

ONE WILPF All Member Call -- September 19, 2016 4pm pacific/7pm eastern

41 WILPF Members attended the 4th ONE WILPF Call on Monday, Sept. 19th with 3 InterOccupy Facilitators. (list appears at the end of these notes).

We anticipated a large attendance because we promoted the appearance of our **WILPF International President Kozue Akibayashi**. Kozue joined the call later than expected, leading to some frustrating wait time, but her contributions & dialogue between her and US WILPF members were worth the wait.

The two major sections of this call focused on

- **Further steps for PLANNING A SOLIDARITY EVENT** across all of WILPF US during 2017, and
- **Hearing from our INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT Kozue Akibayashi**, who was visiting the US on a tour including stops in California, Michigan and the World Beyond War Conference in Washington DC.

HERE IS THE AUDIO LINK if you want to listen to the call again, or if you didn't get to be on the call.

<http://mcrecordings.s3.amazonaws.com/B45211H3E1AUD7JCMTZX4B2GYTAVJ38C.mp3>

CALL SUMMARY IN BRIEF:

- New ONE WILPF Call Team Members introduced (Anne Henny & Sandy Thacker)
1. **Announcement of EVALUATION SURVEYS** for analyzing call performance and planning purposes. Responses due by Oct. 5th please!
 2. **REPORT on SOLIDARITY EVENT Planning** by Barbara Taft – suggesting April 2017 as timeperiod. Looking for input from members on nature of event, slogan, theme, ways to engage.
 3. **SEEKING INPUT for a Calendar of Events** WILPF members are already working on annually.
 4. **POLL on the CONCEPT of holding a Solidarity Event in April 2017** and planning together to move it forward. 75% of callers agreed this was a priority.
 5. **REPORT ON InterOCCUPY's 127 Days of Action against the TPP**. The TPP is the next step in a long line of corporate power grabs, starting in the 1880s (Santa Clara v Union Pacific RR) and continuing through Buckley v Valeo (1970s – money = speech) and Citizens United (2010). VITAL to organize against the TPP. Our last hope of stopping profits over people policies. Order OCCU-Cards on TPP to distribute (www.occucards.com/tpp), educate about it, protest, insist your members of Congress vote NO TPP during the Lame Duck Session.
 6. **KOZUE AKIBAYASH, International WILPF President** spoke to call participants about her priority of creating more integrated communication and collaboration between International WILPF and all Sections. Q&A segment followed her presentation.
 7. **POLL to identify those who would be willing to meet between now and October 13th ONE WILPF Call to begin to shape plans for a SOLIDARITY EVENT**. Call date set: **conference call on Oct. 3rd at 4pm pacific/7pm eastern**. **The CALL IN # is 857-232-0156**. **The ACCESS CODE is 184925#**
 8. Goodnight/Adjournment
 9. Soapbox

NEXT CALL is Thursday, October 13th at 4pm pacific/7pm eastern.

Featured topic: Report back from World Without War Conference and future implications for WILPF US's work on peace and DISARM work.

CALL DETAILS:

The new ONE WILPF CALL Team Members were introduced: Sandy Thacker and Anne Henny (both of the East Bay CA Branch), InterOccupy's Michael Ippolito and his assistant Jackie continued in their role as engineers and technical facilitators.

The AGENDA appeared on the TEXT PAD, but it was necessary to adjust the agenda due to Kozue's late arrival to the call. Technical directions appeared there too. And brief directions were provided for utilizing the technology to ask questions and get on a 'stack'.

1. **EVALUATION SURVEYS** are planned to be emailed to all ONE WILPF CALL registrants. This is the 4th of our calls. In order to make sure how well the calls are meeting the needs of members, and to help shape topics for future calls, **an email survey will be sent out. Responses are requested by Wed., October 5th.** 4 people requested responding by phone instead of email and our Team Members will contact them to be sure their responses are included with the others.
2. **REPORT ON SOLIDARITY EVENT PLANNING TO DATE was provided by Barbara Taft (Greater Phoenix AZ branch).** The idea for a Solidarity Event across WILPF US arose from the 2015 Branch Survey and was echoed in the October 2015 Program Planning Retreat. Since June these calls have included dialogue and planning opportunities. Barbara Taft, Marybeth Gardam and Nancy Price (as the participants of the last Break Out Room considering this topic) met on Sept. 5th, between ONE WILPF Calls to do more detailed planning.

Each agreed that there are great potential benefits for setting 1-2 events a year that all our branches participate in across the US on a single day. Increasing national visibility for WILPF and the issues we work on, opportunities for members to connect over strategies and media, and the potential for enhanced social media promotion throughout the country are attractive features.

