

NATIONAL WAR TAX RESISTANCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



NWTRCC

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LAST YEAR — 2013 — SET US ON A PATH to look at our strengths and weaknesses, tactics and emerging trends to make war tax resistance (WTR) a known and viable option for more people. Our membership survey showed the continued need to support resisters who often feel alone. It also underscored the need to look at our public presence and make sure we are staying current. Redirection of war taxes is a strength that we want to highlight and publicize. We increased our online outreach to young people who connect and learn through images, short text, and links that capture their imagination and interest. NWTRCC strives to continue much of our traditional work as a resource for the WTR community, while making changes that will help us better reach potential resisters

GATHERINGS & MEETINGS

NWTRCC holds twice a year gatherings, combining business meetings with actions and workshops to build alliances and expand our vision of WTR. In May 2013 the gathering was hosted by Asheville Area War Tax Resisters, CMTC Escrow Fund, Courtyard Gallery, New South Network of War Resisters, and Flood Fine Arts Center. They immersed us in Asheville's social change community, from antipoverty activism to Earth First! to immigrant rights to cherishing space for arts and activism. Standing under a "War is a theft from the poor" banner, the CMTC Escrow Fund showcased redirection by announcing \$9,000 in grants to underfunded projects.

We carried banners on a march to some of those projects that serve the most vulnerable. Author David Swanson spoke about the U.S. government's priority on militarism; community activists told wrenching stories of the human impact of that militarism. The November gathering was held in New York City where we explored how to make

WTR a more integral part of progressive activism under the umbrella of "economic disobedience." A panel promoted alliances with those working on student debt, environmental justice, labor, material aid, and community living. Gatherings provide time for personal support on issues like aging on a low income or problems with the latest IRS collection tactics.

The 28th annual New England Gathering of War Tax Resisters and Supporters was held in September in Vermont. Cindy Sheehan's keynote talk and workshops focused on the theme "Helping Us Help Each Other."

NWTRCC helps with promotion and follow-up reports and photos in our newsletter and online.

California WTR David Gross was our representative at the 14th International Conference on War Tax Resistance and Peace Tax Campaigns in Bogotá, Colombia, it was hosted by Acción Colectiva de Objectoras y Objetores de Conciencia, who defend the right to conscientious objection to military service.

PUBLICITY & OUTREACH

The Asheville hosts did a terrific job of promoting the May gathering in online and print media throughout their region. Much of the weekend was recorded and can be seen on NWTRCC's YouTube channel, along with other WTR videos. In advance of tax day the NWTRCC office sends a press release to more than a thousand media outlets. We are partners with the Global Day of Action on Military Spending, Democracy Now!, KPFA, Free Speech Radio News, local outlets from Birmingham, Alabama, to Brattleboro, Vermont, and others featured WTR interviews. All are still



Ed Hedemann leading a workshop organized by Brandywine Peace Community in Philadelphia, March 2013.

online and linked from our website.

Visits to nwtrcc.org averaged about 1,500 per week. Webmaster Peter Smith updates the website with other volunteers and the coordinator. Erica Weiland was hired as Social Media Consultant in April 2013. Her regular postings to Facebook and Twitter steadily expand our online presence—planting seeds that will grow over time. The Coordinating Commit-

tee increased her hours from five to ten per week at the November meeting. In August 2013 we started a blog, "War Tax Talk," for stories and news. Find links to all our social media at nwtrcc.org.

NETWORK

NWTRCC maintains a list of WTR counselors, contacts, affiliate groups, and alternative funds around the country. Individuals are referred locally or to the person most expert on the topic. The WTR Listserve administered by Ed Agro continues to be a place to converse with others who share concerns. At each of our gatherings we send cards to people who had an IRS collection or struggle as low income resisters. "Revitalizing local affiliates" is an ongoing priority. The November meeting created a new "organizational endorser" category. Please ask groups you know to affiliate with or endorse NWTRCC.

RESOURCES & COUNSELING

Success! After two years of research by a Taxpayer Advocate office, the Chief Counsel of the IRS issued a memo clarifying to IRS workers what we argued: a frivolous filing penalty should not apply because a letter about refusing to pay for war is enclosed with an accurate tax return. This issue has taken a lot of counseling time. Thanks to the



David Gross, lower left, and delegates visiting Clara López, lower right, head of the Polo Democratic Party in Bogotá asking for support for military conscientious objectors.

because a letter about refusing to pay for war is enclosed with an accurate tax return. This issue has taken a lot of counseling time. Thanks to the individuals in our network who presented their cases to the Advocate researcher. Three who were fined got their money back with interest! Volunteers and the coordinator, along with our legal advisor, track tax issues that affect WTRs, such as the Affordable Care Act.

“Counseling Notes” appear in every issue of our newsletter, *More Than A Paycheck*, along with stories of individual resistance, action photos, and organizing ideas. We mail a print edition and post it on our website.

Most of our brochures, pamphlets, and guides are available for free at nwtrcc.org, from the office, or at events.

National gatherings include sessions to update WTR counselors, and skills workshops such as using social media, giving presentations, or fine tuning tactics. The film *Death and Taxes* is used by groups around the country to introduce WTR, and it can be watched online. NWTRCC provides speakers and resources for any group organizing a workshop.

