

NATIONAL
WAR TAX RESISTANCE
 COORDINATING COMMITTEE

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

A memo to the IRS,
 I won't pay a dime for this mess.
 You won't get no more for weapons of war
 or the empire of the US.

Picking highlights from a year of activism in the NWTRCC network is not easy. The month-by-month photos are just a sampling from a very busy year. One of the most frequent questions to NWTRCC is "how many people in the U.S. are war tax resisters (WTRs)?" One inclination is to respond with something about "quality not quantity," and 2015 was a year with some exceptional new resisters. A couple Iraq veterans and recent college graduate Sam Koplinka-Loehr were among those who made public their moving letters to the IRS. NWTRCC's Social Media Consultant, Erica Weiland, created a video for social media and internet circulation titled "Dear IRS." It included quotes and readings by resisters from their letters to the IRS and was shared on Facebook, Twitter, and beyond.

Media coverage during tax season included an article by Iraq veteran Matthew Hoh with an accompanying video interview on the widely viewed Huffington Post. War tax resistance stories appeared in print and online from WHYY in Philadelphia, to The Cap Times in Madison, Wisconsin, and Oregon's Eugene Register Guard. Other interviews were broadcast on Occupy Radio Podcast, WMNF Florida, Northern Spirit Radio, and the syndicated show "Law and Disorder."

Tax day was lively, with penny polls and literature tables organized by **Denver War Tax Boycott** at Dr. Fosberry's Tax Day Carnival; in front of the Palmer Square Post Office in **Princeton**, New Jersey; and at Quaker House in **Santa Rosa**, California. Pioneer Valley War Tax Resisters featured music with their tabling in front of the **Brattleboro** (Vermont) Food Coop. CodePink **Austin** reprised their Human Penny Poll, dressing in costume to represent categories of government spending. Chicago War Resisters League and Chicago Area War Tax Resisters Support Group held a rally in downtown **Chicago** with leafleting at Federal Plaza. **Maine** WTR Resource Center sponsored leafleting at post offices around the state; and members of **Tucson** chapters of Veterans for Peace and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom joined Nuclear Resister for a vigil outside the main gate of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. Sometimes just one person can make a big mark; in **Southern California** Jerry Coffin placed piles of WRL pie charts next to IRS forms at libraries and post offices in his area.

Outreach continued throughout the year, with war tax resistance tabling, workshops, or marching with our banners at the Spring Awakening conference and rally (**Washington, DC**); Jewish Voice for Peace conference (**Baltimore**); Peace

January

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Sustainable Options for Youth held a penny poll in **Austin, Texas**. At the beginning of tax season, it's a great time to organize a war tax resistance event. Photo: Susan Van Haitsma



February

Heartland Peace Tax group tabled at the Hesston College (**Kansas**) conference, "Overcoming Evil: Ordinary People Making a Difference" that featured a talk by John Dear (left). Photo: Susan Miller

March

War tax refusal and simple living mentor Juanita Nelson died in **Greenfield, Mass.**, at age 92. "I became a dedicated war tax refuser in 1948 . . . I could not support the military when Wally had just spent over three years in prison for saying no to that form of organized crime." Photo: Ed Hedemann



April

Tax day actions around the country included redirection ceremonies with grants totally nearly \$50,000 to humanitarian organizations like this one in **Eugene, Oregon**. Photo: Susan Cundiff

May

NWTRCC's spring gathering and meeting were held at Casa Maria Catholic Worker in **Milwaukee**. A May Day sing-a-long, dinner at a Marquette Center for Peacemaking event, and a panel discussion with local activists George Martin and Mary Watkins were highlights. Photo: Ruth Benn



June

NWTRCC had tables and workshops at the U.S. Social Forum in **San Jose** and **Philadelphia** (left, with Ari Rosenberg). In San Jose, WTRs participated in the People's Movement Assembly on militarization at home and abroad. Photo: Ruth Benn





July
Ed Kale was a one-man band and war tax resistance promoter at the July 4 parade on **Madeline Island** in northern Wisconsin. Photo: Courtesy of Ed Kale

August

On the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, WTRs Jason Rawn (right) and Cathy Deppe and Alex Walker all traveled to Asia and participated in remembrance ceremonies. They also protested new U.S. bases in **Korea**. Photo: space4peace.org



