

2008 Annual Report for the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice;

(available to the public on the website: www.wnpj.org)

Jan. 1, 2008 - 156 member groups and 427 individual members

3 Spring interns/ UW-work-study students hired at WNPJ – Todd Dennis, Jhoselis Briosos (immigration issues) and Brett Preuss (grant-writing). Brett writes a successful Resist! Grant for \$1,500 for general support.

March 1st Board meeting, followed by a Fundraising Celebration for all who Vigil for Peace across our state, organized by Mary Beth Schlagheck. Held at the Pres House – attended by nearly 100 participants – including a potluck, vigil accounts, a power-point show and music by the Raging Grannies and Baba Ghanooj of Waupaca. And the Gospelaires with Will and Dot Williams.

Steering Committee Meeting in Prairie du Sac in April - “Its the Media” with keynote Diane Farsetta, and workshops with Gil Halsted of WPR and the Progressive staff – and doing leaflets/flyers with Steve Burns. Kathy Kelly is a guest, too – talking about the upcoming Witness Against War' walk planned for the summer of 2008.

June – Pancakes for Peace and Walk at the MREA Energy Fair– organized by Cham Nusz (8 ½ months pregnant). Co-sponsored by People for Peace, Waupaca. Todd continues his work-study position this summer.

July- August – WNPJ groups and members host the WAW Walk across our state and region. - for 12 core Voices for Creative Nonviolence walkers led by Dan Pearson - and many day-walkers. 13 are arrested at Ft. McCoy on Aug. 10th, protesting the use of the National Guard in wars abroad.

August 15th - 16th Board Retreat on Diversity and Racial Justice #2 – at Artha Sustainable Living Center near Amherst, host Cham Nusz. Workshops led by Marilyn Miller, Groundwork, and the Diversity Circle trainers from Wausa (Tom McGrath, Carol Lukens and Barb Munson) . The Budget for 2009 and Slate for the new Board approved. Discussion on WNPj position on Afghanistan war and occupation – with final positions to be discussed at our Fall Assembly, scheduled for Oct 4th in Milwaukee.

Fall work study students hired are Sarah Quinn, prison justice work – and Todd Dennis continues with anti-war work. Politics in the air – with the presidential election coming up this Fall.

Sept. 6th Fighting Bobfest tabling

Oct. 4th Fall Assembly in Milwaukee, hosted by Marquette University Peacemaking Center. Speakers: Dan Kenney and Patricia Isasa talking of SOA and Private Security Firm: Blackwater. New Board (23 members) approved and budget for 2009. Peacemakers '08: Sr.Lillia Langreck, Cassandra Dixon, Karen Drydyk and Paul Melling. Steve cuts down to 5/hrs. Week.

Nov. 4th – Barack Obama elected.

Nov. 16th WNPJ Board meeting in Madison, with Bill Christofferson and Cham Nusz co-chairing. Directions and work groups for 2009 include anti-war work, immigrant rights, prison justice and a new proposal for environmental justice. A decision was made to offer Todd Dennis a 20-hour staff position starting in January, to work on Guard Home Campaign and counter-recruitment around the state.

Dec. 12 – 14 Steve Burns and Judy Miner attend the National UFPJ conference in Chicago. Steve Carlson of Trego is elected to represent WNPJ on the national steering committee.

Dec. 29th – Cassandra Dixon, Gail Vaughn and Bonnie Urfer (all WNPj Peacemakers of the Year) arrested at Ft. McCoy – as they protest the use of the WI National Guard for the continuing war in Iraq – and now Afghanistan.

Dec. 31st – protests throughout the state about the bombing of Gaza by the Israeli government.

Dec. Wreath sales! Thanks to Janet and Seth and Stefania and crew for making 75 peace wreaths to sell/ ~ \$50 each!

Types of Solicitations for Grants available upon request, as well as Actual Income and Expenditures for 2008.