

UNITED FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE
DELAWARE VALLEY NETWORK
March 27, 2008

Present: Marlena Santoyo (facilitator), Nina Huizinga (notes), Phyllis Gilbert, Bob Moore, Jerry Taylor, Ken Heard, Rich Gardner, Bob Smith, Ben Sears, Libby Schwartz, Chris Robinson, David Kalkstein, Bernadette Soltis

Evaluation of March 19 and Follow-Up: Is Having a Network Worth It:

- Bob Moore's coalition sent out press releases about our actions. Fox 29 showed up and was very positive. They interviewed 3 people and let them have their say.
- Our actions were listed on the Move-on Web Site
- Helps to have several groups give out the message with a common focus
- We could follow-up with a meeting with the Inquirer's editorial board. Bob Moore may have a "in."
- Suburban papers have GREAT coverage of our actions. Bring this up with the Inquirer.
- Become guest commentary writers
- We could do a letter-writing campaign
- The Armbands and Buttons had potential, but, this time, they came too little, too late to make an impact
- We got good TV coverage on different TV stations
- The NW got good coverage in local papers
- There were different spots during the day.
- We need to develop a relationship with a particular reporter
- We need to have a series of events
- Is the Website useful? It did get better. We got 60 hits a day; then, 90 on the 17th and 18th.
- We need to put a signature with the web site address and have it on all our emails
- Marlena got a call from a French outlet that wanted to interview her in Spanish. We also had German TV covering the Granny clothesline. So we are getting international coverage.
- We should send a "thank you" to the press. Nina and Rich will write it up.
- Maybe instead of protesting Iraq and Iran, we should protest the amount of coverage the Inquirer gives us. We would get media coverage out of this!
- Do original, creative, visual events.

Peace Voter Campaign:

Bob Moore passed around the one-page sheet that shows each candidates stand on key issues related to the war. We could have an impact if we focus on getting this circulated. Coalition for Peace Action will print up a million copies and distribute them in large numbers. How many copies would each of our groups want? Contact Bob at: cfpa@peacecoalition.org or call him at (609) 924-5022.

Let people know that the peace movement is trying to speak to the voters.

Bob Moore agreed that it is OK to bring the peace voter guide to Obama's headquarters so long as they do not coordinate with the Coalition (that must remain politically neutral).

Peace Action Philadelphia will be putting the voters guide onto door hangers. They are planning an action on Tax Day, April 15. Contact Phyllis at: peaceact@critpath.org or call her at (215) 386-4322 (W), (215) 732-9349 (H).

We AGREED to use \$2,000 of the money in our treasury to buy an ad and get people to chip in money to add their names to the ad.

Rich: Would people like the focus of the web site to be this? Answer: Yes.

Suggestion: Have you looked at the Leigh Valley area? Bob: We'll look into that.

Freeze Action:

Folks will be meeting to plan a Tax Day Action for April 15, 2008. They plan to use the tactic of a "freeze action." People freeze in place like a statue and end by chanting. This could be done at one of the railroad stations. We will support this action. Keep us informed as plans develop. Contact: Debi Richter at Debi@busforchange.com or Monique Frugier at pichounete@comcast.net.

See a video of the action at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19qSpGa4zxl&feature=user> Watch to the very end.

Words, words, words: We had an interesting discussion with no decision about the use of the words Iraq Recession, Iraq War Recession, Iraq Bankruptcy, etc. to use as shorthand to indicate that the cost of the Iraq War is a major cause of the economic recession.

Democratic Presidential Candidate Debates:

Peace Action will be gathering (where?) on April 16th at 7 p.m. to watch the debates on TV. Contact Phyllis at: peaceact@critpath.org or call her at (215) 386-4322 (W), (215) 732-9349 (H).

Circus for Justice and Peace:

The Brandywine Community will be holding a Circus for Justice and Peace on April 16, 2008 (Martin Luther King Day and the same day as the Presidential Candidate debate at the National Constitutional Center. They will dress up like clowns, gather at the Philadelphia Federal Building at 4 p.m., walk through the historic district, and end at the Constitution Center. Contact: Bob Smith at brandywine@juno.com or call him at (610) 544-1818.

What Do We Want to Do to Go Forward?

Hold Conference Calls, but think about the size (too many people on one call is difficult to handle). Have physical meetings quarterly. Have a Steering Committee, made up of people who head up different committees.

Have committees for: Outreach, Publicity, Legislative, Program, Coordinate with National UFPJ, Finances, Web

Discussion About Working with Unions:

The PA AFL-CIO Meeting is next week.

We can get money from unions, but we have to ask for it. They will donate money, but getting them to come out for an action is another thing. They will print things for us; they will set-up buses. The labor movement has websites; they put stuff up there about the peace movement. We should make use of them.

We need to understand that the labor movement is very formalized. There are 16 different locals and district councils.

April 28th is Workers Memorial Day.

May 1st, the Longshoremen's Union on the West coast are going on strike in protest against the war. Can we get the Longshoremen's Union on the East Coast to join them? The meeting was very excited about this possibility. We will follow the lead of labor.

Ben Sears, Kathy Black, and Bernadette Soltis will work on this and keep us in the loop. We need to formulate a definite plan. Contact Ben at bikerbenn@aol.com or call him at (215) 844-3784. Contact Kathy at kblack@dc47.org. Contact Bernadette at bsoltis3@yahoo.com or call her at (215) 843-3924.

Next Meeting: There will be a Steering Committee meeting on Monday, April 7, 2008 at 7 p.m. by conference call.

Supplement:

"The Rev. Robert Moore" <cfpa@peacecoalition.org> wrote:

Dear Nina,

Thanks again for doing up the notes of the meeting so quickly after each meeting. It really helps with clarity and with follow-through.

There were a couple (understandable, given how much was being said) errors in items attributed to me.

First, I don't have any particular "in" with the Philadelphia Inquirer. I just had proposed that our regional network seek a meeting with the editors based on their inadequate or non-existent (I don't subscribe, so not sure which is was) coverage of the Fifth Anniversary. I would probably be willing to participate in such a meeting, but don't have any particular ins in setting it up. I believe you may have mixed me up with Bob Smith, who said he knows an editor at the Inquirer, and who I suggested make the overture on behalf of our network for such a meeting. I'm copying this to him in case he is able to take that initiative, I don't recall him giving a clear answer.

Second, it was the UFPJ version of the voter guide that is being printed up on newsprint, for which a donor has reportedly volunteered to print as many as 1 million for the entire country. I reported numbers to David Gibson the next day, who is coordinating the total number and the distribution for the entire state of Pennsylvania. He has ordered 30,000.

CFPA is trying to publish ours as a signature ad, and has it available at the top of our web site for distribution by email and by downloading.

Peace, Bob