



Veterans For Peace Chapter 74 – The Michael Gramlich – Steve Saelzler - Metro Detroit Chapter Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe Counties
www.vfp74.org – Chapter Contact: Jim Rine — 281-414-1386 (cell/text) – jimrine22@gmail.com.
Also, visit us on Facebook, and “like” us at www.facebook.com/VFP74

July 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, July 18th, 2022 - 7:30pm - Zoom Teleconference

The Monday, July 18th, 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, July 18th, click on - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89694618253?pwd=Zy0x5dbZIPvNecKO91dEbiGVZeZiXl.1>

To join the meeting by telephone only, call 312-626-6799 and when prompted, enter a Meeting ID of 896 9461 8253 and a passcode of 591328. 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 July 18th 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
 - d. Other
3. Old Business
 - a. Discussion of Ukraine crisis
 - b. Blue Angels airshow
 - c. Other
4. New Business
 - a. Poor People’s Campaign Assembly in Washington, D.C. – Report from Jim Rine who attended the event on June 18th.
 - b. Potential Climate Emergency Fund proposal - <https://www.climateemergencyfund.org/>
 - c. Other
5. Upcoming events
6. Next meeting date
7. Adjournment

2. VFP Chapter 74 – Help Needed To Keep & Grow The Chapter

After the much-too-soon passing of Chapter Chair Steve Saelzler, the greatest tribute to him was thought to be the continuation, and growth of the Metro Detroit (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Monroe Counties) Veterans For Peace Chapter. Quite frankly we need members who can be active and give a younger perspective to the organization. We would also gladly welcome people of color reflecting the diversity of southeastern Michigan.

As far as actual needs for the Chapter, we need a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary which are collectively known as the Chapter “officers”. Right now we have an acting Vice Chair (Jim Rime) and acting Secretary (Bob Krzewinski), but both those individuals would like to pass the jobs on to others. We also have a Treasurer position that Stan Beattie has volunteered for but we currently have no treasury funds.

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What are the job descriptions and duties? They would be...

- Chair – Overall, the job involves keeping a “pulse” on the Chapter (in other words, know what is going on and helping when needed), conduct Chapter meetings (including setting up the meeting agenda) and being a spokesperson for the Chapter.
- Vice Chair – Assist the Chair with their duties when needed.
- Secretary – Take minutes of Chapter meetings (this isn’t as hard as it sounds) and assist the Chair in setting the meeting agenda.

On officer terms, there is no formal term of office in Chapter 74 but in other VFP Chapters it is pretty common to have one-year terms. Not interested in a Chapter officer positions but still want to help out? Other volunteer help is needed in such areas as...

Communications - Help with the Chapter web page (especially if you can build web pages) and Facebook pages, send out press releases by email (i.e. Arlington Michigan display at Grand Circus Park).

Potential Chapter Committees/Working Groups,

- Worried about climate change? If so, join the VFP Climate Crisis & Militarism Project <https://www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/climatecrisis>. If you are not worried, you should be.
- Mayors For Peace Michigan - <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/> - The Mayors For Peace Program has the Mayor of a city make a proclamation that means they support the commencement of negotiations towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.
- Ban Assault Weapon Sales To Civilians - Support legislation to reach this goal, start a boycott of sporting goods stores that sell assault weapons. Veterans who actually used assault weapons in combat have tremendous “credentials” in such work.
- Martin Luther King (MLK) Day Program – One option is having a MLK Day talk with a title “What they did not want Martin talking about... militarism” (MLKs view that militarism was directly tied to poverty and racism). Similar talks have been given at universities and libraries in Washtenaw County by the VFP Chapter there - <https://www.vfp93.org/mlk-war>
- School Visits by VFP - Both high school and college level (i.e. Wayne State University Peace Studies program classes). VFP high school visits can be looked at as full disclosure recruiting as military recruiters do not tell the whole story about serving - <https://tinyurl.com/VFP74-FullDisclosure>
- Peace Poles Project - Set up more [Peace Poles](#) in SE Michigan counties.
- Concert to support WSU Peace Studies program (i.e. at the [Swords Into Plowshares Peace Center](#)).
- Set up a VFP information table at public events. An example is Chapter 74 had an information table at the April 23rd Earth Day celebration in Royal Oak focusing on climate change and its relationship to military and war activities. .
- Any project that supports the Veterans For Peace Statement of Purpose - <https://www.veteransforpeace.org/who-we-are>

How to become more involved with the Metro Detroit Chapter of VFP? First, contact by email, text or phone call to acting Vice Chair Jim Rine (jimrine22@gmail.com, 281-414-1386 cell/text) – and/or acting Secretary Bob Krzewinski (wolverbob@gmail.com, 734-218-3307 cell/text). Also, attend one of the Chapter 74 Zoom online meetings. Meeting Zoom login information is listed online on the Chapter web page (www.vfp74.org), the Chapter Facebook page (www.facebook.com/VFP74), or on the Chapter newsletter (to sign up for the email newsletter send a message to wolverbob@gmail.com).

