



Wisconsin Network for Peace & Justice

Network News

SPRING 2026 • www.wnpj.org

Collectively rebuilding our world, one community at a time.

WNPJ member organizations and allies share their thoughts in this issue.

Rise: Beloved Community

All over Wisconsin and the nation our neighbors and friends live in fear. ICE has made a mockery of decency and the current federal government is attempting to systematically destroy foundational ideals and legal safeguards that protect us. WNPJ is honored by the



member organizations and allies that are stepping up to protect and defend our immigrant siblings.

The attempts to curtail free speech and peaceful protests are threats meant to silence us, but we are proving that our conviction towards peace and justice are human rights that will not be destroyed. It is our commitment to continue to uplift our efforts and to foster collaborations to strengthen our bonds. We will not be intimidated into silence.

Our interconnected actions are demonstrating our strengths. Local community actions are springing up throughout the state to protect our environs and our health from data centers, pipelines, transmission lines and more. We are learning from one another. And we are rising above partisan politics to create the power needed

at this time. Kudos to everyone for the hard work and the refusal to back down. We are like water, finding new ways to move, new ways to cut through, new paths to create.

Legacy media has been all but destroyed as purveyors of truth and guardrails to the authoritarian nature of this administration. The propaganda is hard to cut through, but we must continue to be voices of humanity and peace. We must be the resistance and not allow the new “normal” to prevail.

WNPJ would like to expand our social media efforts to include Substack as well as increase the numbers of our newsletters, because we recognize the need to counter propaganda of fear and division. If you are interested in helping in any way to create content and to help oversee our social media, you are welcome to volunteer. Contact info@wnpj.org to find out more.

They are not giving up and neither can we.

WNPJ has existed for 35 years. Guided by individuals who value humanity over greed, peace and justice over war, we have and will continue to demonstrate what can be. The thread of goodwill and conviction has always led us and will continue to drive us forward. Beloved Community is alive and well in Wisconsin. Thank you for all you do!



Photos: No Kings Madison

The Mass Deportation Industrial Complex and 287g Agreements in Wisconsin

By Anthony Pahnke

Vice President of Family Farm Defenders

The nation was shocked when federal agents killed US Citizens Renee Good and Alex Pretti in Minneapolis this year. Bruce Springsteen wrote a song about the violence caused by the “surge” of agents, and thousands participated in general strikes to oppose the government’s heavy-handed enforcement tactics.

Protests got results — Kristi Noem was replaced as head of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the institutional home of agencies tasked with arresting immigrants, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP). Roving patrols arresting immigrants also appears to have slowed.

Still the mass deportation industrial complex our government created remains. Last July’s ‘One Big Beautiful Bill’ (OBBB) earmarked \$170 billion to hire an additional 10,000 ICE agents; to pay private contractors to build new detention centers; to build the border wall; and to fund technology for monitoring immigrants. (For more: <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org>)

DHS’ own statistics show it’s not the “worse of the worst” being detained. People with no criminal histories are arrested for residing in this country without authorization. Immigration enforcement is now a multi-billion-dollar, tax payer-subsidized money-making machine. (For more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ice-arrests-violent-criminal-records-trump-first-year/>)

Wisconsin plays a part in this complex. Of importance is, if and how our local police collaborate with federal agents to locate and arrest undocumented migrants.

The legislative tool that makes this collaboration possible is the 287g program. Part of the Clinton-era “tough on crime” approach to law enforcement, the program appeared in the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRAIRA).

To join, Sheriffs, without consulting any lawmakers, simply need to sign a memorandum of understanding with ICE. Currently, 19 counties in Wisconsin have

signed up. Since 2025 that number has more than doubled. (For more: <https://wisconsinexaminer.com/briefs/three-more-wisconsin-county-sheriffs-agree-to-work-with-ice/>)

Local collaboration with federal agents in the 287g program can take place according to the Warrant Service Officer (WSO) model, Jail Enforcement Model (JEM), or Task Force Model (TFM). Currently, in Wisconsin, there are only WSO and JEM agreements. In TFM, local police are deputized to arrest immigrants suspected of being undocumented. Such arrests can take place during routine traffic stops, on the street, or whenever.

