



VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION

# NEWSLETTER

NO. 17

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## National Steering Committee Meeting -- Just Around the Corner

In light of the fact that we will be seeing each other within the next week at the NSCM, this will not be a run-of-the-mill newsletter. Therefore, don't be disappointed at the length of this missive; rather, look forward eagerly to the Ohio meeting where we will have the opportunity to speak with people from around the country and share the work going on in the various regions.

There are a few things regarding the Yellow Springs meeting which should be noted here. We realize that regions have been receiving mailings from Cincinnati relaying the latest info on the status of the meeting; however, there are a few points which should be reiterated before people hit the road. If regions have questions regarding the meeting, meeting facilities, etc., you should call either this office or the MOINKWVAWPA regional office at: (414) 441-3811 as soon as possible.

One important point which should be touched upon again is the host region's request that all delegates pre-register if possible. It may be too late to get your \$10.00 check in the mail at this point, so just be sure to have it with you when you arrive in Yellow Springs. There will be no exceptions to this registration fee, so if people don't have the money, they may find themselves on the streets of Antioch selling Winter Soldier to defer the costs of their food and housing.

It should also be noted that no region is to bring more than 8 people to the meeting. This allows each region 5 delegates and 3 alternates and there are to be no exceptions to this rule. It is not advisable that people bring along their best friend because the dormitory rooms are limited. People do have the liberty to attend the New Years Eve bash which will begin upon the conclusion of the meeting. If people are planning to come to Yellow Springs for the party, they should not expect to be allowed into the meeting at any time; they are just to come to the subsequent "social event of the season."

One of the most important things to remember is that regions must have their Round Robin reports in printed form to be handed out to other regions before the meeting begins. This also applies to National Office Reports -- i. e. this office, NOSCAM, Bogue Chitto, etc. There will be no rambling reports on the wonders of the various regions; no diarrhea of the mouth. The time the regions will have to "orally" discuss their region will be for the purpose of giving a run-down on the strengths, weaknesses and problems within the region. This is all.

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In conclusion, people should be aware that the meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, December 28th. Please try your best to be there before the meeting convenes. We hope that all of the above information is taken in complete seriousness. Have a safe trip to Ohio and we are looking forward to seeing everyone next week.

### Don Kemp Trial PostPoned

The re-trial of Don Kemp (accused of murdering his wife while suffering flashbacks of Vietnam) has been postponed until January 14, 1974. Regions should have received the packet sent out by the Wisconsin regional office relating to Don's trial. The essential focus of the trial will be around the issue of PVS and the politics of this issue. The defense committee (Milwaukee VVAW/WSO) feels that the defense will have some serious problems in the courtroom. Waukesha, Wisconsin is not the most progressive community around and there will most assuredly be objections to the introduction of "political" testimony. Also, Don's attorney has been appointed by the court and he is a good buddy of the prosecuting attorney, as well as a buddy of the judge. Therefore, his presence on the defense team has not been greeted with open arms. There are also the facts that Don is in the process of suing the prosecuting attorney for his conduct during the last trial, and it is probable that the court will not smile on this fact. The only good thing that has resulted out of pre-trial hearings is that the judge who presided over the first trial has disqualified himself from hearing this second trial. He felt that he could not be fair in his decisions, so he has been replaced.

Wisconsin VVAW/WSO requests that chapters in the area consider the possibility of having people attend the trial. As scheduled now, the trial will begin at 8:30 on the morning of the 14th, so people should seriously consider being present and showing support for Don. We will continue to publish updates on the situation in Waukesha as they develop, so if there are further changes in the trial date, all regions will be notified.



Columbus and the Truckers -

About two weeks ago, the Columbus chapter called this office to inform us that they were leafletting in support of the trucker's blockade of Highway 70. There is a story on the truckers in this copy of Winter Soldier, much of which was based on the information supplied by the Columbus chapter. The response to their support of the truckers, by the truckers was overwhelming. We would suggest that chapters who have worked on support work for these strikes or who thinks that they may in the future, should contact the Columbus chapter for more information. They have put out a leaflet that is excellent and you should ask for a copy of it. The Columbus chapter address is: VVAW/WSO, PO Box 10116, Columbus, Ohio 43201. Their telephone number is (614) 299-6921.

Chicago Plans Anti-Imperialist Demonstration on Jan. 26th -

The Northern Illinois-Iowa Region voted at their last regional meeting to propose that the national organization sponsor demonstrations on the weekend of January 26th and 27th, the first anniversary of the signing of the peace agreement on Vietnam. The chapter has adopted the proposal locally and is in the process of putting together a planning committee to handle the setting up of the demonstration.

To date they already have gotten permits at the Civic Center for a rally and are in the process of getting permits for a march down State Street, (which is the main drag in Chicago.) The chapter planning committee is inviting other anti-imperialist groups to join as well as local community organizations and unions. They are making contacts to have several people's bands participate in the demonstration march. Bread and Roses Theater Group will put on some skits and the rally will have three speakers. The three demands of the demonstration will be: Implement the Treaty, Impeach Nixon and Amnesty for All War Resisters.

The chapter feels that this demonstration with ample planning will help to unite many organizations in the city in order that continuing demonstrations will result. Their plans for the demonstration are going along smoothly and they suggest that any chapter planning a similar action should begin now in setting it up to allow for good results.

VVAW/WSO and Amnesty -

It has come to our attention lately, that there have been some interesting developments in the funding procedures for discharge upgrading projects around the country. Many of these projects are made up of organizations of national structure. VVAW/WSO invariably is one of the participating organizations in them. We would like every chapter that is involved in any coalitions on amnesty and discharge upgrading to send a written report on the process of the development of the coalition or project. We would appreciate this information as soon as possible. It should include the organizations and individuals that are connected with the setting up of the coalitions.

Cairo/Bogue Chitto Christmas Clothing-Toy Drive

In October, VVAW/WSO and the Friends of the United Front (of Cairo) made a tentative agreement to conduct a joint clothing-toy drive; the United Front would collect most of the goods, mainly through their network in St. Louis, and VVAW/WSO would take care of transporting the goods to Cairo and Bogue Chitto. The action was conceived as a midwest action, to be expanded next year if successful. That is why many of you have not heard of this until now.

It now looks like there will be more than enough clothes to fill an 18' truck. The only remaining problem is money, our part of the arrangement. The rental of an 18' truck and gas will cost \$250.00. So far we have received or have pledges for \$125 from chapters and individuals. Chapters sending money or pledging include Columbus, Ohio; St. Louis; Chicago; California Regional office as well as members in Columbia, Mo. and Milwaukee. In addition to this, Columbus is sending clothes, New York City is sending clothes, and Tampa is dropping off medical supplies on their way to the NSCM. St. Louis hopes to come up with some plumbing fixtures to send down on the truck. The house which the VVAW/WSO collective lives in has no plumbing fixtures or plumbing.

The truck is scheduled to leave St. Louis on December 23rd, providing the rest of the money is raised. Since the National Office is low on funds we hope that the remainder of the cost will be covered by the chapters. If you can help, send a check or money order to the National Office, payable to VVAW/WSO, and marked Cairo/BC. If you have clothes, toys or any of the items on the OCF donation list (Newsletter #15) please send them direct to Bogue Chitto. As some of you will be getting this after the 23rd, you can assume that the truck has left, but the bills will be coming in.