3. Commemorating Hiroshima: The Fallacy of Prepping for Nuclear War But Not Climate Catastrophe



Presentation by Jim Rine, Veterans for Peace Chapter 74. Saturday, August 6th (anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima), 7:30pm. Sponsored by Peace Action of Michigan (<https://peaceactionmich.org>). To obtain a Zoom program login code, send an email to send your email address to: peaceactionfinance@gmail.com. For more information about the talk, visit https://peaceactionmich.org/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/Flash_Newsletter-July-2022.pdf

4. VFP Statement On Roe Vs Wade

Veterans For Peace (VFP) was organized by military veterans and allies to bring an end to all war and the oppressive systems that enable it. VFP believes that everyone has the absolute right to control their bodies, including reproductive functions, and have access to adequate healthcare. The Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade constitutes a war on rights of bodily autonomy and self-determination, and as such, VFP has a responsibility to fight against it.

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Present and historical discourse centers the overturning of Roe v. Wade as a women's-only issue and within the gender binary. VFP recognizes the rights guaranteed under Roe v. Wade had a wider impact on the bodily autonomy of all gender identities and the present ruling is part of a larger push to reassert heteropatriarchal control over the population. This cannot be tolerated. This and other recent Supreme Court decisions are an exertion of white supremacist, patriarchal, and theological power and control and not about the preservation of life.

The Supreme Court's decision, in siding with white-supremacy, will most negatively affect the same populations who have been most impacted by previously existing restrictions on reproductive healthcare: people of color, who have the highest childbirth mortality rates in the United States, youth (particularly trans and non-binary), indigenous populations, and those in poverty.

These rights have historically been ignored by the U.S. government and its military, through the forced sterilization of the occupied sovereign population of Puerto Rico, in addition to many other black, brown, indigenous, and differently abled populations. It is a hypocritical policy to force birth under the guise of preserving life while the active foreign and domestic policies of our government result in the number one cause of birth defects and still-births in places where U.S. military weapons or assets are deployed. From environmental contamination to known abortifacients like Agent Orange and Depleted Uranium munitions to over-the-horizon bombings of civilian communities; it is clear that the U.S. government is not in the business of preserving life.

The health implications of the ruling are far-reaching. It affects the ability to choose to give birth or not and has the potential to increase domestic violence and decrease access to necessary healthcare. The attack on and inevitable closing of abortion clinics is dangerous and life-threatening as they are often the sole source for contraceptive, gender-affirming, and reproductive healthcare in many communities. In particular, this limits health care options for young people who are subjected to sexual assault and incest, whose healthcare is frequently under the control of their abusers.

Electoral politics, though important, is only one way to support the fight for human rights; it is critical to engage in other forms of organizing and resistance, particularly direct action, strikes, and mutual aid. Veterans For Peace encourages its members to support the community-led movements already rooted in and at the forefront of this issue. Veterans For Peace WILL AID, ABET, AND ASSIST our membership and staff and others impacted by these attacks in getting access to reproductive healthcare. It is imperative to ensure that Veterans For Peace will mobilize its members into systemic community-led resources for the care we need so we can continue to fight for Peace at Home and Peace Abroad.

5. Veterans For Peace At The 2022 Ann Arbor Art Fair



Veterans For Peace Chapter 93 will be having an information table at the Ann Arbor Art Fair on the following dates and times...

Thursday, July 21 • 10AM – 9PM

Friday, July 22 • 10AM – 9PM

Saturday, July 23 • 10AM – 7PM

The VFP table is on Liberty Street, between Division Street and 5th Avenue with a Google map link of <https://goo.gl/maps/W5MXzhMaPBjSVsym7>.

6. Ukraine War Resources



The Ukraine war goes on, and so does the debate over how those working for peace should respond. United for Peace & Justice (www.unitedforpeace.org - VFP national is a member of UFPJ) continues to update its [Ukraine resource page](#) with materials ranging from organizational statements by peace groups to commentary from the Ukraine independent left to statements by the Russian government. Some links worth visiting include a [new site featuring commentary](#) from Russia, Ukraine, and their neighbors, including [interviews with Russian student anti-war activists](#), and the [Permanent Assembly Against the War](#), bringing together antiwar activists from across Europe.

7. U.S. Conference of Mayors Adopts Bold New Mayors for Peace Resolution

At the close of its 90th Annual Meeting in Reno, Nevada, on June 6, the final plenary of the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) unanimously adopted a sweeping new resolution, titled "[Forging a Path to Peace and Common Security](#)." The resolution calls for a negotiated end to the war in Ukraine, global elimination of

nuclear weapons, and the redirection of military and nuclear weapons spending to support safe and resilient cities and meet human needs. This is the seventeenth consecutive year the USCM has adopted resolutions submitted by U.S. members of Mayors for Peace. The USCM is the official nonpartisan association of America's big cities. Resolutions adopted at its annual meetings become official policy that guides the organization's advocacy efforts for the coming year.

