UNCLE SAM WANTS YOU! – COUNSELING YOUTH ABOUT ALTERNATIVES TO MILITARY SERVICE

Carl E. Stafstrom, MD, PhD, UW-Madison

Youth face major decisions about future education and career. Information about options is limited and sometimes at odds with an adolescent’s lifestyle, goals, or beliefs. As a pediatrician, I frequently encounter these issues. This article discusses my opinions regarding how to provide youth with information to make critical life choices, especially decisions about military service. From the perspective of someone who has sworn an oath to sustain life and improve its quality, I believe that participation in the military activities is contrary to those ideals.

This article is based on a talk given at the steering committee meeting of the Wisconsin Network of Peace and Justice on March 28, 2009. I discuss four topics: the concept of anticipatory guidance; the Selective Service System (SSS); options and alternatives to military service including conscientious objection; and some suggestions for parents, counselors, and other professionals who counsel teens.

I. Anticipatory Guidance and Adolescent Brain Development

Anticipatory guidance refers to counseling about life’s challenges and opportunities at various stages of development. For example, anticipatory guidance for toddlers includes discussion about sharing toys and not running into the street. For teenagers, anticipatory guidance includes risk taking behaviors, drug, alcohol, and tobacco use, depression and suicide, sexuality and safe sex practices, eating disorders, and other related topics, as well as planning for higher education and future vocation. Anticipatory guidance of adolescents should also include discussion about military service and alternatives, the laws regarding registration with the SSS, and the medical and psychological effects of war. [1]

Those who deal with teens sometimes feel that the adolescent brain is on another planet. As seen in the accompanying cartoon, the teen brain is preoccupied with particular age-specific topics. This depiction, though facetious, emphasizes that different parts of the brain are specialized for specific functions. The adolescent brain is still undergoing massive development, particularly of the frontal lobes, which are responsible for decision making, moral choices, and other high level cognitive functions. Many high-risk, impulsive teenage behaviors can be attributed in part to the rapidly changing synaptic connections in the frontal lobe and their intimate relationship with other brain areas that regulate emotions.[2] Adolescents need both independence from adults and guidance from them.

Enter the recruiters. Our country’s current all-volunteer military requires an enormous sales force of recruiters, whose job is to find and sign-up youngsters. The tactics used by some recruiters have been suspect on both ethical and legal grounds. Recruiters make promises that cannot be kept, use aggressive and relentless tactics, and often fail to fully explain crucial aspects of training and obligations after enlistment. [3] Recruiters abound in most high

What’s Inside This Issue
p. 2 - Report from WNPJ office & Editorial
p. 3 - Stemming the Tide
p. 5 - Midge & Linda
p. 6 - Calendar
p. 7 - WI Guard News
p. 8 - Truth in Recruiting
p. 9 - Budget, Bylaws & Board
p. 10 - Walk for Peace Report
p. 11 - Assembly Registration
**REPORT FROM THE WNPJ OFFICE**
From Judy Miner, Office Coordinator

Thanks to Todd Dennis who just finished his six-month assignment as WNPJ staff, working on counter-recruitment and “Bring the Guard Home” campaign projects. His contribution to our peace and justice work was outstanding, including his successful grant application with the AJ Muste Institute. We had a tremendous response from WNPJ members to the Spring fundraising letter. Your generous donations keep our work going forward. Thanks, too, for the many volunteer hours put into the Pancakes for Peace event at the Renewable Energy Fair in June, by nearly 30 volunteers, including musicians and food donors – all coordinated by co-chair Chamomile Nusz. Other volunteers to thank are Barb Boehme, the 2010 nominating committee of Bill Christofferson, Sue Nelson and Barb Smith; Mary Beth Schlagheck for her work organizing this fall’s Annual Assembly, Phil Biebl, Judith Detert-Moriarty, Karin Sandvik, and student volunteers for the Guard Home campaign, Ellery and Lea. And a very special ‘thank you’ to retiring newsletter editor, Hildegard Dorrer – who has been working for WNPJ for the past eight years keeping us informed and inspired through this work! Her commitment and abilities will be missed. Sheila Spear, former treasurer of WNPJ will take over this project with the January 2010 issue of Network News.

