynn Gilbert, Bob Krzewinski, Steve Morehouse, Mike Muha, Steve Saelzler of the Detroit Chapter, and Bill Shea.

General Business:

- a. Minutes of the prior meeting were approved.
- b. There was no change in the bank balance since the last meeting. The total given out in Peace Scholarships was \$22,750 through 2019; MIKE will update this figure for Bob and the website.
- c. Membership remains 25 with three lapsed. Bill reported that the vets group at W.C.C. is not meeting; he will get back in touch with them after the summer.
- d. Upcoming dates include Utah Phillips' birthday, Vets Day June 12, and Flag Day June 14.
- e. Outreach: Bob updated the links on the web page.

- f. National Zoom account for Chapter meetings: National has arranged for free Zoom time for Chapter meetings to extend beyond 40 minutes. Bob thinks this applies to meetings at any time.
- g. The U.-U. Church of Ann Arbor, where the Chapter used to meet, sponsors a VFP group of four or five people, two of whom belong to the church. Mike is one of them.

Old and Continuing Business:

- a. Matt Watroba says he will be honored to accept a plaque as an honorary Chapter member. BOB will order one at \$35-50, to be presented at the John Lennon benefit concert in October, or possibly on Matt's radio show. MIKE will make clear to him that he will not be expected to perform, and BILL will make clear to Chris Buhalis that Matt will have no bearing on Chris' choice of artists for the show.
- b. BOB will give Mike contact information for Matt, including where to send the plaque.
- c. MIKE will check with National about multi-year membership fees for honorary members.
- d. Lynn checked the Truth in Recruiting information on the website and found no errors.
- e. Washtenaw Council of Veterans is still not meeting.
- f. Repeal effort on the 2002 AUMF (Authorization for Use of Military Force): The representative for U.S. Rep. Walburg with whom two VFP constituents met last month is supposed to contact Walburg's military affairs assistant in Washington to convey VFP support for repeal.
- g. BOB will send out information on abolishing the draft law (which allows for a draft to be reinstated by Congress at any time).
- h. The VFP letter to John Kerry, pointing out the ecological damage wrought by warfare, now requires the signatures of individuals not just Chapters. BOB will get the letter onto the web page.

New Business:

- a. Michigan Mayors for Peace: Chuck Warpahoski, formerly head of the Ann Arbor I.C.P.J., is heading up a new effort to commit mayors to peace. This alliance existed in the past but not recently. Bob called for any interested persons to volunteer with this initiative.

Projects:

- a. Those present discussed whether to award Peace Scholarships to applicants with no connection to the state of Michigan. Various options were discussed and those present agreed to think about the issue for another month.
- b. Publicizing the scholarships: The Chapter might consider how the Rotary Club publicizes theirs. Also, we can ask Fred Pearson for suggestions. BILL normally does a mail-out to financial aid offices of state colleges/universities in Michigan in August. Eric Montgomery, who teaches in the Peace Studies programs at Wayne State and Michigan State, is enthusiastic and got the word out a couple months ago to students in those programs. BILL will add Michigan private colleges to his mailing list this August.
- c. Nothing is happening for Earth Day other than a Code Pink webinar on militarism and climate change.
- d. Peace Poles: Bob has assembled a list of existing poles in the Ann Arbor area. The one in Hunt Park has not been replaced. MIKE will send Bob the new location of the one in Veterans Park, which was moved. The goal is to work up a complete list of poles with map coordinates.
- e. Peace Pole for the VA in Ann Arbor: The contact there, Brian Hayes, is enthusiastic and will refer the matter to the Director of Public Affairs, from which the proposal will proceed up the chain of command. The VA Chaplain, Marcus Bell, might preside at a small ceremony, Bill reported.
- f. The poles themselves: Bob presented a price list; prices for poles range up to \$550 each for aluminum. We can also order small brass plaques with the Chapter name on them to affix to each pole. Steve Saelzler pointed out another company has Peace Poles for Schools, referred to at the bottom of the National website. See shoppeace.org. The plastic poles are cheaper and quicker to obtain, but flimsy. MIKE will check whether the plastic pole in Chelsea is fitted over a rigid spike, which would help protect it.
- g. The John Lennon Concert: Bill reported that Chris Buhalis is up for MCing it once more, and the Ark has reserved Thursday, October 7, two days before Lennon's birthday.
- h. Mike noted that posters or banners advertising the Concert CD can be made at Staples for \$15-45; MIKE will send the concert material to Bill. At sales venues, perhaps a collage of the event could run on a laptop by way of advertising the CDs.
- i. Arlington, Michigan: Steve Saelzler reported that VFP now has city permission to set up in the park in Detroit on Memorial Day. Swords into Plowshares will be open for breaks and restrooms.

