

Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice
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State of the Network address, presented October 5, 2013 - La Crosse

Accomplishments for the year

- Jan 2013 - Passed a Bring Our War Dollars Home resolution in Dane County, the 3rd in Wisconsin (after Milwaukee and the AFT-WI labor union resolutions in 2012), organizing a press conference with local labor leaders, County Board supervisors, WNPJ member groups Veterans for Peace and Madison-area Urban Ministry, and ally WI Council on Children and Families; also organized testimony at the Board meeting by veterans and union activists
- March 2013 - Held our spring steering committee meeting in Eau Claire, featuring a lively discussion about frac sand mining featuring local activists Pat Pople and Heather Andersen of the Save the Hills Alliance, bringing in many people new to WNPJ
- April 2013 - Organized an Earth Day fundraiser, featuring live music, free seeds and a garden-themed auction, the Sowing Seeds Spring Festival
- June 2013 - Hired Z! Haukeness as our Bring Our War Dollars Home grassroots organizer, a 10 hours/ week position lasting one year, to continue and expand the work to educate and organize around challenging the bloated military budget, via local resolutions and other strategies
- June 2013 - At the Energy Fair in Custer, held our Pancakes for Peace fundraiser; organized a workshop on "Empowering grassroots environmental activism" at the Energy Fair, along with SOUL of Wisconsin, the Bad River Tribe and the Frac Sand Sentinel; held a Board meeting; and promoted member groups' workshops and info tables
- July 2013 - WNPJ's outreach committee (consisting of Dena Eakles, Karma Chavez and Liz Bruno) organized three community dialogues about what are we doing well in our pursuit of creating communities of peace, justice and sustainability, in Milwaukee and Verona, in conjunction with member groups the Islamic Environmental Group of Wisconsin and the Farley Center
- Aug 2013 - Organized a workshop at the national Veterans for Peace conference in Madison on "Debt and Death: Making Clear the Costs of War and Bringing Our War Dollars Home," along with Peace Action WI
- Aug 2013 - Co-organized Lanterns for Peace, a commemoration of the U.S. nuclear bombings of Japan, with member groups Physicians for Social Responsibility - WI, Veterans for Peace, Pax Christi and the Madison Area Peace Coalition
- Oct 2013 - WNPJ member assembly and awards reception, in La Crosse
- Throughout the year, published 3 newsletters, held 4 Board meetings, sent out weekly action alert and events emails, responded to member group requests and question
- Supported the formation of the Educational Justice Coalition of Wisconsin, as an ally, to further racial, queer, abled, migrant, educational and housing justice for students statewide
- Organized statewide conference calls on environmental and peace / anti-militarism issues, throughout the year

- Tabling outreach throughout the year at events including the Martin Luther King Jr Day celebration in Madison, Energy Fair in Custer, LaborFest in Madison, Penokee Hills Education Summit in Upson, Farley Center dedication and conference in Verona
- Supported member groups by promoting events, circulating their press releases, speaking at their events, sharing news of their campaigns
- Welcomed 11 new member groups to WNPJ in 2013: Industrial Workers of the World - Madison, Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the War, No Drones WI, Madison Action for Mining Alternatives, WI Alliance for Tenants' Rights, Friends of Palestine, Peace Justice & Sustainability Group of James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Islamic Environmental Group of WI, Northwoods Peace and Justice, Midwest Coalition Against Lethal Mining, and Operation Welcome Home

Finances and personnel

WNPJ held three grassroots fundraising events in 2013: the Sowing the Seeds Spring Festival in April, the Pancakes for Peace breakfast at the Energy Fair in June, and the Fall awards reception in October.

In 2011 and previous years we had a total of 40 hours per week of staff time. In 2012 our staff hours were cut from 40 hours to 20 hours due to budget constraints. Page Metcalf was hired at 5 hours per week in August 2012, and increased her hours to 10 hours per week in July 2013. That brings our two-person core staff up to 30 hours per week, who work diligently to try to do what used to be done in a 40-hour week.

See below for details of organizational income (\$57,000) and expenses (\$53,000) for 2012. Totals given are as of December 15, 2013.