WSO and JEM agreements don’t deputize local law enforcement to operate in the streets. They allow police to keep immigrants in custody for ICE to apprehend at a later time, and/or interrogate people in custody about their immigration status.

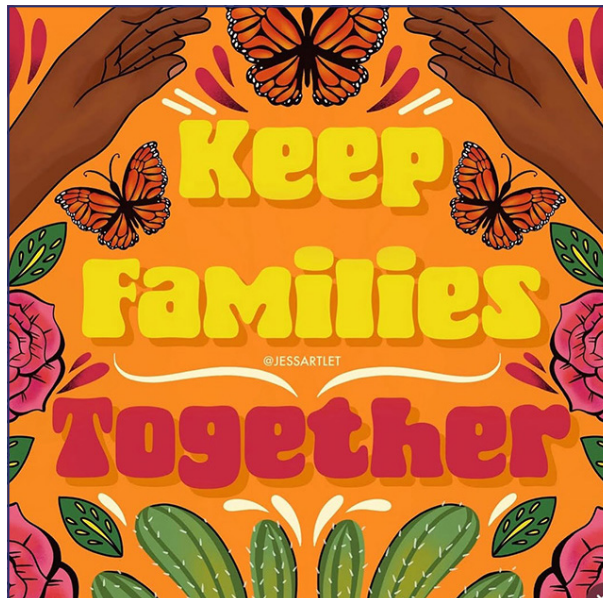
Like the TFM model, the WSO and JEM models provide financial incentives for our police to sign on to 287g. With a dollar amount attached per person arrested, and an inflated budget, we can expect 287g to **grow in our state**.

The 287g program dissolves trust and spreads fear, particularly in immigrant communities, and uses our tax dollars to reorient the police onto the federal government’s priorities. This betrays the principles of federal-

ism and takes local police away from their local jobs. For these reasons, education about 287g must continue.

Supporting organizations, like Voces de la Frontera and the ACLU, is key. Together, they have filed a lawsuit claiming that the JEM model is illegal if holding people beyond 48 hours. Faith-based groups like WISDOM-WI are also organizing around this issue, pushing counties to rethink their collaboration.

There are 72 counties in Wisconsin. All of them have elections for Sheriff this year. If your county has a 287g agreement, ask your Sheriff about it. Write a letter, make a phone call, or go with a group of friends to make your inquiry. As a taxpayer, you have a right to know. If you don’t approve, make your voice heard at the ballot box. And follow WISDOM-WI, ACLU and other organizations in our state fighting these inhuman tactics.



Nonviolence in Action

Daylong Conference Presented by Interfaith Peace Working Group

The Interfaith Peace Working Group (IPWG), made up of advocates from communities of faith and conscience across Wisconsin, seeks to educate and advocate for the use of nonviolence to in the struggle for peace, justice and the care of creation. We also work to reduce military spending and direct these funds toward human and environmental needs, and partner with other groups to address the interrelated issues of peace, justice and the environment.

The IPWG was formed in 2017 by persons who recognize that many faith communities address the issues of racism, economic justice, and the environment, but few focus on nonviolence and its effectiveness in social justice work. Further, few of these communities address the huge and constantly increasing U.S. military spending on war and preparations for war. These themes, the power and promise of nonviolent direct action and the danger of the increasing militarization, became the focus of IPWG's mission and work.

IPWG has placed shoes on the sidewalk at the Madison Farmers Market last summer to protest the genocide in Gaza, and co-sponsored the Take Up Your Cross march to resist government cruelty in August.

In addition, we have sponsored in-person and Zoom presentations by Maria Stephan, co-author of *Why Civil Resistance Works*, Rev. Khader el-Yaateem, executive director for Service and Justice at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and nuclear weapons critic Jim Carrier, among others.

