

## **ARTICLE I. NAME**

The name of this organization shall be Veterans For Peace Golden Rule Project (hereafter “GRP”).

The GRP is a National Project of Veterans For Peace, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri, (hereafter “VFP”) and is fiscally sponsored by VFP Chapter 22, Garberville, California.

## **ARTICLE II. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

### **SECTION 1. MISSION STATEMENT**

THE ORIGINAL NUCLEAR PROTEST BOAT, THE GOLDEN RULE, WILL SAIL AGAIN TO PROMOTE A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE, TO EDUCATE ABOUT THE DANGERS OF RADIATION TO HUMANITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT, AND TO SUPPORT PEACEFUL ALTERNATIVES TO WAR.

### **SECTION 2. WHO WE ARE**

The restored Golden Rule and its voyages are intended to honor the spirit of the original crew who, by non-violent direct action and education, protested atmospheric nuclear testing in 1958. Their success catalyzed and advanced the anti-nuclear and anti-war movements.

We are committed to ending arms races and abolishing nuclear weapons, illuminating the true costs of war, and finally abolishing war as an instrument of national policy.

The Golden Rule Project and VFP are equally concerned about the state of the environment, and the impact upon it of military activities. In fact, we see peacemaking and the environment as being inextricably intertwined. After all, the U.S. Department of Defense is the world’s number one polluter.

We are likewise fully committed to the use of nonviolent means. The Quaker-inspired original crew of the Golden Rule pioneered the use of nonviolent direct action, and the restored boat will proudly carry that message forward.

## **ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **SECTION 1. GENERAL POWERS**

The management of the Veterans For Peace Golden Rule Project shall be by and through the Board of Directors.

## **SECTION 2. NUMBER AND QUALIFICATIONS**

The Board of Directors will consist of at least ten (10) Directors. The Board of Directors may change the size of the Board. Board members shall be in agreement with the Mission Statements of both Veterans For Peace, Inc., and the Veterans For Peace Golden Rule Project. They shall take an active role in moving the project forward by donating their talents, raising and donating funds, or all three. The GRC Board may include non-veterans and non-VFP members.

## **SECTION 3. APPOINTMENT TO BOARD**

Candidates for Board membership are nominated by a current Board member. To serve, they must receive a majority of affirmative votes at the meeting during which they are nominated, as well as the succeeding meeting.

## **SECTION 4. VACANCIES**

A vacancy of the Board of Directors shall arise on the death, resignation, or termination of a Director or on the inability or refusal of a Director to serve. Upon the unexcused absence of a Director from three (03) consecutive meetings of the Board of Directors, such absences may be declared by the President, with the approval of the Board, to cause a vacancy and the vacancy shall be announced to the Membership. Directors may be removed by a majority vote of the Board.

## **SECTION 5. NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

Notice of any special, not regularly scheduled meetings of the Board of Directors shall be given at least thirty (30) days prior. The notice will be written, will include a proposed agenda and will be delivered in person, by mail or by acknowledged facsimile or e-mail to the entire board.

## **SECTION 6. OPEN MEETINGS**

Meetings of the Board of Directors are open to the public. Closed meetings may be held on matters involving personnel, litigation, contractual negotiations, or similar matters on a recorded vote of the Board of Directors. When a meeting is closed the reason shall be recorded.

## **SECTION 7. OPEN MEETING RECORDS**

The Secretary shall maintain minutes of the meetings. The minutes shall be available to supporters upon request.

## **SECTION 8. MEETING SCHEDULE**

Golden Rule Committee (the Board) meetings are held monthly at a time and place to be announced.

## **SECTION 9. QUORUM**

A majority of the members of the GRC shall constitute a quorum.

## **SECTION 10. AMENDING THE BY-LAWS**

The By-Laws can be amended by a majority of Board members at a regular meeting. The proposed amendment(s) must be announced at the previous meeting, and appear in the meeting minutes.

