

## SOUTHWEST FLORIDA COALITION FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

November 29, 2007 Minutes

PRESENT: Aires GCCPJ, Anderson M Web Page, Breyer CA&L Brunberg UUV PCF, Fippinger IND, Fitzpatrick SMM, Gamson, CoCP Murphy FCPJ, Raby VPC, Roach VPJ, Rogers VPC, Schmitz EPIC, Smith CCP, Slettehaugh RTI, Sweeting MUUF/SAC, Thompson CoCP, Upshall FCC/UCC, Whipple CoCP

Augie moderated the meeting. There were 19 present, representing 13 groups. Minutes of the Nov. 25 meeting were approved as corrected. There was no Treasurer's Report.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

The **Nonpartisan Policy** for the Coalition was presented, **revised and adopted** to read as follows:

*The SWFCPJ is a nonpartisan organization, meaning we are not influenced by or affiliated with any political party. As an organization, we do not support or endorse candidates for office. This policy does not prevent individual members from being active politically.*

*In regards to SWFCPJ membership and events:*

- 1. Political parties will not be members of SWFCPJ but may participate in Coalition events to promote peace and justice issues.*
- 2. Political candidates will not be allowed to have tables at SWFCPJ events.*

**A Legal Status Committee** of Julia Aires, Arlene Sweeting and Lee Breyer will get legal advice on options for a non profit organization seeking to raise funds for general expenses.

**World Day of Peace** Julia reminded us that although this event is the 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Venice Peace Day celebration, the world wide observance began 20 years ago in 1986. Carol Ann announced that a representative from the Immokolee Coalition of Farm Workers will be added to the program, and it will have a Table Exhibit. Mary Edda reported she now has 12 tables and snacks. The program will include a descriptive list of all the exhibit tables. It will also include names of area restaurants. Doug will make sure they are open. Glenn volunteered to usher. Augie's 8' painting of the Statue of Liberty with a broken arm, symbolizing the theme, will be on display. Fliers were distributed. All are urged to promote this event **Duisberg Award** will be presented to Aiden Delagano. Carol Ann will contact the nominee.

**Touch Screen Voting** Augie proposes that the House Speaker be petitioned not to seat either Jennings or Buchanan until the matter is satisfactorily resolved in the state. His goal is to get 400,000 signatures in an Email petition. (See Attachment) He requested that this organization endorse the plan. He further requested that certain members of SWFCPJ write and hand deliver letter(s) to prominent Sarasota citizens describing the plan and seeking their support

Julia Aires brought up organizing a **bus trip to Washington, DC on January 27th for the Bring the Troops Home Rally**. Arlene said she would talk to New College students to see if they were interested in participating. Babs suggested also having a local rally on that day. Julia requested that this be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

**Membership** Ruth requested that group members identify a delegate and (if possible) an alternate from each member group. She proposed that *each member group and each liaison group have one vote but that a single delegate may not vote for more than one group.*

**Bylaws** Pat presented the following description of Liaison Membership to be approved at the December meeting. *Liaison Membership held by any loosely organized groups (ie, with chapters, grass roots activity, or extensive mailing lists but no offices or formal central structure) with Board representation and voting rights.*

Next **Peace Education** committee plans to organize events around the Season of Nonviolence (Jan. 30-Apr. 4th). If you are holding events related to nonviolence during this time period, let Arlene know so that she can try to get you some extra publicity. Glenn called everyone's attention to a petition calling for the dismantling of the No Child Left Behind legislation - [www.educationroundtable.org](http://www.educationroundtable.org)

The **Website** has been updated. [www.SWFCPJ.org](http://www.SWFCPJ.org) The committee would like feedback from the membership. Arlene, [agsweeting@yahoo.com](mailto:agsweeting@yahoo.com), needs email addresses from officers to put up links on website. Another website to check out: [www.artiststowatch.com](http://www.artiststowatch.com).

### **GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CoCP** Don announced that the Coalition of Concerned Patriots would be meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 5th from 4-7pm at MUUF. Two priorities: Military recruitment on high school campuses/opt out forms and the District 13 Revote Don also reported on the trip to Fort Benning. 10-12 people went with their group, there were 23,000 at the worship service on Sunday. He encouraged everyone to keep the pressure up to end the SOA

**CCP.** Carl Smith is available in February and March to conduct Creating a Culture of Peace Workshops.

**FCPJ** Pat Murphy has been officially re-appointed to serve as a liaison from our organization to the FCPJ and vice versa.

**CP** Code Pink will hold an organizing meeting on Dec. 6 at home of Monica Spain.

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS.**

- **November 30** A Department of Peace fund raising event in Gainesville.
- **November 30** Film: Iraq For Sale 7:00P.M. Fruitville Public Library. Free.
- **Dec. 2**, Sat.1:00P.M., Memorial Service for victims of El Salvador massacre in 1980
- **Dec. 3** Bayfront at 2:00 P.M. Revote Rally
- **Dec. 6** Code Pink organizing meeting
- **Dec. 8** Nicaragua School Bus Fundraiser 6:00 P.M. Venice Community Ctr.
- **Dec. 8** Food Not Bombs and other homeless rights groups plan a **Camp Out** to protest Sarasota's anti camping ordinance. FMI [sarasotafnb@yahoo.com](mailto:sarasotafnb@yahoo.com)
- **Dec. 10** Augie's Party, 6:00 P.M. 5318 Calle Florida
- **Dec. 13** SWFCPJ meeting at 9:30 A.M. UU Church, Sarasota on Fruitville
- **Jan. 1**, 2007 World Day of Peace, Epiphany Cathedral, 350 Tampa Ave., Venice
- **Jan. 27** March on Washington, "Bring the Troops Home"
- **Feb. 9**, 7:00 P.M. Dr. Rosenberg Marshall at USF Campus, 8350 N. Tamiami Tr.
- **Feb. 10&11** Workshop on Nonviolent Communication with Dr. Rosenberg at Rising Tide International FMI call (941)539-7603

Ruth Upshall, (& Arlene Sweeting) Secretary

**NEXT MEETING December 13, 9:30 A.M., UU Church, Sarasota, on Fruitville Rd**