The IPWG will sponsor a conference, **Nonviolence in Action: An Interfaith Conversation on Building the Beloved Community**, on Thursday, April 23, 8am–3:15pm, at Bethel Lutheran Church, 312 Wisconsin Avenue, Madison. All are welcome!

Keynote speakers will be Shane Claiborne of Red Letter Christians in the morning, and Kathy Kelly of World BEYOND War in the afternoon. The event is supported by grants from H.C. Gemmer Family Christian Foundation

and the A.J. Muste Foundation for Peace and Justice.

The conference will open with witnesses sharing how their faith tradition inspires them to work for nonviolence. Breakout workshop sections will address eight different topics late morning and early afternoon. In between, a vegetarian lunch will be served. A public action from 3:15–5:15pm tentatively at the State Capitol will conclude the conference, and all are invited to participate, whether or not they attend the conference.

More information about the IPWG, including the Nonviolence in Action conference with a link to register, is available at: Interfaith Peace Working Group.

<https://www.interfaithpeacewg.org/>

The Interfaith Peace Working Group of Wisconsin presents:

Nonviolence in Action:

An Interfaith Conversation on Building the Beloved Community

Thursday, April 23rd, 2026

Bethel Lutheran Church, 312 Wisconsin Ave., Madison WI



Schedule

8:00 am to 3:15 pm – Keynote Speakers & Workshops
3:15 to 5:15 pm – Action at Capitol (optional)



OPENING SESSION: Music with Bryan Sirchio, Meditation and Reflections on the Conference Theme

KEYNOTE: Revolutionary Love: Healing the Wounds of Violence

Shane Claiborne heads up *Red Letter Christians*, a movement of folks who are committed to living "as if Jesus meant the things he said." Shane's faith has led him to jail advocating for the homeless, and to places like Iraq and Afghanistan to stand against war. He has worked to end the death penalty and help stop gun violence.



KEYNOTE: Courage for Peace, Not for War

Kathy Kelly is Board President of World BEYOND War. A peace activist, she co-founded *Voices in the Wilderness* in 1996, a group which bore witness to the suffering of Iraqis due to US/UN-imposed sanctions. From 2005 to 2020, she worked with Voices for Creative Nonviolence, which opposed U.S. economic and military warfare in the Middle East and drone warfare.

WORKSHOPS

Alternatives to Militarism

Criminal Justice Reform

Gun Violence Prevention & The Peace of God

Immigration/Know Your Rights



Nonviolent Action For Our Climate

Poor Peoples Campaign for Economic Justice

Protecting Our Democracy

Visions of a Just Peace between Palestinians & Israelis

REGISTER HERE

<https://forms.gle/X3vUnKeFzHLGJWxk9>
(\$20 Registration Fee Includes Lunch)
Scholarships Available

For More Information, see:
<https://www.interfaithpeacewg.org>

CONFERENCE CO-SPONSORS

Building Unity Wisconsin, Christ Presbyterian Church, Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes, Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), Flame of Hope International, Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA), Holy Wisdom Monastery Social Justice Committee, Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), Madison Christian Community, Madison Friends Meeting, Madison Mennonite Church, Madison-Rafah Sister City Project (MRSCP), Mennonite Action Madison, Midvale Community Lutheran Church, Muslim Peace Fellowship, Palestine Partners, Pax Christi Madison, Peace Action of Wisconsin, Red Letter Christians, Sinsinawa Dominicans, Veterans for Peace Chapter 25, Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, Wisconsin Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, Wisconsin Christians for Justice in Palestine, Wisconsin Poor Peoples' Campaign & World BEYOND War

Reclaiming Our Future: The Wisconsin Environmental Justice Mission

By Dean Muller

President, Wisconsin for Environmental Justice

The Wisconsin Environmental Justice (WEJ) initiative is driven by a singular, powerful goal: to lift the financial burden of climate change off the shoulders of local taxpayers and place it where it belongs—on the out-of-state fossil fuel companies that caused the damage.

For too long, Milwaukee and surrounding communities have been the “little guys” cleaning up a multi-billion-dollar mess while global corporations reap record profits.



