



**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](http://www.facebook.com/VFP74)

## October 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 Online October Online Meeting – Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – 7:30pm

The October 16<sup>th</sup> 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/83909158087?pwd=OFhKQnZsSGZ1MFYvdmxHNzZWTUFRZz09>

To join the meeting by telephone only, call 312-626-6799 and when prompted, enter a Meeting ID of 839 0915 8087. If asked, the passcode is 492170. 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 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. VFP climate change actions
  - c. Other
4. New Business
  - a. Other
5. Upcoming events
6. Next meeting date
7. Adjournment

### 2. VFP Participates in End Fossil Fuels March in NYC

Over a dozen VFP members from the NE and Mid-Atlantic region joined the 400-strong anti-militarism contingent at the End Fossil Fuels march in New York City on 17 September. At least 20,000 participated in the overall march. VFP endorsed the march and called on Biden to fulfill his campaign promises on the climate ([www.endfossilfuels.us/](http://www.endfossilfuels.us/)).



View from the head of the anti-militarism hub of the End Fossil Fuel march in NYC on 17 Sept. The three VFP members holding the banner from left to right are Elliott Adams, Detroit Metro Chapter 74 Vice-Chair Jim Rine and Ellen Barfield. They were all arrested the next day.



Climate activists crowd a sidewalk Monday, Sept. 18, 2023, in front of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, demanding that the Fed cease the financing of fossil fuels. Credit: Keerti Gopal

The next day, 114 demonstrators were arrested for blockading the NY Federal Reserve building to demand the Federal Reserve make rules restricting banks from investing in projects that exacerbate the climate crisis. Most of those arrested were Gen-Zers with a smattering of Boomers. One Gen-X woman stood out, however, as she stood with other handcuffed protesters waiting to be processed at the Manhattan Detention Center. She wore a bright yellow t-shirt imprinted with “Mother” and stood next to a similarly clad Gen-Z lady with “Daughter” on her shirt.

More on the New York’s Climate Ambition Summit - <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/19092023/todays-climate-new-york-climate-week-united-nations-climate-ambition-summit/>

To view more photos from the march in NYC see Ellen Davidson’s photos - <https://photos.app.goo.gl/wzi0KEgg95VXRhqU8>

### **3. VFP Annual Election Ballots Have Been Sent**

Election ballots are out for VFP members to elect Board Of Directors members and approve or reject resolutions. The main form of voting will be online. If you are a member, you should have already received your electronic ballot by email with your own UNIQUE link to vote. If you do not see it, please search [invitation@mail.electionbuddies.com](mailto:invitation@mail.electionbuddies.com) in your spam folder. Electronic voters will receive multiple emails with links and text messages if we have your cell phone in our system. Voting electronically is the preferred method, as it saves time, money, and paper.

If you voted last year by mail, you will automatically receive a mailed ballot. Mailed ballots will be sent on Oct 3, 2023. Paper ballots must be postmarked by November 3rd to be counted. If you would prefer a paper ballot this year, please email [shelly@veteransforpeace.org](mailto:shelly@veteransforpeace.org).

Voting will close on November 3rd, and results will be available by Nov 17th. As a reminder, all members can vote on board candidates and resolutions. If you have election questions, feedback or want to be removed from future ballot lists, please email ElectionBuddy Support at [veteransforpeace@electionbuddy.com](mailto:veteransforpeace@electionbuddy.com).

### **4. Veterans Administration Million Veterans Program**

The Million Veterans Program (MVP) is a VA program where researchers use genetic, health, lifestyle, and military background information to understand how genes affect health and illness. Understanding differences in our genes can help explain why some people get diseases and respond to certain treatments while others don’t. This can also help health care providers offer better preventative care and treatments of illnesses and disease. Individual genetic information is not currently returned to our MVP partners. However, Veterans, families, and their providers can use findings from MVP to make important health care decisions.

Since the MVP program started, hundreds of important research findings that matter to Veterans have been discovered such as...

- **Mental Health:** The MVP program is studying ways to detect, prevent and treat PTSD, depression, anxiety, suicide, and substance use disorder.

- Cancer: The MVP program is studying breast cancer in women, prostate cancer in men, and head and neck cancers in different ethnic groups. Their cancer research may lead to genetic tests that predict cancer risk in different populations.
- And more: MVP research is being done including Alzheimer's Disease, cardiovascular disease, cholesterol, dementia, diabetes, Gulf War Illness, kidney disease, macular degeneration, nutrition, osteoarthritis, Parkinson's Disease, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and tinnitus.

For more information on, and take part in, the Million Veterans Program visit [www.mvp.va.gov](http://www.mvp.va.gov).

### 5. Peace Quote Of The Month...

*"Not one of us can rest, be happy, be at home, be at peace with ourselves, until we end hatred and division."* — John Lewis, deceased Congressman in the House of Representatives representing Georgia's 5th District

### 6. Announcement, Anniversaries & Reminders

#### Thursday, October 12 – VFP Concert For Peace At The Ark In Ann Arbor

This concert is a benefit for the Veterans For Peace Chapter 93 Peace Scholarship Fund. \$20 admission with proceeds going to scholarships for college students enrolled in peace studies and conflict resolution programs (such as those offered at [Wayne State University](http://Wayne State University) and [Michigan State University](http://Michigan State University)). Emceed by Chris Buhalis this year's lineup includes musical artists Laith Al Saadi, Annie Bacon, Dave Boutette & Kristi Davis, Mark "Mr. B" Braun, Judy Bunker, Annie and Rod Capps, Rochelle Clark, Shari Kane & Dave Steele, Sophia Hanifi & Dave Keeney, Billy King, The Pontiac Trailblazers, Dick Seigel, Emily & San Slomovits and Rollie Tussing, all performing peace and justice related songs. For advance tickets visit <https://theark.org/event/veterans-for-peace-concert-231012/> or call (734) 763-8587. For more information on the Peace Scholarships, visit <https://www.vfp93.org/peace-scholarship>.

#### 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!](#)

#### Steve Saelzler Memorial Donations Can Now Be Given Online By Credit Card

If you would like to make a donation in honor of Steve Saelzler, the deceased Chair of Veterans For Peace Metro Detroit Chapter 74, please consider supporting the Wayne State University Center for Peace and Conflict Studies - <https://cpcs.wayne.edu>. The goal of the Center is to develop and implement projects, programs, curricula, research, and publications in areas of scholarship related to international and domestic peace, war, social justice, arms control, globalization, multicultural awareness, and constructive conflict resolution. Steve made a number of visits to peace and conflict resolution classes, talking about his experiences in the military, why he joined Veterans For Peace and urging students to apply for Peace Studies Scholarships offered by Michigan VFP Chapter 93 at <https://www.vfp93.org/peace-scholarship>. Donations in Steve's honor to the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies now can be done online at <https://cpcs.wayne.edu>. At that web page click on the yellow "Make A Gift" button and it will take you to a donation page where you can do a credit card, Venmo, or PayPal payment. Further down the page you can list the honoree's name and choose if you want your name to be shared with the honoree's family member(s) through a personalized letter notifying them of your gift and a tribute message.

### 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!!!