

State of the Network – Nov 13, 2021

Welcome to the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice 2021 Fall Assembly! My name is Sarah Hinkley and I am WNPJ's Network Coordinator.

Some of you have been involved with the Network for most (or all!) of its 30 year history. Some of you are reconnecting with the Network after having been away for some time. For some of you, this will be your first encounter with WNPJ!

I'm honored to be here with each and every one of you tonight. I invite you to join me in recognizing the sacredness of us all being alive together at this moment by taking a couple of deep breaths together.

WNPJ will be using the Just Transition framework created by Climate Justice Alliance as a guide in our work moving forward. For those of you unfamiliar with Just Transition, I encourage you to visit the Climate Justice Website to explore it fully. The link is now being added to the chat.

To provide a very brief overview, Just Transition is a vision-led, unifying and place-based set of principles, processes, and practices that build economic and political power to shift from an extractive economy to a regenerative economy. You can see the diagram on your screen shows two circles. The circle on the left shows our economy as it currently is - extractive, exploitative, with an enclosure of power and wealth. The circle on the right shows where we want to transition - to a regenerative economy based on cooperation, deep democracy and social and ecological well being.

And it's not enough for us to transition from an extractive economy to a regenerative economy, the HOW and WHY of the transition is just as critical. On your screen you can see a list of the Just Transition core values that help guide the process.

The values include:

- moving us to Buen Vivir (which means we can live well without living better at the expense of others)
- creating meaningful work
- upholding self determination
- equitably redistributing resources and power
- requiring regenerative economics
- retaining culture and tradition

- embodying local, regional, national and international solidarity
- building what we need now

The Just Transition framework was created by Indigenous peoples and leaders from Black, Latinx and Asian Pacific Islanders communities. I have had the opportunity to meet and work with many of these leaders personally. These leaders bring with them the vision and efforts of the many generations of their people and communities who have come before them.

5 roles we believe WNPJ can play that will help us move in that direction.

Connector:

WNPJ will continue to create opportunities for Network members to get to know each other and each other's work. So often we are deep in the important day to day work of our own peace and justice efforts, but sometimes that can have an unintentional siloing effect. We don't always have the time and resources to explore what other efforts are going on throughout our state. WNPJ aims to be a resource where members can continue to break down those silos and make connections. In the next year, we also plan to extend the invitation to many people and organizations throughout the state to join WNPJ.

Catalyst:

WNPJ sees it as our role to find and share educational resources, tools and opportunities that can help strengthen Network members' work and their understanding of a Just Transition. For instance, this evening is curated with this role of catalyst in mind. We are hoping that some of the ideas presented to you tonight will act as a spark as you move forward with your peace and justice efforts within your organizations and with the Network.

Incubator:

One way WNPJ plans to strengthen our Network's commitment to a Just Transition is by tuning into member groups' new and emerging work. For groups committed to deepening their work in the Just Transition framework, the network aims to provide them with support during that process. No matter what the endeavor, whether it is starting a campfire or learning to ride a bicycle for the first time, engaging in something new takes a special kind of care and attention. WNPJ wants to support these efforts, with the recognition that the amount of support we can potentially offer would vary depending on what's needed and also capacity.

Amplifier:

To truly ground in a Just Transition, WNPJ will focus on supporting the peace and justice work of those on the front lines and most impacted by the extractive economy. We will highlight and invest resources in

their vision and leadership. It is important to note, to amplify something implies making something louder and stronger than it could otherwise be on its own, yet *without* (this is the key part) *without* changing the original content or intent. To amplify *and not alter* the leadership of those on the front lines, WNPJ will make self determination of those on the frontlines central to these efforts.

Reflection Space:

WNPJ seeks to offer opportunities and tools for Network members to reflect on their work with the aim of deepening their analysis and accountability to a Just Transition. As we all know peace and justice work is a lifelong windy sometimes complicated road. Once we complete projects and campaigns for example, it can be extremely valuable to reflect on the impact of our actions. To explore what we learned, what we may do differently next time, and to celebrate what we accomplished. As a network, we believe these lessons are valuable to share with one another so our wisdom can expand exponentially as we continue on this collective journey.

Overview of the financial status of the Network.

WNPJ is in good, solid financial standing. We currently have approximately \$27,000 in reserves.

With your assistance, for 2022, we anticipate our Projected Annual Income will be between \$32,000 - \$45,000. And we anticipate the Projected Annual Expenses to be \$32,000.

We currently support one ½ time staff person, Sarah Hinckly – and have no office space, at this time. We have 63 member groups and 114 individual members.

In the past WNPJ has handled some financial duties for Safe Skies Clean Water Wisconsin and for Building Unity. As of October of this year, all earmarked funds have been dispersed to each organization. Both Safe Skies Clean Water Wisconsin and Building Unity are operating financially independent of WNPJ. We appreciate their important work and we hope we have been helpful on their pathway towards independence.

Approval of a new slate of WNPJ Board members.

Tynnetta Jackson, Co-chair

Mary Kay Baum, Co-chair

Amy Washbush, Treasurer

Vicki Berenson, Secretary

John Peck

Dena Eakles

Deb Gillispie

Erica Bach

Presentation of 2021 Awards to Bonnie Block, Lifetime Achievement; Debra Gillispie for Peacemaker of the Year – and Building Unity for Grassroots Award.

Thank you to everyone for participating in our Fall Assembly. We look forward to working with you as we enter this next chapter of WNPJ.