

**BUILDING AN-
TIMILITARIST
FUTURES FOR
95 YEARS!**

Building Antimilitarist Futures for 95 Years!

Last February the WRL National Committee met to consider how the work we took on in our 95th year could remain true to WRL's basic principles and goals while also meeting the demands of the times we live in. Focusing on new and continuing activities to end war and militarism, the Committee committed to programs that build towards a less militarized and more just world.

Specifically, WRL will continue to prioritize the leadership of individuals and communities in the United States who are or have been directly impacted by war and militarism. Also, in this moment of great polarization, we will more widely disseminate WRL's political analyses, doing so through a new website currently under construction in partnership with Waging Nonviolence and a number of other movement groups. And we will do more work with youth in our communities; this commitment has already led to WRL's upcoming and first-ever antimilitarist school taking place this spring of 2019 in Chicago.

Revisiting WRL's fundamental commitment to resist war in all forms, the National Committee reiterated the importance that WRL's position against all war and militarism be situated within a truly internationalist framework aligned with people's movements for freedom and liberation. Thus, two new programs have been initiated: the Resisting Airwars campaign and the Forgotten Wars teach-in series, both of which focus on conflicts around the world that sustain the status quo of militarism.

And, finally, in the midst of these very difficult times, we see the need to gather as a community, to celebrate the power we have when we organize for change, to recognize where 95 years of resistance to war has gotten us, and to build a vision for where we want to go. Thus, this past October, WRL members from far and wide gathered in New York City for a celebration of War Resisters League's 95th Anniversary. As we carry the work forward, and look to WRL's future, we are so glad to have you with us.

ANTIMILITARIST PROGRAMS

Zones of Forgotten Conflict

In June WRL kicked off our Forgotten Wars series with a teach-in on Kashmir, co-hosted by the South Asian Solidarity Initiative. WRL was honored to have Kashmiri scholar activists Hafsa Kanjwal and Mohamad Junaid as guest speakers, as well as Amin Hussain of Decolonize This Place. Panelists addressed a packed house at our national headquarters where we had the opportunity not only to learn about the history of India's presence in Kashmir but also to discuss Kashmiri resistance and calls for autonomy, as well as parallels with Israel's occupation of Palestine.

This December WRL was pleased to host our second panel with speakers from the International Committee on Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP) and A Call to Action on Puerto Rico. Panelists discussed how humanitarian disaster relief is used as a cover for increasing a U.S. military presence, and the worrying

Resisting Airwars

Following WRL's diaspora delegation to Greece in summer 2017, this year WRL carried this work forward with a workshop at the Allied Media Conference where delegates shared their experiences and discussed ways to build on the work the delegation began. The workshop, Liberate the Skies: Diaspora and the New Antimilitarism, was a solution-oriented session led by activists in U.S.-based diasporas of war and conflict that focused on how organizers can incorporate antimilitarist frameworks into their activism and art. With the AMC workshop serving as a launch pad, the Resisting Airwars campaign will develop a mix of new political education materials on current wars and forms of militarism, will provide campaign ideas and resources for people organizing within their own communities, and will provide space for those living under airwars waged by various imperial powers to share their stories and build with one another. *Keep an eye out for information on WRL's upcoming Resisting Airwars webinar, coming to a screen near you soon!*

WRL Antimilitarist School

WRL is holding our first antimilitarist school for youth in spring 2019 in Chicago! The antimilitarist school will focus on reaching multigenerational communities engaged in community organizing or social justice work, but who do not necessarily encounter deeper discussions about war and antiwar organizing. Curriculum focuses on understanding war by hearing from those who are living in it, mapping global connections in the war economy, and familiarizing students with antiwar organizing from the past and present.

Waging Nonviolence Partnership

This year we began an exciting new partnership with Waging Nonviolence and the Fellowship of Reconciliation as part of an effort to provide a movement-wide, international online platform for peace, justice, and nonviolence news and views. The platform will provide additional space for WRL to present political analysis. The partnership has already begun to build out the website that will host this new collaboration. *We look forward to sharing more developments soon!*

WRL at the Border

This November several WRL staff and board members traveled to the border to attend the School of the Americas Watch *Border Encuentro: Dismantle Border Imperialism! Struggle, Create, Power to the People!* With the goal of building relationships with migrant justice activists and antimilitarists, staff shared No SWAT Zone materials at the *Encuentro* and heard from activists at the border who regularly strategize around the issue of border militarization within the broader contexts of U.S. imperialism and neoliberal state agendas.

