**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](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cwolve%5CDocuments%5CVFP%20Newsletters%5C2019%5Cwww.facebook.com%5CVFP74)

**November 2019 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 <https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/VeteransforPeace/OnlineMembership.html>.

**1. Next VFP Chapter 74 Meeting – Saturday, November 16th – 2pm**

The next Chapter 74 meeting will be Saturday, November 16th, 2019, 2pm, at the Swords Into Plowshares Center in downtown Detroit starting at 2pm. The Swords Into Plowshares Center is at 33 East Adams (near Woodward – map at <https://goo.gl/maps/gDe5esqraCRP9Vui9>) and next to Comerica Park in downtown Detroit. Free parking is available in the Central United Methodist Church parking lot on the west side of the Center. If parking lot attendants are present please tell them you are attending the Vets For Peace meeting at the Swords Into Plowshares Center. Everyone interested in lessening the power of militarism, be they veteran or not, is welcome at a VFP meeting. The agenda is…

1. Introductions and welcome
	1. VFP mission statement
	2. Members and guests present – Member news
2. General business
	1. Treasury report
	2. Other
3. Old Business

 a. October 25, 26 – Rotary Club “Peace In The Streets” conference report

 b. Peace Pole WSU

 c Other

1. New Business
	1. VFP MLK Talk – Swords Into Plowshares
	2. Other
2. Upcoming events
3. Adjournment – Next Meeting Date

**2. VFP Martin Luther King Talk In Detroit**

For a number of years, VFP Chapter 93 (Washtenaw County) has been giving talks at Eastern Michigan University and the University of Michigan on Martin Luther King Day in January titled “What They Didn’t Want Martin To Talk About: War & Militarism.” The theme of the talk is how MLK came around to equate militarism and war as being connected with poverty and racism, the criticism Dr. King encountered for speaking out against war, and how to this day, there is little, if any mention of MLK’s teaching on militarism and war. In 2020, plans are being made to present the VFP Martin Luther King talk in the Detroit area in January prior to MLK Day with a time, date and location to be announced.

**3. VFP National Board Elections & Resolution Voting Deadline December 1st**

****All veteran members of VFP should have received by now a ballot to vote for national Board of Directors members as well as on resolutions, that if approved by the membership, become national VFP policy. Ballots must be postmarked by December 1st. If you have not received a ballot, please call the national VFP office at 314-725-6005.

**4. Detroit’s Pingree – Helping Veterans**

Not all that many people are aware of Pingree, a Detroit worker-owned, social impact company founded in 2015 to create resiliency and living wage work for veterans and Detroiters and to create sustainable products that maximize well-being. Their team of Detroit makers handcraft bags, accessories and footwear, using high-quality leather reclaimed from the Detroit auto industry.

The company is named after Hazen S. Pingree, who over 100 years ago changed the destiny of Detroit. As the owner of the second largest footwear company in the US, he created jobs for hundreds, including his fellow veterans. As a progressive mayor of Detroit during times of great adversity, he started urban farms, ended corporate and political corruption and restored the utility companies to public control. He worked hard to maximize the well being of the people he was elected to serve.

Pingree has a deep commitment to veterans, noting in its mission statement that…

*Our neighborhoods and nation are strongest when those in our community that volunteer to serve this country return home to a strong support system, the ability to find good paying jobs, and can determine what they need and claim it for themselves and their families. This is not happening at the level it needs to, and we all share the responsibility for strengthening and evolving our communities and economies so no one is left behind.*

*Pingree Detroit exists because too many veterans and Detroiters around us are not working who want to work, and we see pathways to create meaningful, living wage work, by hand-making quality products that make life better for our customers, our makers, and the community around us. The veterans on our team regularly lead leather crafting workshops with veterans residing in a veterans shelter in our neighborhood, which allows our veterans to serve and mentor veterans in the area and also creates a direct pathway for us to identify strong candidates to join our team in the future.*

