

Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice
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State of the Network address, Presented October 11th, 2014 at Madison Fall Assembly

Accomplishments for the year

- **December 2013** - South Central Federation Resolution on Economic Conversion and Just Transition to a Sustainable Economy.
- **November 2013** - Resolution at Madison Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends in support of Bring our War \$\$ Home campaign.
- **January 2014-May 2014** If I had a Trillion \$ workshops. 8 youth groups and organizations took part in trainings about the federal budget and envisioned alternatives for their community if they had the power to create their own budget, primarily with organizations rooted in LGBTQ and communities of color
- **February 2014** - First of two Move the Money Trainings held in Milwaukee WI bringing together project partners from around the state to talk about the need to create sustainable solutions and transition from dependence on defense production.
- **April 2014** - Spring Assembly in Oshkosh WI. We had a great discussion with UAW Local 578 union for Oshkosh Truck which produces vehicles for the Department of Defense. State Representative Gordon Hintz was there as well to discuss proposals for possible legislation that would form a state commission to transition from Defense to more Civilian production.
- **April 2014** over 50 resolutions passed at Conservation Congress county meetings around the state related to addressing Sand Fracking as well as the GTAC Iron mine proposal in the Penokees
- **May 2014 – May 2014** - Youth Film Festival: Growing a Peaceful Future - High school students from around the state put together videos about what they would do with \$1 Trillion rather than spending it all on the military. 5 films were selected as finalists for this event and awards were given to the top 3 as well as the People's Choice Award. It was a fun family friendly event with a red carpet photo booth and poetry reading
- **May 2014** - Held a Move the Money Training in Madison bringing together local labor leaders, elected officials, and peace and justice organizations.
- **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
- **August 2014** - Board meeting in Ashland. We visited Ashland Area and heard a presentation from Save the Waters about military dumpings in Lake Superior as well as the continued struggle to protect the water and resist the mine in the Penokee Hills.
- **August 2014** - 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, Pax Christi and the Madison Area Peace Coalition
- **September 2014** - Campaign Non-violence Action: De-Criminalize our Communities and End Racial Disparities. In the culmination of a year of study related to Non-Violence from the Peace e Bene national effort, a group of 20 study group members and other WNPJ allies led a vigil from Peace Park to the Jail to offer alternatives to militarization and racial disparities in our local police force.
- **Summer 2014**: Strategic Planning Process has moved into a new phase. WNPJ has been working towards a strategic planning process for the past year. We have hired Kristen Petroschius, Executive Director at GSAFE to assist us in the Planning process.
- **Oct 2014** - Awards Assembly and Panel discussion on Racially Just Alternatives to Incarceration. The panel discussion today covered issues related to Dane County and around the state related to the over incarceration of people of color and solutions to move towards a more just society.
- **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
- Organized statewide **conference calls** on environmental and peace / anti-militarism issues, throughout the year
- **Tabling** outreach throughout the year at events including First Unitarian Society Social Justice Day, Energy Fair in Custer, Laborfest in Madison.

- **Supported member groups** by promoting events, circulating their press releases, speaking at their events, sharing news of their campaigns
- **Welcomed** _9_ new member groups to WNPJ in 2014

Finances and personnel

In a state of the Network address you know and I know that I am going to have to talk about Finances.

WNPJ held three Grassroots fund raising events in 2014. The spring fund raiser “Sowing the Seeds Spring Festival” in April, the Pancake Breakfast at the Energy Fair in June, and the Fall assembly and Awards Ceremony which is today. The Fall Assembly is our main fund raiser for the year and I can report we are doing better than I expected.

IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2011, total donations \$6553.27 (1100 from or after the event)
 2012, total donations \$5286.40 (1000 from or after the event)
 2013, total donations \$2709.94 (1100 from or after the event)
 2014, currently at
 \$3,130 in hand
 \$1,300 in pledges
 \$4,430 total at this point

I did a lot of phone calling trying to make this happen. So if you are able to donate to WNPJ, please do so.

Another way you can help WNPJ is get people or organizations to sign up with WNPJ as a new member or member group. An anonymous donor has agreed to give WNPJ a matching grant of \$2000.00; If WNPJ can sign up \$2000.00 worth of new member groups or new members by the end of 2014. Right now we have raised about \$750.00 toward our goal of \$2000.00.

We still need to raise \$1250.00.

That could be in new member groups, member groups without paid staff, member groups with paid staff, Family memberships, or Individual memberships. Please encourage your friends to sign on as new members, and anybody else you happen to run into.

WE COULD REALLY USE THAT \$2000.00

A significant amount of our budget goes into payroll for our staff, and personally I can't say enough good things about our staff.

However our staff underwent quite a transition in 2014. In May Page Metcalf Left WNPJ as Office Coordinator and moved to Boston. Diane Farsetta and Z! took on Page's responsibilities.

