

Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice
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State of the Network address, October 11th, 2014-November 1st 2015

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Accomplishments for the year

- **Fall 2014:** Participated in various actions and events led by Young Gifted and Black coalition and other groups like Moses Jail Task Force and No Dane County Jail Working Group. Board members, staff and volunteers showed up to shut down traffic, testify at committee meetings, host living room conversations about race, plan actions, participate in non-violent civil disobedience, and volunteer to make these actions and strategies successful in **stopping the building of a new jail in Dane County**. Multiple new board members are joining us from YGB.
- **2014-2015:** WNPJ was the main convener of the **Sustainable Solutions: WI Defense Transition Coalition**. We brought together labor, peace, economic justice and legislative partners to push forward an agenda for diversifying the manufacturing in WI away from reliance on military production. New board member Joe Preisler has been at the forefront of this coalition.
- **Fall 2014 and Spring 2015:** Staff and board members advocated at Mukwanago school board meetings pushing for them to **drop their mascot**, and also to encourage them to refrain from putting the mascot name “Indians” on their football field. Co-Chair Barb Munson spearheads this work through the WIEA “Indian” Mascot and Logo Taskforce, new board member Paula Mohan has been deeply involved in this work.
- **December 2014:** Hosted **peace wreath** workshops and sold peace wreaths. Board member Janet Parker has been a long-time leader in the creating and selling of peace wreaths for WNPJ.
- **Winter 2014/2015:** WNPJ held two statewide conference calls in partnership with WI Jobs Now, Coalition for Justice, Family Farm Defenders, and Young Gifted and Black. We highlighted the work happening for **Black Lives Matter** in Madison, Milwaukee and other parts of the state.
- **February 2015:** Celebrated the victory of **GTAC pulling out** of their plans to do mining in the Penokee Hills after participating in a multi-year struggle to oppose this effort and save the water and wild rice fields of the Bad River tribe. The WNPJ Environmental Working group partnered with MAMA, Save the Waters Edge, and the Bad River tribe on this organizing effort.
- **March 2015:** Following the killing of **Tony Robinson** in March of 2015 WNPJ wrote a statement decrying the MPD's excessive use of force. We wrote another statement following the non-indictment of Matt Kenny. We also participated in the planning and execution of Black Out Wednesday saying, if Matt Kenny isn't arrested then no one should be arrested. This would help limit the racial disparities in the Dane County jail.
- **April 2015:** Led a Move The Money **training with Urban Underground**, a Black youth social justice organization in Milwaukee. This was a chance for youth to say how they would spend their federal tax dollars rather than it all being spent on the military budget. We also worked with various organizations, predominately youth of color, to prepare videos for the film festival.
- **May 2015:** Second Annual **Growing a Peaceful Future Film Festival** was held in Madison WI at the UW South Side Madison partnership. We gave out a total of \$2000 in scholarship funds to high school students for their award winning videos. The winners were Urban Underground, Peyton Yang (Freedom Inc), Naomi Makesa (GSAFE), and Skylar Lee (GSAFE).

- **Spring 2015:** Supported the passage of the **Madison School Board mascot ordinance** to prohibit racist mascots on any clothing of MMSD students. Board members are also participating on a committee to further define this ordinance which may include prohibiting MMSD from playing any sports teams with racist mascots.
- **Spring/Summer 2015:** Created 2 short **youtube videos** from interviews with WI Defense Transition Coalition members. These videos were spread around youtube to support the campaign goals.
- **June 2013:** Held our annual Pancakes for Peace fundraiser at the **MREA Energy Fair** in Custer, WI.
- **June, October 2015: Op Eds published** in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel related to the work of diversifying the economy and transitioning away from reliance on military contracts.
- **Summer 2015:** Hosted a gathering of local peace activists in Madison to discuss **Citizen Action's messaging on anti-war** organizing. Also participated in the gathering in Milwaukee for this project.
- **July 2015:** convened meeting between East Central WI Regional Planning Commission, WEDC, WRTP Big Step, WI Representative Gordon Hintz, WI Representative Melissa Sargent, the UAW and the WI Defense Transition Coalition to discuss Federal **Office of Economic Adjustment funding**. We were advocating for Unions and workers most impacted to be included in any planning and implementation of diversifying due to cuts at Oshkosh Corporation.
- **July 2015 and September 2015:** WNPJ Film Fest Award winners Skylar Lee and Peyton Yang met with **Congressman Mark Pocan** to advocate for a shift in the federal budget away from military spending and towards resources for queer youth and youth of color in schools and community. In September Film Fest Winner Naomi Makesa met with **Senator Tammy Baldwin's** office to advocate for more federal funding for higher education for youth of color, particularly related to legislation being pushed through in the US Department of Education.
- **August 2015:** After over a year and a half of planning we **finalized our strategic plan** at our board meeting in Mosinee, WI at co-chair Barb Munson's house. Thanks to Kristen Petroschius of GSAFE for facilitating the process, and to volunteers Sheila Spear, Steve Burns, and board members for the planning efforts.
- **August 2015:** Helped with planning and participation in the **Walk for Peace: End to Drone Warfare and Racial Disparities** walk in collaboration with WI Coalition to Ground the Drones and Voices for Creative Non-Violence.
- **August 2015 -** Participated in **Lanterns for Peace**, a commemoration of the U.S. nuclear bombings of Japan, with member groups Physicians for Social Responsibility - WI, Veterans for Peace, and Pax Christi. We also participated in the Peace Action WI Lantern's For Peace event in Milwaukee with a focus on defense transition.
- **September and October 2015:** Launched **working groups** to carry out our strategic plan including: fundraising, communications, racial justice and technical assistance, outreach to member groups, and fall assembly planning.
- **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
- **Tabling:** Outreach throughout the year at events including First Unitarian Society Social Justice Day, Energy Fair in Custer, LaborFest in Madison, and Social Justice fair at Holy Wisdom Monastery.
- **Supported member groups:** by promoting events, circulating their press releases, speaking at their events, sharing news of their campaigns

This report is also available online, at wnpj.org/history-and-mission