



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

June 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, June 20th – 2pm – By Teleconference Only

Due to the Corona pandemic, and the closure of our regular (Swords Into Plowshares Peace Center) meeting location, the Saturday June 20th Veterans For Peace Chapter 74 meeting will be by teleconference only. There will be no face-to-face meeting. To participate, at 2pm, June 20th, 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. Other
3. Old Business
 - a. Peace Pole WSU
 - b. Arlington Michigan display in Grand Circus Park July 4th
 - c. Other
4. New Business
 - a. Other
5. Upcoming events
6. Adjournment – Next Meeting Date

2. VFP Arlington Michigan Display In Downtown Detroit On July 4th – Volunteers Needed



VFP Chapters 74 and 93 are joining forces to set up the VFP Arlington Michigan display (one marker for every Michigan soldier killed in the Afghan and Iraq wars) in downtown Detroit on July 4, Independence Day. The display will be up from 11am to 5pm, in Detroit’s Grand Circus Park (Woodward at East Adams – map link at <http://goo.gl/maps/TvSPI>). The display was supposed to be held on Memorial Day, but was postponed due to the pandemic and the associated “stay-home” directives. Volunteers are needed to help set up the display starting at 10am with

setup taking around an hour. Additional volunteers are needed to staff the display throughout the day and also take the display down at 5pm. If you can help out, please contact Steve at 734-674-0688 or saetzler@comcast.net.

3. National Day Of Action To Save Our Postal Service With Detroit Event - Tuesday, June 23rd

On June 23, postal workers across the country will join together to send our Senators and Members of Congress a clear message: Save Our Post Office. American Postal Workers Union (APWU) local and state unions are organizing events across the country to support a petition delivery on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. It should also be noted that nearly 20% of the Postal Workers are veterans.

In Detroit on Tuesday, June 23rd a travelling CARavan will surround Detroit’s main post office on [1401 West Fort Street](http://www.laborvision.org/podcast.html). Line up on West Fort Street between 8th and 10th Streets at 2pm and greeting carriers till until 4PM. Invited speakers will be live streamed at www.laborvision.org/podcast.html.

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To do your part to help Postal Workers, visit www.apwu.org/us-mail-not-sale. For more about the drive to privatize, and destroy, the U.S. Postal Service, visit <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/04/why-postal-service-worth-saving/610672>. For the American Postal Workers Union - Detroit home page visit www.apwudetroit.org

4. Message To VFP Members On Showing Up For Black Lives

(From Garrett Reppenhagen, Executive Director of Veterans For Peace) - George Floyd's death on May 25th was not new to the long history of police brutality disproportionate to Black people and communities of color. The ability to record video and share it broadly on social media allowed the world to witness the cruelty and disregard for human life that plays out so frequently but often times goes undocumented. It was the final straw to break in a long series of police violence and hate crime against black lives.

As protests and riots spread to every state in the nation it has drawn activists out from physical-distancing due to health concerns to challenge white supremacy, inequality and police violence. Our members have been among them. It has been incredible to see so many Veterans For Peace members take the streets to help demand a racially just society. White supremacy is a pillar of patriarchy, economic injustice and oppression that impacts us all.

Veterans for Peace stands in defense of Black lives. These are perfect opportunities to learn from and follow organizations led by Black people and people of color and our Black VFP members so we are building strong relationships and meeting the needs of the most impacted communities.

I know so many members of VFP have incredible organizing experience and have been on the front lines of movements for generations. I know you are creative and have powerful ways that can be an asset. That wisdom and legacy has incredible value. We will have moments in these coming months to be out in front on specific facets of this revolution.

Now is a good time to be humble. Be helpful. Be heartfelt. The most important way you can show up and be a good ally at this time is up to your POC organizers and VFP members in your local area. You should reach out before taking initiative in your community and establish a connection. Ask them, "How can I support you and what is the best way to meet your needs?". Withhold from offering ideas or suggestions. It is not our place to lecture. It is not our place to make judgments. Be considerate to how they want you positioned, what you are wearing and what you do and say. Our actions can impact their success and their safety.

Be conscious of any privilege you might carry based on how others perceive you. Listen to Black leadership and voices of color. Listen to the youth of the movement. People are in the streets because they are not being heard in other venues. The expression is critical for the world to receive their message. If you show up with an open heart you can prove it by having an open ear. Be silent so their voices can be loud.

At the national office we are speaking to leaders in the movement to be a resource and to support them. We will reveal ways that more members can engage in calls to action and support roles that will build on our mission of peace.