**From the Editor**

This is my last issue as editor of the Newsletter. They tell me that it has been 8 years. That I lasted this long is due to the great support I received from the office staff, Judy and Steve - to Ilana Caplan, who put it into its final form, also for eight years - the various chairpersons throughout those years, and the extraordinary willingness of (mostly) WNPJ members to write articles. All are testimony to their passion and commitment to peace and justice in its many forms. Sheila Spear will take over as editor in 2010. We all still have a long road ahead. I wish you endurance and hope and I thank you.  hd

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Connecting peace and the use of alternative energy
Chamomile and Miles Nusz, pancake organizers; and Chris Kuehnel, volunteer pancake flipper at the MREA Renewable Energy Fair, Custer, June 2009.

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The Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice facilitates activities, cooperation and communication among Wisconsin organizations and individuals working toward the creation of a sustainable world, free from violence and injustice.

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STEMMING THE TIDE

By Mary Ann Novascone, contact for the WNPJ group, Women in Black – Sauk City Bridge

“Who are you, and why are you in our school today?” That was the first greeting I heard from a young woman passing by the Veterans for Peace table in the commons of Baraboo High School on my initial venture of counter-recruiting. Several months later, on our first counter-recruiting action in our local high school in Sauk Prairie, two young women were the first to come to our table. They thanked us for being there as a counter presence to the recruiters who came to the high school virtually every Tuesday.

Between these two encounters with students from Baraboo and Sauk Prairie, our local group, Advocates for Truth in Military Recruitment (ATIMR), determined that our focus would be on providing information so students could better make informed choices about enlistment. Our overall message was “before you enlist, think about this”. We began this work during the lead up to and the early days of the war in Iraq. We used several placards on our table, explaining who we were and why we were present in the school, pointing out Dick Cheney’s quote that the military is NOT a social service or jobs program, but rather that the purpose of the military is to wage war and win wars, emphasizing the current nature of interaction of students and recruiters and, in general, recruiter access and behavior in the school. However, that situation lasted only one semester since the principal felt a lot of pressure, mostly from the recruiters themselves, to have us come on another day.

During the first couple of years of monthly tabling by ATIMR members, we talked with a fair number of students, teachers, and on occasion, parents or older siblings. Many students visited the table and picked up handouts, but chose not to speak with us.

Prior to all-school registration each year, we placed an article or letters to the editor in our two local newspapers, explaining the release of information to military recruiters mandated by the No Child Left Behind legislation, and we explained how parents could Opt Out of providing such information. Both at registration and during the school year at our table, we provided Opt Out forms. That was, undoubtedly, the most popular handout at our table.

As the war continued, the number of students who visited our table decreased each year. We reduced our presence from virtually every month to two times per semester. We continue to value our work of being a counter presence to the military recruiters – a visible sign of another point of view.

Have you had a chance to look over WNPJ’s new website lately? One important area needs input from you! Our staff looks for letters-to-the-editor and stories written by and about WNPJ members and groups. We then post these stories on our website, in our “In the News” section. If you have had something published in your local paper – please let us know, so we don’t miss your news! (We can scan in any paper items you mail us.)

On-line - vs- paper version of the newsletter. It’s your choice! WNPJ will continue mailing out a paper version of Network News - but you have the option to get your copy on-line, in a .pdf form.

E-mail info@wnpj.org if you want the on-line version only.

100 WNPJ members responded to our poll in the last issue of NetWork News - and many have opted for the on-line version of this September issue of the newsletter.
schools and more covert messages are being conveyed to even younger children (For example, the arrangement between Sears and the Army to market official army clothing for children, see: www.prwatch.org/node/7714). Stories and examples of inappropriate actions by recruiters are many.[3]

The No Child Left Behind Act requires high schools to provide names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all students, unless the parent signs an “opt out” form. In addition to making personal contact with students, the military has resorted to subtler tactics such as placing recruiting signs on school gymnasium scoreboards.[4]

The military promises excitement, travel and adventure, leadership and personal growth. Money is promised for college education and a fulfilling civilian career. The inaccuracies of these claims are well known.[5] Recruiters target youth from disadvantaged socioeconomic groups. To make the military more attractive to teenagers, “Army Experience Centers” have been established - souped-up recruiting offices that boast dozens of video computer games, x-boxes, and interactive military style shooting games as well as Apache helicopter simulators. The Army website (www.thearmyexperience.com) shows exuberant teens participating in these games, unfazed by the realities of killing and war.

