NWTRCC's 30th anniversary was celebrated at the national gathering in Colorado Springs, home to Bill Durland, one of the organization's key founders. In 1982 he headed the Center on Law and Pacifism and put out a call for groups involved in war tax resistance (WTR) to meet and discuss their duplication of efforts and overlapping interests. NWTRCC was born out of that conference. Today Bill says, "NWTRCC became the go-to group, the clearing-house for all the others, and it certainly fulfilled my hopes." At the Colorado Springs gathering, a human "arc of war tax resistance" curved across the room giving life to how this organization brings together resisters from their 80s to their 20s; from local, regional, and national groups; and from across the country. NWTRCC's founding documents proposed carrying out the five tasks used in the first five headings below. Over 30 years this mission has served the network well.

COORDINATE NATIONAL PUBLICITY

In 1982 publicity meant typing press releases and mailing them to newspapers and radio and TV stations. Today press releases are emailed to hundreds of media, from blogs to international networks like BBC and Al Jazeera. Websites are essential. We have nwtrcc.org, wartaxboycott.org, and hanguponwar.org, and our online presence includes videos on YouTube and Vimeo, two Facebook pages, and an active Twitter account. We hired an hourly Social Media Specialist in September 2012 to enhance our 21st century communications. Media coverage included interviews on David Swanson's Talk Nation Radio and Cindy Sheehan's Soapbox; Forbes Magazine blogger Peter Reilly who wrote three articles about WTR-related court cases; MintPress News, another online source, featured "Going Against The Law To Protest Criminal Acts: War Tax Resistors And The Rebellious Spirit" by Frederick Reese. Other media links can be found at nwtrcc.org.

ORGANIZE STRATEGY MEETINGS & CONFERENCE

NWTRCC holds twice a year gatherings, combining business meetings with panels, strategizing, and workshops. Despite the cost of travel, the need for face-to-face support and sharing is important to this form of resistance. The location changes with each meeting to allow those who cannot afford to travel to attend a gathering occasionally. In May 2012 the gathering was held in Chicago in conjunction with the NATO summit and protest, affording an opportunity to make WTR visible in a national march and rally. The 57th Street Friends Meeting hosted us, and Chicago resident Brad Lyttle, who staffed War Tax Resistance in the 1960s, helped with arrangements. The November gathering was in Colorado Springs (see above). It was hosted by Citizens for Peace in Space and held on the campus of Colorado College. The participation of many students was inspiring. “Does WTR Have a Political Future?” was the provocative theme of the 27th annual New England Gathering, held in November in Cambridge, Massachusetts. NWTRCC helps with promotion and follow-up reports and encourages other regions to meet also.

INFORMATION SHARING, INCLUDING NEWSLETTER

Each year NWTRCC publishes six issues of our newsletter, More Than A Paycheck. Our October 2012 anniversary issue included extra pages for celebratory ads. Each issue is posted on our website and announced to a growing email list of more than 500 subscribers. Most of our brochures, pamphlets, and guides are available for free at nwtrcc.org or in print from the office or at events. Each of our national gatherings includes sessions to update WTR counselors and keep them informed of trends among resisters and IRS activity. “Counseling Notes” appears in each issue of the newsletter, and we regularly update information in our publications and on the website. Skills workshops are held at each gathering, which cover topics such as using social media or developing a mutual aid system. A Speakers’ Bureau is maintained on the NWTRCC website, and the introductory film Death and Taxes can be watched online. NWTRCC encourages local groups to hold workshops and provides requested resources.

The Rapid Outreach Working Group (ROWG) identifies and provides resources to broader peace and justice actions, like the Global Day of Action on Military Spending. Locally, war tax resisters united with Occupy for tax day actions and took signs and flyers to Occupy encampments and events, and gave out free literature at a Voices for Creative Nonviolence program that weekend. We had literature tables at the Anarchist Bookfair in New York City; School of the Americas Watch in Georgia; and the annual Pacific Northwest Regional FOR Conference.

NETWORKING—PUT PEOPLE IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER

Bill Durland’s 1982 vision for NWTRCC was that the groups that formed the original “coordinating committee” would all continue and that “NWTRCC would be the least active.” Many of those groups are still affiliated, and new ones have joined over the years. NWTRCC maintains a printed and online Network List of WTR counselors, contacts, affiliate groups, and alternative funds around the country. Individuals are referred locally whenever possible or to the person most expert on a particular topic. Anyone with an email address can sign up for the WTR Listserv, which is a place to ask questions, converse, and share concerns. Our networking has expanded through the International Conference.
on War Tax Resistance and Peace Tax Campaigns that began in 1965 and has met every second year since. War tax resisters can feel very isolated, so at each of our gatherings we send cards to people who are facing IRS action or struggling as low income resisters. In this “wired world” people can find information on our website and may not seek out a local group. “Revitalizing local affiliates” is an ongoing priority for which your help is needed.

GENUS—HOW MANY ARE WE?
It is not easy to count war tax resisters and resisters. Wartaxboycott.org maintains a list of people who “publicly refuse to pay for war,” but the 300 signers fall far short of a total. The NWTRCC mailing list has 1,500 individuals and groups, but WTRs within groups are not on our national list. Many live below the radar and do not choose to be public. The IRS does not announce how many people protest war with their taxes. This task is hard to accomplish, and our best guess is 8,000 – 10,000. As opposed to counting resisters, we carried out an information survey to find out what our contacts think of NWTRCC and our work. The 292 responses are an important component in ongoing strategy sessions.

ADMINISTRATION
Fifty affiliates are our structural core. Organizational decisions are made at two Coordinating Committee (CC) meetings a year. The six-member Administrative Committee (AC) provides day-to-day oversight, and each AC member serves a 3-year term. The CC is made up of representatives of affiliates, area contacts, counselors, and meeting attendees. Ruth Benn has served as the part-time Coordinator since 2003, but much of the work is done by volunteers, including maintaining the websites and listserve; writing articles; designing the newsletter; hosting gatherings; planning fundraising and outreach; writing and reviewing literature; and special tasks like analyzing survey results and leading workshop sessions. Volunteers are always welcome.

FINANCES AND FUNDRAISING
A financial statement for the past fiscal year is part of this report. NWTRCC has a modest budget, and we expect to overcome the deficit shown in the next fiscal year. Special thanks are due for grants from Anonymous Foundation, CMTCE Escrow Account, Southern California War Tax Alternative Fund, and Maine War Tax Funds for Life. The CC is carefully managing the 2011 grant from Craigslist Charitable Fund. The organization would not be here today without the generous support of many individuals, whether the donation is $1 or into the thousands, and the Fundraising Committee continues to brainstorm ideas to expand our funding base.