Many of our branches already do similar kinds of events during the year, but there has been little or no coordination between the branches in planning and executing these events.

In order to choose a date not too far away, but with enough lead time to plan, we looked at April 2017. Many branches already do some version of a **TAX DAY** event, and we looked at that. But April is also the month that holds **Earth Day** and our own **WILPF Birthday**. April might be interpreted as WILPF MONTH! **We could lift up and OWN all 3 events, combining them in one day's action that reflects what WILPF stands for:**

- the historic work we've done for peace and freedom
- the work we've done to promote redirecting our tax money away from military budgets to a moral budget that reflects the values of peace and human rights.
- The work we do environmentally on water, fracking, climate justice, care for the earth and the impact on women of these irresponsible environmental policies.

Incorporating each of these elements lets us grasp more pieces and add more layers of issues that could suggest potential actions and activities to tie in to a solidarity day.

We also suggest putting a calendar of Peace and Justice events online, stressing the ones that our members already participate in and engage with. **We need your help to identify them.** We ask branches and members who are already working on these events to contribute their know-how and expertise, so anyone who wants to replicate the action or plan their own event would benefit from seeing how others are doing it... what works and has been successful, use templates and materials they could borrow instead of reinventing the wheel, and identify resources to strengthen their actions. As Nancy Price noted, a map of where all WILPF events are being held could encourage people to attend who are located in neighboring communities.

There are many ways to plan these events. For instance Barbara offered the example of a PENNY POLL, where folks purchase a roll of pennies and vote by distributing their “budget” into jars marked “education”, “healthcare”, “jobs creation”, “sustainable energy”, “defense & security”, “police protection”, “recreation and the arts”, and so forth. This kind of poll could be done anywhere, not necessarily in front of a Post Office, the way Tax Day has been done in the past.

Branches are already doing many of these kinds of actions. We want them to report on what they are doing and how they are doing it, so we can all consider doing some of them together in solidarity on one day... to increase WILPF’s visibility and show the potential we can have all across the US, when we plan and work together.

We’re interested too in coming up with a catchy SLOGAN for this one day of solidarity. We have one idea, but want to hear YOUR ideas too. Tell us what slogan would be best, and maybe **suggest some promotional items** that you think would be popular to offer with this day of action.

3. **VOTE ON ENDORSING THE CONCEPT OF A SOLIDARITY EVENT** - A poll was taken of how many call attendees think that the first solidarity event in April 2017, with a minimum bar set for branch participation and common messaging we all agree on is a good idea, worthy of effort, even if the concept and details are not perfect yet. 33 folks on the call endorsed this idea. That’s 75% of the attendees.

Because Kozue was still not on the call yet, we asked Michael Ippolito to report on the national work being done to organize against the TPP by Popular Resistance and the #NoLameDuck/NoTPP organizations which WILPF US endorses.

4. **REPORT ON 127 DAYS OF ACTION AGAINST THE TPP – Inter Occupy**

Michael explained the many horrific provisions of the TPP and why it represents a global corporate coupe, not a trade agreement. He underscored the need to educate, protest and contact Congress members to insist they vote against the TPP. He suggested that OCCU-CARDS about the TPP encapsulate much of the information about it. The cards are available at low cost to be ordered online at: www.occucards.com/tpp.

In order to add to the momentum of events already being planned around the country to challenge the TPP, InterOccupy is joining with Popular Resistance, Black Lives Matter and the First Nations People's opposition to the Dakota Pipeline to launch **127 Days of Action to Stop The TPP**. This work builds on the long history of corporate theft of Constitutional rights. This is the 130th Year since the Santa Clara decision declared that Corporations are People with Constitutional Rights.

This is the 40th year since Money Became Speech with the Buckley vs Valeo decision of SCOTUS. It's the 7th year since the Citizens United decision.

Each of these steps was necessary to ensure that the TPP would be approved. This is the line in the sand we have to draw to stop the profits over people mentality and assert that People and the Planet are more Important than corporate profits.

Amidst all the dire fears about climate change and the environmental degradation, this collaborative organizing to stop the TPP gives us hope. **WILPF members are asked to engage in education (OCCU-Cards), Protest (make banners and use them), and citizen lobbying with members of Congress to say NO to the TPP.**

5. **SEPARATION INTO BREAK OUT ROOMS** - we briefly separated into Break Out rooms to further plan the Solidarity Event, and to come up with questions for Kozue. But only a few minutes later Kozue was finally able to join our call from Michigan, one of the stops on her US Tour. She will also be in California and she is speaking at the World Beyond War Conference in DC, of which WILPF US is a co-sponsor. Here is what she said:
6. **PRESENTATION BY KOZUE** - Kozue stated her gratitude to US WILPF for enabling her visit to the US and her presentation at the WBW Conference in DC. She said that this was the first opportunity she has had to meet with any International Sections or the US Section. She noted that there is a lot going on at International WILPF, and the details are all on the International WILPF website. She encouraged members to look there for specific information.