We are changing that narrative.

Our mission is to generate substantial, non-taxpayer revenue for our city and county governments by holding these polluters legally accountable for the destruction of our environment and the decline in the health of our residents.

The urgency of this mission is written in our changing landscape. Wisconsin has seen a staggering 37% increase in intense weather events, ranging from devastating floods and tornadoes to unprecedented droughts. We have felt the sting of Canadian wildfire smoke in our lungs and seen the rising rates of asthma and heat-related illnesses in our neighborhoods.

This isn't a natural coincidence; it is the direct result

of massive amounts of CO₂ pumped into our atmosphere by companies that knew the risks decades ago. While their stock prices rose, our local governments were forced to scramble to balance budgets and meet basic public needs, while paying for infrastructure repairs and emergency services.

Currently, our mayors, city councils, and county boards are under immense pressure. They are being asked to do more with less, often sacrificing essential community services to cover the skyrocketing costs of climate resilience.

WEJ offers a solution that doesn't involve raising your taxes. By pursuing litigation against fossil fuel giants, our local leaders can secure court settlements that will potentially bring billions of dollars back to Wisconsin.

This revenue is essential to fixing our roads, protecting our water, and ensuring our healthcare systems can handle the increasing demands of a changing climate.

However, there is a catch: justice is not automatic. If our local elected officials do not officially join the litigation, they will not receive a dime from the eventual court settlements.

We cannot afford to sit on the sidelines while other states and cities secure the funds they need to thrive. It is vital that our leaders step up, act now, and ensure Milwaukee is part of this historic legal action.

We are moving beyond just describing the problem; we are providing the roadmap to the solution. We invite you to be the catalyst for this change. We encourage you to contact your local officials and urge them to join the fight for environmental justice. Your voice is the power behind this movement.

To see exactly how you can help—from pre-written templates for your representatives to community meeting dates, click the Action Button below. Together, we can hold polluters accountable and build a Wisconsin where the freedom to thrive is a reality for everyone.

More information: w4ej.org, or scan the QR code:



Ukraine: a Study in Resilience

By *Natalka Akulenko*

Ukraine is a multicultural, multi-ethnic, and multi-religious country with a strong tradition of civic activism, decentralized decision-making, a respect for personal freedom intertwined with strong community connections. Unlike our neighbor to the North, we do not recognize any czars or despots above us. We are quick to stand up and band together when freedom is at stake.

For centuries the Russian governments made no secret of their desire to subjugate, divide, imprison, and eradicate Ukrainians.

Genocide by starvation, *Holodomor*, killed seven million Ukrainians in 1932–1933. During WWII Stalin deported up to 400,000 Tatars from Crimea. Unspeakable war crimes are being committed by the Russian military against residents of the occupied territories. Mass graves and torture rooms have been discovered in all liberated towns and cities.



Last year, 2025, was the deadliest year for Ukrainian civilians. There were 361 days of Russian missile and drone attacks.

In 2026, strikes on civilian infrastructure have knocked out gas and electricity during the coldest months, intentionally causing *Kholodomor*, “death by cold”. Friends of Ukraine–Madison joined a statewide effort with partner organization Wisconsin Ukrainians, Inc., to send thermal clothing, generators, hand and foot warmers, and more to the frontlines, and used donations to purchase thousands of thermal blankets for vulnerable groups.

At least 20,000 identified children and tens of thousands more have been forcibly taken from Ukraine, with thousands placed in Russian facilities and subjected to ideological and militarization programs. Only around 2,000 have been returned to date.

“Older children are sent to reeducation camps, while younger ones are ‘adopted’ by Russian families or sent to orphanages while their own families search for them

in vain — all to increase Russia’s population to enable its next invasion.” —American Coalition for Ukraine (ACU).

On January 13, 2026, Wisconsin became the first state to unanimously pass a resolution condemning the abduction of Ukrainian children.