## **SECTION 11. RESOLUTIONS**

Resolutions shall require a majority vote of the quorum for approval.

## **SECTION 12. VOTING RIGHTS**

GRC Board members may attend meetings, and vote, via telephone.

## **SECTION 13. GRC SUB-COMMITTEES**

There are 4 sub-committees: Restoration; Fundraising; Promotion; and Strategic Visioning. There is no paid staff.

## **SECTION 14. INSURANCE**

The GRC Board shall ensure that the boat is properly insured at all times.

## **SECTION 15. NON-DISCRIMINATION**

Membership on the Board may not be denied because of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin or any other discriminatory practice.

## **ARTICLE V. THE CREW AND THE VOYAGES**

Guided by the Mission Statement, the Golden Rule Board of Directors will be responsible for all the practical aspects of implementing the mission of the Golden Rule Project including itineraries and schedules, mission events, selecting and training crew members, maintenance and fund raising. The crew are ambassadors for VFP and must share the values of the organization and be in accordance with its mission, as well as the mission of the GRP. They must be fully conversant with the history of the Golden Rule and its original crew, be committed to the principles of non-violence and respect for the humanity of both opponents and supporters. The highest standards of dignified behavior are expected. International crew are welcomed. Safety is the highest priority, along with protecting the boat.

## **ARTICLE VI. THE GOLDEN RULE ADVISORY BOARD**

Prominent peace-makers, with the approval of the GRC, are asked to join the Advisory Board. Their names appear on our web site and stationary; and are used to give a boost to our grant applications and requests for support. We also greatly value their advise and counsel.

As of Sept., 2014 the Golden Rule Advisory Board included Colonel Ann Wright, Professor Lawrence Wittner, Doris Timm, Elliot Adams and Brian Willson.

## **ARTICLE VII. SECRETARY**

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors; he/she shall also see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these By-Laws or as required by law; he/she shall keep a register of the mailing addresses (and email addresses) of Board members; he/she shall keep track of and update the email "contact list" of supporters; he/she shall, in general, perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary.

## **ARTICLE VIII. TREASURER**

The treasurer shall be responsible for all funds of VFP and for the performance of all duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as may be from time-to-time prescribed by the Board. He/she shall submit a monthly Treasurer's Report to the Board of Directors; and insure that proper tax documents are prepared and submitted. See ARTICLE X. for additional responsibilities of the Treasurer.

## **ARTICLE IX. SALARIES**

No member of the Board of directors shall receive any salary or other compensation for services rendered to VFP-GRP in their official capacity as a member of the Board of Directors but they may receive reimbursement for authorized expenses. Salaries may be paid, at the direction of the Board of Directors, to any employee of VFP-GRP. Employees may be members of VFP but may not be members of the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE X. FINANCIAL REVIEW AND CONTROLS**

### **Section 1. Financial Reporting**

A financial report (including volunteer hours) shall be provided to the Veterans For Peace National Office semi-annually. It shall be made available to the GRP Board.

At the end of the fiscal year, financial information shall be provided to VFP Chapter 22 to facilitate their filing of the federal tax form 990 for the Golden Rule Project. The acknowledgment of the receipt of this filing will be forwarded to the VFP National Office.

### **Section 2. Financial Review**

VFP-GRP shall obtain a financial review not less than annually. A qualified Board Member, but not the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, or employee may prepare the review.

### **Section 3. Internal Controls**

The Treasurer does not have check signing authority. Checks require the approval of the GRC, and signatures of two GRC members.

The GRC Treasurer reconciles the bank statements monthly.

Mail is picked up by a volunteer at least every two weeks. Volunteer and Treasurer open mail together and log all incoming checks. On each check is immediately written, "For deposit only, Umpqua Bank, Account # \_\_\_\_\_".

Outgoing checks must be supported by an approved invoice, receipt, or a voucher prepared by the volunteer if a receipt or invoice isn't available.

## **ARTICLE XI. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the VFP-GRP at meetings in which they are not inconsistent with these By-Laws.