

Consultant's Report from Ruth Benn May - November 2009

Administrative Tasks

- Email – time consuming, as it is for everyone I know.....
- Keeping up the finance records, checking in with Tana our Treasurer off and on. I have not advanced in finding an NYC based Treasurer but it's still on my list.
- Produced June, August, October newsletters; copy to Peter for web; email to e-list announcing issue online; bulk issues to those who ask.
- Making plans for Nov. meeting

Special Projects

Video – Since May meeting we put out a Craigslist listing and I contacted other film folks that we knew of. The Committee reviewed various applicants and chose Carlos Steward in Asheville, NC. I spent quite a bit of time filling Carlos in, coordinating the transfer of stuff from Steev, sending out Carlos' first rough cut, sending him photos and notes on footage as needed. Daniel had coordinated the video committee but got very busy with farming so I've kept that going.

Speakers' Bureau – Continued to add bios after tax day. We have a good list (tho we can keep adding to it). Needs promotion - I have not heard that anyone has gotten a request from it yet.

Finances & Fundraising –

- Continuing to try to get folks to sell scarves; arranged with Lincoln Rice at Casa Maria in Milwaukee to take scarves that are purchased for charity.
- Ginny Schneider has been busy coordinating the fundraising committee and making phone calls to lapsed contributors and such. I try to get her the info she needs for the committee efforts.
- Sent out the May appeal and thanks yous
- Money has been tight and cash flow a bit bad. I have gotten behind on my pay (I'm not starving yet) but hope the fall appeal gets us back to a better status again.

Outreach & Literature

- Send packages of lit out to folks who want to table at events, including to Shirley Whiteside for CPT in Denver; Mike Butler for Think Outside the Bomb in Albuquerque; Clare Hanrahan for the Gandhi-King Conference in Memphis; Erica Weiland for anarchist book fairs in Seattle and Tacoma. Hard to say if the cost pays off for some of these - something to discuss.
- Tabled and did a workshop with David Waters at Vets for Peace convention in Maryland in August. Not a rush of interest for either, but among the few at our workshop the quality was high and hopefully we can draw in a couple of the young vets we met there.
- Peter Smith and Ed keep the website up-to-date.
- Generally trying to keep lit stocked, fill orders, and keep up necessary updates (youth flyer, boycott stuff, insert for #1 practical on W-4 resistance, "Why isn't everyone" bro).

Network & Counseling

- Promoting the regional gathering idea and seed money available through network mailings and the newsletter and talking with Coleman and Clare to help make their reality.
- Mailings to the Network – May CC meeting minutes posted on web and mailed, network update mailing sent, Nov. CC meeting info sent - most by mail and email.
- Pretty much standard stuff here, though people call fairly regularly - a few a week on levies or IRS notices or seizures or frivolous. Mostly that sort of thing.

As I said in May, I don't expect WTR to be especially hot (though of course I believe it should be). I expect we are in sort of a "maintenance" period as far as the work goes and in this economy it may be a success just to stay alive, catch up on some lingering projects, clean up the office... etc.

--Ruth Benn, October 12, 2009