Thousands of Ukrainians living legally in the United States could soon lose work authorization and lawful status without urgent administrative and congressional action. “Ukrainian families are increasingly falling into immigration limbo. For months, they’ve seen their applications gather dust unanswered, their work permits approach expiration, and their access to services cut back. We’ve even seen Ukrainians swept up by immigration enforcement,” says the President of Global Refuge. Read more at Ukrainians at risk of losing legal status. Friends of Ukraine–Madison has hosted Q&A sessions with immigration lawyers for Ukrainians in the Madison area to help them navigate changing laws.

The war in Iran is pulling resources away from Ukraine and boosting Russia’s war economy. According to the ACU, “Removing oil sanctions [on Russia] would only hurt Ukraine, a nation who steadfastly served alongside Americans in Iraq and Afghanistan and is currently standing as the shield of Europe.” (<https://americancoalitionforukraine.org/>)

The growing instability encourages further aggression. The German newspaper *Bild* has published leaked plans for a Russian invasion of Baltic countries. Friends of Ukraine–Madison board members have participated in advocacy events on Capitol Hill, meeting with lawmakers to discuss American policies that can help bring about a just and lasting peace for Ukraine.

A small antidote to the news is the work that Ukrainians in the US are doing to support each other and connect with our American communities.

We at Friends of Ukraine–Madison, Inc., hope to see you at one of our events, sharing our food and music, delighting in the performances by the Madison Ukrainian School students, and maybe even volunteering with us. <https://friendsofukrainemadison.org/events>



All Living Beings: How we Carry on Together



scan QR code
to join meeting

You're Invited!
Sunday, April 26th
6pm-8pm via Zoom

WNPJ's 35th Spring Assembly

Member groups are welcome to share updates, events and actions.

Contacts who would like to speak, please email info@wnpj.org.

Nadja Nordstrom's new video highlighting WNPJ's 35 years and current activities will be premiered - as well as a new logo and website.

We carry on!

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5872591762?pwd=RER2T2FsUFhrTDIIYTYxZVI1dkpwZz09&omn=84531376031>

Or go to wnpj.org for the Zoom link.



This is a rain or shine event. Please dress accordingly!

MAY DAY is a powerful demonstration of our solidarity and collective power. Immigrant workers help power the economy, and together we stand to demand respect for our rights, dignity, and humanity.

MAY DAY

DAY WITHOUT IMMIGRANTS

A day for solidarity, truth and power!



**FRIDAY
MAY 1st
10:00 am**
VOCES OFFICE
733 W Historic Mitchell St.,
Milwaukee

11:00 am march to
Federal Building,
517 E Wisconsin Ave.

Have questions?
Need transportation?
Call your local organizer
or our offices at:
414-643-1620.

NO WORK, NO SCHOOL, NO SHOPPING

STATE DEMANDS	NATIONAL DEMANDS
STOP 287(G)	ABOLISH ICE
ICE OUT OF OUR COURTS, SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES	CITIZENSHIP FOR ALL
CLOSE MKE'S DETENTION CENTER	AN ECONOMY FOR ALL



VOCES
de la Frontera



Learn about our co-sponsors



Vocesde laFronteraWI

Opting Out of the Utility Expansion Paradigm

Falsehoods in large scale utility energy planning outlined by top industry expert

If you have fallen into the default belief that exporting wind power from the Great Plains is our Energy Future, it's time to think again.

Luckily for all of us, our lands, natural habitats, rural economies, climate response and future electric bills, the most-qualified utility expert in the world has subjected these beliefs to long-needed, acid tests.

On four occasions, speaking directly to the leadership of regional utilities who coined a \$150 billion mega-scale transmission expansion 'plan' to market power to eastern US utilities, Dr. David Patton has risen to voice severe warnings. Since 2005, Patton and his Potomac Economics team have served as the Independent Market Monitor and evaluator of the regional utilities' voluntary energy planning.

Echoing Patton, five Midwest state utility commissions formally complained to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that their electric customers cannot be forced to pay for misguided transmission build out.

Here are some of Potomac Economics' findings signaling the end of the Great Plains Export Myth:

In their attempt to "justify" the export concept, the regional utilities' forecasts assume \$234 billion in new, remotely-located, power plants that are not likely to be built.

