



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

June 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, June 13th, 2022 - 7:30pm - Zoom Teleconference

The Monday, June 13th, 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, June 13th, click on...

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85418227679?pwd=SSStVOWVYTmtFdjN6ZmExZ0JnZUQ2Zz09>

To join the meeting by telephone only, call 312-626-6799 and when prompted, enter a Meeting ID of 854 1822 7679 and a passcode of 114992. 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 June 13th 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. Report: Arlington Michigan Memorial Day display at Grand Circus Park
 - b. Grand Circus Park Peace Pole
 - c. Discussion of Ukraine crisis
 - d. Blue Angels airshow
 - e. Other
4. New Business
 - a. Poor People's Campaign Assembly in Washington, D.C. - <https://www.codepink.org/together>
 - b. Potential Climate Emergency Fund proposal - <https://www.climateemergencyfund.org/>
 - c. Other
5. Upcoming events
6. Next meeting date
7. Adjournment

2. Reminder - Poor Peoples Campaign June 18 March In DC – Busses Leaving From Detroit/Ann Arbor



The June 18th Mass Poor People's and Low-Wage Workers' Assembly and Moral March on Washington and to the Polls is meant to be a generationally transformative and disruptive gathering of poor and low-wealth people, state leaders, faith communities, moral allies, unions and partnering organizations. It is NOT just a day of action. It is a declaration of an ongoing, committed moral movement to 1) Shift the moral narrative; 2) Build power; and 3) Make real policies to fully address

poverty and low wealth from the bottom up.

People will be gathering from across the nation to demand this nation do more to live up to its possibilities...

- More to fully address the interlocking injustices of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation and the denial of health care, militarism and the war economy and the false moral narrative of religious nationalism.
- More to change the narrative and build the power of those most impacted by these injustices.
- More to realize a Third Reconstruction agenda that can build this country from the bottom up and realize the nation we have yet to be.

CODEPINK is a core partner for the Poor People's Campaign which is working to confront the interlocking evils of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, militarism and the war economy, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism. More on CODEPINK and the March can be found at <https://www.codepink.org/06182022>.

Busses from Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti and Detroit are planned to transport marchers to and from DC. Jim Rine plans to participate in the march and teach-in later - https://www.codepink.org/ppc_antimilitarism_20220618. For more information contact Jim Rine at jimrine22@gmail.com.

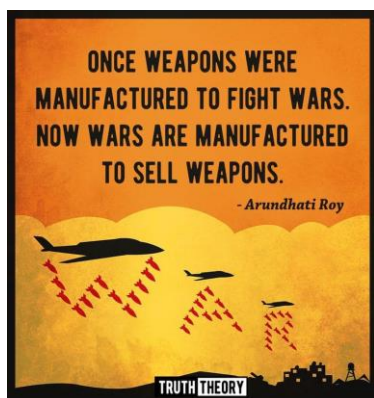
3. VFP Golden Rule Project Coming To The Great Lakes (And Detroit) In 2023



The Golden Rule is a project of Veterans For Peace. We aim to advance Veterans For Peace opposition to nuclear weapons and war, and to do so in a dramatic fashion. We have recovered and restored the original peace ship, the *Golden Rule*, that set sail in 1958 to stop nuclear weapons tests in the Marshall Islands, and which inspired the many peace makers and peace ships that followed. The reborn *Golden Rule* is sailing once more, to show that nuclear abolition is possible, and that bravery and tenacity can overcome militarism.

To follow the VFP Golden Rule Project on Facebook, visit <https://www.facebook.com/GoldenRulePeaceBoat>. If you're interested in crewing in California or around the Great Loop in 2022-23 or wish to volunteer, please fill out a crew application at vfpgoldenrule.org/crew-application The [Golden Rule News Fall 2021 edition](#) is now also available.

4. Biden Administration Redeploy U.S. Troops To Somalia To Fight Al-Shabab Re-Escalating A War That The United States Has Never Officially Declared (From Win Without War)



And just like that, the era of endless war is wrenched wide open again. Just nine months after withdrawing U.S. troops from Afghanistan, U.S. operations in Somalia and across the globe continue, because presidents and the Pentagon twist current law to find the authority to keep sending troops and dropping bombs.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 11 of the Constitution makes it crystal-clear that Congress has the SOLE authority to declare war. But for decades, Congress has ceded their war-making authority to the presidency.

Right now, that failure to lead means expanding U.S. war-footing on almost every continent, as president after president has been able to abuse two congressional authorizations (AUMFs) passed after 9/11 to justify dozens of military misadventures: Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq and Syria, and thousands of U.S. troops patrolling Africa across Chad, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, and South Sudan. And those are just the operations we know about.

President Biden's decision to redeploy U.S. troops to Somalia is a clear and distressing signal that he's following the failed strategy of presidents before him, but it's also a complete one-eighty — as a candidate Biden promised to “end the forever wars.” So why's it happening? Well, one explanation is that it's meant to send a signal to Russia and shore up influence in the Horn of Africa, potentially laying the groundwork for yet another proxy war in the region. Here's where we remind you that just like Somalia, Eritrea, and Ethiopia, we're not at war with Russia either.

That's why we say: ENOUGH. A war-first strategy has failed people across the globe for decades, and we refuse to put hundreds more troops in harm's way or turn any more communities into our battlefields. No one, anywhere, will be made safer by more violence. For more on this issue visit <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/national-security-daily/2022/05/16/biden-escalates-the-forever-war-in-somalia-00032767>

5. Web Page Reads

The Myths Of War & Why We Should End All War Now - World Beyond War - <https://worldbeyondwar.org> – has a two part series worth looking at... [The myths that generate war support are debunked here](#) and [The arguments for ending all war are listed here](#)

Texas Soldiers Are Unionizing After Facing Attacks by a Right-Wing Governor - In Texas, National Guard members faced painful cuts and absurd assignments by Republican governor Greg Abbott. So they did what many exploited workers before them have done: they organized a union. For more on this story, visit <https://jacobin.com/2022/05/texas-soldiers-unionizing-right-wing-governor-greg-abbott-tseu-national-guard-organizing>

REAL Democracy History Calendar - The REAL Democracy History Calendar provides 1-4 listings per day sent by email every Monday morning of activities, events, quotes from prominent individuals and/or other occurrences (both past and recent) on the themes of democracy, human rights, corporate power and rule, and wealth in society (especially in elections). To subscribe (one e-mail a week) visit <https://list-manage.us12.list-manage.com/subscribe>

6. 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.

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". The Convention Committee envisions three tracks within the theme: Individual transformation from war-making to peace-seeking, the experience of many members of VFP; Community transformation: the "Peace at Home" part of our "Peace at Home, Peace Abroad" lens; and Global transformation: redirecting material, emotional, and spiritual resources from attempts to achieve global domination to cooperation to achieve global healing. More details about the 2022 Convention 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 these 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." A web page for the Michigan Peace Alliance is in development but the group does have a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Michigan-Peace-Alliance-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 and he will get back in touch with you. Thanks in advance for your consideration of this request!!!