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Citizens For Peace Minutes 02-09-07

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CITIZENS FOR PEACE

Minutes

February 13, 2007

The meeting opened at 7:15 pm with a welcome from Colleen Mills. She asked all the members and guests to introduce themselves to get better acquainted.

Our Inner Peace Director, Caroline Trout, welcomed those in attendance and read a selection from a book by James Twyman, "Praying Peace". She explained that he is known as the Peace Troubadour and sings all over the world. This book discusses seven pathways to Peace and suggests we all:

**Begin each day realizing what your real goal is, and ask yourself the question-
Why were you brought into the world?**

Treasurer, Rick Abdo, stated that our books are balanced and ready for review. Kim Korona and Dottie Ochala volunteered to review the Treasurer's books.

Colleen announced that Bill Cline has a new computer and is editing our Political Action Guide. It is quite an undertaking and we look forward to the revised version. A big thank you to Bill.

March 30th Fundraiser:

Rosemary Doyle, our Education Director, spoke about the Library Peace Collection project. She displayed the invitations to our Fundraiser on March 30th, at Madonna University, and asked that each member take a few to distribute to family and friends. There will also be an electronic version for emailing out. We're looking forward to a wonderful event that will benefit a very worthy cause.

DoP National Convention:

Some of our members recently attended the National DoP Convention in Washington, D.C. Colleen asked that they share their thoughts with the group.

- Ann Abdo was amazed by the speakers who included Deepak Chopra, Marianne Williamson and others. She spoke to Sen. Stabenow and Sen. Levin's aides. Ann and Rick Abdo went to Rep. McCotter's office and spoke to his aide. When asked why Rep. McCotter doesn't support the legislation, the aide explained that he is not a believer on big government and is not in favor of creating new departments. On their way out, they saw Rep. McCotter arrive and greeted him respectfully.
- Dottie Ochala was amazed to see House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. She was also taken by how much was going on at the conference. So many things are still running through her mind.
- Rosemary Doyle said the conference was quite empowering. She visited our Senators' offices and focused her discussion on budget programs for helping displaced women (victims of domestic violence and women released from prison). She suggested we increase those budgets and work at lowering the numbers of women in these categories.
- Betty Appleby, who has been involved with the DoP since its inception said Dr. Michael Beckwith was on fire! She is still inspired by his energy. She stated we need to focus on the education of our schoolchildren, especially in the areas of domestic violence. We need to increase the budget for the Headstart program to accommodate education regarding nonviolence. We need to suggest this to Rep. Kilpatrick, as she is on the House Appropriations Committee.

- Colleen said the conference was just fabulous. Every Michigan Representative's office was visited. Colleen was quite moved by Dr. Michael Beckwith. She said the most exciting was the Gallery visit and listening to the one-minute speeches. She played a clip from Rep. Dennis Kucinich's speech. She also mentioned that the new House bill number is 808.

We then viewed a DVD that was put together from the previous National DoP Conference which included the following thoughts:

**“The time is now to make your voice heard...
Create the world you want.
There is nothing more important.....”**

Meeting closed at 8:40 pm.