

2009 WNPJ Case Statement Worksheet

Organization The Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice

1) **Mission (or purpose).** Why does your group exist? What's the need? What problem are you trying to solve?

WNPJ provides the umbrella communications hub to facilitate networking and communication among more than 150 member groups and 400 individuals in our region.

2) **Goals:**

The Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice staff, Board, member organizations, and individual members are working toward the creation of a sustainable world free from violence and injustice.

3) **Objectives of WNPJ working groups:**

WNPJ has 4 major work-groups, focused on anti-war work, immigration justice, prison reform and environmental justice. Racial Justice is a central focus for WNPJ, with each of the working groups striving for that goal in the work they do. At each Board meeting, representatives from these work groups will provide an assessment of the work going on in each of these arenas – as well as setting out objectives for work to be completed by the next Board meeting, when an evaluation and future objectives will be determined.

A) Anti-war work:

Mission: To organize and build opposition to the U.S. occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan, and to oppose militarism in our society and especially in our schools.

Objectives for 2009: 1) Win passage of legislation requiring the Governor to refuse unlawful deployments of the Wisconsin National Guard; 2) Educate the public about the illegality of the use of Wisconsin Guard for deployment to Iraq; 3) Reach out to Guard families and active-duty Guard members with the message that we support the Guard, and want them at home; 4) Connect concerned citizens with their legislators to build support for "Bring Our Guard Home" legislation; 5) Reduce the presence and effectiveness of military recruiters in Wisconsin schools; 6) Tour of Wisconsin Schools by U.S. Navy veteran, member of Iraq Veterans Against the War and WNPJ staff member Todd Dennis; 7) Distribute Truth in Recruiting materials, including information on career alternatives to military services to guidance counselors; 8) Assist parents and students in Wisconsin high schools to organize peace groups, and to initiate peace studies programs.

B) Immigration Justice: (pending)

Mission:

C) Prison Reform:

Mission: to promote sustainable, community-based solutions to crime, that go beyond punishment and incarceration.

Objectives: 1) Outreach and education on prison injustice; 2) Organize a grassroots campaign to overturn WI Department of Corrections' ban on prisoners receiving used books from retail bookstores; 3) Build a strong alliance with the WI ACLU Restore the Vote campaign to restore the vote to all un-incarcerated individuals.
http://www.aclu-wi.org/wisconsin/voting_rights/Felon_Enfranchisement/RestoretheVoteWI/index.shtml

D) Environment:

Mission: to promote renewable, sustainable energy; to preserve our natural resources; and to end environmental degradation and pollution.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2009: 1) Participate in Environmental Lobby Day at the Capitol. <http://www.wnpj.org/node/1141>; 2) Build alliances with state and national environmental organizations; 3) Do outreach to the public at the Midwest Renewable Energy Fair. http://www.the-mrea.org/energy_fair.php; 4) Work to preserve the state moratorium on nuclear power plant construction.

4) Organizational history:

On February 23, 1991, more than 350 people representing over 60 communities throughout the state responded to a call from Representative Frank Boyle and crowded into the Assembly Chambers of the State Capitol to gather strength from one another in their frustration and concern about the Gulf War. On that day, the ground war began.

Out of that gathering arose the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice. Since that time, the Network has grown to include over 150 peace, human rights, religious, labor, and environmental organizations throughout the state.

Founder and Wisconsin State Representative Frank Boyle of Superior said in February, 1991:

"The country's ethical compass has snapped. We're careening through violent military adventures abroad, converting this country into a two-class state of rich and poor, vastly increasing the inequalities in education, health care and employment, all of which feeds a social disintegration creating hopelessness, violence and crime. Instead of awareness and feeling, we're given platitudes and thought control. This country is in deep trouble. Knowledgeable and courageous people joining together can demand a new course and stop this disintegration. That's the definition of patriotism!"

Bonnie Block, Nan Cheney and Judy Miner have compiled a [history of WNPJ](#). To see this detailed history, go to <http://www.wnpj.org/pdf/history07.pdf>.

5) Structure of organization

Nurturing the Network by linking people; the [Executive Committee](#) or BOARD of WNPJ - is made up of representatives from across the state; they are chosen by a nomination process initiated at the Spring Steering Committee meeting, where contacts of all WNPJ member groups gather to share "reports from the field". The Board meets four times a year, supported by a group of 4 officers – who manage personnel issues and coordinate staff direction.

