

NATIONAL **WAR TAX RESISTANCE** COORDINATING COMMITTEE

2 0 2 0 A N N U A L R E P O R T

NWTRCC's 38th year was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic led NWTRCC to hold several events online that it would normally have held in person, including both of our national conferences in May and November 2020.

Though all of our resources are already available online for free, we worked to provide additional online resources that would aid individuals and local groups in promoting war tax resistance. Many of the resources we chose to offer were guided by the feedback we received from our Youth Advisory Council, which was the name we adopted for a series of youth focus groups we organized in 2019 and 2020.

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

As mentioned, NWTRCC organized several youth focus groups. The participants in the three separate focus groups were composed of nine women, one man, and two non-binary individuals from various racial backgrounds. These younger activists and organizers from a variety of social justice movements were not previously familiar with war tax resistance.



Kirin Taylor's Tax Day Message

The participants 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 so that we could continue this project and produce more than circumstantial feedback. Coming changes that will be based on their feedback include a website refresh and an update to our mission statement.

Based on their feedback, we have already adjusted how we reach out to younger activists using social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

PUBLICITY AND OUTREACH

NWTRCC publicity and outreach has occurred primarily online during 2020. This was also our main way of joining and participating in the conferences of other organizations. Here are some highlights.

In March, our Coordinator Lincoln Rice and former NWTRCC Coordinator Ruth Benn were interviewed on the syndicated radio show "Spirit in Action," in which they shared the essentials from the January 2020 on-line war tax resistance counselor training, including the methods, mechanics, motivations, and consequences of refusing to pay for war.

In August, war tax resisters Lida Shao and Randy Kehler along with Lincoln Rice led a panel on war tax resistance at the national conference of Veterans for Peace.

NWTRCC also helped connect media outlets with war tax resisters, which led to published articles in the *San Francisco Bold Italic* and *Waging Nonviolence*.

NWTRCC also promoted a collaboration between American war tax resister David Gross and Extinction Rebellion UK's tax resistance campaign. Gross provided clear examples of how the resources of the American

war tax resistance movement can be a benefit for other justice movements, even those outside of the United States.

On social media, NWTRCC highlighted the reality that military funding is a greater priority for the U.S. than the health of Americans.



Logo created by Extinction Rebellion UK for their session on Tax Resistance with American War Tax Resister David Gross.

ACTIONS AND REDIRECTION

The pandemic caused problems for local war tax resistance groups that normally take their message to the streets on Tax Day. Adding to this confusion, Tax Day was delayed until July 15.

In April, around twenty different WTR groups moved to an online format, posting WTR messages on Facebook and Twitter.

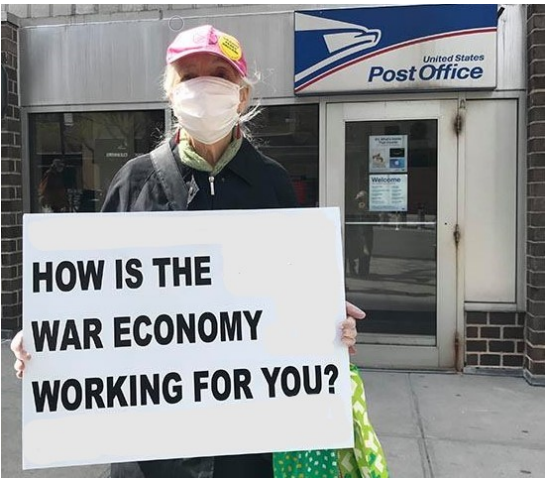
For July 15, some local groups went out in small numbers, but most continued with only online actions. The July 15 date also gave some groups time to plan online events using Zoom. Planet v. Pentagon (Eugene, OR) hosted an online webinar "The Military Fossil Fuel Industrial Complex: How Our Taxes Fund A Double Crisis."

The Cleveland Nonviolence Network hosted a session with Kathy Kelly called "The Deadly Sonic Boom of the U.S. Military Budget."

The Northern California People's Life Fund hosted two granting ceremonies in which they distributed \$34,000 in redirected tax monies to 23 organizations.



The U.S.S. Comfort: A Symbol of the Misplaced Priorities during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Department of Defense Photo.



Nydia Leaf protesting safely on Tax Day in New York City.

Heidi Bumgardner Turpin of Austin posted a video on Facebook where she had canisters with coins showing funding for health care and war. She dumped all the funding from war into the health care canister. She posted it with the hashtags #NWTRCC and #NoTaxes4War

MEETINGS & GATHERINGS

NWTRCC holds two national gatherings each year (May & November). Both were forced online by the pandemic.



Both of our national conferences were online. Photo by Ed Hedemann.

We are grateful to the folks in both Chicago and Colorado Springs who performed the initial prep work to host these meetings. For the first conference in May, 42 attended, with folks joining us from Alaska to Georgia, from San Diego to Houston, and even folks from both Portlands (Oregon and Maine).

For our second conference in November, 42 people also attended. We used Zoom’s breakout room feature on Friday evening so that participants could mingle and visit.



John Lewis with David Bassett, Bob MacFarlane, and Jack Payden-Travers in March 2014. Lewis had been the representative introducing the Peace Tax Fund legislation into Congress for decades. Photo courtesy of National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund.

On Saturday, we held a strategizing session where attendees discussed the relevant role of war tax resistance in the following four areas: (1) four years of a Biden presidency without plans to curb military spending, (2) Defund the Police, (3) COVID-19, and (4) the climate crisis.

ADMINISTRATION

Organizational decisions are made at Coordinating Committee (CC) meetings held during each NWTRCC gathering. The CC includes representatives of our 40 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 38 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 2020, 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 \$54,000, and aided resisters erroneously threatened with 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 have not received it since 2019. Since NWTRCC has always been very frugal, cuts to our 2020 budget were limited. Our first online auction also helped us meet expenses.

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 NWTCC going. Thank you!

FINANCIAL REPORT	
FISCAL YEAR 1/1/2020- 12/31/2020	
INCOME	
Individual Contributions	\$35,736
Grants/Alt. Fund Grants.....	\$10,525
Fundraisers.....	\$1,835
Affi I. Fees/Religious Grps/Honoraria	\$4,300
Newsletter Subs & Ads.....	\$1,469
Literature & Other Sales	\$53
TOTAL INCOME.....	\$53,919
EXPENSES	
Coordinator/Office help	\$22,123
Health Ins./Retierment.....	\$5,400
Social Media/Field Org.Consult.	\$16,362
Rent/Supplies/Postage/Phone.....	\$3,549
Meetings/Travel.....	\$248
Newsletter/Literature/Web	\$4,605
Publicity/Local-Regional Outreach	\$58
Youth Advisory Council.....	\$1,334
TOTAL EXPENSES.....	\$53,679
NET GAIN (OR LOSS) FOR YEAR.....	\$240

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

ADMIN. COMMITTEE: SUE BARNHART, Eugene, OR • DECOURCY SQUIRE Minneapolis, MN • SAM LEUSCHNER, Carmel, NY • JERRY MAYNARD Houston, TX
ALTERNATES: Lida Shao, New York, NY • Joshua Wrolstad, Eugene, OR •TREASURER: RICK BICKHART, Staunton, VA

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE: Rick Bickhart, Ruth Benn, Bill Glassmire, Jim Stockwell, Lida Shao, Carlos Steward, Sam Yergler

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

NWTRCC Coordinator: Lincoln Rice • OUTREACH CONSULTANT: Chrissy Kirchhoefer

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.