Kozue said her own priority, in her role as International President, is to make it a priority to enable closer communication and collaboration between the Programs of International WILPF, International Sections, and other International Organizations.

Previously financing for of our UNO Programs (Peacewomen and Reaching Critical Will) was motivated by funding patterns in which donor funding leaned towards independent programs and projects. A more recent shift in fundraising and grant making priorities is for funding more integrated programs and organizations. As such, **International WILPF is looking for ways to more powerfully integrate these programs into WILPF as a whole.** This might present more opportunities for WILPF US to work more closely with these programs. Marybeth noted that **Abigail Ruane of Peacewomen** is scheduled to be on our **November ONE WILPF Call**.

Kozue said that newer Sections in Europe and Africa relate to the larger International WILPF organization, which works mostly at a high level on the surface of policies and issues. The older Japan and the US WILPF Sections have historically been grassroots activist organizations. She said that this reflects a shift in civil society as a whole, moving from the big picture to a

connection that links big picture and local grassroots action. Kozue asked to take questions from the attendees.

Q&A WITH KOZUE

Q1: Judy from Monterey County Branch asked: One of our members MacGregor Eddy, visited South Korea and became involved with the people protesting there [the new deep water port being planned for submarine activity in the Jeju Islands off of Korea](#). She wondered if these plans had gone forward.

Kozue: Yes, unfortunately around 2007 the Korean government announced plans to build a new naval base in Jeju. Construction is now completed, and while it is a Korean base, it definitely caters to the US Navy. Soldiers are deployed there and there are also expansion of other local facilities. The local people of Jeju have been protesting since the beginning and at the start were very strong. But this is a very small island and they have been harassed constantly and financially intimidated to weaken their protests against the base.

The harassment has been by the Korean government but with US backing.

The islanders have found it challenging to sustain their struggle, but peace camps continue with Priests and nuns working to keep the protests alive.

What could the US Section do to support their efforts?

Kozue: The US Section members could ask Congress hard questions about what the US plans to do with this Navy base and make their plans more visible to the general public.

Kozue stated that there are many women/feminist peacemakers there but they are not visible. She suggested that they would welcome visits from women activists and feminists to raise awareness and show solidarity with their protests.

Q2: Nancy Price stated that she had attended the Congress in The Hague where 2 important resolutions from the US Section won unanimous support. The **Climate Justice+Women+Peace Resolution** and **the Human Right To Health & Safe Food Resolution**. [How can we empower the Environmental Working Group to be more vigorous and robust and how can sections reach out to each other more effectively to work more collaboratively on these important resolutions?](#)

Kozue: International WILPF has been working for some time on this issue of how Sections could connect to one another. They created an online forum called MYWILPF.org. Unfortunately it only includes names of those who are included in the "International Directory".

International is encouraging people who want to participate in more active connections to use this online forum. The Environmental Working Group is apparently included in the MYWILPF forum. This forum was only begun in June. They are trying to create more ways to communicate. Conference calls are challenging because of language barriers... written communication, like the online forum, is a little easier.

Q3: Eileen Kurkoski of Boston Branch asked about the level of awareness and active opposition to the TPP in Japan and the Pacific Rim nations which will be much affected by the unregulated trade agreement. [How can we work together to defeat the TPP?](#)

Kozue: For Japan the TPP is not seen as a big problem, most are not aware of it at all. There is some opposition organized in Australia and it may be possible to connect with that Section to oppose it and work collaboratively. She does not know of much opposition in either New Zealand or the Philippines. The Philippines Section is very small.

Q4: Barbara Taft of Greater Phoenix AZ asked Kozue to expand on her description of the 'shifting nature of civil society organizations'. [What common elements link these shifts in all the sections and what plans are there to deal with it?](#)

Kozue: This was more of a personal observation over the 20 years I have been a member of WILPF. There are new sections starting in Europe and Africa. Many sections see WILPF only in terms of the International Level. But sections like Japan ... we have seen some changes but identify more with grass roots levels. This seems true of the older sections. International has been mostly pre-occupied with funding priorities, a necessity for WILPF. We have good staff at the International level but it is challenging to take on too much for the size of our staff.

