



Veterans For Peace - Chapter 74 – Metro Detroit Area Chapter

Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe Counties

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Also, visit us on Facebook, and “like” us at www.facebook.com/VFP74

August 2020 VFP Chapter 74 News Update

Receiving this Update by email but not yet a Veterans For Peace member? Please consider joining! Non-veterans can join as an Associate Member. The more VFP members there are, the more we can do. For membership information visit www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/join-renew

1. Next VFP Chapter 74 Meeting – Saturday, August 15th – 2pm – By Teleconference Only

Due to the Corona pandemic, and the closure of our regular (Swords Into Plowshares Peace Center) meeting location, the Saturday August 15th Veterans For Peace Chapter 74 meeting will be by teleconference only. There will be no face-to-face meeting. To participate, at 2pm, August 15th, dial 563-999-1129 and when prompted, enter the Access Code of 721444. The only cost to participants are long distance fees to the teleconference provider's location (www.FreeConferenceCall.com in eastern Iowa).

Anyone can participate in this meeting, or any other VFP Chapter 74 event, be they veteran or not. The meeting agenda is below...

1. Introductions and welcome
 - a. VFP mission statement
 - b. Members and guests present – Member news
2. General business
 - a. Treasury report
 - b. Membership
 - c. Other
3. Old Business
 - a. Peace Pole WSU
 - b. Other
4. New Business
 - a. Other
5. Upcoming events
6. Adjournment – Next Meeting Date

2. VFP National Online Convention – August 2-9th

While the Convention has already started, this year's online convention (there will not be any physical event – everything will be online only) will continue through August 9th and highlight work being done to address nuclear weapons as well as nuclear colonialism and broader topics such as what decolonizing the peace movement looks like and highlight some of the amazing work being done within Veterans For Peace. For more information on the 2020 VFP online convention, and how to register, visit <https://vfp2020.attendease.com>

3. Hiroshima 75 Anniversary Online Program - Take Trump's Finger Off the Nuke Button

Thursday, August 6 at 7:00 pm (EDT)

Join dozens of peace activists online (via Zoom) to hear University of Michigan Professor Juan Cole speak on Hiroshima Day. Professor Cole teaches at the University of Michigan and is the author of many books, including *Muhammad: Prophet of Peace*. His daily “Informed Comment” at juancole.com sheds light on how war, climate change, and U.S. policy is shaping our world. There will also be tribute to Motoko Huthwaite (1928-2020) www.nytimes.com/2020/05/08/us/motoko-fujishiro-huthwaite-dead-coronavirus.html.

Zoom is coming to you from Detroit Area Peace with Justice Network (DAPJN) members: Chuck Altman; Kim Redigan, Pax Christi, Meta Peace Team; Laura Dewey, Women's International League of Peace and Freedom; Kim Bergier, Michigan Stop the Nuclear Bombs Campaign; Lon Herman, Democrats for Socialist America; Judy Burkhardt, Pointes for Peace; Sherry Wells, Oakland County Green Party; Rev. Rich Peacock, Peace Action of Michigan; Clara Lawrence, Swords into Plowshares Peace Center and Gallery.

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To join the Zoom online meeting (August 6th, 7pm EDT) with full video and audio over your computer click on the link below and when prompted, enter a passcode of 019849

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89158644641?pwd=UjIKVHdXUFR3aTJkMkZUZ29ndVJvQT09>

The Meeting ID is 891 5864 4641. If you have never logged on to Zoom before, log on to the above link at least 10 minutes prior to the start of the program.

To join the Zoom online meeting by telephone only (talk audio only), dial 312-626-6799 or 646-558-8656 and when prompted, enter a Meeting ID: 891 5864 4641 and Passcode: 019849

4. Quick Action To Really Take Trump's Finger Off The Nuke Button

Ask Senator Gary Peters to cosponsor [S.200](#) - This bill would prohibit the President from conducting a nuclear strike against an enemy that did not first launch a nuclear strike against the United States or a U.S. ally, unless Congress expressly authorizes such a strike. If this legislation is approved, another safeguard would be that those in the military who would activate the nuclear weapons would most certainly be aware if Congress had authorized the use of such weapons. If not, they would have grounds to view a presidential-only command to launch an illegal order. Please call Senator Peters recorded comment line at 202-224-6221 (or email <https://www.peters.senate.gov/contact/email-gary>) and ask him to co-sponsor S.200. Senator Stabenow is already a co-sponsor!

