

Wisconsin Network for Peace & Justice

www.wnpj.org

2024 State of the Network

October 19, 2024



WNPJ continues to grow – we currently have **85 member organizations** and many more individual and family members and donors.

A few highlights (September 2023-September 2024)

- We sent weekly **e-mail News & Action Alerts** to over 1000 subscribers around the state, offering news from our members, including actions, events and information on voting and statewide issues.
- We posted 106 action alerts and news items in the **Spotlights on the WNPJ website**: www.wnpj.org
- We averaged over 22 postings a week of **Facebook listings** highlighting the action alerts and work of our member groups on our page: facebook.com/WisNPJ We have over 2,100 followers to our site - 28% from Madison and the rest from throughout Wisconsin.
- We hosted a “**Weaving the Web**” virtual noon drop-in hour on the first Thursday of every month, an invitation to come together in community for conversation and connection.

Environmental Justice Initiatives

During 2024, WNPJ was given a \$25,000 **grant from the BEA (Building Equity and Alignment) for environmental justice efforts**. We established an Environmental Justice Task Force to set priorities and create a format for people to work collectively on these issues. Grant funds were dispersed to member organizations and others working in the front lines of environmental causes in our state and region. Our primary goal was and remains: to unite and inform environmental efforts statewide and for engaging in specific tasks. Issues include shutting down Line 5, stopping the building of the Nemadji Trail Natural Gas plant in Superior, bringing awareness to the Dairyland Power Cooperative push towards Nuclear energy, supporting moratoriums and legal bans on Controlled Animal Feed Operations (CAFOs), the need for improved public transportation and so much more.

We will continue in 2025 to hold monthly check-in zoom calls; provide up to date information on our new Environmental Justice webpage (wnpj.org/environmental-justice) and create more educational online events that focus on each of the issues facing us at this critical moment.

May Spring Assembly: On May 18th, the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice gathered from all corners of the state for our Spring 2024 Assembly focused on the theme "Environmental Justice - Confronting Extreme Extraction and Ending Resource Wars on Indigenous and Frontline People". Videos are available at wnpj.org/post/2024-spring-assembly

Bad River Film

WNPJ sponsored a free screening of the **documentary film *Bad River*** in May at the Menominee High School Theater in Keshena, and plans to co-sponsor an additional screening in November with the Stockbridge Munsee nation. *Bad River* chronicles the Wisconsin-based Bad River Band and its ongoing fight for sovereignty in its battle to save Lake Superior. This important film has had limited availability in nearby theaters and the special screening was greatly appreciated by tribal and non-tribal attendees alike.



Outreach

WNPJ maintains a table space at the **Dane County Farmer's Market** (Capitol Square), downtown Madison. Tabling space is available for outreach use by members. This year we saw the mobilizing efforts of WAVE (Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort), World Beyond War, Jewish Voice for Peace, Interfaith Peace Working Group, Sinsinawa Dominicans, and the Madison Arcatao Sister City Project. Stop by any Saturday when the Farmers Market is in progress to say hi – or find sign-up information to table and other member benefits at wnpj.org/what-we-offer.



We tabled at the Midwest Renewable Energy Fair in June.

We tabled at the August 4 **Lanterns for Peace** event sponsored by Physicians for Social Responsibility Wisconsin, commemorating the lives lost in the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings 79 years ago and working to make sure that such nuclear attacks never again take place.

Operations

WNPJ has a healthy reserve. Our budget is minimal, receiving approximately \$18,000 annually in memberships, donations and small grants to fund our operating expenses. We contract with various individuals to handle special tasks including social media, newsletter production, e-news layout and distribution, and accounting. Members of the Board set priorities, oversee WNPJ operations, and some volunteer for other activities if they are able.

Board of Directors

Current board members: Tynnetta Jackson, Chair; Erika Bach, Secretary; Vicki Berenson, Treasurer; Mary Kay Baum, John Peck, Dena Eakles, Debra Gillispie and Judy Miner.