



**Veterans For Peace Chapter 74 – The Michael Gramlich – Steve Saelzler -  
Metro Detroit Chapter** Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe Counties  
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Also, visit us on Facebook, and “like” us at [www.facebook.com/VFP74](https://www.facebook.com/VFP74)

## September 2022 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://www.veteransforpeace.org/donate/join-renew>

### **1. Next VFP Chapter 74 Chapter Meeting - Monday, September 19th, 2022 - 7:30pm - Zoom Teleconference**

The Monday, September 19th, 2022, 7:30pm, Veterans For Peace Chapter 74 meeting will be by Zoom teleconference only. There will be no face-to-face meeting. To participate, five minutes before 7:30pm on Monday, September 19th, click on -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87351827168?pwd=azQzQ0NnZTNrQUdmOXJkR1UrWVdpZz09>

To join the meeting by telephone only, call 312-626-6799 and when prompted, enter a Meeting ID of 873 5182 7168 and a passcode of 453676. Anyone can participate in this meeting, or any other VFP Chapter 74 event, be they veteran or not. Please consider attending this online meeting and help our VFP Chapter grow and become more active!

The September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda is as follows...

1. Introductions and welcome
  - a. VFP mission statement
  - b. Members and guests present
2. General business
  - a. Treasury report
  - b. Membership report
  - c. Chapter reorganization & outreach
  - d. Other
3. Old Business
  - a. Other
4. New Business
  - a. 9/23 Military Budget & Climate Protest In Lansing
  - b. Other
5. Upcoming events
6. Next meeting date
7. Adjournment

### **2. Chapter 74 Chapter Meeting Notes - August 15th, 2022 - 7:30pm - Zoom Teleconference**

1. Introductions and welcome – Attending were Jim Rine (Acting Chapter Vice Chair), Bob Krzewinski (Acting Chapter Secretary), and Bruce Baran.
2. General business
  - a. Treasury report – Chapter currently has no funds. Stan Beattie has volunteered to be Treasurer.
  - b. Membership report – Last received membership report was May 2022 with 21 members, 6 lapsed. New membership roster in different format should be arriving soon.
  - c. Chapter reorganization – To be effective, the Chapter needs more volunteers. Talked about was doing some meet-and-greets (with VFP information handouts) at the Swords Into Plowshares Peace Center & Gallery and local coffee houses.
3. Old Business
  - a. Discussion of Ukraine crisis – Briefly discussed.
  - b. Hiroshima Day (August 6) – Jim Rine had a talk prepared for August 6<sup>th</sup> titled "The Fallacy of Prepping for Nuclear War But Not Climate Catastrophe" which now can be viewed at

#### 4. New Business

- a. Report – Jim Rine joined other VFP members arrested on August 3<sup>rd</sup> in Washington, D.C. while protesting US military's links to the climate crisis. Jim gave a talk on this at the meeting.
- b. Potential Climate Emergency Fund proposal - <https://www.climateemergencyfund.org/>
- c. Actions Needed to Call Out US Military's Role in Climate Crisis – Discussion of possible actions.
- d. Other – Bob asked encouraged everyone to review the Chapter's August Newsletter - <https://tinyurl.com/VFP74-August2022> - where an article contained in the document urged Michigan residents to ask their U.S. Representative to help victims of agent orange by co-sponsoring H.R. 3518, Victims Of Agent Orange Relief Act Of 2021.

#### 5. Upcoming Events

- a. The VFP Golden Rule sailboat is being shipped by truck from California to Minneapolis in September to start a trip south on the Mississippi River and then arc around Florida and then down the St. Lawrence Seaway. The sailboat will visit Detroit on August 15<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> in 2023. For more on this project, read the August 2022 VFP Chapter 73 newsletter at <https://tinyurl.com/VFP74-August2022>.
- b. August 25th-28th - VFP Annual Convention (Online) with information at <https://www.vfpconvention.org/>

6. Next meeting date – 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of September 19, 7:30pm, on Zoom.

7. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 8:18pm.