It does not take a great leap of imagination to see impressionable teens, with not yet fully developed decision making capabilities, easily falling prey to the promises and glamour portrayed by military advertising. In this regard, it is a disservice not to provide alternative balance to the official military position.

II. Selective Service System

The SSS is a U.S. government agency charged with organizing a draft should one be remanded by the President and authorized by Congress. The current task of the SSS is to maintain a registry of men ages 18 to 25 years from which men can be drafted. The last draft occurred in 1973 and official government proclamations have denied that another draft is planned. Nevertheless, we need to be aware of current and possible future draft laws.

At present, the SSS requires all males to register within 30 days of their 18th birthday by filling out a card obtainable at any post office or at the SSS website (www.sss.gov). Proof of SSS registration is required to obtain a driver’s license in many states, including Wisconsin, to obtain federally-sponsored student loans and State of Wisconsin student aid, and to secure employment in any agency of the federal government including the postal service and national park service. The legal ramifications for not registering include a fine of up to $250,000 and/or five years in prison. Notably, the last indictment for failure to register with the SSS occurred in 1985.

Will there be another draft? Nobody knows. The current all-volunteer military, however, is stressed by low enlistments, long and repeated tours of duty and the increasing need for personnel as U.S. military engagements continue worldwide. Future drafts may well have different rules. For example, it is likely that both men and women will be conscripted, that the age eligibility will be expanded and that the military’s need for specific skills will be emphasized such as computer specialists, foreign language experts, and medical personnel.

III. Alternatives to Military Service

Persons counseling teenagers should be able to provide practical alternatives to military enlistment, including both educational and vocational alternatives.[6] The option of conscientious objection (CO) should be offered. A CO is defined by the government as “a person who objects to participation in all forms of war and whose belief is based on a religious, moral, or ethical belief system”.

There are many types of CO, including those who are morally willing to serve in the military but in a non-combat role (such as a cook or medic) and those unwilling to assist the military’s mission in any manner. Some individuals may even oppose registering with the SSS.

It should be emphasized that, to be a CO, one does not have to believe in God, consider oneself a pacifist, or even oppose using violence in certain circumstances such as personal self defense. The legal definition prescribes only that a CO must oppose participation in all wars.

Resources to declare CO status are available at www.beforeyouenlist.org, www.afsc.org/youthmil, and www.centeronconscience.org.[1]

IV. Suggestions

How can parents, professionals, and counselors provide youth considering military enlistment with information? First, we need to be educated about conscription laws which can change at any time. Second, we can oppose the unbalanced presence of military recruiters in schools. Most importantly, we can speak with adolescents about alternative options to the prevailing social climate of militarism. This would include discussion of the dangers and realities of war, especially the real possibility of death or disability which adolescents often do not appreciate. We need always be ready to present concrete alternatives to military service, with practical examples.

As any parent of a teenager will appreciate, much of what we say to them goes in one ear and out the other. We must
WNPJ WILL MISS YOU, MIDGE AND LINDA....

Barbara Quirk, columnist in the Madison Cap Times wrote in June: “I visited with Dr. Linda Farley and former state Rep. Midge Miller last September at Fighting BobFest, the annual Chautauqua for progressives. I wish I could turn back the clock and tell each of these remarkable women — both of whom died recently — how much they meant to me, and how profoundly they influenced my thinking and my life. The lesson is: Don’t wait. Don’t wait to tell someone how much you care.” And WNPJ staff echoes this sentiment. Midge Miller was one of WNPJ co-founders in 1991, and Dr. Linda Farley was a strong supporter of our programs. We will miss their energy and activism — and we’re committed to carrying on their vision!

Bits & Peaces

The Rapids Citizens for Peace group in central Wisconsin sponsors Democracy Now! on their local community television channel, paying $400/yr for the 1-hour/day M-F broadcast. More people get to see the daily news from DN!, triggering conversations around town and giving an opening to Rapid Citizens for Peace to describe their group and its activities. “It is worth the investment,” says Don Hoffman. Contact: doncanoe@tznet.com.

