NWTRCC’s 37th year began with finishing the hiring process for NWTRCC’s new Outreach Consultant, Chrissy Kirchhoefer. Chrissy replaces Erica Leigh, who had served the previous five years as NWTRCC’s Social Media and Communications Consultant. Erica was part of the hiring committee that chose Chrissy and helped with training Chrissy for the position that she began on 1 January 2019.

Chrissy brings twenty years of war tax resistance experience, as well as organizing experience from her time with the Catholic Worker, Voices for Creative Nonviolence, and many other justice groups.

Publicity and Outreach

A big accomplishment this past year was the translation of our 24-page booklet War Tax Resistance at a Glance into Spanish. Printed copies of the booklet are available for $1 and it is also available for free download on the Spanish-speaking section of the NWTRCC website.

NWTRCC also organized and held its first youth focus group. We had four women of different racial backgrounds, who were organizing in various social justice movements, but who were not previously familiar with war tax resistance.

The women provided critical feedback about NWTRCC’s materials and outreach efforts. The participants were provided with $200 stipends because of the 6-hour time commitment involved.

The A.J. Muste Foundation provided us with a $2,000 grant for 2020 in which to continue this project and produce more statistically valuable feedback.

In November, Chrissy traveled to Georgia twice. The first time was for the Kings Bay Plowshares 7 (KBP 7) trial in Brunswick and the second was the 30th Anniversary Commemorative Gathering at Fort Benning with the School of the Americas Watch. Both events were heavily populated with War Tax Resisters as well as potential War Tax Resisters.

Erica Leigh traveled to Scotland to represent NWTRCC at the Int’l Tax day 2019 was on April 15, and local groups held vigils, penny polls, leafleting, and redirection ceremonies from Wilmington to Eugene and about 20 other cities. Tax Day coincided with a week-long Global Call to Action from Extinction Rebellion (XR). The international movement called for a week of Civil Disobedience to raise awareness of the pending climate catastrophe. Many local tax groups collaborated with environmental groups to raise awareness of the US military being the largest polluter of the Earth as well as the largest consumer of oil worldwide.

In Eugene, Oregon, 50 folks gathered to deliver letters to the IRS. It was a collaborative event between Taxes for Peace Not War, Community Alliance of Lane County, 350 Eugene, Oregon Women’s Action for New Directions, & Extinction Rebellion.

The Northern California People’s Life Fund celebrated Tax Day with a granting ceremony in which they distributed $16,000 in redirected tax monies to 12 organizations.
The Seattle Anti-War Coalition sponsored leafleting and a die-in in front of their local Federal Building. Participants included Extinction Rebellion and Veterans for Peace.

MEETINGS & GATHERINGS

NWTRCC holds two gatherings a year. One May meeting was hosted by the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker in Washington, DC.

Friday evening was supposed to begin with a report back from Code Pink activist Paki Wieland on her recent trip to Iran. But Paki and other activists had been staying at the Venezuelan Embassy since it was officially turned over to them by Venezuelan diplomats of the Nicolás Maduro government when they were forced out of the U.S. So we visited the Code Pink Activists on Sunday afternoon.

The conference in Oregon brought together war resisters and environmental activists to lay some groundwork for future collaboration.

The conference included participation with Peace House Portland, Pentagon vs Planet, Extinction Rebellion, Code Pink, and the Community Alliance of Lane County. A Saturday workshop elicited priorities and opportunities for collaboration between war tax resisters and environmental activists.

ADMINISTRATION

Organizational decisions are made at Coordinating Committee (CC) meetings held during each NWTRCC gathering. The CC includes representatives of our 50 affiliates, 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 reviewing literature, and brainstorming outreach strategies. NWTRCC would not have survived 37 years without dedicated and skilled volunteers!

RESOURCES AND COUNSELING

NWTRCC keeps a stock of printed literature 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 2019, we updated our W-4 materials to match the overhauled form, updated the network regarding passport renewal issues for resisters with a tax debt over $52,000, and aided resisters who erroneously received threats of a frivolous fine for including a letter with their tax forms. 

FINANCES AND FUNDRAISING

Since 2014, we have received a $25,000 yearly grant, allowing us to expand our work. We did not receive it in 2019. Since NWTRCC has always been very frugal, cuts to our 2020 budget were limited. But we are always looking for new funding sources.

We are extremely thankful for grants from the Barrett Family Foundation and A. J. Muste Institute as well as significant funding from the Northern California People’s Life Fund and the War Resisters League. NWTRCC is here because of all our generous donors and supporters.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 1/1/2019 - 12/31/2019

INCOME

- Individual Contributions $35,453
- Grants/All Fund Contributions $17,290
- Affl. Fees/Religious Grps/Honoraria $3,297
- Newsletter Subs & Ads $1,973
- Literature & Other Sales $221

TotaI Income $58,234

EXPENSES

- Coordination/Office Help $21,682
- Health Ins./Retirement $5,346
- Social Media/Field Org. Consult. $16,610
- Rent/Supplies/Postage/Phone $4,411
- Meetings/Travel $3,279
- Newsletter/Literature/Web $5,865
- Publications/Local/Regional Outreach $1,290
- Youth Advisory Council $667
- Totu Expenses $58,179
- Net Gain (or Loss) For Year $55

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

ADMIN. COMMITTEE: Anne Barron, Sam Leuschner, Carmel, NY
- ALTERNATES: Justin Becker, New York, NY • Jerry Maynard, Houston, TX • TREASURER: Ric Boswell, Staunton, VA

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE: Rick Bickhart, Ruth Benn, Bill Glassmire, Jim Strockwell, Carlos Steward, Sam Yenger

OUTREACH COMMITTEE: Anne Barron, Ruth Benn, Cathy Deppe, Bill Glassmire, Sam Leuschner, Jerry Maynard

NWTRCC Coordinator: Lincoln Rice • OUTREACH CONSULTANT: Chrissy Kirkhoefer

NWTRCC sees poverty, racism, sexism, homophobia, economic exploitation, environmental destruction and militarization of law enforcement as integrally linked with the militarism that we abhor. Through the redirection of our tax dollars, NWTRCC members contribute directly to the struggle for peace and justice for all.