

Broome Co. Peace Action
Minutes of the meeting on Tue., Feb. 10, 2009
Unitarian Universalist Congregation , Binghamton NY

Present: Board Members: Tarik Abdelazim, Herb Bix, Len Bjorkman, Ann Clune, Jim Clune, Pat Creighton, Michelle Dinger, Dave Duncan, George Haeseler, Alan Jones, Doris Reed, Susan McAnanama,
Members at large: Carol Miyake

President Tarik Abdelazim called the meeting to order at 7:03p.m.

The agenda was approved.

The **minutes** of the Jan. 13 meeting were approved.

The notes of the open discussion that took place before the Jan. 13 business meeting had not been sent to the guests who were there; Len agreed to send them. They had been sent to the Board members.

Pat distributed the **treasurer's report**; it was accepted as presented. The balances are: BCPA – \$2,824.87; BCNWRC – \$993.10; STPMF -- \$9,111.24.

Letter to the Editor Committee

Sue reported that there have been a few letters; George had one printed yesterday.

It is now possible to go on line at the P&S-B site and comment on the letters.

Membership Committee

Sue is now the chairperson of the committee. George will continue to maintain the data-base.

UPDATE committee

Alan reported that the deadline for articles is Feb. 16. Sue will summarize the notes from the Jan. discussion; Tarik will have an article; Ann will put in notices of coming events, such as the observance of the beginning of the Iraq War. George will convene the mailing crew.

STPMF Committee

Dave reported on the meeting with the Binghamton River Trails Commission, and the discussion they had relating to several possibilities – flowerbed, bench with plaque, and mural. The Commission is very receptive. A prime location appears to near a major statue. We are encouraged to walk around the park and give any suggestions to Dave.

Broome County War Tax Resistance Fund Committee (BCWTRF)

George is encouraging people to resist by withholding symbolic amounts, such as \$10.40, or any other amount of their choice. He showed some brochures from the national War-tax office. They continue to look for group endorsements. As we draw near to the April tax deadline, he and others will make up their minds as to how to express their commitment to keeping our taxes from paying for war. George gave a workshop on this at the PANYS annual meeting.

George's full report is found as [an appendix to these minutes](#).

Ad-hoc Committee on Israel – Palestine Crisis

Jim reported very enthusiastically on the Grassroots Training and Lobby Day in D.C., Feb. 1-2, including his visit with Hinchey's staff, and the visits with Schumer's and Gillibrand's staff.

His full report is found as an [appendix to these minutes](#).

Len also reported on his visit with Arcuri's Chief of Staff, and distributed a postcard calling for an investigation into Israel's use of US weapons and the elimination of military aid to Israel; these postcards are to be mailed to the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation.

They also distributed a sheet listing all the legislative issues that were discussed in the Congressional visits.

There will be a planning meeting on March 5 at 7 p.m. at the Clunes' to continue to discuss local responses. This will consider any possible follow-up to the meeting at BU on Th., Feb. 12. The divestment campaign will also be discussed.

There will also be a meeting with either Hinchey or his staff soon; Jim is contacting people to take part.

Report from PANYS Conference

Sue reported on the annual meeting in Rochester on Feb. 7 that she and George attended. She was very pleased with everyone's enthusiasm and with the two national staff who outlined the goals for PA for this year, and the legislative priorities. Her full report is found as an appendix to these minutes.

The meeting voted to bill each chapter \$5/member for 2009. \$1 of that will go to the national office.

She and George told us how the discussion went on our proposal adopted at the Jan. meeting to revise the United Nations. There was one initial objection and then several very positive statements; all the voting members passed our resolution unanimously; thus it will go to the national office with that endorsement; we assume they will set up a committee to deal with it; George has volunteered to be on that committee.

MSP to reimburse George and Sue \$88.23 for their expenses.

At our March meeting we need to decide how much we will send to the national office and when.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

NOTE: Following the meeting we expected to have a discussion with BU students, but they were unable to attend. So we discussed various options for Tax Day, and for the March 19 observance of the beginning of the Iraq War.

On Tax Day we may do something at the Post Office or the Federal Bldg. We may put together a sheet with information about how much the war is costing Broome Co., based upon information from CostofWar.org. If we can find out the local cost of the entire military budget, that would be helpful. Also, we may get copies of the War Resistance League's annual pie chart, showing the military budget in comparison with domestic spending.

On March 19, the UU Church will have a candle-light vigil at 5:30 p.m.; St. James Church will have a service at 7 p.m., with Jim as the speaker.

There was considerable interest in having a mock funeral procession memorializing all the war dead and all the victims, perhaps with banners on cars, and people dressed in black lining the streets. The route is to be discussed.

An over-all theme might be: End All Occupations!

It was later announced that on Feb. 22, 5 p.m. at the Clunes' (89 Pine St., Bing.) there will be a meeting to plan for something on either March 19 or 21.

Respectfully submitted,
Len Bjorkman, Secretary