Citizens for Safe Water Around Badgers (CSWAB) reports: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wants answers to dozens of long-standing questions about the handling of PCB-contaminated wastes at Badger Army Ammunition Plant and other U.S. Army production facilities nationwide. In a July 7 letter to the U.S. Army, the EPA asks for a detailed response to questions about the status of demolition of buildings, management and storage of PCB wastes, research on destruction or removal of paint, and operation of decontamination ovens. “It took 6 years of dedicated work to get this issue to the forefront,” said Laura Olah, Executive Director of Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger (CSWAB). “The EPA’s action is a critical first step in protecting nearby families and workers from exposure to PCBs and other toxins that are being handled and disposed of as part of base closure and realignment.”

The Army is offering Wisconsin teachers a free trip to sunny places during their school breaks, complete with ropes courses and weapons training observation, as part of the “Army Educators’ Tour.” A new Army newsletter reported that twenty-nine educators from across WI, IL and upper MI participated in a trip to Forth Jackson, SC last fall for an in-depth look at many of the programs, training, and benefits the Army has to offer. Rebecca Bebber-Wells of Madison West said, “It was so interesting when we were able to participate in the activities, including when Sgt. Smith had us march around like we were soldiers” and Joe Niemczyk, counselor from St. John’s Military Academy reported, “This was an outstanding tour and I learned quite a bit that I will pass on to my students”. --Source: Wolfpack News, U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion out of Milwaukee, Vol 1, No 1 2009

Graduates of the U.S. Army’s School of the Americas (SOA) were among those leading the recent military coup in Honduras, once again exposing the destabilizing and deadly effects that the SOA has on Latin America. The actions of the school’s graduates reveal the undemocratic nature of the training being given to officers at the school, now called the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC). On November 20-22, 2009, tens of thousands will vigil at the gates of Fort Benning, Georgia, where SOA/WHINSEC is located, to stand up for justice and demand that the government shut down the school. This year’s protest comes at a crucial moment. Despite promising comments from President Obama during his election campaign, the SOA/WHINSEC is still in operation. Visit www.SOAW.org/november and watch for announcements on bus travel from Wisconsin to this year’s SOA/WHINSEC protest at www.wnpj.org.
September

9/8 Tues 7pm “Gaza Stripped”- Racine. Cup of Hope coffee shop, 507 6th Street. Pat Chaffee’s report on her recent Code Pink trip to Gaza. patop37@peoplepc.com.

9/12 Sat 9 am - 4 pm Fighting Bob Fest VIII - Baraboo. At the Sauk County Fairgrounds. www.fightingbobfest.org.

9/12 Sat 9 – 3 WI Church Women United Assembly – LaCrosse. First CongUCC, 2503 Main Street. “Building a World Fit for Children”. All welcome. Contact Susan Becker at becker4@tds.net or 608-231-1817.

9/13 Sun 3:30 - 10 pm Annual General Meeting and Picnic of the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. Madison - Tenney Park shelter. Bring a dish to pass. Contact charkt@tds.net.

10/2 Fri 4:30 - 10 pm WNPJ Progressive Dinner - Madison. Food, music and more as we eat our way through four kitchens! $30 suggested donation, with a free OPEN HOUSE and HOOT! at the dessert place at 7 pm, 136-138 Talmadge St. For tickets: Mary Beth, mbspeace1@charter.net.

10/3 Sat 10 am - 4 pm 18th Annual WNPJ Fall Assembly - Madison. Goodman Community Center. Guy Wolf and a panel "connect the dots" of anti-war work, prison justice, immigrant rights, and environmental activism. All welcome for the business meeting and Peacemaker 2009 awards. To register, see page 11 of the newsletter. info@wnpj.org, 608-250-9240 or www.wnpj.org.

10/5 Nonviolent Civil Resistance - Washington, D.C. Join us for an act of nonviolent civil resistance to end the war in Afghanistan and Pakistan, on the 8th anniversary of the U.S. invasion, organized by the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance, www.iraqpledge.org/nogoodwar.html. Local contact, Joy First jsfirst@tds.net.

10/8 - 10/10 Thurs - Sat "Exploring the Power of Nonviolence" - Milwaukee. At Marquette University. This is an interdisciplinary conference, jointly sponsored by The Peace and Justice Studies Association, The Marquette University Center for Peacemaking and The Wisconsin Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies. www.peacejusticestudies.org/conference/call.php or peacemaking@marquette.edu.

10/9 Fri 8 pm Emma’s Revolution in Concert - Milwaukee. This is part of the 7th Annual Conference of the Peace and Justice Studies Association. www.peacejusticestudies.org/conference/call.php or call Professor Michael Duffey, Marquette University, 414-288-3748.