The next meeting will be Saturday, May 15, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

3. VFP Arlington Michigan Display In Downtown Detroit On Memorial Day



Veterans For Peace Chapters 74 and 93 have again joined forces to set up the Veterans For Peace Arlington Michigan display (one grave marker for every Michigan soldier killed in the Afghan and Iraq wars – 230 total) in downtown Detroit on Memorial Day. The purpose of this display is to honor those who have fallen, to provide a place to grieve, and to educate the public about the costs of war, as well as the needs of those returning from conflicts. The display will be held on Monday, May 31st, 11am to 5pm, in downtown Detroit's Grand Circus

Park (Woodward at East Adams – map link at <https://goo.gl/maps/MjhWcB4ospmmwwFu6>).

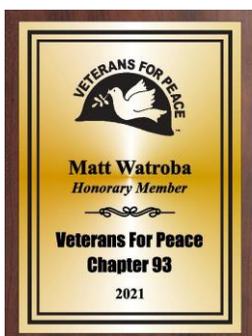
4. VFP Chapter 93 Awards Folk Singer Matt Watroba Honorary Membership

The following is a letter to Matt Watroba awarding him an honorary VFP membership...



Dear Matt - Every year our Chapter of Veterans For Peace awards an honorary membership to a person or group that has, through their actions, made our little corner of the world a more peaceful place. Keeping in mind your years of not only being a folk music performer, but also your gift of being a true educator of song, we would like to award you our 2021 honorary membership in Veterans For Peace.

Over the years, your hosting of radio programs, especially themed programs (like Martin Luther King and Mothers Day) have been outstanding, and needed. Your live concerts and not only fun, but educational, especially those with Robert Jones. And your participatory Community Sings are, well, I think Pete Seger said it best... *"And when one person taps out a beat, while another leads into the melody, or when three people discover a harmony they never knew existed, or a crowd joins in on a chorus as though to raise the ceiling a few feet higher, then they also know there is hope for the world."*



If you are not familiar with Veterans For Peace is a global organization of military veterans and allies dedicated to building a culture of peace by using our unique experiences as veterans. Our goal is to educate on the costs of wars in hopes that we may one day end war for good. We also recognize that we have an obligation to heal the wounds of war, not only among our fellow veterans but also the wounds that our war-making has affected around the globe.

Locally, our Veterans For Peace Chapter has established a Peace Scholarship program which awards grants to students enrolled in peace studies or conflict resolution studies (such as those at Wayne State and Michigan State Universities), has an "Arlington Michigan" display every Memorial and Veterans Day made up of one grave marker for every Michigan soldier killed in the Iraq and Afghan wars and also sponsors the annual John Lennon birthday benefit concert at The Ark every October to fund our Peace Scholarships.

In closing, thank you for all you have done to keep the power of folk music alive and allowing it to keep on teaching lessons. Not to overuse Peter Seger, but he was a World War Two veteran and while he saw the power of armies, he also knew the power of song... *"Songs are funny things. They can slip across borders. Proliferate in prisons. Penetrate hard shells. I always believed that the right song at the right moment could change history."*

Matt can be heard on the radio at WKAR, 90.5 in East Lansing (online live stream at <https://streaming.wkar.msu.edu/wkar-fm-mp3>) every Sunday evening from 6pm to 9pm and repeated the following Saturday from 6pm to 8pm. Also, Matt has a great web page at www.mattwatroba.net and a YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=matt+watroba

5. Mayors For Peace In Michigan



degradation".

