



**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)

## March 2023 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. Veterans For Peace Chapter 74 Meeting – Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The Monday, March 13th Veterans For Peace Chapter 74 meeting will be by Zoom teleconference only starting at 7:30pm. There will be no face-to-face meeting. To participate, five minutes before the 7:30pm meeting start time, click on this link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87002297835?pwd=RVVFL05UbFI5NEI1RDc4ZS9ZWkh2UT09>

To join the meeting by telephone only, call 312-626-6799 and when prompted, enter a Meeting ID of 870 0229 7835 and a passcode (if prompted) of 422373. 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 March meeting agenda is as follows...

1. Introductions and welcome
  - a. Members and guests present
2. General business
  - a. Membership report
  - b. Chapter reorganization & outreach
  - c. Other
3. Old Business
  - a. VFP Golden Rule sailboat visit to Detroit
  - b. Earth Day
  - c. VFP climate change actions
  - d. Michigan Camp Grayling expansion
  - e. Other
4. New Business
  - a. VFP Memorial Day Arlington Michigan display at Detroit Grand Circus Park
  - b. Other
5. Upcoming events
6. Next meeting date
7. Adjournment

### 2. February VFP Chapter 74 Meeting Notes

1. Introductions and welcome  
Members and guests present – Meeting started at 7:05pm. VFP members attending were Jim Rine, Bruce Barin, Bob Krzewinski
2. General business
  - a. Membership report – 18 members, 7 lapsed
  - b. Chapter reorganization & outreach
  - c. Other – IRS yearly report by Chapter filed (form 990-N) by Bob
3. Old Business
  - a. Martin Luther King Day Detroit Rally & March report
  - b. VFP Golden Rule sailboat visit to Detroit – CRAFT (Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two), Swords Into Plowshares and Peace Action organizations would be a good fit for the Golden Rule visit and Bob will forward contact information to Bruce, along with a media list.
  - b. Earth Day – Jim will look into the Royal Oak, Michigan Earth Day festival for a VFP table.
  - c. VFP climate change actions - VFP table at Michigan Democratic Party Spring Convention (February 11) – Jim and Bob attended the event with a VFP information table focusing on climate action.
  - d. Michigan Camp Grayling expansion – Bob reviewed a draft letter opposing the expansion of the Grayling National Guard base and will report back with a final draft letter.

#### 4. New Business

- a. VFP Memorial Day Arlington Michigan display at Detroit Grand Circus Park – Bob will secure permit.
5. Upcoming events - None
  6. Next meeting date – Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm via Zoom online meeting.
  7. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned 8:12pm.

### 3. VFP Golden Rule Sailboat Visit To Detroit Update

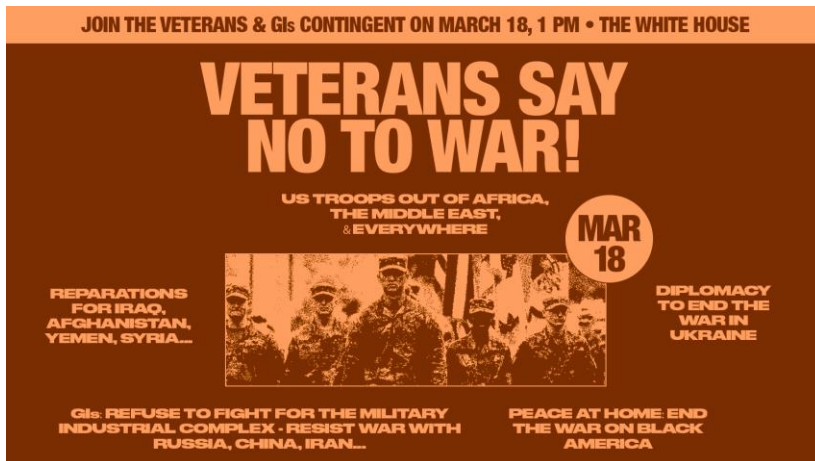


The VFP sailboat “Golden Rule”, which in 1958 set sail to stop nuclear weapons tests in the Marshall Islands is currently travelling up the intercoastal waterway and expected to dock in the Norfolk Virginia area in mid-March, the metro Washington DC region from April 2<sup>nd</sup> and New York City on May 20<sup>th</sup>. For a complete listing of all the cities the Golden Rule will visit, go to <https://bit.ly/GRGLSched>. Currently, the Golden Rule is scheduled to head west on the Great Lakes, stopping at Toledo on August 10 to the 13<sup>th</sup> and in Detroit on August 13<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup>. Please note, however, that all dates are still tentative.

The Metro Detroit VFP Chapter 74 is teaming with Chapter 93 (south central Michigan) to sponsor activities surrounding the visit to Detroit. Anyone interested in planning this Detroit event should attend our monthly Chapter meetings or contact Bruce Baran at [bpbaran@gmail.com](mailto:bpbaran@gmail.com). For more information on the Golden Rule, along with an interactive map, visit <https://vfpgoldenruleproject.org>. Their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/GoldenRulePeaceBoat>.

