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 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. Californian WTR David Gross follows the Spanish tax resistance movement and keeps us informed through listserv 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 Menonite 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, 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...
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-