WNPJ's Bylaws were last approved at the Fall Annual Assembly on October, 2008.
<http://www.wnpj.org/pdf/bylaws08.pdf>

6) Major Accomplishments:

- a) WNPJ helped coordinate a Walk across Wisconsin this summer - working with Voices for Creative Nonviolence and their "Witness Against War". We found housing, venues for speaking, and local walkers to join the group, and supported "Guard Home" actions as the core group walked across our state for the Republican National Convention in St. Paul on Labor Day.
- b) In 2006, WNPJ led a successful statewide referendum campaign to "Bring the Troops Home," winning in 24 of 32 communities, large and small, in April votes, and in all 10 communities which voted in November. WNPJ's success sparked similar efforts in 139 Massachusetts cities and towns, 12 Illinois townships counties, and two cities in Montana.
- c) Our Action Alerts for phoning/e-mailing representatives are increasingly seen as a powerful way to influence policy: whether this is in opposing military action against Iran, stopping a coal plant/emissions or campaign finance reform. When we send out an alert, it potentially goes to more than 1,000,000 citizens of our state through our 164 member groups.
- d) WNPJ supports nearly 40 local vigils across the state and region, helping to change the hearts and minds of passers-by – It makes a huge impact, when people see their neighbors holding signs for peace and justice on a street corner, on a regular basis– in every kind of weather.

7) Fundraising plan:

A. Membership provides over ½ of our annual income – a valuable, stable resource:

Plan:

- create a membership appeal on our website - to raise current level of support to a higher level or sustainership; promote a testimonial of someone who has done this – and wants to tell others why –
- staff send out post card reminders to over-due memberships – quarterly, with follow-u phone calls as needed

B. Fundraising events:

- Pancake Breakfast at the MREA fair in June, coordinated by Cham Nusz
- holiday wreath sales, coordinated by Janet Parker, Stefania Sani and Seth Jensen

C. Fundraising appeals:

- letter to 5 Veterans for Peace groups – for support of Todd Dennis' anti-war work this spring
- Spring letter written mid-March by Steve Burns; and Fall letter, mid-October
- write letter in support of UFPJ travel commitments for 2009 - 2010

D. Grant work

- Contact donor for \$2,000 Membership Match for 2009 (Judy)
- Attempt to renew Resist, Inc general grant from '08 – for \$1,500 for '09 (Judy)
- write LOI to Needmore foundation (Steve)
- contact AJ Muste for counter-recruitment support (Todd)

E. Sales of inventory

- yard signs, bumper stickers available for sale at the MREA Fair, Willy St. Co-op, and Bobfest– about \$4,000 worth. Immigrant signs available for that work-group to raise funds.
- create a 2010 WNPJ Calendar, with photos of many groups at work (Bill)

- Jackson Tiffany's DVD on statewide vigils project will be ready end of March

8) Financial statement and budgets for a current year

Amended 2009 Budget for WNPJ (approved by the BOARD, Nov. 16th - 2008)

Income

Membership	21,100	
Meetings	800	
Fundraisers	15,740	(an extra \$1,000 "Todd's graduation party)
Grants/Donations	12,400	(\$2,000 grants/donations; \$2,000 from 5 VFP groups)
Sale Items	2,900	
Misc	400	
Sub-total	53,340	
Carry-over from '08	6,200	

TOTAL Income 59,540

EXPENSES

Publications	3,500	
Meetings	840	
Events/Fundraising	2,800	
Sale Item costs	4,200	
Office Expenses	9,500	
Payroll /taxes	34,000	(an extra \$5,000 for Todd Dennis - Spring project)
Services/Work Study	2,300	
Miscellaneous	2,400	

TOTAL Expense 59,540

The membership figure is based on 158 groups and 350-400 individual memberships. Payroll is now based on 3 part-time staff - 40 hrs/week total through June 30th (Judy 20 hrs/Steve 10 hrs/Todd 20 hrs) and 30 hrs total July 1 - Dec. 31st (Judy 20 hrs/wk and Steve 10 hrs/week) Work-study is based on 1 - 2 students each semester - 5/hrs week.

Contact Seth Jensen of the WNPJ Development Committee sethtristan@riseup.net with questions/updates.

