

UNITED FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE
DELAWARE VALLEY NETWORK
February 4, 2008

Present: Nina Huizinga (notes), Rich Gardner, Bob Moore, Marlana Santoyo, Chris Robinson, Terry Beitzl, Bill Dechert, Cathy Leary, Ken Heard, Sharon Hurley, Dory Loder, Gayle Simons, Stelle Sheller, Elisabeth Leonard, Bill Perry, Libby Schwartz, Phyllis Gilbert

GO ROUND WITH NEWS FROM OUR GROUPS:

Rich Gardner: Our new website is up. Very simple for now, but we are working to make it more beautiful. Check it out. <http://www.ufpj-dvn.org>

Marlena Santoyo: I'm coordinating outreach with Nina and Elisabeth. However, EVERYONE is a part of the Committee. We need to split up and do it.

Chris Robinson: I coordinate the NW Greens. We have been having a vigil at Senator Specter's home and will be there on March 16th. There are also two peace vigils every Wednesday evening at 5 p.m. (Mt. Airy) and 7 p.m. (Chestnut Hill). We will be there on March 19. We will help with publicity.

Terry Beitzl: I work with Central Bucks, Coalition for Peace Action. I am working on publicity. We should see March 19th as the first moratorium and add on a day each month. Stop the money flow to the war.

Bill Deckert: Half the folks in Lower Bucks, Coalition for Peace Action want to go to Washington DC on March 19; half want to do something local. (Suggestion: fine. Just organize a send-off for the folks going to DC and invite the press.)

Cathy Leary: I'm from Lower Bucks, Coalition for Peace Action. We want to organize a vigil on a bridge. We already got an enforcement from Michael Doyle, one of the Camden 28. Maybe we can get Patrick Murphy to speak at the send off.

Ken Heard

Sharon Hurley: Penn Faculty and Staff against the War will be showing *Win Without War* film on UPenn campus. We want to raise interest in the Winter Soldier testimony. The student group, Penn Against the War, has become Students for a Democratic

Society. They want to do education about the Presidential candidates in the Fall. Not sure what they will do for March 19.

Dory Loder, Gail Simons and Stelle Sheller from WILPF are not sure what they will be doing on March 19th. They were thinking about going to DC, but if there are local activities on March 19th, they might stay and participate. They have 250 people on their mailing list. We need to advertise all the different things that are planned.

Elisabeth Leonard: I am from the Granny Peace Brigade. We are planning to focus on campaign issues for the April primary. We want to have Peace Tables to talk with folks about how they feel about the war.

Debi Richter: I am involved with Code Pink and we will be in DC doing all sorts of theatrical actions for the period from March 8 to the 19th. People are coming from NJ, DE, and PA. See the Code Pink web site for more information.

Bill Perry: I coordinate the Delaware Valley Veterans for America. I went to a Friday night in Harlem event. Ann Wright came, Leslie Cagan and Judy LeBlanc were there. They want people in DC. They urge us to come. Locally, we need to have rooms where the live-stream testimony by soldiers can be shown. We would like at least 2 venues in Philadelphia.

Here is the schedule: Testimony from soldiers: March 13th (10 a.m. to 8 p.m.), Sexual assault and women's testimony: March 14th (10 a.m. to 8 p.m.), the cost of the war testimony March 15th (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.). March 17 and 18: Training and Exploring the Constitution. March 19th Civil Disobedience Actions.

Libby Schwartz: I'm from the Northwest Peace Group. We got an open letter to Allyson Schwartz printed in the NE Times.

Phyllis Gilbert: I coordinate Peace Action in Philadelphia. I am working on setting up peace clubs in high schools. I have a list of 42 traditional high schools and am waiting for a list of charter schools. [Phyllis passed around a handout on how to set up peace clubs.] Anyone interested can reach her at (215) 732-9349.

Note: Brandywine is not represented here, but will be organizing a lot of activity around March 19th. They are already planning for the day when American casualties reach 4,000 (likely to happen during the time leading up to March 19th.)

HOW DO WE WEAVE ALL THIS TOGETHER?:

We had a long discussion and reached these agreements:

We AGREED to use the common theme of MORITORIUM.

While we recognize that not everyone will respond to the idea or will want to take a day off from work or school, we like the concept of not going ahead with business-as-usual on this day. Other options are: take a half-day off, come late or leave early, put a sign at your desk (“gone for peace action”), show-up but have a teach-in about ending the war. ALSO: Those who go to DC or take part in a local activity will be taking off work to do so (unless, of course, they are retired or work for themselves). FINALLY, we LIKE the idea of wearing an armband to work or school.

We AGREED to wear an ARMBAND. The armband will have the number 5 with a circle around the number and no words. It will be in any color we choose to have it, but the design will be the same. We will start to wear the armband now and continue to wear it up to the end of March 19th. Sharon will research getting armbands printed.

We AGREED to have a local send-off for folks who are going to DC, to publicize it, and to invite the press to cover it. (We can also try to get a reporter and a photographer to come with them down to DC.)

We AGREED to do something at every local Congressional office. Nina will send out a list of names and local district offices for these Congressional representatives (the good, the bad, and the ugly) to every group that endorsed the October 27th demo. This can take the form of an evening vigil or it could be organizing a meeting with the representative, but the common theme is to put the pressure on them to do their job and stop funding the war.

We AGREED to include the link between the huge U.S. debt and the war. We want to make the point that the current recession is caused by the war. The words “Iraq Recession” may or may not be the best way to express this idea. Phyllis Gilbert will contact someone she knows who can write up information about this connection.

We like the idea of having a “Teach Out,” but suggest that it would be better if these teach outs happen in the time leading up to March 19th. We want to get information out to folks ahead of time. We established a committee to work on this idea.

So far, we did not pick up on the idea of having a rally at the Federal building.

BUDDY SYSTEM:

We set up a buddy system. Each person will be in touch with their buddy and support each other to get the work done.

NEXT MEETINGS:

Monday, February 11, 2008: UFPJ Delaware Valley Network, Teach-out Conference Call, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, February 19, 2008: UFPJ Delaware Valley Network, General Meeting, Conference Call, 6:30 p.m. Bob Moore sets up the call.

Thursday, February 28, 2008: UFPJ Delaware Valley Network, General Meeting, face-to-face, at the WILPF office, 1213 Race St., 6:30 p.m.