September
Sarah Lawrence College student Justin Becker helped out in NWTRCC's **Brooklyn** office through the fall. He wrote articles for the newsletter and blog, did research, and helped with the website update project. Photo: Ruth Benn

October

Hooray for the New England Gathering of War Tax Resisters, who held their 30th annual weekend gathering in **Amherst, Massachusetts**. Activist and author Frida Berrigan spoke to the group on Friday evening. Photo: Ruth Benn



November
Las Vegas Catholic Worker (LVCW) hosted NWTRCC's November gathering and meeting. Professor Jennifer Carr spoke to the group about her research paper on peace tax fund legislation. We vigiled with Nevada Desert Experience staff members at Nellis Air Force Base (left) and enjoyed great LVCW hospitality. Photo: Ruth Benn

December

Our new website launched after months of behind-the-scenes work by NWTRCC consultants and volunteers Peter Smith, David Gross, Ed Hedemann, and the paid designers at MuseArts in Vermont. It was a big job, but now those with smartphones and small screens can more easily navigate our website. Visits have increased since the launch!



and Justice Action League (**Spokane**); Peace and Planet anti-nuclear action (**New York City**); Progressive Festival (**Petaluma**); Northwest Region Conference of Fellowship of Reconciliation (**Seabeck, Washington**); Mennonite Church USA convention (**Kansas City**); Veterans for Peace convention (**San Diego**); and the School of the Americas Watch protest weekend (**Fort Benning, Georgia**).

As usual, we produced six issues of our newsletter, *More Than A Paycheck*, kept up-to-date on trends in war tax resistance; continued to grapple with the effects of the Affordable Care Act on some methods of resistance; updated our Practical Series booklets and finished a new one: #8, *Relationships and War Tax Resistance*. The November Coordinating Committee meeting encouraged WTRs to build new partnerships with activist groups by choosing the theme "Divest from the Pentagon, Invest in People" for tax season 2016. We launched an ad campaign and produced a new palm card featuring that theme.

Surprise grants from craigslist Charitable Fund have allowed us to offer free literature to local activists, which has helped promote war tax resistance more widely. Dues from Affiliate groups, redirection grants from Alternative funds, and grants from the Kathy Yoselson Fierce Determination Fund of The Community Foundation (Ithaca, New York) and The James R. and Mary Jane Barrett Foundation helped us upgrade our website and start our ad campaign

Countless people email or call during the year and thank us for the information, support, and referral that NWTRCC makes available. Each of those individuals is grateful for every donation, large and small, and for all the volunteers and activism that have helped to keep this network going for 33 years – and counting!

ADMINISTRATION & COMMITTEES

ADMIN. COMMITTEE

- ARI ROSENBERG
Philadelphia, PA
- JASON RAWN
LINCOLNVILLE, ME
- CATHY DEPPE
Los Angeles, CA
- RACHEL SOLTIS
Phoenix, AZ
- ALTERNATES
- BILL GLASSMIRE
Corvallis, OR
- COLEMAN SMITH
Asheville, NC

CO-TREASURERS

- RICK BICKHART
Ridgway, CO
- MELISSA JAMESON
New York, NY
- FUNDRAISING
- ERICA WEILAND,
BILL GLASSMIRE,
RICK BICKHART, RUTH BENN,
JIM STOCKWELL

SOCIAL MEDIA CONSULTANT

- ERICA WEILAND
- NWTRCC
COORDINATOR
RUTH BENN

FINANCIAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 1/1/2015- 12/31/2015

INCOME	
Individual Contributions	\$26,436
Grants	\$35,765
Affil. Fees/Alt. Fund Grants	\$7,112
Newsletter Subs & Ads	\$2,233
Literature & Other Sales	\$608
Grants transferred to reserves	(\$19,800)
TOTAL INCOME	\$52,354
EXPENSES	
Coordinator	\$19,582
Social Media Consultant/Office Assist.	\$10,754
Office Supplies/Postage/Phone	\$3,637
Meetings/Travel	\$4,777
Rent	\$727
Newsletter/Literature	\$3,451
Publicity/Local-Regional Outreach	\$9,016
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$51,944
NET GAIN (OR LOSS) FOR YEAR	\$410

NWTRCC sees poverty, racism, sexism, homophobia, economic exploitation, environmental destruction and militarization of law enforcement as integrally linked with the militarism that we abhor. Through the redirection of our tax dollars, NWTRCC members contribute directly to the struggle for peace and justice for all.