Strategy Committee met by conference call during the year to formulate changes to programs and resources. We learn a lot through personal outreach at events like the Anarchist Bookfairs, School of the Americas Watch, War Resisters League’s 90th Anniversary Conference, Pacific Northwest Regional FOR Conference, Annual Progressive Festival in Petaluma, California, among others.

ACTIONS & REDIRECTION

An impressive amount of group redirection took place in 2013. CMTC’s grants were mentioned above. At a public program Northern California



Representatives from the BeLoved Community accept a grant from the CMTC Escrow Fund, Asheville, North Carolina.

People’s Life Fund distributed \$22,000 in grants to groups working on issues from supporting homeless students to sending aid to the people in North Korea. New England War Tax Resistance, Southern California War Tax Alternative Fund, Oregon Community of War Tax Resisters, and Eugene WTRs gave away another \$12,000. NWTRCC’s tax day press release highlighted actions from Alaska to North Carolina, from penny polls to blocking gates at an Army Reserve base. Events and actions can be held throughout the year. In Michigan, activists declared July 4th “Independence from War Tax Day” and announced,

“It’s better to light up a few IRS forms, than to curse the darkness of war.”

ADMINISTRATION

Organizational decisions are made at Coordinating Committee (CC) meetings held during each NWTRCC gathering. It includes representatives of our 50 affiliates, plus area contacts, counselors, and meeting attendees. The 6-member Administrative Committee provides day-to-day oversight, with each member serving a 3-year term. Ruth Benn has served as Coordinator since 2003 (now 20 hours per week), and Erica Weiland is the Social Media Consultant. Volunteers carry out many tasks, including pre-tax day phone calls, newsletter production, hosting gatherings, fundraising, writing and reviewing literature, tabling at events or leading workshop sessions. Volunteers are always welcome.

FINANCES & FUNDRAISING

A financial statement for the past fiscal year is part of this report. NWTRCC has a modest budget, but until the end of 2013 cash flow was tight. Our “Summer Fund” appeal helped get us into the fall,

and we are very grateful for the generous donations by many of you at the end of the year that gave us a big boost heading into 2014. Fundraising Committee brainstorms ideas to expand our funding base. NWTRCC is thankful for grants from Lehigh Valley Fund, Southern California War Tax Alternative Fund, Northern California People’s Life Fund, and Madison Area Alternative Fund, and we continue to carefully manage a 2011 grant from the Craigslist Charitable Fund. We hope you will keep NWTRCC in mind as you make your redirection and donation choices. Thank you for your support and helping us have such a productive year!



WTRs Susan Van Haitsma (l) and Cindy Sheehan (r) at the Musical March for Peace, South by Southwest Music Festival, Austin, Texas.

ADMINISTRATION & COMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

RICK BICKHART
Co-Treasurer
Ouray, CO

CARLOS STEWARD
Asheville, NC

ELIZABETH BOARDMAN
Davis, CA

ARI ROSENBERG
Philadelphia, PA

MELISSA JAMESON
Co-Treasurer
Brooklyn, NY

ALTERNATES
GREG EDGE
New York, NY

WENDIE STAUFER
Colorado City, CO

STRATEGY COMMITTEE

RICK BICKHART, ELIZABETH BOARDMAN, BILL GLASSMIRE, DAVID GROSS, ED HEDEMANN, KARL MEYER, BILL RAMSEY, JASON RAWN, LARRY ROSENWALD, COLEMAN SMITH, DANIEL WOODHAM, ERICA WEILAND

FUNDRAISING

RUTH BENN, RICK BICKHART, BILL GLASSMIRE, ROD NIPPERT, JIM STOCKWELL, ERICA WEILAND, DANIEL WOODHAM

SOCIAL MEDIA CONSULTANT
ERICA WEILAND

NWTRCC COORDINATOR
RUTH BENN

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME! PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE

FINANCIAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 12/1/12 — 11/30/13

INCOME

Affiliation Fees.....	\$2,820
Gen'l Donations.....	\$9,863
Large Donations/Bequests.....	\$10,988
Grants.....	\$8,500
Alt. Funds.....	\$1,850
Newsletter Subs & Ads.....	\$1,962
Literature & Other Sales.....	\$849
DVD Sales.....	\$230
C.C. Meetings.....	\$2,421
TOTAL INCOME.....	\$39,483

EXPENSES

Postage.....	\$1,959
Telephone.....	\$882
Office Supplies/Equip.....	\$622
Coordinator.....	\$18,500
Social Media Consultant.....	\$3,588
Healthcare.....	\$3,107
Retirement.....	\$2,545
Travel.....	\$2,295
Rent.....	\$709
Copying/Printing/Lit.....	\$807
Newsletter Print/Postage.....	\$1,742
C.C. Meetings.....	\$2,172
Publicity & Outreach.....	\$606
TOTAL EXPENSES.....	\$39,534

NET GAIN (OR LOSS) FOR YEAR..... (\$51)

Donations made directly to NWTRCC, by check or through Paypal, are not tax deductible. See our website or donation slip or contact the office for tax deductible options.



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.

COVER: At the redirection ceremony and before the community march in downtown Asheville, North Carolina. Report photos by Ruth Benn and courtesy of Susan Van Haitsma and David Gross.