10/10 Sat 3 - 9 pm SHAMA Annual Festival of India - Stevens Point. At SPASH, 1201 N Point Dr. Plus a yoga wellness conference. j2chande@uwsp.edu.

October

10/11 Sun 1 - 5 pm Music and more; Fundraising Event for MAPC - Madison. At the High Noon Saloon on E. Washington. Contact Don McKeating or Barb Smith at barbara@merr.com.

10/11 - 10/12 Sun - Mon 4th State-Wide Wisconsin Interfaith Earthkeeping Conference - Stevens Point. Ramada Inn. "Greening Our Faith Communities and Our Lives." Many workshops global warming science, plus networking with people of all faiths working toward a just and sustainable future. Contact: Dave Steffenson. dsteffe@charter.net or 608-285-5201. Call the WICEC Office to pre-register. www.wicec.org or 608-222-7339

10/17 Sat Iraq Moratorium and Events all day to Stop the Wars and Occupations – statewide. Contact Steve Carlson at botmrung@centurytel.net to let him know of the action or vigil your community is having.

10/18 Sun 8:30 am Second Annual Peace Action 5K Run/ Walk - Greenfield. Whitnall Park. Register early! Cory Powers - powers@msoe.edu or 414-405-2244.

10/22 Thurs 7 pm Dan Kenney speaks about Blackwater at Pax Christi Meeting – Madison. At the First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Dr. trudijenny@yahoo.com.


10/25 UNA-USA – Dane County Annual Meeting and Dinner - Madison. quinlanjohn1@aol.com.
Wisconsin Guard News

“Bring the Guard Home” .......
Legislation advances in Wisconsin-
Hearings scheduled for November -
Citizens lobby day in September -

Wisconsin is jumping into a leading role
in a national movement by states to chal-
lenge Federal orders for deployment of
National Guard troops to Iraq and Afghan-
istan. AB 203, a bill introduced in the Wis-
consin State Assembly by Madison Rep-
resentative Spencer Black, would require
the Governor to review all Federal orders
for deployment of our state’s Guard, and
to refuse any deployment orders deemed
to be unlawful. The bill is scheduled for
hearings before the Assembly’s Veteran’s
Affairs Committee in November.

"Wisconsin is on track to be the first state
in the nation to pass legislation like this," said Steve Burns, Program Coordinator of
the Wisconsin Network for Peace and
Justice.

Similar campaigns are now active in
more than 20 states, with Wisconsin, Ver-
mont and Oregon in the lead.

“For this effort to be successful, it’s es-
tential that we have the involvement of
people from all over the state,” said Jim
Draeger of Peace Action, who recently
took on the role of Statewide Campaign
Coordinator and is recruiting Wisconsin ac-
tivists to lead efforts in their area. Draeger
is working with endorsing organizations to
plan a lobby day to bring citizens from
around the state to meet with their legisla-
tors in support of the bill.

Since its beginnings in the state of Ver-
mont in 2005, legislation challenging Fed-
eral use of the National Guard for Iraq
has evolved. Early legislation took the form
of nonbinding resolutions, while the cur-
rent crop of legislation aims to make per-
manent changes to state law to strengthen
the ability of states to resist illegal deploy-
ments of their state Guard. Wisconsin is
one of the first states to follow this new
model.

Petition forms, flyers and regular cam-
paign updates can be found at:
www.wnpj.org/guard

Get involved!
-- Circulate the “Guard Home” petition
in your area
-- Call your legislator and ask them to
support AB 203
-- Ask an organization you belong to to
endorse AB 203
-- Join in the campaign’s biweekly
conference calls
(email jim@peaceactionwi.org for info)

Coming Soon: (see www.wnpj.org/
guard for exact dates)
Lobby Day: Meetings scheduled with
legislators in Madison -
Call (608) 250-9240 to participate.
Hearings before Assembly Veterans
Affairs Committee - Open to the
public, date in November TBA

Future Cities 2009
Local democracy in action for a
post-carbon, post-nuclear,
greener world
Nov. 5-8, Madison
www.futurecities2009.org

A “Guard Home” Q&A:

Q: Why is the deployment of
National Guard troops to Iraq
illegal?