NETWORKS

War Tax Resistance

In May, the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (NWTRCC) welcomed Lincoln Rice of Milwaukee onboard as its coordinator, after longtime coordinator Ruth Benn stepped down, though she remains a member of the WRL war tax resistance task force. NWTRCC held its annual gathering the first weekend of November in Cleveland, OH. As an affiliate, WRL has a close and active relationship with NWTRCC, providing financial support and participating in NWTRCC's decision-making process as a member of its coordinating committee.

War Resisters' International

WRL continues as an affiliate of War Resisters' International (WRI), headquartered in London with 90 affiliated groups in 40 countries, and regularly participates in council meetings and decision making. WRI committees work with WRI's two staff members on war profiteering, countering the militarization of youth, and supporting conscientious objectors around the world. We look forward to the next International Assembly Meeting for WRI, which will be held in Bogota, Colombia in May 2019.

Nonviolent Direct Action Training

WRL continued networking with trainers from movements around the country and planned a gathering for nonviolent action trainers, held in California last April. WRL trainers facilitated nonviolent trainings for the Poor People's Campaign. Joanne Sheehan and Shateeka Phillips in the New England Regional office are working on a video, *A History of Nonviolent Direct Action Trainers*, that begins with the Harlem Ashram in 1940. *Keep an eye out for the video, which will be available on the WRL website in early 2019.*

NATIONAL OFFICE

Resources

WRL's organizing and training resources continue to be an important resource for activists in peace and justice movements across the country. This year we updated counter-recruitment resources like *It's Not Just a Job*, now produced in English and Spanish. We were happy that our newest *So You Wanna Be A Cop?* brochure was warmly received by activists around the country. The WRL Pie Chart flier was once again produced in English and Spanish during tax season. The pie chart, which remains the single most reproduced piece of literature in WRL's history, is sold or downloaded by the tens of thousands each year and is an excellent tool for war tax resisters, antimilitarist activists, and organizers alike! We continue to work with the National Network Opposing the

Militarization of Youth, JustSeeds, and Syracuse Cultural Workers to distribute our resources more widely and we promote all our materials through social media, on our website, in our periodic mailings and emails, and at conferences and actions. And of course this year, we have some beautiful new materials: posters, tote bags, buttons, and more, many featuring our beautiful 95th anniversary logo, designed by artist Mike Powers.

Out and About

In March, WRL staffer Raul Ramos joined the Oscar Lopez Rivera Foundation and the Fellowship of Reconciliation's delegation to Puerto Rico to meet homeland activists with the goal of learning about Boricua resilience on the island in the face of neocolonialism and climate catastrophe. In April, National Committee member Skanda Kadirgamar visited Juniata College and spoke about WRL's work on police militarization during the college's observation of Genocide Awareness week. WRL national office staff participated in a New York City community teach-in on militarism hosted by the Poor People's Campaign in April. Joanne Sheehan co-facilitated a day-long training before the Peace and Justice Studies Association Conference in Philadelphia with Arnie Alpert of the American Friends Service Committee and Shateeka Phillips. In October, journalist Eleanor Bader visited WRL's national office for *The Progressive* to interview staff for an article about WRL at 95 years old. She highlighted the organization's long tradition of "bringing fresh-thinking and bold ideas to the broader movement for peace" and ability to "continue to find ways to move the needle on key issues of the day."

Leadership Development

This year national office staff were thrilled to have Freeman Intern, Dennise Hernandez, and Bilezikian Intern, Mori Anderson Hitchcock, join the staff in the spring and fall, respectively. Dennise and Mori both worked on planning and preparations leading up to WRL's 95th Anniversary Celebration.

Staff Transitions

This September we welcomed Yuni Chang and Tory Smith into WRL's staff collective in our national office. Yuni and Tory bring past experience and new vision to WRL's antimilitarist program as the National Field Organizer and National Campaigner, respectively. It was with a mixture of pride and sadness that we watched Ali Issa move on from WRL after seven years as the national field organizer, and Tara Tabassi after four years as WRL's national organizer. Ali is now organizing with the New Economy Project while Tara accepted the prestigious Kairos Fellowship and is now working as a digital organizer with Win Without War. Yuni and Tory have both hit the ground running and are picking up the work started by Tara and Ali while bringing new skills and insight to WRL's program. Welcome Yuni and Tory!

As we welcomed new staff members we also suffered a loss in our community this September. Longtime WRL staffer, David McReynolds, passed away at the age of 88. David served as a member of WRL's national office staff for over 40 years as a public speaker, the author of many of WRL's written materials, and a liaison to movement coalitions. David McReynolds, presente!

