



National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee

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November 2015

Dear Friends,

NWTRCC just held our November gathering and business meeting in Las Vegas over the weekend of November 6-8. We were hosted by our longtime contact there, Las Vegas Catholic Worker, and joined in various actions and workshops by the staff of the Nevada Desert Experience — a newer contact in the NWTRCC network.

Being together in Las Vegas reminds us how much opportunities for face-to-face discussions about personal war tax resistance or organizing strategy enhance our efforts. **Your donations make a big difference toward keeping isolated resisters connected and having the opportunity to come together periodically.**

Many of you began war tax resistance because paying for nuclear weapons was a horrific choice. Perhaps an action with Nevada Desert Experience at the Nevada Test Site led you to further resistance. Our Administrative Committee members, Cathy Deppe and Jason Rawn, were in Japan last August for the 70th anniversary commemorations of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They shared what they learned about the extensive U.S. bases in Japan, and Jason went on to Korea where a new base is being built despite local protests and concerns about environmental issues.



Vigil at Nellis Air Force Base with Nevada Desert Experience staff Ming and Laura Marie (r); Gary Cavalier, center, Las Vegas Catholic Worker; and Rick Bickhart and Peter Smith, who traveled to the NWTRCC gathering from Colorado and Indiana.

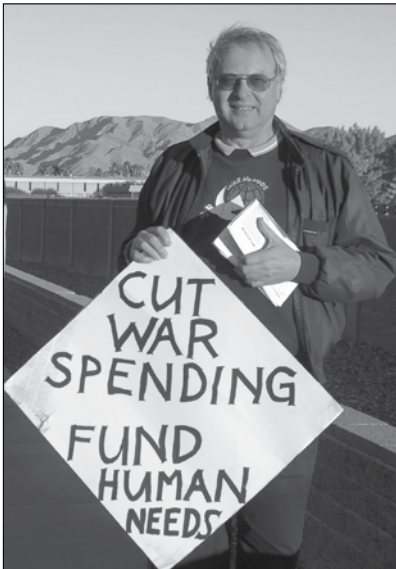


“Investing in NWTRCC is a great way to divest from the Pentagon.”

JASON RAWN, *Maine (left)*

“It would be much harder to be a serious war tax resister if I did not get up-dated information from the consultants and moral support from the members of NWTRCC.”

ELIZABETH BOARDMAN, *Santa Rosa, Calif. (right)*



“NWTRCC is important because it’s not ok to kill people with money, either.”

ROBERT RANDALL

Brunswick, Georgia, vigiling at Nellis Air Force Base

At each NWTRCC gathering we try to do a public action.

“To me, war tax refusal should be a moral imperative for all people believing that all wars are crimes against humanity, as I do. Paying military taxes is the only action the warfare state demands of us to sustain its imperial military. Most peace activists don’t see this, and NWTRCC is the indispensable network keeping a message of non-cooperation alive.”

KARL MEYER, *Nashville Greenlands, NWTRCC Affiliate*



“NWTRCC is critical to supporting war tax resistance as a nonviolent, civil disobedience action to divest of the pentagon. NWTRCC produces key materials to assist war tax resisters (WTR) and potential WTRs. It holds two national gatherings a year, provides support for starting and ensuring the longevity of local and regional groups, has a terrific website, blog, listserv and consultants. Without NWTRCC I would have truly felt lost in the wilderness. Dig deep and support big.”

GINNY SCHNEIDER *(right), and fellow Maine resident, MARGARET, at the New England Gathering in Amherst, Mass.*

“NWTRCC subverts the war system as an important direct action for the nonviolent revolution making possible a peaceful and sustainable world.”

JOFFRE STEWART, *Chicago*

In October, the 30th annual New England Gathering of War Tax Resisters and Supporters was held in Amherst, Massachusetts. Over that weekend the group heard from Frida Berrigan, who grew up protesting nuclear weapons and the exploits of the Pentagon and is now especially active with Witness Against Torture in the campaign to close Guantanamo.