A: In 2002, the Congress passed an
Authorization for Use of Military Force
in Iraq (AUMF) based on a limited, two-
part mission for our military in Iraq: 1) to
eliminate the alleged threat posed by
Iraqi WMDs; and 2) to remove Saddam
Hussein from power.

The WMD’s did not exist. Saddam
Hussein is no longer in power. The
mission authorized by Congress is over,
and Congress has never voted to
reauthorize the mission to Iraq on any
other basis. Therefore, the 2002 AUMF
-- which is the only legal basis by which
the President can demand National
Guard troops for Iraq -- has expired.
Any continued deployment of Guard
units to Iraq is now unlawful.

Q: What can we do about it?

A: Assembly Bill 203, introduced in the
State Assembly by Representative
Spencer Black, requires the Governor to
review each National Guard
federalization order to determine
whether that order is legal and to contest
any order lacking a valid congressional
authorization.

Q: So we’re trusting the Governor
to do the right thing and rule that
Guard deployments are illegal?

A: Absolutely not. If AB 203 passes, no
matter what the Governor decides,
Wisconsin citizens will be in a stronger
position than ever before, with the right
to challenge the Governor’s decision in
court if necessary. And if that happens,
we’ll be ready with arguments exposing
the illegality of Guard deployments to
Iraq and Afghanistan, arguments that
have been developed by Ben Scotch, a
former Senior Staff Attorney to the
Vermont Supreme Court.
TRUTH-IN-RECRUITING COMES TO WISCONSIN GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

By Vicki Berenson, Madison Friends Meeting, WNPJ member, TAME

When I first discovered TAME (Truth and Alternatives to Militarism in Education) in early 2007, activists in Madison were focused on urging schools to limit recruiter presence and to publicize the right to “opt out” of the student lists that schools are required to provide to the military. We were faced with the glaring Army ads on Madison’s high school scoreboards and trying to preserve access to schools for groups like Veterans for Peace to provide an alternative viewpoint to the military recruiter presence.

While it’s essential to keep pushing back at the constant barrage of military marketing in schools, there are limitations. The annual federal recruiting budget of $10 billion ensures ever-present advertising. Plus we’ve been working on behalf of people who already know they want to protect their children from aggressive recruiting tactics.

How do we reach people who do not understand how military service can devastate lives? Teens who have no idea what they want to do with their lives and no money to pay for college? What about the poor and rural areas of the state that are most targeted by recruiters? And it’s one thing to tell students about the evils of recruiting and war, but you have to give them something else to turn to.

Stevens Point activists have regularly handed out peace jobs packets at job fairs. How could we expand on this and reach young people - of all persuasions, colors and economic backgrounds - who weren’t coming to us?

Activists in Ohio spent a year creating a folder for guidance counselors, who see nearly every student during their high school years. Thanks to the expansive energy of Ohioan Fred Suter, we were able to access their experience and well-designed materials. All we had to do was customize the packet for Wisconsin, raise money to pay for materials, and assemble the first batch of “Options” folders. Three months later - with the help of Madison Friends Meeting, Veterans for Peace, WNPJ and many volunteers - we had our first 150 folders. Since then we’ve added Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society as a sponsor, and received some support from the A. J. Muste Institute.

WNPJ staffer and IVAW member Todd Dennis and I kicked off the Options campaign in March, at the Wisconsin School Counselors Association annual conference in Stevens Point, where we gave out over 70 folders and heard stories: recruiters roaming the hallways with free giveaways, a student bewildered at having “signed something maybe I shouldn’t have” after an impromptu tour, and another counselor whose student changed his mind about enlisting after talking with him. We’ve had counselors tell us that they need factual information about the military when they talk to students – they can’t give advice based on opinions.

The rest of the first batch went quickly as volunteers around Wisconsin requested them to take to their area schools. We have since assembled another 300 folders and are gradually moving them out to schools throughout the state.

A key element of our campaign is personal contact. Guidance counselors get so much mail that much of it ends up in the trash (or the recycling bin) unread. And so it’s important to take a little time to talk about why we are doing this and to highlight what’s in our folder.

Rather than tell anyone what to do (have you tried that with a teenager?) we focus on giving both counselors and students the information they need to make their own decisions. We give counselors help in guiding their students. We provide facts about recruiting, enlistment and the realities of military service. We show young people how they can go to college, learn job skills, travel and meet new people without having to kill them.