No utilities, much less those in eastern states, have financial incentives to purchase and resell remote power — especially with very substantial transmission costs added. In 2025, requests to build new power plants in the Midwest dropped 700% compared to 2017-2024 average.

Wisconsin residential ratepayers are being asked to pay an additional \$12.50 per month to ram mega-scale transmission lines through our state, ostensibly, to create incentives for Wisconsin utilities to sell power out of state.

The exported power would not be "green." In 2024, renewable energy power in Midwest outlets averaged 17%. At the 2014-2024 growth rate of 1% per year, the power plant costs to generate 50% renewable energy would add more than \$1 trillion to electric bills.

Patton: Adding utility-scale power plants directly competes with more cost and environmentally effective customer-side investments. Despite Wisconsin's

minimal "Focus on Energy" rebate pools, customer-side improvements have accounted for the largest part of CO2 reductions since 2005.

Unlike utility expansions, these rebate pool dollars pay for themselves, three times over, in energy savings. If 25% of the utilities' \$12.50/month "ask" went, *instead*, to state customer rebate pools, CO2 emission reduction would profoundly accelerate, electric service costs would stabilize and damage to our lands, natural habitats, local economies would be avoided.

What can you *do* to help stop the unneeded transmission invasion?

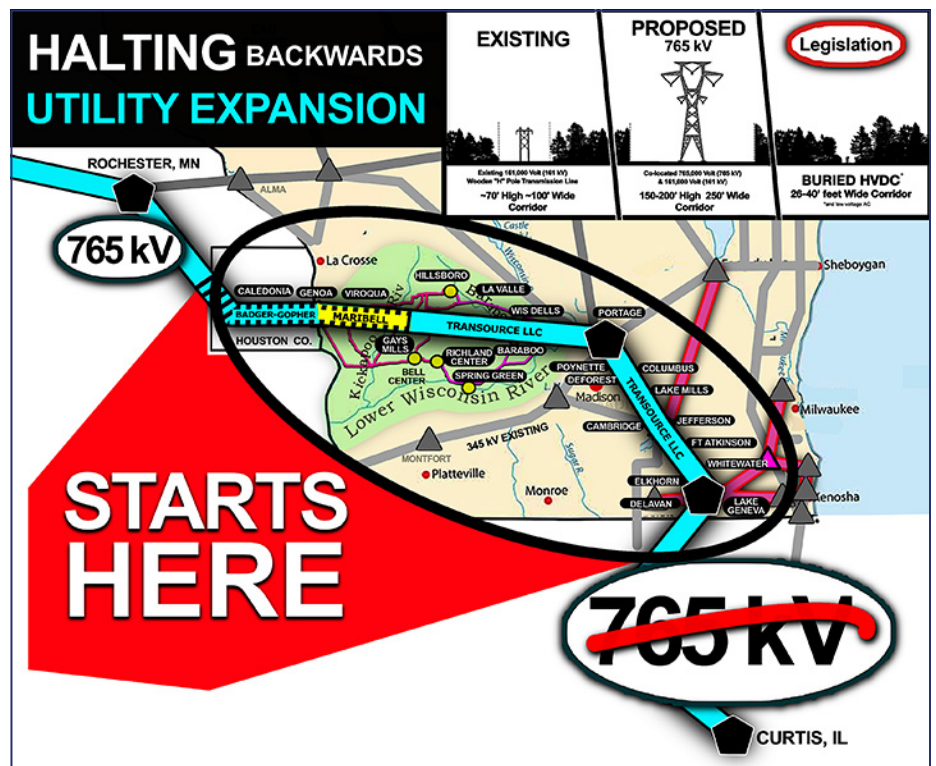
First, phone your Wisconsin Assemblymember and Senator. Tell them to co-sponsor the Pfaff-Johnson modern transmission under-grounding bill, SB 1125, requiring mega-scale transmission to be buried in congested utility corridors using high voltage DC transmission.