### 3. Volunteers Needed For Military Budget & Climate Protest In Lansing On September 23<sup>rd</sup>



Volunteers are needed to help in a Lansing protest on 23 September protesting against the obscenely large military spending versus real needs like fighting climate change, supporting healthcare, funding education, etc. The support roles needed should not lead to arrest. Timing of the protest coincides with budget debates in Congress that include the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and the international Fridays for Future climate strikes inspired by Greta Thunberg - <https://fridaysforfuture.org/september23/> . The protest in Lansing will hopefully be similar to the one carried out in DC in early August -

(<https://www.veteransforpeace.org/pressroom/news/2022/08/03/release-military-veterans-arrested-demanding-presidential-co> ) where only designated VFP members were arrested.

Everyone is invited to participate in support, but the following support roles need to be filled:

- Spokesperson - during event, pass out statements to any press present and answer questions. After event work with photographer and media person (TBD) to select photos and add captions for press releases that
- On-site “legal” support – Collect and keep personal items of arrestees (wallet, keys, phone, etc.). Keep track of where arrestees are and arrange for someone meeting them after release.
- Legal liaison – If you have experience with this, please let us know. Will entail talking to police who should have already been briefed. May have Lansing-area person handling this.

For more information, contact Jim Rine of VFP74 and the Climate Crisis & Militarism Project (<https://www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/climatecrisis>) at [jimrine22@gmail.com](mailto:jimrine22@gmail.com) or 281-414-1386.

#### 4. State Of Veterans For Peace

These reports are from the VFP National Convention in late August...

Executive Director's Report -

[https://www.veteransforpeace.org/files/3516/6153/8807/Executive\\_Director\\_Report\\_Convention\\_2022\\_1.pdf](https://www.veteransforpeace.org/files/3516/6153/8807/Executive_Director_Report_Convention_2022_1.pdf)

President's Report -

[https://www.veteransforpeace.org/files/9916/6118/9314/VFP\\_Presidents\\_Report\\_2022\\_Business\\_Meeting.pdf](https://www.veteransforpeace.org/files/9916/6118/9314/VFP_Presidents_Report_2022_Business_Meeting.pdf)

Treasurer's Report -

[https://www.veteransforpeace.org/files/9216/6154/5775/Treasurers\\_Report\\_August\\_2022\\_w.pdf](https://www.veteransforpeace.org/files/9216/6154/5775/Treasurers_Report_August_2022_w.pdf)

Membership Report - [https://www.veteransforpeace.org/files/3416/6137/1447/Membership\\_Report\\_2022.pdf](https://www.veteransforpeace.org/files/3416/6137/1447/Membership_Report_2022.pdf)

## 5. Help Support RENEW To Help Heal The Wounds Of War In Vietnam



Since the war's end in 1975, bombs left behind have killed or injured over 105,000 people in Vietnam, one-third of them children. Since 2001, RENEW - <https://renewvn.org> - and its NGO partners have cleared 762,418 live explosives but there's much more to do.

The following is a short note from VFP member, and Vietnam veteran, Doug Rawlings...

*I hope you are well. I'm sending this request to you and your VFP chapter as the [RENEW project](#) in Viet Nam, led by VFP member Chuck Searcy, is attempting to expand beyond the Quang Tri Province.*

*One of the areas they are planning to cover is Quang Ngai Province where the village of My Lai is located. Personally, I know the damage that artillery shells, bombs and landmines can do -- I was with the 7/15th Artillery in the Central Highlands from 1969 to 1970-- and I know, deep down, that the people of Viet Nam continue to suffer because of that war.*

*There is a fundraiser being planned for September 21st in Washington, DC, and I was hoping that you might be able to contribute to it. Our Maine chapter of VFP is donating \$500.00 to the cause because we know that Chuck Searcy will put it to good use. Please join me and our chapter in helping to alleviate some of that suffering and protect the grandchildren of those who survived My Lai from being maimed or killed by the bombs and landmines we left behind. If you're interested in helping out, you can do so by credit card, or PayPal, by going to <https://renewvn.org/donate/> -- the website for Friends of Project Renew.*

*In addition to your chapter, you may know some individuals who have the means and the desire to contribute. Please spread the word. Take good care. And thanks.*

*Yours in peace, Doug Rawlings*

## 6. September 21<sup>st</sup> – United Nations International Day Of Peace



Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on September 21. The United National General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. The 2022 theme for the International Day of Peace is “End racism. Build peace.” To give meaning to this day, we hope you can do the following...