How you can help:

Wisconsin has over 2000 high school guidance counselors. Our goal is to get a folder to every one of them. We can use financial support to pay for materials, and volunteers to assemble folders, deliver packets to schools, and follow up with counselors we’ve already seen. We’ll give you guidelines for how to approach the schools and talk to counselors. Contact WNPJ for more information at info@wnpj.org or 608-250-9240.

Our goals: – Provide a wide range of non-military options to youth
– Give guidance counselors factual information about enlistment and recruiting to pass on to their students
– Expose school staff and students to the idea that the military may not be their best choice
– Counter the military and to make inroads into districts where peace activists may not have the prevailing sentiment and plant some seeds to keep the message alive.

Nearly everything in the Options folder is available at www.tamewisconsin.org for download, plus many other resources.
PROPOSED 2010 BUDGET, BYLAWS CHANGES, & BOARD NOMINEES TO BE VOTED ON AT THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP ASSEMBLY IN MADISON, OCTOBER 3, 2010

**WNPJ 2009 Budget and Proposed 2010 Budget**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WNPJ yearly income/expense</td>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>Proposed</td>
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**Expense**

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**To see the Proposed Bylaws changes, go to http://www.wnpj.org/pdf/bylaws09.pdf**

Proposed Nominees for WNPJ BOARD positions for 2010:

(*new nominee to board - bios available on the WNPJ website. Nominations are open from the floor of the Assembly, Oct. 3rd.)

**Officers:**
*Chair: Jim Draeger, Milwaukee
Vice-Chair: Mary Beth Schlagheck, Windsor
Secretary: Dennis Bergren, Madison
Treasurer: Stefania Sani, Madison
Past Co-Chair: Bill Christofferson, Milwaukee

**BOARD members:**
Chuck Baynton, Whitefish Bay
*Mary Jo Berner, Eagle River
Cindy Breunig, Madison
Wix Covey/Carol Lukens, Wausau (sharing one seat)
Renee Crawford, Milwaukee

*Dr. Mitzi L. Duxbury, Madison
*Al Gedicks, LaCrosse
Zohreh Ghavamshahidi, Whitewater
Bob Hanson, Neshkoro
*Margie Jessup, Milton
Chris Kuehnel, Sheboygan
Tom McGrath, Wausau
Marilyn Miller, Milwaukee
*Barbara Munson, Mosinee
Janet Parker, Madison
John Peck, Madison
Carl Sack, Duluth
Cecelia Zarate-Laun, Madison
Counseling Youth from page 4

avoid “talking down” to teens and try to relate to them from their own perspective. [7] An individual intent on joining the military would benefit from talking with recent veterans. A parent or friend should accompany the youth when visiting a recruiter, to ensure that the full range of risks and dangers are considered and no hasty decision is made. All of the recruiter’s “promises” should be obtained in writing, although the military is allowed to change the terms (pay, job assignments, benefits) at any time. Finally, youth should understand that during the time from enlistment until arrival at boot camp, they are not legally committed to military service. Requesting CO status once one is already in the service is exceedingly difficult (www.GIrightshotline.org).

There are abundant opportunities to serve our community, nation, and world, without resorting to the military. Similarly, patriotism - love of country and desire to assist humanity - can be expressed in many non-military ways. These concepts can be transmitted to youth at every stage of development.


Wisconsin Peace Walk ends with arrests at Ft McCoy

Dozens of Wisconsin residents, joined by peace activists from New York, Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota, brought their call for "an end to wars, occupation, and militarism" to the gates of Fort McCoy in rural Monroe county on August 9. Saying they wanted to speak directly to soldiers facing deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan, nine of the protesters crossed a line set up by base security and were taken into custody by base police. "We wanted them to know what moral dilemmas they will be put into in Iraq and that they're not being trained for it," said Brian Terrell, of Maloy, Iowa. Those arrested were ticketed and released, except for four protesters who had received federal orders banning them from the base after being arrested at a similar protest at Ft. McCoy last year. Bonnie Urfer, Joy First, Brian Terrell and Alice Gerard were transported to the jail in Madison by military van, and released the following day, pending trial in Federal court on trespassing charges.

Bob Tammen, a Vietnam Veteran, explained why he joined in the protest. "I'm here to raise public awareness and for these young soldiers here to think about what they're being asked to do," said Tammen. “These are my brothers, my brothers and my sisters over there...and they're dying for nothing.”