In late June Diane Farsetta (Our Executive Director) announced she would be leaving WNPJ to pursue the full time employment she had obtained at UW-Madison. I always like to hear someone has gotten a full time job with benefits, you don't hear that too often these days. Diane managed to give us 4 weeks notice and she very kindly used that time to aid us in our transition to a staff without Diane. Diane created a document that itemizes month by month what the Executive Director did. That document was very handy in planning for today. Diane recommended we not hire a new executive director until after the Strategic Planning committee decides what direction we are going in. She had been trying to get the Committee to do that for two years. Diane led an effort to hire somebody as office Coordinator to replace Page. This resulted in the hiring of Dace Zeps (Who I think some of you know) as our new office coordinator. Diane is greatly missed and brought amazing life to the organization for the years she was here as the Executive Director. Thanks Diane!!

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

Our staff now consists of Z! Haukeness who is putting in 20 hours/wk, and Dace Zeps who is putting in 10 hours/wk. I must say I have enjoyed working with our Z! and Dace. They both have really impressed me.

That brings our two person staff up to 30hrs/wk to do what used to be done in a 40 hour week in 2012.

I want to thank all members of the Board for their support of WNPJ, and I especially want to thank our officer's for their support and participation:

Treasurer Jessie Read has been a great asset to us,
Liz Bruno provided youth and Ideas and energy as our Co-secretary,
Barb Munson provides great advice as Co-chair, I'll miss our rides to Madison together.

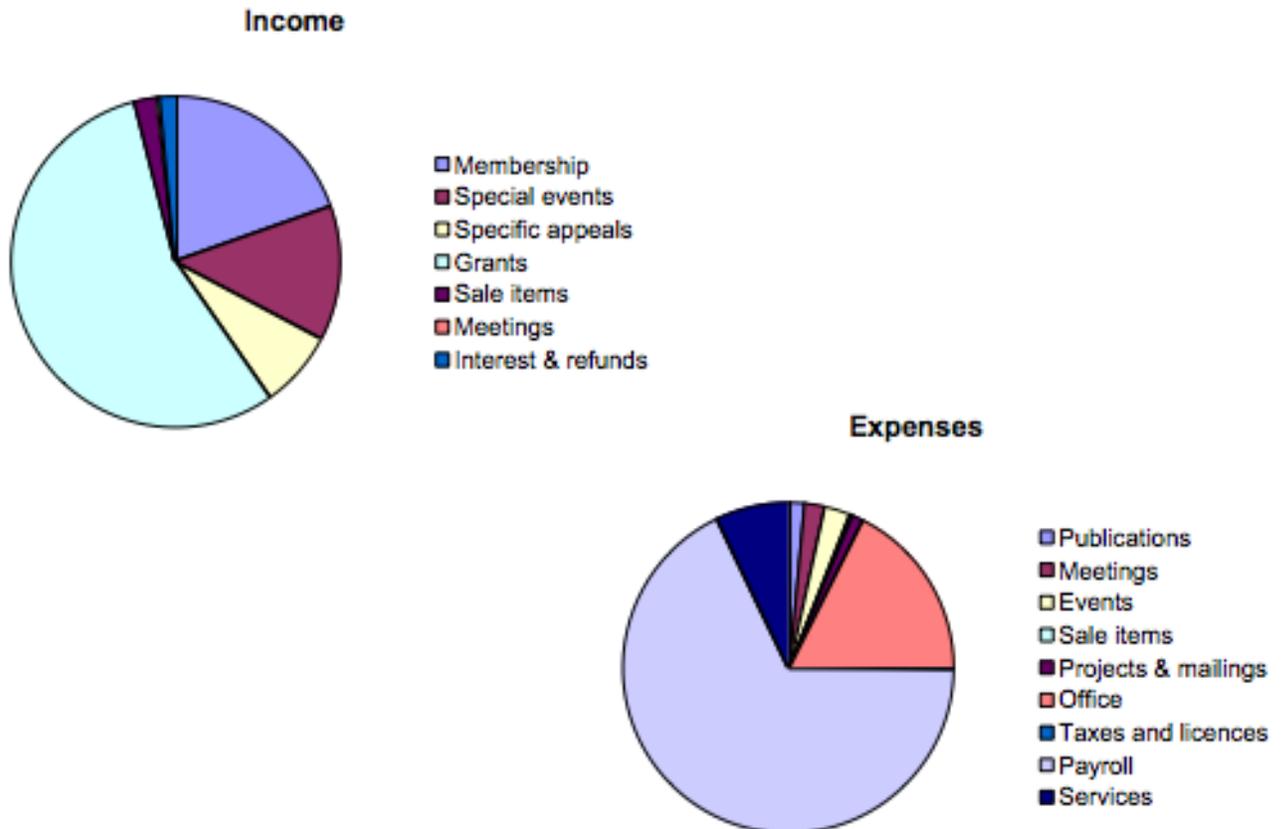
As the New Board goes into effect today. In 2015 WNPJ plans to move ahead with the Strategic planning process and we'll see where that leads us. We will see if we get a new Executive Director. Z! will continue to work with his bring your War dollars home project.

On a personal Note:

I am leaving the board today, I have been on the board since 2006, and for the last three years I have been the Co-Chair (a position I never thought I'd end up in). I'll miss WNPJ and especially the people I gotten to meet. I've learned a lot about diversity and overall it's been a great experience. And I feel I gained a lot from my experience. There are a lot of people I can thank, but I'd like to especially thank Judy Miner, and Diane Farsetta. I'm 72 now and I feel I need to move on, do something else, take care of myself.

Thank You

FUNDRAISING



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