95th Anniversary

95th Anniversary Celebration—On October 11th, the WRL community, both new and longstanding members, came together to celebrate WRL's

95th anniversary. Joined by movement artist-group, Mahina Movement, we celebrated the incredible work of peace awardees Corrina Gould and the Peace Poets. We also honored Mandy Carter, a lifelong peace, justice, and equality activist, with the Grace Paley Lifetime Achievement Award. As we continue to commemorate our 95th year of resisting all forms of war, we hope you will support WRL in all ways possible.

95th Anniversary Podcast!—Learn more about WRL’s 95 years of work and where we are today by listening to WRL’s 95th anniversary podcast episode, produced by National Committee member Debbie Southorn. Visit WRL’s website to listen!

Ralph DiGia Award—In December, we were proud to present lifelong activist and WRL member, Vicki Rovere, with the Ralph DiGia award. The Ralph DiGia Award, given only twice previously— to Joanne Sheehan in 2015 and to Ruth Benn in 2014—recognizes outstanding service to WRL. “The Ralphie” comes in the form of an engraved souvenir NY Mets baseball bat.

Membership and Fundraising

For 95 years tens of thousands of individuals have sustained WRL’s work to end war, and today we are proud to say that thanks to their generosity WRL has been able to remain true to our mission through activism and education—a far more ambitious body of work than would be expected of our small staff. As a grassroots-funded organization that receives no corporate support or government funding, and very few grants, WRL depends on the donations of individual supporters to make our work possible. *So please give as generously as you are able. And we thank you so much for all you do!*

FINANCIAL REPORT

April 1, 2017-March 31, 2018

INCOME

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Contributions / Grants | 333,508 |
| Bequests / Endowment | 198,799 |
| Literature / Calendar Sales | 11,132 |
| Program / Special Events | 12,412 |
| Misc / Other | 959 |

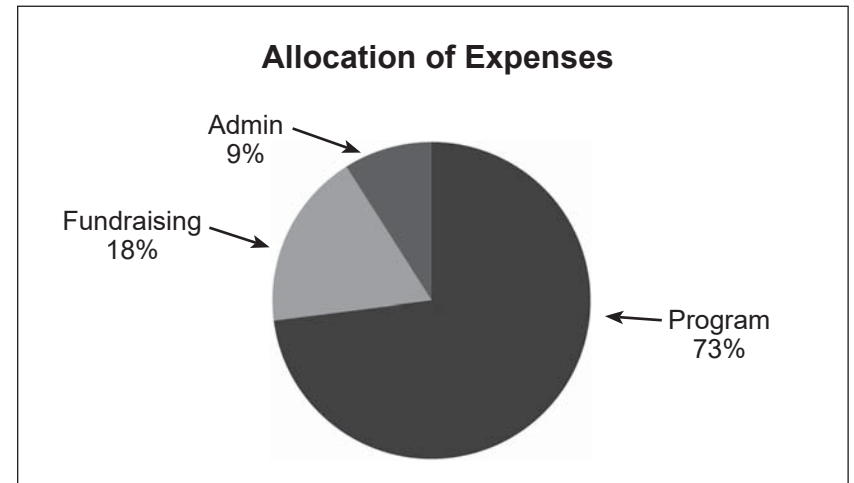
TOTAL INCOME 556,810

EXPENSES

| | |
|--|---------|
| Ending Police Militarism National Campaign | 151,131 |
| Field Organizing / Movement Building | 136,768 |
| Promoting Nonviolent Social Change | 65,721 |
| Literature & Resources | 9,351 |
| Fundraising / Promotion | 92,269 |
| Administrative / Office | 44,186 |

TOTAL EXPENSES 499,427

You may also obtain copies of our prior year 990, the annual filing with the IRS, from the New York State Charities Bureau at <http://www.charitiesnys.com>



OVER 90 YEARS OF SUSTAINED RESISTANCE!

For nearly a century, WRL has been able to accomplish all this work—and a lot more—with ongoing support from our members across the United States and beyond. To sustain and grow our education and organizing tomorrow and in the decades ahead, please contribute as generously as you are able. We particularly invite you to join as a monthly or quarterly sustainer today: warresisters.org/donate

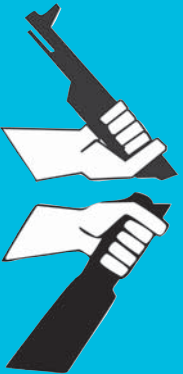
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VOLUNTEER

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