*To support the veterans on our team, we set time aside for leadership development and sponsor alternative therapy including float tank therapy, yoga, and meditation. We are a worker owned company and create community rooted wealth by sharing 77% of profits our company makes with the veterans and Detroiters on our team. Every maker on our team has opportunities to learn skilled trades in shoe making, leather crafting, design, advanced manufacturing, and entrepreneurship. We are all in this together and thank you for being part of our efforts to not only pay a living wage but to reimagine what it means to wage a living.*

With such support for veterans, it is naturally hoped that the public will support Pingree by buying its veteran-made products, which range from footwear, totes, apparel and accessories. These can be purchased online (<https://pingreedetroit.com/collections/all>) or dealers and holiday pop-up stores around the Detroit metro area (<https://pingreedetroit.com/pages/retail-locations>). For more information on Pingree, visit their web page (<https://pingreedetroit.com>) or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/PingreeDetroit>.

PS – Pingree employees routinely stop by Grand Circus Park every Memorial Day to help set up, and assist with, the VFP Chapter 74 Arlington Michigan display (one grave marker for every soldier killed in the Iraq & Afghan wars).

**5. People Over Pentagon**

Veterans For Peace has endorsed the most recent collaboration of a wide swath of organizations to reduce military spending. It’s time to stop misdirecting hundreds of billions of dollars away from domestic and human needs to pad unnecessary budget lines for endless wars, failed weapons and the Pentagon’s corporate handouts. Doing so will make our country stronger and more just. Pentagon spending should be reduced by at least $200 billion immediately, which would free up $2 trillion or more over the next decade for domestic & international human needs priorities.

For more on this issue, [click here](https://default.salsalabs.org/Tbf9b9458-a251-48b3-9949-2e02324ec962/ac2d1723-28ae-4fc8-a164-aa3cdd82bea9) or to sign the petition, [click here](https://default.salsalabs.org/Td76bf121-53c9-4abe-a6eb-16737a48e2c0/ac2d1723-28ae-4fc8-a164-aa3cdd82bea9).

**6. 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 saelzler@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!!!

**7. 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.

**8. Announcements, Anniversaries & Events**

November 15-17 - School of The Americas Commemorative Gathering at Fort Benning, Georgia

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the [Central American University (UCA) massacre](https://www.nytimes.com/1989/11/17/world/6-priests-killed-in-a-campus-raid-in-san-salvador.html) -- one of the many atrocities that occurred in Central America as the United States funded civil wars, trained military at the SOA/WHINSEC, and ensured that right-wing governments remain in power regardless of their human rights violations.

The conditions people are fleeing in Central America are a result of the training, support, and funding that the U.S. has funneled into state violence for decades. Over the last few weeks, news broke that Fort Benning -- home of the School of the Americas / WHINSEC -- is now being considered as a [detention center facility for children](https://taskandpurpose.com/migrant-children-fort-benning). Simultaneously, the US has deployed troops and border patrol agents to Guatemala in order to “halt migration”, justifying it as “humanitarian aid”. Join with members of Veterans For Peace at the School of the America’s Watch for three days of activism and education at Fort Benning, in the Columbus, Georgia area and a two-day drive from southeast Michigan. For more details visit [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org).

VFP 74 On Facebook

Veterans For Peace Chapter 74 now has a Facebook page. To sign up, just visit Facebook ([www.facebook.com](http://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

Open most Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 1pm to 4pm at [33 East Adams](http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=33+East+Adams+at+Woodward+detroit+mi&sll=48.779794,-50.378118&sspn=61.451642,185.449219&ie=UTF8&hq=&hnear=33+E+Adams+St,+Detroit,+Wayne,+Michigan+48226&z=16) (near Woodward) and next to Comerica Park in downtown Detroit. Free parking is available in the Central United Methodist Church parking lot on the west side of the Center. If parking lot attendants are present, please tell them you are going to the Gallery. For more information, including current Gallery hours, a map to the Gallery in downtown Detroit, and exhibit updates, visit [www.swordsintoplowsharesdetroit.org](http://www.swordsintoplowsharesdetroit.org).