

# NATIONAL WAR TAX RESISTANCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

## The war tax resistance network was ready

when the November election brought renewed interest — thanks to the steady support of NWTRCC by donors and volunteers.

As 2016 ended, visits to the information-packed NWTRCC website climbed steadily. The office and hotline, along with our network of affiliates, counselors, and contacts around the country all experienced new interest. Luckily the Coordinating Committee had prioritized



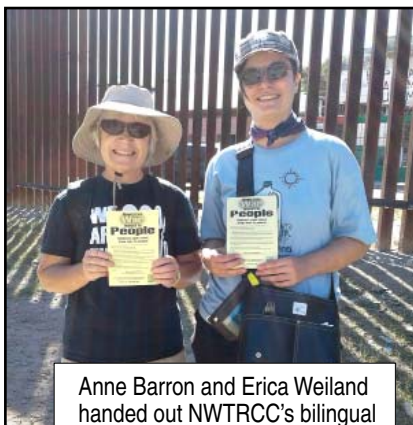
Galen Tyler and Cheri Honkala of the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign guided a "Poverty Reality Tour" during the May WTR Gathering.

BILL GLASSMIRE

creating a Field Organizer position. After a months-long hiring process, Sam Koplinka-Loehr began working in mid-September, joining the other two part-time consultants: Ruth Benn, in Brooklyn and Coordinator since 2003; and Erica Weiland, in Seattle and Social Media Consultant since 2013. Sam works with an Outreach Committee and began by contacting network activists to learn what they are doing and what help they need.

### ACTIONS AND OUTREACH

Even before the election, WTR outreach was expanding — at home and abroad. Maine WTR Jason Rawn traveled to Japan and South Korea and shared information about refusal to pay for war and the U.S. bases locals were protesting. In October, Southern California WTR Cathy Deppe represented NWTRCC at the World Congress on Military Spending in Berlin and met with Conscience and Peace Tax International members. Califor-



Anne Barron and Erica Weiland handed out NWTRCC's bilingual flyer at SOAW's border action.



Attendees at the November Gathering sent out a solidarity message on social media.

RUTH BENN

nia WTR David Gross follows the Spanish tax resistance movement and keeps us informed through listserve and newsletter reports.

One of the more exciting events of the year was the October 7-10 School of the Americas Watch (SOAW) Border Convergence at Nogales, Arizona and Mexico. Erica Weiland, Anne Barron, Rachel Soltis, and Coleman Smith marched, vigiled, tabled, and held a well-attended workshop. WTRs tabled or held workshops at other events including Shut Down Creech days of action (Nevada); Veterans For Peace Convention (Calif.); Anarchist Bookfairs in Seattle and New York; Cannabis Festival and the Maine Peace Walk to Stop the War\$ on Mother Earth; People's Justice and Peace Convention when the Republicans met in Cleveland; March for Our Lives during the Democrat's Philadelphia convention; Mennonite District Conference in Kansas City; Quaker Yearly Meetings in New Mexico and New York; and a one-day conference on "Drone Warfare and God's Call to Peacemaking" in Pennsylvania. Requests came to our Speakers Bureau from the Peace Mennonite Church in Lawrence, Kansas, and a high school teacher in Seattle.

The New England Gathering of War Tax Resisters and Supporters in October featured a "Dialog Among Resistance Movements" to outline steps and challenges toward deepening the intersectionality of

struggles. NWTRCC Affiliate New England War Resisters League helped plan the program. Sam met more WTRs and new contacts as a speaker at the People's Tribunal on the Iraq War in Washington, DC.

NWTRCC holds two gatherings a year around the country. In May, we met at the Lansdowne, Penn., Friends Meeting, hosted by Paul Sheldon. The weekend included a tour of the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia,



Sam Koplinka-Loehr, speaking left, at the New England WTR Gathering in Amherst, Mass. Mandy Carter, right, was the keynote speaker.

RUTH BENN

making obvious the links between wars abroad and at home. In November, we met at the Sustainable Living Center, a project of the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice. North Carolina activists Clare Hanrahan and Coleman Smith offered a program on the militarization of the South.

The Coordinating Committee, NWTRCC's highest decision-making body, meets during each of these weekends. In Florida we agreed to promote Collective Redirection to Black, Brown, and Indigenous Resistance during tax season 2017, an initiative to encourage relationship-building with groups directly targeted





NYC People's Life Fund grant recipients at the tax day vigil outside the IRS.

ED HEDEMANN

and orders and mail the newsletter to “on paper” readers. About twice as many receive an emailed link to the newsletter posted online. Three palm cards are popular handouts at



JOHN NICKSIC

A San Diego overpass was the site for a nighttime light brigade display.

by systemic racism and state violence. San Diego held its first public redirection in conjunction with So. Calif. War Tax Alternative Fund. Amikas tiny houses received a donation and a lot of attention from police during the sidewalk ceremony. Rush hour drivers in Portland, Oregon, were greeted



ANNE BARRON

Kathy Kelly visited NWTRCC's table at the Veterans for Peace convention in California.

with “Burma shave” taxes for peace messages. Raging Grannies sang out against war taxes in Eugene, Ore. Ginny Schneider revived Maine war tax resistance activism and coordinated leafletting and penny polls in 11 different towns, cities, and college campuses throughout the state. WTRs marched with Democracy Spring in Washington, DC, and vigiled at IRS

headquarters. Seven alternative funds redirected over \$44,000 — an amount multiplied by hundreds of individual redirections around the country. Some funds have been active for 45 years!