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

Mayors for Peace grew out of the 1982 UN Special Session on Disarmament the Mayor of Hiroshima called for cities throughout the world to transcend national borders and join in solidarity to work together to press for nuclear abolition. Three years later the 1st World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity was held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the organization began to grow. As of March 2021, Mayors for Peace counted 8019 member cities in 165 countries and territories around the world. This includes 218 cities within the United States In Michigan, four communities are registered as member cities. These include Ann Arbor, Benton Harbor, Detroit and Grand Rapids.

As most veterans have seen close up and personal, when it comes to military spending, the Pentagon wants just more and more. But at the same time, there is that quote from Dwight Eisenhower when he left office that states... *“Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the clouds of war, it is humanity hanging on a cross of iron.”*

Yet we have learned nothing, especially when it comes to nuclear weapons. In April 2021 the Pentagon warned of a need for the U.S. “to cope with two nuclear superpowers at the same time, elevating the military threat from China to a level equal to Russia.” So what’s the solution? Even more money needs to go to the Pentagon even though the Pentagon is in the midst of a \$1.5 trillion nuclear modernization program launched after the Obama administration negotiated the New START agreement with Russia. The Pentagon even wants to fund a [nuclear-powered cruise missile](#)! Why? Russia is working on one.

The Mayors for Peace campaign dares to ask, why do we need more and “improved” nuclear weapons? And why can’t the money going to the Pentagon that makes it more possible to have a worldwide nuclear war instead be used for education, healthcare and other human needs? Besides, Cities have the most to lose from nuclear war. Nations aren’t destroyed by nuclear weapons; cities are.

While now just starting to organize, with Veterans For Peace assisting, a Michigan Mayors for Peace campaign would encourage communities in Michigan to become member cities of the international organization, Mayors for Peace. Once a sufficient number of communities have become member cities, we can start to build a coalition of Michigan cities to more effectively lobby our elected officials than can be done by single anti-nuclear activists acting alone. Once we have demonstrated support for Mayors for Peace among Michigan communities, we can encourage similar efforts in other states.

6. Fireworks-Free Fourth Campgrounds For Veterans

Keeping in mind that loud explosions can trigger PTSD in many veterans, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency are highlighting quieter camping options around the Fourth of July. Visit Michigan.gov/FireworksFreeFourth to view a list of suggested parks.

7. Announcement, Anniversaries & Reminders

June 8 (Tuesday) - "The Pentagon Papers: Fifty Year Perspective" with Robert Ellsberg

Publisher of Orbis Books, and son of Daniel Ellsberg. Here's a boy he helped his father copy the Pentagon Papers. Later, he worked for five years with Dorothy Day at the Catholic Worker Movement. At this monthly online meeting of the Livonia based Citizens for Peace, Robert will talk informally about the story of the Pentagon Papers, what motivated his father, and how the unintended consequences of his actions helped end the war In Vietnam. To attend, please send your email address to Tada Gunter at tadajoyful@gmail.com. She in turn will send you an online access code. For more information visit www.citizens4peace.com.

August 12-15 – Veterans For Peace National Convention (Online)

More information at <https://www.vfpconvention.org>

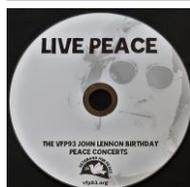
VFP National Online Social Hours

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 Thursday at 6pm. (EDT). To join the Social Hour, go to <https://zoom.us/j/324812650> or go to <https://zoom.us/join> and click join meeting and enter in Meeting ID: 324 812 650

VFP Open Mike Session – Every Friday

The Veterans For Peace Open Mic will take place every Friday from 8pm-12am CST live from the [VFP Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#). Selected artists will receive 7-10 minutes to share their music with a live audience. Artists are welcome to share pre-recorded videos or tune in and perform live (with prior approved soundcheck). For more information visit <https://default.salsalabs.org/T29e41f2d-3aa2-4a20-a424-47b81d44c964/ac2d1723-28ae-4fc8-a164-aa3cdd82bea9>

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 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).

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.

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.

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 www.vfp74.org.