- Visit the UN International Day of Peace web page at <https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace>
- Sign up for the webinar “Active, Courageous Nonviolence Is The Only Way To End Racism & Build Peace” – The presenter is Peter Dougherty, a founder of the Meta Peace Team (MPT) and a Catholic priest of the diocese of Lansing, MI. This webinar will be held Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, from 3pm to 4:30pm EDT. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/META-Peter>
- Take in the United for Peace & Justice group’s special webinar: “End Racism. Build Peace”, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 8pm to 9:30pm EDT. Register at [https://www.codepink.org/ufpj\\_09212022](https://www.codepink.org/ufpj_09212022)

## 7. Short Reads..

- *How Peace Activists (Including VFP) Are Beating the U.S. Military at its Own (Video) Game - <https://progressive.org/topics/gallagher/>*
- *‘The Time to Stop the Holocaust is Before it Happens’: An Interview with Ken Burns - <https://progressive.org/latest/stop-holocaust-before-it-happens-ken-burns-rampell-091222/> The U.S. and the Holocaust premieres on PBS September 18, 19 and 20, at 8pm ET.*

## 8. Announcement, Anniversaries & Reminders

Every Friday - Welcoming New Detroit Immigrants

Welcome new refugees to the metro Detroit region Fridays at Detroit’s Clark Park on the corner of Verner and Clark (map at <https://tinyurl.com/ClarkPark-Map>) from 3:45pm to 4:45pm. The name of the event is We Stand

With Our Neighbors Immigration Vigil. This weekly vigil was started in response to school children in Southwest Detroit whose teachers and counselors are deeply concerned about the trauma students are experiencing as they face the threat and reality of detention and deportations. Our message is: No deportations! No ban! No wall! No harassment and intimidation! Their Facebook page is [www.facebook.com/WeStandWithOurNeighbors](http://www.facebook.com/WeStandWithOurNeighbors).

### E-New 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>

### Michigan Peace Alliance Formed

Over the past few months, peace, and justice advocates (including Veterans For Peace Chapters in Michigan) have been working to form a new organization, the Michigan Peace Alliance, that “connects Michigan based organizations dedicated to peace, to share knowledge, resources, actions, and calendars to build a more peaceful, just and nonviolent society.” the group has a web page at <https://mipeacealliance.org> and a Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Michigan-Peace- Alliance-Page-100512129175722](http://www.facebook.com/Michigan-Peace-Alliance-Page-100512129175722).

### Metro Detroit Peace Events Calendar

For a complete update of Metro Detroit area, visit the Gray Panthers of Metro Detroit website at [www.graypanthersmetrodetroit.org/events-calendar](http://www.graypanthersmetrodetroit.org/events-calendar)

### 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 <https://www.vfp93.org/peace-scholarship>.

### Thinking About Joining The Military? Already In The Military Seeking Conscientious Objector Status, Delayed Enlistment Problems, Or Release From Service?

Visit our new “Thinking About Joining The Military? - Please Read This First” web page by [clicking here](#). The page includes before enlisting, how you should be able to honestly answer some basic questions, and have realistic expectations, about military life, a link to the 24-hour GI Rights Hotline for people already in the military, and a link to Project YANO (Youth And Non-Military Opportunities) with information about military enlistments, the delayed entry program, and resources for alternatives to the military. Also, you will find a link to the Center On Conscience And War which has information on Selective Service registration, the draft, and conscientious objector status.

### Our VFP Chapter Can Use Your Help

Currently our VFP Chapter has only a few people doing all the work and projects and to say we could use help is an understatement. Most of these jobs do not 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 display on Memorial/Veterans Day. 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 Chapter Contact Jim Rine — 281-414-1386 (cell/text) — [jimrine22@gmail.com](mailto:jimrine22@gmail.com) <mailto:saelzler@comcast.net> and he will get back in touch with you. Thanks in advance for your consideration of this request!!!