**RESOURCES AND COUNSELING**

The NWTRCC website has grown into our primary resource, with over 1,200 visits a day by the end of December. We keep print materials for tabling

marches and rallies. Erica Weiland created a “divest from war, invest in people” organizing packet, available in print and online. She edited podcast #5, “WTRs Abroad,” and keeps up the weekly blog. Facebook and Twitter activity increased also.

WTRs with sticky collection situations still call the hotline for help. “Counseling Notes” in the newsletter and update sessions at each of our gatherings are designed to help counselors keep up-to-date on IRS trends and technical changes. Longer training sessions are held in conjunction with gatherings.

**FINANCES AND FUNDRAISING**

NWTRCC heads into its

**ADMINISTRATION & COMMITTEES**

**ADMIN. COMMITTEE**

CATHY DEPPE  
Los Angeles, CA

RACHEL SOLTIS  
Phoenix, AZ

BILL GLASSMIRE  
Corvallis, OR

COLEMAN SMITH  
Asheville, NC

**ALTERNATE**  
CHRISSEY KIRCHHOEFER  
Florissant, MO

**CO-TREASURERS**

RICK BICKHART  
Ridgway, CO

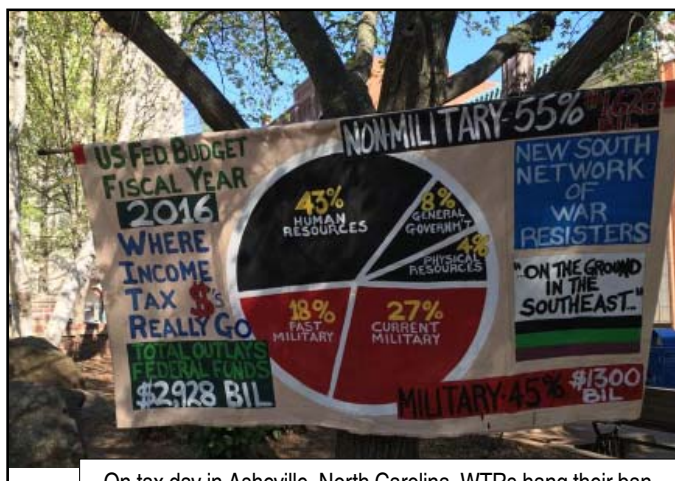
MELISSA JAMESON  
New York, NY

**FUNDRAISING**  
ERICA WEILAND, RUTH BENN, BILL GLASSMIRE, BRE REIBER GIFFEN, RICK BICKHART, JIM STOCKWELL

**NWTRCC COORDINATOR**  
RUTH BENN

**SOCIAL MEDIA CONSULTANT**  
ERICA WEILAND

**FIELD ORGANIZER**  
SAM KOPLINKA-LOEHR



CLARE HANRANHAN

On tax day in Asheville, North Carolina, WTRs hang their banner and set up a literature table in a popular downtown park.

35th year in 2017, thanks as always to our donors large and small, dues from Affiliate groups, and redirection grants from Alternative funds. We are especially grateful to craigslist Charitable Fund for the “no-strings-attached” grants in recent years, plus a two-year grant from The James R. and Mary Jane Barrett Foundation and annual support from the Kathy Yosel-

son Fierce Determination Fund of The (Ithaca) Community Foundation. All helped fund the Field Organizer position and allow us to print and give free literature to network activists for community outreach. We could not make it without volunteers, including the Fund-raising Committee, which meets regularly by phone to brainstorm marketing ideas, how to grow our mailing list and broaden our funding base. A new CafePress store, [cafepress.com/nwtrcc](http://cafepress.com/nwtrcc), is one experiment toward reaching new audiences.

The war tax resistance network closed out 2016 in good shape, but we can always use more counselors, contacts, and affiliate groups. Working to expand our base and the trained counselor network will be important as we continue into this era of increased military spending under an otherwise unpredictable and unpopular new administration. Expect more resistance!

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.

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FINANCIAL REPORT	
FISCAL YEAR 1/1/2016- 12/31/2016	
<b>INCOME</b>	
Individual Contributions .....	\$23,344
Grants.....	\$51,604
Affil. Fees/Alt. Fund Grants/Religious Grps ...	\$7,002
Newsletter Subs & Ads.....	\$1,521
Literature & Other Sales .....	\$614
Grants transferred to reserves.....	(\$20,750)
<b>TOTAL INCOME.....</b>	<b>\$63,335</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Consultants/Office help .....	\$38,811
Office Supplies/Postage/Phone .....	\$3,378
Meetings/Travel.....	\$6,292
Rent.....	\$727
Newsletter/Literature .....	\$4,117
Publicity/Local-Regional Outreach .....	\$7,731
International Networking.....	\$1,287
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES.....</b>	<b>\$62,343</b>
<b>NET GAIN (OR LOSS) FOR YEAR.....</b>	<b>\$992</b>