Second, ask your city, town, village and county board supervisors to adopt information request and opposition resolutions like those unanimously adopted in Vernon, Crawford and Richland counties.

For sample resolutions and more, visit <https://bit.ly/765links>.

To receive updates: <https://bit.ly/no765line-updates>.

—Rob Danielson, potentially-impacted landowner and no765 volunteer, La Farge, Wisconsin type@mwt.net



Can We Keep Our Taxes from Being Spent On War?

Many of us feel crushed by the knowledge that we pay for our government's atrocities with our tax dollars.

Our Madison chapter of WBW has found inspiration in connecting with the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (NWTRCC). This is a coalition of individuals and organizations that offers info, referrals and support to anyone interested in pursuing this method of opposition.

NWTRCC we have learned about the SPECTRUM OF TAX RESISTANCE. Included on the low end of the spectrum is this totally legal act: filing your taxes by mail, paying all that is due, and including a letter of opposition to taxes that will fund wars. Another completely legal form of war tax resistance that many war resisters have practiced over the last century is keeping your income below the taxable limit, a form of voluntary simplicity. There are many other options, through a crescendo of risk which for some people includes a refusal to pay a small part or even all of taxes they owe.

Lincoln Rice, NWTRCC's coordinator, says, "I'd rather one thousand people resist paying \$1 of their taxes, than one person refuse \$1000." Spurred by this understanding, our chapter is now preparing for a tax day action where letters of refusal to pay and the amount of refused tax dollars will be announced publicly.

Our goals are:

- to show others how resisting to fund the criminal actions of our government is a tool of opposition;
- to exercise our power as concerned citizens in an act of nonviolent civil disobedience;
- to experiment how this method can be used cautiously, and how consequences can be mitigated, and
- to redirect the funds resisted to where they are needed locally.

We urge others to check out NWTRCC's website, a treasure trove of resources, history and testimonies. <https://nwtrcc.org/> Please reach out to us in Madison with questions and for further conversation; e-mail WarTaxResistance608@proton.me



Earth's Greatest Enemy is a documentary combining investigative journalism, striking visuals, and stories from impacted communities to reveal the hidden costs of a global military empire and its planetary consequences. *Hosted by* ASM Sustainability and World BEYOND War.

Wednesday, April 22, 5:30–7:30 pm • 1101 Mosse Humanities Building, 455 N. Park St.



About Face: Veterans Against War Global Days of Action on Military Spending

From Madison Veterans for Peace #25 • <https://linktr.ee/vetsaboutface>
<https://worldbeyondwar.org/gdams-2026-appeal-%C2%B7-a.../>



VOCES
de la Frontera

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO HELP OUR IMMIGRANT NEIGHBORS?

Visit Voces de la Frontera to learn how you can help.

Voces de la Frontera provides a 24-hour emergency hotline
in multiple languages to offer support.

Call 800-427-0213

Voces also offers “know your rights” training and much more statewide.

Become a member and support their good work.

Give Peace a Chance

May 15 is International Contentious Objector Day; how will you help educate our fellow citizens? International Conscientious Objectors Day honors those who follow their conscience, even when it costs them their freedom. For more:

<https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/international-conscientious-objectors-day/>

The Selective Service will automatically register men in the U.S. between the ages of 18 and 26 for the draft beginning in December of 2026. There has not been a draft in this country since 1973. Should there be a “national emergency,” the president and Congress can tap the selective service registry to provide personnel to the “Department of War” and alternative service for contentious objectors.

For now, there is no draft. Congress would need to amend the Military Selective Service Act by passing legislation, giving the president the power to induct personnel into the military.

For more: <https://www.sss.gov/about/return-to-draft/>

The Center on Conscience & War is a non-profit organization that advocates for the rights of conscience, opposes military conscription, and serves all conscientious objectors to war.

<https://centeronconscience.org>



DISCOVER PEACE.

The Peace Education Program offers video-based workshops empowering individuals to reflect on their humanity and inner resources. It includes excerpts of renowned author Prem Rawat, and includes reflection time, participant discussions, activities, and reading materials.

