Dear Friends,

First, thanks to all of you who were able to respond to our special transition appeal with a donation. NWTRCC usually sends two letters a year, but we asked for extra help as Ruth Benn steps down as NWTRCC Coordinator, and the office moves to Milwaukee under the skilled guidance of Lincoln Rice. If you have not donated this year, summer is a great time to give because it is always a dry time for nonprofit income. Also, please look over the enclosed pledge slip and consider spreading your donations throughout the year.

RUTH: In May 2003 when I took over the Coordinator position, outgoing NWTRCC Coordinator Mary Loehr had just written in that May’s letter, “Who knows how long Bush’s war on terror will continue?” Many of us had spoken against the 2001 Afghanistan invasion as a potential quagmire and the March 2003 invasion of Iraq as criminal and destabilizing for the region. Did we imagine these wars would continue into 2018 with no end in sight?

As I close out my years in the coordinator role, I deeply regret that all our combined efforts have not stopped the horrific killing of thousands of innocents. But I don’t regret one minute my own war tax resistance or the role that I have played in promoting this form of war resistance and support for those who take this path. We all know it’s a long haul and how important it is to provide resources that help more people resist militarism in all its forms. It is with confidence and pleasure that I hand off this fulfilling work to Lincoln Rice to keep up the high quality information that NWTRCC has provided since 1982. I’ll return to being a NWTRCC donor and volunteer and look forward to seeing many of you at future gatherings and protests.

LINCOLN: I attended my first NWTRCC meeting in November 1999. I was a recent college graduate living at the Milwaukee Catholic Worker. The U.S. had recently played a large role in the bombing of Kosovo and harsh economic sanctions against Iraq were in full force. At that meeting I was inspired and informed by WTR folks from across the country. The Milwaukee WTR group, then and now, has not been very active, so the larger NWTRCC network was an indispens-
able source of information about which form of WTR resistance was right for me, as well as understanding the risks involved.

Most of the practicals and other materials that I had picked up at the conference were not relevant for me as a 22-year-old unemployed Catholic Worker, but they prepared me for answering questions about WTR when I shared my own example. Now, almost all of these materials are available on the web. NWTRCC has also moved from having one part-time coordinator to having a coordinator, a communications consultant, and a social media consultant. Anyone with a smart phone can access these same resources with a few taps. Under Ruth’s coordination, and with the invaluable help of so many others in the network, WTR resources are readily available for the next generation of resisters.

We have both found NWTRCC to be not only a crucial component for our personal practice and sharing of war tax resistance, but it’s also a network of wonderful groups and individuals contributing their time and resources to advocate concrete and meaningful ways to divest from war and promote peacemaking. We thank you for all you have already done to make NWTRCC what it is today. We ask that you contribute as you are able to ensure that it will be just as relevant tomorrow.

In Solidarity,

Lincoln Rice, Coordinator

Ruth Benn, NYC War Tax Resistance

P.S. We had a great gathering in May in Los Angeles. Here we are at the end of the business meeting on May 6 — consultants, Administrative Committee members, local activists, and NWTRCC volunteers. A special thanks to Cathy Deppe (with coffee cup on left) for all her work hosting the gathering.