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Citizens for Peace Minutes 6-8-10

Linda J. Lieder

Wayne State University, linda.lieder@yahoo.com

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CITIZENS FOR PEACE
Minutes
June 8, 2010

The meeting opened at 7:05 pm with a welcome by President, Colleen Mills. She welcomed everyone including our two newest members. She introduced, Inner Peace Director, Caroline Trout, who shared a passage from the Unity's "Contact" magazine for teachers, endorsing the U.S. Department of Peace Legislation. She shared a photo of her new hero, Armando Galarraga, the young Detroit Tiger who recently handled adversity with grace.

Our theme tonight is the support of the Youth Promise Act and Caroline shared a passage from Robert Muller's publication, "Decide To", on networking. "Use every letter you write, every conversation you have and every meeting you attend.....to share your view of the world you want to see. Share it, Spread it, Affirm it! Networking is the new freedom! Affirm: I will consciously network my thoughts and actions for Peace!" She also reminded the group of member, Ann Abdoo's article in the Political Action Guide, titled "Courageous Peace" – a great piece.

Guest Speaker:

Colleen introduced Meredith Carson, from the Schoolcraft College Student Peace Alliance, who shared her experience at the recent National Student Peace Alliance Conference in Texas. Her enthusiasm could hardly be contained, as she said there were so many young people in attendance sharing their passion against youth violence. She said there were several speakers at the conference, including a woman who works with "Ceasefire", as a violence interrupter, who said violence is a Public Health problem. Although 100,000 young people are incarcerated in the U.S., the greatest portion of violence in our country is Domestic Violence. We are all too familiar with the statistic that 80% of the calls the Detroit Police respond to, are for domestic violence. Despite the statistics, Meredith is confident that the youth of our nation can make a difference.

Action Plan:

We're here to send postcards to our legislators regarding the Youth Promise Act (H.R. 1064 & S. 435), a bi-partisan bill with 235 supporters in the House and fourteen in the Senate. We need more support for this important legislation that would use the best practices from around the country to prevent youth violence, support at-risk youth before they become part of the juvenile justice system and help to prevent bullying in the schools and the gang violence that plagues many cities. *PROMISE stands for: Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education.*

Treasurer's Report:

Colleen read the Treasurer's report, submitted by Rick Abdoo, and reported on how the profit from the Midwest Conference was shared with others.

Announcements:

- Linda L. announced the Peace Vigil that will take place this Sunday at 2:00 – 4:00 pm, at the Veterans Memorial.
- Colleen asked if anyone is interested in attending the Social Justice Forum taking place in Detroit, this year. Although we don't have a table, she has items we can distribute.
- Colleen presented Schoolcraft College Student Peace Alliance, past President, Polly Anna Egan, with a Commendation from Wayne County Commissioner, Laura Cox, for her winning Peace Essay.
- Richard T. invited the group to support the upcoming Steak Dinner to help defray a huge water bill.

In closing, Colleen extended a heartfelt Thank You, to the members of the Citizens for Peace, for their efforts in making the recent Midwest Peace Conference a success.

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm.