

Veterans For Peace Associate Member Committee Report Recommendations, including
VFP Board Follow-up Votes on AM Committee Proposals

***Bold sections are the actions taken by the Board in response to the report.**

1. The Associate Member Committee recommends that the Board of Directors support a by law change that grants Associate Members the right to vote at the National level on resolutions, except for those on which military experience is directly relevant to understanding and exercising judgment on an issue.

Motion made to amend recommendation to allow Associate Members to vote on all resolutions, without military experience qualifier, passed 5–1, 1 abstention. (11/21/11)

Motion to support a by law change that grants Associate Members the right to vote at the national level on resolutions passes 5-1, 1 abstention. (11/21/11)

2. The AM Committee recommends the VFP National adopts a practice of clear, articulate and accessible written policies in lieu of inaccessible or unwritten rules and cultural habits.

Board consensus is that this recommendation is being dealt with. (11/21/11)

3. The AM Committee recommends that VFP National limit the number of Associate Members to 25% of total membership. National should articulate it in writing as policy, and enforce it at the National level through limiting acceptance of memberships. Non veteran applicants beyond this percentage could be put on a waiting list until the percentage of non veteran membership drops.

Board voted to reject the AM Committee's recommendation and stay with current policy unanimously. (12/19/11)

4. The AM Committee recommends that local chapters be allowed to function with the talents and skills available regardless of veteran status.

Motion made to accept recommendation #4, except for local chapter Presidents or Chairs, passed unanimously. (12/19/11)

5. The Committee recommends the VFP membership brochure be modified to include a place for donors.

Recommendation #5, adopted by unanimous consent by Board. (10/30/11)

6. The AM Committee recommends that numerous smaller inequities between veteran and non veteran members are eliminated, including, but not limited to, exclusion from the hardship rate membership fee.

Board approved extending “hardship rate” membership fee to Associate Members. Motion to postpone decision on other recommendations in #6, until the President appoints Board members to develop language addressing inequities in VFP, passes 6-1. (12/19/11)

7a. The AM Committee recommends completion of the Active Non Violence Training Project, that all resources for this project be available to veteran and non veteran members on an equal basis, and that the leadership be proactive in promoting this project.

Motion for consideration of recommendation #7a in Strategic Planning Process, passed unanimously by Board. (12/19/11)

7b. The AM Committee recommends an Associate Committee, consisting of these members or others as desired, reconvene or be converted into an active working group no later than November 2012. The purpose of this second committee would be to review the implementation of these recommendations and look at progress towards desired goals, with the understanding that resolution of these issues is a long term process.

In the spirit of an open and egalitarian organization, we ask that this report be made available to all members. We ask that the Board of Directors draft a letter to the membership detailing their actions based on our recommendations. This may be done via the newsletter or e-mail.

Recommendation #7B, adopted, one abstention. (10/30/11)

Motion to adopt recommendation #7B as Associate Committee (not working group), agreed to by unanimous consent. (10/30/11)