Frances Crowe was at the New England Gathering too. By the early 1960s she was active in the antiwar movement because of atmospheric testing. Frances can speak about actions she’s been involved in on just about any issue you can think of related to peace, justice, and human rights in the U.S. and around the world.

Our resistance to war and struggle for a better world takes many forms, and through NWTRCC we are connected to an amazing network of activists around the U.S. Some are sharing their reasons for supporting NWTRCC here, even as they also redirect their tax dollars and/or energy to the array of interconnected issues.

During the weekend, besides talking activism and strategy, we also held the Coordinating Committee meeting—the business meeting and highest decision-making body for this organization. Among our decisions was to support a proposal to promote tax season actions that would begin in mid-January, connecting to Martin Luther King Jr. Day if groups choose but it’s also the time when the IRS is releasing tax forms and ramping up their demands to file and pay. The goals are two-fold: 1) not to wait until tax day to promote war tax resistance, and, 2) to use the time between January and April to work with other groups doing local actions and build relationships for a larger tax day action.

A few groups and individuals have volunteered to act as pilot projects for new ways of outreach and working in coalition locally. Some of those in the room in Las Vegas are connecting with groups like 350.org and climate change issues. Others are working with Black Lives Matter and militarization of the police. Many like the phrase “divest from the Pentagon,” because it connects to other types of divestment campaigns. The hope is that by focusing on a few local efforts in the 2016 tax season we can learn from these models and build on that for bigger actions in 2017. But, don’t feel left out! If you have a model that you are testing or think will work for others, please share it by sending in a report or idea for our newsletter and website.

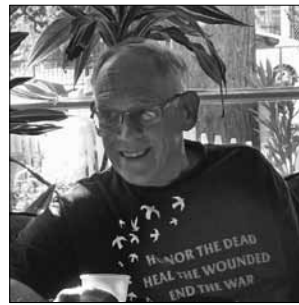
And, as always, let us know what you are planning and what you need to enhance your local actions during the coming tax season.

Thanks for all you do and all your support. Your donations really do make a difference in the keeping this network connected and growing.

In Peace,



Ruth Benn
Coordinator



“For 25 years the people of NWTRCC have supported my peace-making, have challenged my thinking, have been my friends.”

BILL GLASSMIRE,
Corvallis, Oregon

“Those of us who refuse to pay for weapons and war as a matter of conscience are indebted to the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee for keeping us up-to-date on the ins and outs of war tax resistance, and keeping us connected so we can support one another. They are an invaluable resource, and help us remember that we are not alone!”

FELICE & JACK COHEN-JOPPA, *Tucson, Arizona*

“I have redirected my war taxes to peace building priorities for 35 years now and could not have done this without NWTRCC’s support. I am proud to be part of an organized movement of resistance to stop the war machine. Until we can convince the government to change its priorities from war spending to peace, we have to try to do it ourselves.”

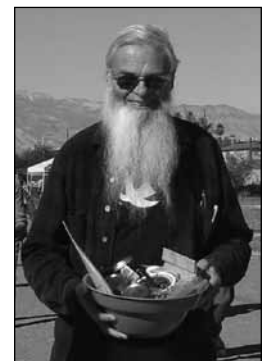


CATHY DEPPE, *Los Angeles, California*

“NWTRCC is important because we need coordinated resources. Those of us doing this locally, both as visible war tax resisters and as counselors, need the support that comes from such a network. I look to NWTRCC for written resources on war tax resistance and to NWTRCC consultants who I trust have the best information when there is a counseling question I can’t answer. This is crucial to supporting war tax resisters.”

JOANNE SHEEHAN, *WRL New England, NWTRCC Affiliate*

“War tax resistance is very difficult without support. I am so glad that NWTRCC is only a phone call or website click away when I need questions answered. The semi-annual meetings are great at maintaining community with those who attend regularly. My partner and I had done 30 years of WTR before hearing about NWTRCC so can appreciate what a difference it makes.”



PETER SMITH, *South Bend, Indiana*