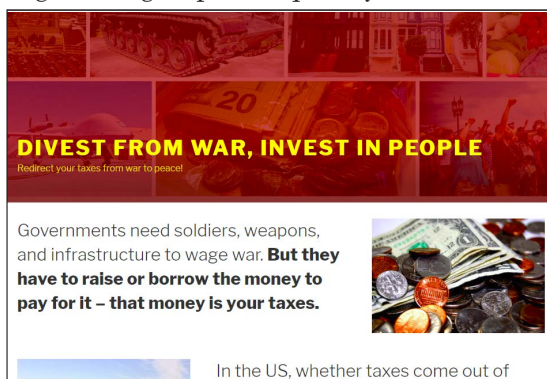


NWTRCC's 36th year began with finishing the hiring process for NWTRCC's new Coordinator, Lincoln Rice. Lincoln officially assumed the Coordinator role at the May 2018 NWTRCC Conference in Los Angeles & spent the third week of May in Brooklyn learning the ropes from Ruth Benn. In addition to some intensive training, Ruth & Lincoln poured over a multitude of files to determine what should go to the new NWTRCC office in Milwaukee and what should go the NWTRCC Archives at Swarthmore College.

Ruth has continued her involvement with NWTRCC, writing a monthly blog post and attending Outreach & Fundraising committee calls.

PUBLICITY AND OUTREACH

This past year, NWTRCC was proudly YELLOW! The United States funded its participation in World War I through the sale of "Liberty Bonds." Refusal to buy these bonds was the primary tactic of war tax resisters in the U.S. at that time. Though their purchase was not obligatory, government and vigilante groups frequently used



NWTRCC's new Divest from War Website at wartaxdivestment.org.

coercive tactics to try to force people to purchase or retaliate against those who had not contributed. A signature tactic of these vigilante groups was to paint the vehicles, homes, businesses, and bodies of "bond slackers" yellow. The persecution of Americans who refused to buy war bonds mostly took place in 1918, and to commemorate these resisters, NWTRCC printed our newsletter on yellow paper throughout 2018 and featured a number of articles on the topic by David Gross.

NWTRCC launched a new website for our "Divest from War, Invest in People" campaign in February. Visit www.wartaxdivestment.org. The site focuses on war tax resistance as divesting from state violence,

fossil fuels, and military prisons. Unlike other forms of divestment, war tax refusal often involves civil disobedience. Personally divesting from militarism enables immediate reinvestment in people and the planet. This website is a great

way to introduce people already interested or active in divestment movements to war tax resistance. It builds on the work that NWTRCC has been doing around divestment and war tax redirection since the 2016 tax season! The site includes: Q&A, links to NWTRCC resources, a sign-up form, and quotes from current resisters.

This year commemorated the 25th anniversary of Colrain. Between 1989 and 1993, hundreds of people flocked to Colrain, Massachusetts, to voice their opposition to war and military spending by supporting the war tax resistance of Betsy Corner and Randy Kehler when the IRS seized their home. You can read about them and a synopsis of the house seizure at seua.library.umass.edu/umar-mot/kebler-randy. These events were commemorated at the New England Regional Gathering of War Tax Resisters in November 2018 in Deerfield, Massachusetts. About 50 people turned up during the reunion weekend to share personal impacts, reflections, analysis, and lessons of the Colrain action.



Ruth Benn and Lincoln Rice poring over files in preparation for the office move. Photo by Ed Hedemann, May 2018.

ACTIONS AND REDIRECTION

Tax day 2018 was on April 17, and local groups held vigils, penny polls, leafleting, and redirection ceremonies from Asheville to Tucson, Eugene, Austin, and Chicago. Northern Calif. WTR granted a record of \$65,000 to 26 organizations at a public redirection ceremony. Grantees included Anti Police-Terror Project, Central Americans For Empowerment, and LAGAI Queer Insurrection.

Minnesota War Tax Resistance marched with signs despite a record breaking snowstorm (over a foot of snow and still coming down as they stood with their signs).

Members of Rise Up Hudson Valley, Citizen Action Kingston, and musicians from Tin Horn Uprising joined approximately 40 people braving damp weather to tell Congressman Faso's environs that people want to "Cut War Spending and Fund Human Needs."

New England WTR redirected \$6,900 tax dollars to groups such as the Asian American Resource Workshop, Student Immigration Movement, and The Youth Justice and Power Union.



Tin Horn Uprising band at the Tax Day rally in Kingston, NY. Photo by Daniel Woodham