Q5: Marybeth stated that several people in the US have asked about the possibility of forming relationships between Sections and Branches. ... **Sister Sections/Sister Branches.** [Have there been plans to facilitate a direct link between national sections?](#)

Kozue: There had been some plans like this to make a direct link between Sections, but it has not been a priority recently. It must be a **mutually reciprocal effort.**

Q6: David Rothauer of Boston WILPF, on behalf of the Boston Branch **invited Kozue to spearhead a Congressional Resolution to bring a version of Article 9 of Japan's Constitution** ("forbids Japan to ever again make war - they've had no war since 1947) **as an amendment to the US Constitution.**

David noted that they are realistic enough to know that this has may be unrealistic but that **it is an original idea** that may appeal to people and serve as a way to educate and organize people, especially the young. They are drafting a letter to Barbara Lee to also promote this effort.

Kozue: This is indeed a new idea. I would be interested in learning more about this.

Q7: We had a question submitted that Japan is having the same experience as we are in the US with a shift of government aligning with right-wing religious extremists. [Is it true that the Japanese government is aligning with conservative efforts to peel back rights for women and ramp up military armament to pre-WWII levels?](#) If so, how could we in the US work together with the Japanese Section to strategically address this trend?

Kozue: In Japan the Shinto sect is really more a political group than a religious one. They work towards national integration in the "modernization period". The situation may be a bit different than the US, but what is important is that they ARE trying to deny women basic human rights. It's been 10 years this struggle has been going on.

We do need a closer coalition for all countries to strengthen women's rights, in Japan and in many other nations where women's rights are under attack.

Q8: Our WILPF US President Mary Hanson Harrison got to ask the last question. She asked [what brought Kozue to WILPF and how her participation has evolved.](#)

Kozue: I met WILPF in New York City when I was attending grad school. My teacher and mentor there was **Betty Rearson**, the founder and director of the Peace Education Center and Peace Education Graduate Degree Program at Teachers College, Columbia University. And author of **Sexism and The War System**, and many other books too. Betty was also an advisor to WILPF at that time. I liked WILPF because of their analysis of the root causes of war. No one else was doing that then and no one else is doing it now. **I have become even more convinced over the years that the feminist perspective is critical to bringing about nonviolence.** The feminine values must be raised and respected if we are ever to bring about a peaceful world.

7. **POLL TO IDENTIFY THOSE WILLING TO MEET BY CONFERENCE CALL TO CONTINUE WORKING ON THE SOLIDARITY EVENT PROPOSAL** - We did not have the opportunity on this call for a more indepth discussion about plans for a Solidarity Event. The plan was to have been to have a Break Out Room for that purpose. But we spent very little time on that issue. The report from the very brief discussion is below.

So we took poll of people who agreed that it would be a good idea to ‘meet’ by conference call between now and the October call to try to move plans for that event a little bit farther ahead.

(After the ONE WILPF Call a date was set to hold this conference call on Oct. 3rd at 4pm pacific/7pm eastern. The CALL IN # is 857-232-0156. The ACCESS CODE is 184925#.

The people who agreed to help shape this are listed here: (please put this on your calendar!)

Marybeth Gardam, Cherrill Spencer, Annie Boddum, Joan Brannigan, Teresa Castillo, David Rothauser, Margaret Pecoraro, Elizabeth G. Gerlach, Joan Ecklein, Jane Doyle, Floris Freshman, Portia Gage, Anne Henny, Sandy Thacker, Joan Goddard, Ginger Harris, Edith Bell, Penelope Pennie Taylor, Betty Traynor, Barbara Taft, Jean Hays, Patricia Schroeder, Marlena Santoyo, Mary Hanson Harrison, Jan Corderman, Carol Urner, Eileen Kurkoski, Nancy Price, Randa Solick. Andre Sheldon, Nancy Graham

8. **ADJOURNMENT** - Mics were opened so everyone could say goodnight. The meeting adjourned.
9. **SOAPBOX SEGMENT** – The dialogue continued for a few minutes of the Soapbox Segment. Kozue remained on the line. Eileen Kurkoski reiterated her hope that Kozue would press harder to educate the Japanese and Pacific Rim Sections about the threat from the TPP. Kozue said she would talk to the Phillipines Section, an older and smaller section. She noted she can only ask, she can not force them to be involved.

Marybeth spoke for many when she noted that what sets WILPF apart from many other women’s organizations in the US is our international component. But many of us are frustrated it is so challenging to connect and work collaboratively to maximize that potential. Kozue noted that there is frustration on the International level too. “Our analysis tends to be structural and comprehensive. We tend to focus on the surface of larger issues, but it is important to connect. The technology is meant to help, but sometimes represents a challenge. And the language barrier remains challenging.”

Laura Dewey (Detroit) apologized for getting Kozue to the call late. Everyone thanked Kozue for her participation. The call ended.

NEXT CALL: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13th 4pm pacific/7pm eastern.

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