#### 4. Saturday, March 18 -- National March on Washington: Fund People's Needs, Not the War Machine!

A number of organizations, including Veterans For Peace, will be participating in a gathering on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> (the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq) to push for funding programs for people, not the military and to end the war in the Ukraine. For more information, visit <https://www.codepink.org/piu20iraq> or [https://www.answercoalition.org/protest\\_march\\_18\\_19\\_peace\\_in\\_ukraine\\_say\\_no\\_to\\_endless\\_u\\_s\\_wars](https://www.answercoalition.org/protest_march_18_19_peace_in_ukraine_say_no_to_endless_u_s_wars). The veterans contingent (made up of [Veterans For Peace](#), [About Face - Veterans Against the War](#), and [Eyes Left](#)) has their own page at [https://www.answercoalition.org/join\\_the\\_veterans\\_and\\_gis\\_contingent\\_on\\_march\\_18](https://www.answercoalition.org/join_the_veterans_and_gis_contingent_on_march_18)



Also, please note that Jim Rine, the Metro Detroit VFP Chapter Vice-Chair is organizing a carpool and if interested, contact Jim at [jimrine22@gmail.com](mailto:jimrine22@gmail.com).

#### 5. VFP Metro Detroit Earth Day Events

VFP 74 will be participating in two local events in support of the VFP Climate Crisis & Militarism Project (<https://www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/climatecrisis>). For more information on the events listed below, contact Jim Rine at [jimrine22@gmail.com](mailto:jimrine22@gmail.com) or 281 414 1386.

- Oakland County Earth Day Climate March/Rally/Fair. The March begins at 10:00 AM on April 22 on E. Third St. next to Royal Oak City Hall. And, it will conclude in the same location at 11:00 AM, signaling the start of the rally. A fair will also run from the hours of 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM on S. Troy Street. (VFP will be tabling with setup at 8:30 am.)
- Romulus ECO FAIR 2023 - Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Romulus Athletic Center, 35765 Northline Road, Romulus, MI 48174. VFP 74 will be tabling and making a presentation

## 6) Support Staffing The VA

The national Veterans For Peace Save Our VA Steering Committee is alerting veterans that the VA cannot provide health care to veterans if it does not have staff. The VA, like the rest of health care in the US, is being impacted by the national shortage of health care workers at all levels that has been worsened by the COVID pandemic. This is compounded by the VA being unable to match salaries being offered in the private sector. The recently introduced bill, S.10 - VA Clinician Appreciation, Recruitment, Education, Expansion, and Retention Support (CAREERS) Act of 2023, offers some steps to make the VA more competitive, including authorizing modifications of pay limitations for specialty medical positions and increasing salary caps for certain leadership positions.

It is difficult to know the number of current staffing vacancies in the VA but it reported nearly 77,000 at the end of 2022. An OIG report (OIG Determination of Veterans Health Administration's Occupational Staffing Shortages Fiscal Year, # 2022 22-00722-187) found that all 139 VHA facilities reported at least one severe occupational staffing shortage. Insufficient staffing increases referrals to the private sector under the Veterans Community Care Program (VCCP). VCCP care costs more than VA care. Less money for VA care affects VA staffing. Insufficient staff results in more VCCP referrals. Veterans lose their ability to choose the VA as a provider of high-quality healthcare.

Click this link - <https://www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/stop-privatization-veterans-health-administration/take-action-saveourva/careersactcta> - to urge your Senators to support S.10 - VA Clinician Appreciation, Recruitment, Education, Expansion, and Retention Support (CAREERS) Act of 2023. Please modify the letters by clicking on the letter and adding a few words, such as "I'm a veteran (family member/friend of a veteran)" as personalized letters receive more attention.

The Veterans Healthcare Policy Institute (VHPI) in conjunction with the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) will issue a complete report on a staffing survey next month. Read a summary of findings at [VA System Under Strain Due to Staffing Shortages + Care Outsourcing](#).

VHPI wrote a staffing report in 2020 explaining many of the issues that affect staffing. Find it at [The VA's Vacancy Crisis](#).

Human Resource management intensifies VA staffing shortages. Read about this at [Trump's VA Legacy: Human Capital Mismanagement](#). Even though Trump is named in the title, these issues continue in the Biden administration

## 7. Announcement: Increase in VFP Dues

From the VFP national office... *"It has been at least a decade since VFP dues were raised from \$25 to \$40, even as costs have continued to grow. The VFP Board of Directors recently elected to increase basic membership fees from \$40 to \$50 annually. This slight increase in annual dues is in line with the challenges of our times. This increase will go into effect at the end of February. We'll continue to monitor expenditures and pledge to increase revenue through other means during the course of the year. As a valued member of the community, your continued support enhances VFP's continued commitment to peace and ending wars. Lifetime membership will remain at the amount of \$1,000. As always, active duty membership is without cost, reduced and student due rates remain the same, and scholarships are available."*

## 8. Quote Of The Month...

*"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall. Think of it-- always."* — Mahatma Gandhi

## 9. 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).

### 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 E-News List

Veterans For Peace puts out a weekly eNews that features a weekly summary of news from Veterans For Peace members, chapters, and the National office. To sign up for the Weekly eNews, [click here!](#)

### 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) and he will get back in touch with you. Thanks in advance for your consideration of this request!!!