The action at the gates of Fort McCoy took place at the end of a thirty-mile "Walk for Peace" in which more that fifty people took part. The Peace Walkers began their three-day march on August 6, with an event commemorating the anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

Starting at Camp Douglas, the headquarters of the Wisconsin National Guard, the Peace Walkers headed to Tomah the first day and Tunnel City the following day, finishing with an eight-mile walk to Ft. McCoy. Each night, the walkers camped, and representatives from some of the Walk's supporting groups gave reports about the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan to those gathered around the campfire. Pakistani peace activist Razia Ahmed reported on her recent trip to Pakistan with Kathy Kelly and Dan Pearson, of Voices for Creative Nonviolence. The Peace Walkers also heard from Mohammed Hamoodi, an Iraqi teen who is now in the United States as a refugee after losing many of his family members in the war.

The Peace Walkers were supported by numerous WNPJ groups which provided food and other supplies, including Concerned Citizens of Newport, near the Dells – Juneau County Peace Committee, Rapids Citizens for Peace, Hill Connections, LaCrosse Interfaith Justice and Peace, Mary House, Veterans for Peace, Iraq Veterans Against the War, Nukewatch, and Madison Pledge of Resistance.

Brian Terrel was undeterred by his arrest. “We’re written letters and spoken to our representatives and clearly that’s not enough,” he said.

Arrests at Ft. McCoy - photo courtesy of WKBT News, LaCrosse

Those crossing the line at Ft. McCoy: Janet Parker, Madison, Bonnie Urfer, Luck, Tom Haebig, West Bend, Joy First, Monona, Vicki Andrews, Grand Rapids, MN, Alice Gerard, NY, Brian Terrell, Maloy, Iowa, Gerald Paoli, Chicago, Dylan Parkes, Iowa.
WNPJ Membership Renewal Form

Name___________________________________________________________
Address __________________________ State _____ Zip ___________
City ___________________________________ State _____ Zip __________
Phone __________________ E-mail_________________________________
Contact Person for Organization Membership ________________________
Send my next newsletter on-line, please ___________________________

Send completed form to: Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice
122 State Street, #402
Madison, WI 53703

Phone 608-250-9240; E-Mail info@wnpj.org; Website www.wnpj.org. WNPJ is a 501c3 organization and donations are tax-deductible.

Type of Membership (Check one)
☐ Individual $35/yr
☐ Family $45/yr
☐ Fixed Income/War Tax Resister $15/yr
☐ Sustaining $52/yr ($1/wk)
☐ A-dollar-a-day for peace $365/yr
☐ Benefactor $_____/yr***
☐ Organization without paid staff $50/yr
☐ Organization with paid staff $75/yr

***You can pay monthly with PayPal online, see www.wnpj.org “Join Us” to see how.

$20/WNPJ members

Registration for the 18th Annual WNPJ Fall Assembly- Oct. 3rd

Name__________________________________________________________________________________________
Address _______________________________________________________________________________________
City_____________________________State _____ Zip ___________Member of a WNPJ group?____________________
Phone __________________ E-mail______________________Registration Amount enclosed $___________________
My WNPJ group wants to TABLE at this event ____________________ ($10 suggested donation for tabling)
Sign me up for this breakout group on: (prisons, immigration, anti-war work, or environment)________________
Yes! ________I want to SPONSOR for the Lifetime Achievement Award Reception $__________________
Total Amount Enclosed $____________________________________________

$25/non members

2009 Fall Assembly for the
Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice

Connecting the Dots ...
Since 1991

2009 Fall Assembly for the
Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice

Saturday, October 3rd

18th Annual WNPJ Fall Assembly
Goodman Community Center
149 Waubesa St., Madison WI

All welcome to attend this annual meeting - from 10 am - 4 pm: Panel, facilitated by Guy Wolf of LaCrosse; business meeting; local food lunch; breakout sessions; plus the 2009 Peacemaker of the Year Awards.

Lifetime Achievement Reception
for Joe Elder and Esther Heffernan, - emceed by John Nichols - from 4:30 - 6:30 pm - music and light refreshments.

Send in the form above to register for the Assembly and to be listed as a sponsor for this special event.
Please check for your membership renewal date on the attached mailing label .........