Mayors for Peace (www.mayorsforpeace.org/english) is an international organization of cities dedicated to the promotion of nuclear disarmament. Its vision statement reads: "The purposes of the "Mayors for Peace" campaign are to contribute to the attainment of lasting world peace by arousing concern among citizens of the world for the total abolition of nuclear weapons through close solidarity among member cities as well as by striving to solve vital problems for the human race such as starvation and poverty, the plight of refugees, human rights abuses, and environmental degradation". In Michigan, there are four official "Mayors For Peace cities, these include Ann Arbor, Benton Harbor, Detroit and Grand Rapids.

8. Our Newest U.S. Bases: Norway?, Yes, Norway

On June 3, 2022, a majority in the Norwegian Parliament approved a bilateral [Supplementary Defense Cooperation Agreement](#) (SDCA) with the U.S. government, which the conservative Norwegian government had signed on April 16, 2021. The SDCA allows the creation of four permanent U.S. military bases on Norwegian soil: one in the south-east (Rygge), one in the south-west (Sola), one in the mid-north (Evenes), and one in the far north (Ramsund). That last one is the closest to Russia, the understood justification for the bases.

The SDCA allows immunity from Norwegian criminal prosecution for U.S. troops, and allows U.S. military activity beyond the locations of the bases. This means that U.S. troops will be able to engage in activities anywhere within Norway that the Norwegian government approves, and that all U.S. troops will be completely immune from accountability to Norwegian laws for any crimes they may commit. An extensive record of crimes by U.S. military members at foreign bases has been documented by numerous non-governmental organizations.

Peace activists from various groups including Stop NATO, Antiwar-Initiative, and IKFF (Norwegian WILPF) have opposed this agreement through street demonstrations, newspaper articles, and social media campaigns. World Beyond War (<https://worldbeyondwar.org>) is launching [this petition](#) in hopes of getting through to the Norwegian and U.S. governments, with this campaign is in collaboration with Kristin Jacobsen Leganger and Gitte Sætre from the Antiwar-Initiative, Bergen, Norway. [Please sign and share!](#)

9. Web Page Poetry

Poetry by Lily Jarman-Reisch

- [Pantom for a Veteran of the Great War](#)
- [I Never Talked About it After the War](#)
- [Bullshitter](#)

Lily Jarman-Reisch graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She has been a journalist in Washington, D.C., and Athens, Greece, where she lived aboard a small boat she sailed in the Aegean and Ionian Seas. She has held administrative and teaching positions at the Universities of Michigan and Maryland, sailed across the Atlantic, and hiked on four continents. Her poems appear or are forthcoming in [Calyx Journal](#), [3rd Wednesday](#), [Snapdragon](#), [The Fourth River](#), [1807](#), [Route 7 Review](#), [Rise Up Review](#), [The Military Review](#), [Light](#), [Journal of Veterans Studies](#), [The Dewdrop](#), [Gleam](#), [Mediterranean Poetry](#), and other international literary journals.

Lily also urges you to explore other poetry at Military Experience And The Arts - <https://militaryexperience.org>.

Military Experience & the Arts
militaryexperience.org



MEA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose primary mission is to work with veterans and their families to publish short stories, essays, poems, and artwork in our bi-annual publication, [As You Were: The Military Review](#), periodic editions of *Blue Nostalgia: The Journal of Post-Traumatic Growth* and others. Each author or poet that submits work to us is afforded the chance to work one-on-one

with a mentor to polish their work or learn new skills and techniques.

Our staff is based all over the country and includes college professors, professional authors, veterans' advocates, and clinicians. As such, most of our services are provided through email and online writing workshops. All editing, consultations, and workshops are free of charge. Veterans and their families pay nothing for our services, and they never will.

Under our Publications tab, there are nearly a dozen volumes of creative work crafted by veterans and their family members as well as a virtual art gallery. Our blog posts feature short pieces that cover a wide range of opinion editorials, literary reviews, and profiles on veteran artists and writers.

Please consider spending some time navigating our site (such as at <https://militaryexperience.org/as-you-were-the-military-review-vol-14/> (where some of Lily's poetry is published) and reading and seeing the fine work of veterans and their families from around the globe.

10. 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.

August 6 (Saturday), Commemorating Hiroshima: The Fallacy of Prepping for Nuclear War But Not Climate Catastrophe"

Presentation by Jim Rine, Veterans for Peace Chapter 74. 7:30pm. Sponsored by Peace Action of Michigan (<https://peaceactionmich.org>). To obtain a Zoom program login code, send an email to send your email address to: peaceactionfinance@gmail.com. For more information about the talk, visit https://peaceactionmich.org/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/Flash_Newsletter-July-2022.pdf

VFP Annual Convention - August 25th-28th

Veterans For Peace will again hold its annual convention online with a theme this year of "War Making to Peace Seeking". Details, including workshops, awards, how to submit a proposed resolution and/or bylaws change and more, can be found at <https://www.vfpconvention.org>.

VFP National Online Social Hours – NEW TIME! Every Tuesday At 7pm EDT

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 every Friday at 6pm. (EST). To join the Social Hour, go to <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/324812650> or go to Zoom <https://zoom.us/Signin> and click join meeting and enter in Meeting ID: 324 812 650

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>

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.

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

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:saelzler@comcast.net> and he will get back in touch with you. Thanks in advance for your consideration of this request!!!