5. Other Hiroshima/Nagasaki 75th Anniversary Activities

August 5 (Wednesday) – Hiroshima & Nagasaki – Sharing A Message Of Peace

Event via Zoom will be held on August 5 to share a message of peace with audiences from different cities. August 5, 2020 at 9:30am EDT (August 5, 10:30pm in Japan) [Register in advance for this meeting](#)

August 9 (Sunday) – Witness To Hiroshima Online Program

The [Women's International League for Peace and Freedom](#) present a webinar (6pm EDT: Zoom link [here](#)) with survivor Hideko Tamura sharing her personal experiences from before, during, and after the Hiroshima bombing.

Mayors for Peace Promotes Global Partnership for a World Free from Nuclear Weapons

[Mayors for Peace](#), led by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, is working for a world without nuclear weapons and for safe and resilient cities as essential to realizing lasting world peace. To view their new video, a 7-minute compilation of messages from 23 prominent nuclear abolitionists, and to help Mayors for Peace reach its goal of 10,000 member cities by the end of 2020, [click here](#).

For even more Hiroshima/Nagasaki anniversary actions and resources visit www.unitedforpeace.org/2020/07/25/no-more-hiroshima-no-more-nagasaki and www.unitedforpeace.org/2020/07/25/no-more-hiroshima-no-more-nagasaki-educate-yourself-and-others.

6. Congressional Pentagon Budget 10% Cut Vote Results

In July the U.S. House of Representatives voted on an amendment to cut the Pentagon budget by 10%. Prior to the vote, a notice went out through VFP channels to call Representatives and urge them to vote for the 10% cut. In the end, 93 representatives voted to cut the “defense” budget but a majority of the House still approved shoveling more money into a Pentagon that consistently fails spending audits (www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-features/pentagon-budget-mystery-807276). In Michigan, Representatives that did the right thing were MI-12 Dingell, MI-5 Kildee, MI-9 Levin, and MI-13 Tlaib.

7. Most Popular State Veterans Benefit

Recently the Federal Veterans Administration veteran resources blog (sign up at www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/vetresources) contained an article that individual States offer veterans a wide range of benefits. State Representatives provided the VA with the most popular benefit for veterans. In Michigan, the most popular state benefit for emergent needs, according to Lindell Holm, [Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency](#)/MVTF executive secretary is the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF). The MVTF provides emergency grants to help combat-era Veterans and their families weather unforeseen, temporary financial emergencies. Emergency grants cover expenses such as utility bills, home repairs, transportation and mortgage assistance. For more information and to apply, visit <https://www.michiganveterans.com/mvaaEmergencyAssistanceForm> or call 1-800-MICH-VET.

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8. "Bad Papers" Keep Veterans From Life-Saving Care

From [ConnectingVets](#):

The "failure of the Department of Veterans Affairs and America to help veterans with bad-paper discharges is "deadly serious," Army veteran and advocate Kris Goldsmith told lawmakers on Capitol Hill Wednesday. He knows that firsthand.

"I am a veteran with bad paper," he told a House Veterans Affairs subcommittee. "In addition to the trauma of war, the experience of being discharged with a less-than-fully-honorable status and the resulting denial of VA benefits has shaped my entire life." To cope with horrors he witnessed on deployment as a 19-year-old Army forward observer, Goldsmith said he turned to binge drinking. Though his military career reflected success, Goldsmith was suffering inside. After struggling to get mental health treatment from the Army, he said he gave up.

Goldsmith tried to kill himself near a memorial for fallen soldiers. He was found unconscious and rushed to a hospital.