We have made a strong call for our military and National Guard to #StandDownForBlackLives. Since then we are receiving calls from service members looking for options, resources, advice and encouragement to deny orders to mobilize against their own communities. We are in the early stages of organizing peer support advocates and trying to build out our network of educators.

If you haven't seen our previous statements you can see them here:

- [Veterans Condemn Deployment of Troops](#)
- [Veterans Call on the Minnesota National Guard to Stand Down](#)

5. Tell Our Governor: National Guard Off Our Streets NOW!

As streets in towns and cities across the country fill with black protesters and allies rising up to demand justice for George Floyd and the countless Black lives stolen by white supremacist policing and centuries of oppression, some states have met protestors with batons, teargas, stun grenades, rubber bullets, armored vehicles, and live ammunition. Now, every hour, more and more Governors are calling on the National Guard to flood our streets and reinforce police departments already enacting a racist mandate of suppression of dissent. As antiwar activists who rose up against National Guard deployments that would further militarize the U.S. southern border, it is time again to rise up against the suppression of Black uprisings and the militarization of our streets today.

Sign and demand our governor end the war on black people and pull the National Guard off our streets NOW!
<https://act.winwithoutwar.org/act/tell-your-governor-national-guard>

6. The Million Veteran Program Needs More Women Veterans To Participate

From the [VAntage Point blog](#): With Women Veterans Day being held every June 12th, it's important to recognize the contributions of female Veterans like Liotta and Adkins in the Million Veteran Program. More than 830,000 former service members are enrolled in MVP, of which 80,000 are women. Their genetic information and other health data are being used to study diseases, such as breast cancer, and to research gender differences in other common conditions, including depression and heart disease. The goal is to provide better, more personalized ways of identifying and treating diseases based upon a person's characteristics.

Historically, women have been underrepresented in medical and biological research, leading to knowledge gaps that can result in misdiagnoses and drugs that may affect men and women differently. Although these trends have been changing in recent years, the status of women as minorities in the Veteran population can make it harder for VA researchers to recruit enough women to get valid study results. Thus, by volunteering for MVP, female Vets can make a big difference for other Veterans of today and the future.

Related: [How women can join the Million Veteran Program](#)

7. Da 5 Bloods Film Review

It is now 2:00AM in Portland, Oregon. I just got through watching Spike Lee's 2hr. and 35min. film on Viet Nam. I have two words to describe this film: EXTREMELY SHALLOW. I was very disappointed in Spike Lee. I thought he had more depth. Not only did he make the Vietnamese in the film look and act stupid, but he made the five black actors playing five black soldiers look and act superficial.

I "served" (and I use that word loosely) with black soldiers in Viet Nam. I knew some of them very well. Many of them were medics. In my opinion, none of those black soldiers would have liked this film. It did not help the cause of Black History, as so many young people, black and white, are probably going to give this film a lot of credence.

As a Viet Nam veteran, this film was an embarrassment. Spike Lee did not get this film right. The main actor, Delroy Lindo, who is well known in Hollywood, played the part of an American soldier who hated " Gooks." On top of that, the soldier he played wore a baseball cap that had this written on it: "Make America Great Again." That part of the story was utterly absurd, along with the gold they were trying to get back to the U.S. You would have to see the movie to understand.

The only part of the movie that I felt had some credibility was the historical content of what was happening in the U.S. during the time period of this film. Too bad, Spike Lee just didn't get it. Too bad, a lot of people are going to think this film was the way it was. Too bad, there was a lot of killing in this movie at the expense of the Vietnamese. Too bad, the Vietnamese were disrespected by this American made movie. Too bad I watched this film, thinking it might have some historical substance. Too bad a close friend of mine in Viet Nam who was a black medic had to die as a result of being in Viet Nam.

Rest In Peace Willie Hemphill. I'm glad you never saw this film.
Mike Hastie, Army Medic Viet Nam

8. 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.

9. 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!!!

10. Announcements, Anniversaries & Events

June 26 (Friday) - Women Veterans' Health Forum

VeteransPolicy.org is hosting a Zoom Forum on [June 26 at 2 p.m. EDT](#) with leaders from top veteran advocacy organizations to discuss women veterans' health. VHPI Senior Policy Analyst Suzanne Gordon will moderate the discussion with:

- Tammy Bartlet, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
- Maureen Elias, Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)
- Joy Ilem, Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
- Katie Purswell, The American Legion
- Kayla Williams, The Center for New American Security (CNAS)

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>

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 Go 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.

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>.

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>.

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.