

RAISING THE STAKES

RESISTANCE AND COMMUNITY SURVIVAL IN TROUBLED TIMES



"Hands Up for Peace" mural in St. Louis. Photo by Paul Sableman, Flickr (CC by 2.0)

National War Tax Resistance Gathering & Coordinating Committee Meeting

May 5 - 7, 2017

FRIENDS MEETINGHOUSE 1001 PARK AVENUE ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

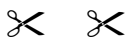
Hosted by the Dick Gregory Catholic Worker House & the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee and co-sponsored by Veterans for Peace and WILPF-St. Louis Chapter

RESIST! is the word of the year. With the election of a president whose campaign promoted racism, sexism, and divisions, people of conscience are turning to community building, strengthening relationships, and intersectional organizing toward systemic change. There is new energy for skills sharing and direct action. War tax resisters participate in community building through the redirection of tax dollars from war to people and planet. We are also learning to raise the stakes of our own activism to build stronger relationships and a more united movement.

During this weekend we will share action and organizing stories from around the country, evaluate the strengths

and weaknesses of our work, and brainstorm new ideas as we strategize for the coming year. **Friday** evening and **Saturday** include panels, workshops and discussion sessions, plus a special presentation of redirected tax dollars. As part of skills-sharing, we will participate in a WeCopWatch training on Saturday, and war tax resisters will offer how-to workshops for people newly interested in this form of resistance. On Sunday afternoon a special WTR Counselor Training is offered for current resisters.

The gathering is open to everyone with an interest in resistance for social change — come for all or part of the program. See reverse for the draft schedule.



REGISTRATION FORM



For full or partial weekend — Please fill out front and back

I am (we are) coming to St. Louis

NAME(S)

ADDRESS.....

CITYSTATE.....ZIP.....

PHONE.....

EMAIL

Attending: ___ Adults ___ Children for Full weekend Partial weekend

If partial, please check meals you will need: Full Weekend or Friday Dinner

Saturday: Breakfast Lunch Dinner Sunday: Breakfast Lunch

I can offer to help with:

- Housing for ___ person(s) in the St. Louis area
- Pick-ups/drop offs at ___ Lambert airport
- Carpool/shared travel to St. Louis from _____.

Accommodations:

- I/we need a bed (___ beds). Some housing available with local hosts.
- Sleeping on floor is OK (bring bedding for floor at Friends Meetinghouse)
- I/we will find our own accommodations.

I/We need housing these nights: Thurs* Fri Sat Sun*

*Limited space; please call to make arrangements

Special needs of any type - ASL, dietary restrictions incl. vegan, pet/other allergies, etc.:

PROGRAM

(SUBJECT TO CHANGES)

War tax resisters from around the country will attend and join local activists as presenters for panels, group discussions, and workshops. Content and details are developing and remain subject to change. See "Gatherings and Events" at nwtrcc.org or call 800-269-7464 with questions.

FRIDAY, MAY 5

4:00 pm Arrival & Registration at the Friends Meetinghouse

6:00 Dinner

7:15 Welcome. Program: Raising the Stakes: Resistance and Community Survival in Troubled Times. Tax season will just have ended when we meet and we'll hear reports about actions around the country and new resistance that raises the stakes on protest. We'll also hear how war tax resistance redirection is contributing to community survival and hope in troubled times.

SATURDAY, MAY 6

8:00 - 8:45 Breakfast

9:00 - 9:15 Introductions and agenda review

9:15 - 10:30 Tax Season evaluation and reports on current and new campaigns, ideas and proposals that might "raise the stakes" in the coming year. We'll follow up with strategizing on these ideas later in the day.

10:45 - 12:00 Concurrent sessions:

- War Tax Resistance 101 – A session for newcomers or those at the early stages of refusing to pay for war – all welcome!
- WTR 102 – For current war tax resisters with advanced questions

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch

1:15 - 2:15 Small group sessions – topics to be determined by attendees

2:15 - 2:45 Report back from small groups to large group

3:00 - 6:00 CopWatch Training

6:30 Dinner

7:30 Strategizing Evening - small or large groups to follow up on topics from earlier in the day and prepare for Sunday's meeting

SUNDAY, MAY 7

8:00 - 9:00 am Breakfast

9:00 am NWTRCC Business meeting, including action reports, decisions on program objectives and proposals, finances and budget, endorsements, etc. It's more interesting than it sounds! All welcome!

Noon Lunch followed by departures

1:30 - 4:30 WTR Counselors' Training - for current resisters to expand the number of counselors in the NWTRCC network. RSVP: 800-269-7464

LOGISTICS

LOCATION: The weekend is hosted by the new Dick Gregory Catholic Worker House. We will meet on Friday and Saturday at the St. Louis Friends Meeting, 1001 Park Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, 63104. The Sunday morning business meeting will be at a location TBA.

TRAVEL: Lambert airport (STL) serves St. Louis with a Metro Link connection to downtown St. Louis (about 30 minutes on train). Greyhound and Amtrak both arrive downtown at the Gateway Transportation Center. From the Metro Link and Gateway stations the walk to Friends Meeting is about 20 minutes. There are also city bus connections, and we will arrange car pickups when possible. Please let us know your arrival time so that we can connect travelers or consolidate pickups. More information will be sent after you register, or call the NWTRCC office for help. Allow travel time to and from the airport or stations to fully participate in the program.

HOUSING: There is floor space at the Friends Meetinghouse, and housing will be arranged with local hosts also. If you are someone who can offer a bed or know potential hosts in St. Louis, please call Chrissy Kirchoefer at 314-660-2300 or email nwtrcc@nwtrcc.org.

MEALS: The program begins with dinner on Friday and ends with lunch on Sunday. All meals are vegetarian, and everyone is asked to help with prep and clean up. Please note special diets on the registration form.

COSTS: We are asking \$20 registration fee in advance for those who can afford it. No one will be turned away. Those who come for part of the weekend are asked to make a contribution in advance or on site.

FULL TRAVEL AND HOUSING DETAILS WILL BE SENT AFTER YOU REGISTER

The **Dick Gregory Catholic Worker House** is a new hospitality house in the collection of more than 213 Catholic Worker communities. Each house has a different mission, going about the work of social justice in its own way, suited to its local region. The Dick Gregory Catholic Worker is being shaped by permaculture and racial justice principles.

The **National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee** 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.

Exposing the true costs of war and militarism since 1985, the **Veterans for Peace** national office is based in St. Louis.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

I will be arriving by Air Car Bus Train

Arrival location

Airline/Flight Number

Bus/train Info

Date/approx. arrival time

Date/approx. departure time

I need driving directions.

I need to be picked up from the airport or bus station.

I would like to lead a discussion on _____

Fees and Registration Deadline

We are asking \$20 registration fee for the weekend, or donations if you are attending part of the time. No one will be turned away for lack of funds, although a collection may be taken up during the weekend if costs have not been covered.

Enclosed is \$20 (make checks payable to NWTRCC)

Please register by April 26 if possible (mail, phone, fax, email!)

Return this form or information to:
NWTRCC, PO Box 150553, Brooklyn, NY 11215
nwtrcc@nwtrcc.org • 800-269-7464 or 718-768-3420