TPRF.ORG/PEACE-EDUCATION-PROGRAM/



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO REGISTER.

Echo Valley Hope has prioritized sharing this program with as many organizations in our region as possible. For more information call **608-606-4450**

Echo Valley Hope is an educational and charitable 501c3 nonprofit advancing sustainable peace.

Echo Valley Hope offers TPRF's Peace Education Program via Zoom on Wednesday, May 20th at 6:30pm and every Wednesday until July 22nd.

Classes are free and about 1 hour long.

Please register in advance using the QR code or link below



https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/C6sKF_YcQGWPxS_s3orAbg

ECHOVALLEYHOPE.ORG

Respecting the Rights of Nature

Wisconsin Governor Vetoes Rights of Nature Preemption Bill

On March 20, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers vetoed a bill which would have prohibited local communities from adopting rights of nature protections.

In his veto, Governor Evers stated: "I object to the Wisconsin State Legislature's continued efforts to restrict and preempt local control across our state. ... I trust our local governments and the Tribal Nations of Wisconsin to know best how to address environmental concerns within their communities..."

The effort to preempt local communities from adopting rights of nature laws comes as community members and state legislators, seek to advance laws to protect the natural environment. The Center for Democratic and Environmental Rights assisted legislators and partner organizations WISDOM, Rights of Nature Wisconsin and Menikanaehkem on creating state legislation to recognize rights of Devil's Lake State Park and more. Bills were introduced last fall in both houses of

the legislature. You can read more here:

<https://www.centerforenvironmentalrights.org>

Rights of Nature advocates strengthen nature's protections. By recognizing that nature possesses legal rights to exist, flourish, regenerate, and be restored, we are reversing decades of conventional environmental laws largely aimed at regulating the use and exploitation



**RIGHTS OF
NATURE
WISCONSIN**

of nature. The consequences of conventional environmental laws are severe — from biodiversity loss, to ecosystem collapse, to climate change.

But we are making a difference. We congratulate all who continue to protect Wisconsin environments and thank Governor Evers, for stopping this preemption bill.

Meetings are held monthly the first Wednesday of every month from 5–6pm via Zoom. For questions email Nancy Stencil at nstencil7983@gmail.com.

For more and to participate: <https://wisdomwisconsin.org/environmental-justice> or <https://www.rightsofnaturewi.org/>

For Salah Sarsour



Many WNPJ member organizations have signed onto a letter in support of the Palestinian-American and lawful permanent resident, Salah Sarsour, recently arrested by ICE in Milwaukee. He is a beloved grandfather and board president of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee. The targeting of this outspoken supporter of Palestinian rights is believed to be a politically motivated abduction by ICE.

Wisconsin Muslim Journal has more on the latest developments:

https://wisconsinmuslimjournal.org/press-conference-becomes-huge-rally-for-islam-president-taken-by-ice/?utm_source=Wisconsin+Muslim+Journal&utm_campaign=aa1837410a-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_06_51_COPY_39&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8dbd836e07-aa1837410a-477406716&mc_cid=aa1837410a&mc_eid=1a2cac7c38

Please keep Salah, his family and community in your prayers; support him by sharing statements, news articles; support his Go Fund Me for legal fees:

https://www.launchgood.com/v4/campaign/salah_sarsour_justice_fund.

Also, contact: Amanda Ali of WISDOM: aali@wisdomwisconsin.org

Please keep WNPJ aware of actions and efforts to free all political prisoners and illegally detained immigrants and citizens.

Join Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice!

Suggested annual dues: \$35 Individual • \$52 Sustaining • \$45 Family • \$10 Fixed Income

\$50 Organization without paid staff • \$75 Organization with paid staff • Benefactor: any amount

Name

Organization's name, if an organizational membership

Address

I am ☐ renewing, or ☐ a new member • Phone • Email

Join or renew online at wnpj.org/membership, or send checks payable to **WNPJ, PO Box 727, Madison, WI 53701. Thanks!**