# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

WTRCC'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.

In the US, whether taxes come out of

coercive tactics to try to force people to purchase or retaliate against those who had 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 yellow newsletter paper on 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,



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

fossil fuels, and military prisons. other forms 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

> wav 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 signup form, and quotes from current resisters.

This year commemorated the anniversary of Colrain. Between 1989 and 1993, hundreds Colrain. of people flocked to 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 scua.library.umass.edu/ umar-mot/kehler-randy These events were commemorated 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.

#### **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



Dr. Melina Abdullah spoke at the NWTRCC conference in Los Angeles in May 2018. Photo by Erica Leigh.

At the May NWTRCC gathering, the Southern California War Tax Alternative Resistance Fund made donations to groups who supported the gathering, including Food Not Bombs, Jewish Voice For Peace. LACatholic Worker, Citizen Truth, Veterans for Peace-Black Lives Matter-LA, Code Pink-LA, and Poor Peoples Campaign-LA.

#### **MEETINGS & GATHERINGS**

NWTRCC holds two gatherings a year. Southern California War Tax Resistance hosted our May gathering. Highlights included Dr. Melina Abdullah, one of the original



Cover to the updated "War Tax Resistance at a Glance" booklet. Cover photo by Ed Hedeman.

Black members Lives Matter, speaking on the issue of police brutality  $_{
m in}$ Los Angeles and a movement. We also building heard from David Gross on the history of Quaker WTR. In 2018, Maria Smith November organized a wonderful gathering in Cleveland, which featured activists working against military glorification

at the annual Air Cleveland Show along with a proposal to create a peace exhibit at the Great Lakes Science Center. We also hosted a viewing of the documentary, ThePacifist, about Larry Bassett's recent resistance on his inheritance.



Minnesota War Tax Resistance with the Minnesota Peace Action Coalition Tax Day Demonstration in the snow. Photo provided by DeCourcy Squire.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Organizational decisions are made at Coordinating Committee (CC) meetings held during each NWTRCC gathering. At the May 2018 gathering in Los Angeles, Lincoln Rice assumed the role of NWTRCC Coordinator for Ruth Benn, who stepped down after 15 years. This year also saw Erica Leigh step down after serving as a NWTRCC consultant for social media and outreach the past five years. Chrissy Kirchhoefer took on the position of NWTRCC Outreach Consultant in January 2019. The CC includes representatives of our 50 affliates, plus area contacts, counselors, and meeting attendees. The six-member Administrative Committee provides day-to-day oversight, with each member serving a three-year term. Volunteers carry out many tasks, including website updates, hosting gatherings, fundraising, writing and literature, reviewing brainstorming outreach strategies. NWTRCC would not have survived 36 years without dedicated and skilled volunteers!

## RESOURCES AND COUNSELING

NWTRCC keeps a stock of printed literature for information and outreach, and our organizers circulate thousands of pie charts, outreach cards, and other WTR materials. The newsletter comes out six times a year in print and online. Technical information, collection issues, legal changes, and resister profiles are covered regularly. In 2018 we private debt monitored collection, new rules about passport renewal, the uncertain future of Obamacare, and the tax overhaul

bill. A WTR counselor training in Cleveland featured a lively debate on various counseling methods.

#### FINANCES AND FUNDRAISING

NWTRCC ended the year with healthy finances. A Fundraising Committee meets monthly by phone to brainstorm ideas and grow our funding base. We are extremely thankful for grants from craigslist Charitable Fund, Kathy Yoselson Fierce Yoselson Determination Fund of The (Ithaca) Community Foundation, and alternative funds including No. Calif. Peoples Life Fund and So. Calif. War Tax Alternative Fund. Philadelphia's WRL/WTR Alternative Fund & the CMTC-Escrow Account both closed in 2018 and each made donations to NWTRCC.

Every donation, no matter the size, keeps NWTCC going. Thank you!

FINANCIAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 1/1/2018- 12/31/2018

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Literature & Other Sales	\$1,623
TOTAL INCOME	\$68,485
EXPENSES	
Coordinator/Office help	\$26,052
Health Ins./Retierment	\$2,700
Social Media/Field Org.Consult	\$13,943
Rent/Supplies/Postage/Phone	\$4,972
Meetings/Travel	\$4,005
Newsletter/Literature/Web	\$6,434
Publicity/Local-Regional Outreach	\$4,903
Bank/Processing Fees	\$132
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$65,641
NET GAIN (OR LOSS) FOR YEAR	\$2,844

## NWTRCC - (800) 269-7464 - NWTRCC.ORG - NWTRCC@NWTRCC.ORG

ADMIN. COMMITTEE: CATHY DEPPE, Los Angeles, CA• CHRISSY KIRCHHOEFER, Florissant, MO • ANNE BARRON, San Diego, CA • JUSTIN BECKER, New York, NY ALTERNATES: DeCourcy Squire, Minneapolis, MN • Samantha Leuschner, Carmel, NY • TREASURER: RICK BICKHART, Staunton, VA

 $FUNDRAISING\ COMMITTEE:\ Rick\ Bickhart,\ Ruth\ Benn,\ Bill\ Glassmire,\ Jim\ Stockwell$ 

OUTREACH COMMITTEE: Anne Barron, Ruth Benn, Cathy Deppe, Bill Glassmire, Daniel Woodham NWTRCC Coordinator: Lincoln Rice • OUTREACH CONSULTANT: Chrissy Kirchhoefer