Months later, Goldsmith said he was removed from the Army with a "general" discharge, which would cost him access to the GI Bill. After an otherwise successful military career, Goldsmith said a staff sergeant issued two counseling statements to him: "One for 'malingering' (a medical diagnosis that an infantryman with only a high school education is not qualified to make) and for 'missing movement,' as my suicide attempt had occurred the night before what would have been my second deployment to Iraq," he said. "Those two counseling statements were all that it took to quickly kick me out of the Army."

Goldsmith was suddenly back home "with no job, no hope, suicidal and drinking heavily." The social stigma of his discharge cut him off "from the men who had months before been like brothers to me."

He wasn't welcome at many of local posts for veteran service organizations. He couldn't collect unemployment as the economy collapsed under the 2008 recession. He was ineligible for most scholarships and fellowships for vets. With the mark of a bad-paper discharge, Goldsmith said he found himself not just unemployed but "unemployable."

Multiple studies show that veterans with bad paper discharges are more likely to be homeless, suffer from substance abuse, become incarcerated, lack access to health care including mental health help, and die by suicide.

9 Have An E-Mail Address?

If you are receiving this update by postal mail and have an e-mail address, it would be appreciated if you could forward your e-mail address to Bob Krzewinski at wolverbob@gmail.com. Your e-mail address will be kept confidential and not given to third parties.

10. Our VFP Chapter Can Use Your Help

Currently our VFP Chapter literally has only a few people doing all the work and projects and to say we could use help is an understatement. Most of these volunteer 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 (one cross for every soldier killed in Iraq/Afghanistan wars) display on Memorial Day or the VFP Chapter 74 activities. 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 Steve Saelzler at saenzler@comcast.net (or call 734-675-4138) and he will get back in touch with you. Thanks in advance for your consideration of this request!!!

11. Announcements, Anniversaries & Events

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 twice a week every Tuesday and Thursday at 2 pm. (EDT). VFP will post the "Join" link in the Calendar section on the right side of the front page of our website - www.veteransforpeace.org - before every Social Hour.

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>

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VFP John Lennon Birthday Benefit Concert Now On CD

In April 2020, Veterans For Peace Chapter 93 released a compact disc (CD) recording of the musical artists performing at their October Ann Arbor John Lennon Birthday Benefit Concerts over the years for the Chapter's Peace Scholarship program. And like the Concert, a purchase of the CD also goes to benefit the Peace Scholarship program.

Selections on the 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).

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.

VFP 74 On Facebook

Veterans For Peace Chapter 74 now has a Facebook page. To sign up, just visit Facebook (www.facebook.com) and type in Veterans For Peace Chapter 74.

Women In Black Marches

Second Saturday of every month in the Metro Detroit area with everyone welcome (men, women, children). Please wear black. You can view upcoming "Women in Black - Detroit" events at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WIB-Detroit>.

Metro Detroit Peace Events Calendar

For a complete update of Metro Detroit area events, visit the Gray Panthers of Metro Detroit website at <http://www.graypanthersmetrodetroit.org/CalendarofEvents.html>.

A Simple Way To Promote VFP - Wear Your VFP T-Shirt!

Help spread the word about Veterans For Peace by wearing a VFP t-shirt, sweatshirt or button around your town or in your travels. Not only does this introduce the public to the fact that there are veterans who stand for peace, but can help bring additional veterans into the organization. Don't have a VFP t-shirt or button? Order them by visiting <http://veterans-for-peace-online-store.myshopify.com/> (secure, online sales available).

Swords Into Plowshares Peace Center & Gallery

Currently closed due to the pandemic. For updates visit www.swordsintoplowsharesdetroit.org.

VFP Michigan Peace Scholarships

Applications are being taken now for the Veterans For Peace Michigan Peace Scholarships, sponsored by VFP Chapter 93. The Scholarships, out of an endowment provided by Yoko Ono to Veterans For Peace, are awarded to college students enrolled in a peace studies or conflict resolution related program. Awards are given to either Michigan residents, or students enrolled at a Michigan college, with a preference given to military veterans. For more information, visit www.vfp93.org/peace-scholarship.