

ONE WILPF All Member Call -- October 13th, 2016 4pm pacific/7pm eastern

22 WILPF Members attended the 5th ONE WILPF Call on Thursday, Oct. 13th (list appears at the end of these notes).

The featured speaker, WILPF member Leah Bolger, focused on reports from the September 23rd WORLD BEYOND WAR (WBW) CONFERENCE in Washington DC, for which WILPF US was a co-sponsor.

The two major sections of this call focused on

- **Report from the EVALUATION SURVEY** we conducted on these ONE WILPF Calls.
- **Report** about the **Peoples Tribunal at The Hague**, charging Monsanto with Crimes Against Humanity.
- **Further steps for PLANNING A SOLIDARITY EVENT** across all of WILPF US during 2017, and
- **Break Out Rooms addressed 3 subjects.**
 - **Continuing planning for the April 2017 SOLIDARITY EVENT**
 - **Planning NEXT STEPS for WILPF members to collaborate with World Beyond War organizers across the US and Internationally**
 - **Sharing Resources, Strategies and Materials between branches and members**

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/QJP4V836TKHPQ9YS6KGBHTQEL40JHV29.mp3>

CALL SUMMARY IN BRIEF:

ONE WILPF Call Team Member Anne Henny welcomed members to the call and proposed CALL NORMS which will be used going forward to ensure everyone's voice gets heard.

1. **The Report on our EVALUATION SURVEYS** (for analyzing call performance and planning purposes) was given by ONE WILPF Call Team Member Sandy Thacker. 28 survey responses noted general approval for the calls. The most valuable part of calls for the majority of responders was sharing of resources, strategies and skills across all of WILPF. Tying next were the advantages of connecting/networking with one another and working collaboratively to organize across the country. Most responders felt speakers are good, but not necessary on every call. They appreciate Break Out Rooms but feel they could be better managed.
2. **REPORT on PEOPLE'S TRIBUNAL at The Hague**, charging Monsanto with Crimes Against Humanity. Nancy Price reported that the events would be live streamed and available for watching later on too. The link: _____. WILPFers can organize around this by ordering the INFOGRAPHIC CARDS on Glyphosate and planning showings of the Tribunal events.
3. **REPORT on SOLIDARITY EVENT Planning.** One very minimum action will be asked of all WILPF members, as a show of solidarity across the country. (described below). Suggestions for other add-on actions and activities to engage the community were suggested (below). A date needs to be selected in April. This event seeks to unite the 3 April events most branches already celebrate: **Earth Day, WILPF's Anniversary and Tax Day**. The overarching theme is yet to be decided but the **#MoveTheMoney** should be promoted in every event to unify the message. We continue to seek input from members on nature of event, slogan, theme, ways to engage.
4. **LEAH BOLGER ON THE WORLD BEYOND WAR CONFERENCE** reported on how this conference unfolded and suggested ways that WILPF members can continue to engage on this effort.
5. **POLL on recruiting stand-by FACILITATORS & NOTE TAKERS** for Break Out Rooms, to make those work spaces more efficient and be sure to capture all the great ideas emerging.
6. **BREAK OUT ROOMS & REPORTS BACK**
 - **SOLIDARITY EVENT** - lots of ideas for add-on potential. Next steps a formal proposal to bring back to branches and Program Committee to gain feedback, input and buy-in.

- **HOW CAN WILPF MEMBERS ENGAGE MORE WITH THE WORLD BEYOND WAR Organization?** Ideas included ordering the Alternative Global Security Strategy booklet and using it as a discussion tool, participating in a monthly meeting/phone call as a subcommittee of the DISARM Committee and having WILPF members participate in the WBW Speakers Bureau.
 - **SHARING RESOURCES/MATERIALS/STRATEGIES** - It was suggested that branches send in information about what they are doing, when, how it works and what materials they have developed for those actions... on a BLOG that would link to our website and include templates people could customize to replicate actions and events in their own community. Miriam Thompson shared a list of actions the Triangle Branch engages in, under the overall theme of “World Without War At Home & Abroad”.
7. Goodnight/**Adjournment**
 8. **Soapbox**

NEXT CALL is Thursday, November 10th at 4pm pacific/7pm eastern.

CALL DETAILS:

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 partner Julie Durgin continued as engineer and technical facilitator.

The AGENDA appeared on the TEXT PAD, along with links to information being presented. The links appear below.

1. **WELCOME & CALL “NORMS” PRESENTED** - ANNE HENNY introduced a set of call norms we will be practicing as a way to make sure everyone’s voice gets heard and to provide more structure within the Break Out Rooms.
 - a. **Be prepared and come ready to engage.** Read the agenda and do any preparatory work ahead of time.
 - b. **Balance your participation**—speak and listen—and make sure everyone’s voice is heard.
 - c. **Look ahead to positive action,** not back on shoulda, woulda, coulda.
 - d. Everyone is responsible for helping to **stay on topic**—capture off topic items in a ‘backburner’ and agree to discuss them later at a more appropriate time.
 - e. **Be concise** and to the point.
 - f. **Be open to feedback.**
2. **EVALUATION SURVEY REPORT** - SANDY THACKER reported on the 28 responses from the survey. We are grateful to Sandy for taking the time to analyze the results. *We are happy to make the full results available to those who wish them, for complete transparency. Contact us at 1WILPFcalls@gmail.com.*

IN RANKING CALL OBJECTIVES – Sharing Resources seems to be the most important goal.

90% of responses placed **SHARING RESOURCES, STRATEGIES & SKILLS** in 1st or 2nd rank.

60% of responses placed **CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER** and **WORKING COLLABORATIVELY TO ORGANIZE & PLAN ACTIONS** equally in their 1st and 2nd rank.

33% of responses placed **HAVING SPEAKERS TALK ABOUT ISSUES** of interest to WILPF in 1st and 2nd rank.

CALL INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION -- Most respondents seem happy with the call schedule and Timing of the pre-and post-call communications.

ON THE QUESTION OF HAVING SPEAKERS ON THE CALLS – Most felt it was valuable but not absolutely necessary on EVERY call.

1/4 of respondents would like to use the time for other priorities.

1/3 of respondents LIKE speakers but don't feel they are necessary on every call.

ON THE QUESTION OF REAL TIME VOTING – Most like the instant feedback and process.

65% like the real time voting.

15% like the real time voting but think it takes too long.

ON THE QUESTION OF BREAK OUT ROOMS – Most like them but want them to be better managed.

2/3 of respondents like the Break Out Room process.

Half of those however believe the Break Out Rooms should be better managed.

Comments included the need for skilled facilitators and 'norms' so everyone can be heard, no one monopolizes the discussion. Improve time management and facilitation.

ON THE QUESTION OF FUTURE TOPICS – There were a wide range of suggestions, separated into 2 categories of specific topics to add and process issues.

Specific Topics to add - war and disarmament, climate change, reclaiming human rights, environmental degradation.

Process issues to address - coalition building, collaborating within WILPF and with partner organizations, strengthening WILPF's position in the US Peace Movement, Sharing Resources, Increasing Membership and Enhancing the Membership Experience.

GENERALLY – People were very positive about the first 4 calls and feel they are improving.

Most folks are enthusiastic about the potential for these calls.

WHAT WILL WE DO WITH THE RESULTS OF THIS SURVEY?

We will keep them on file and compare them regularly with new surveys to gain regular benchmarks for how we are doing.

3. **REPORT ON THE PEOPLE'S TRIBUNAL holding MONSANTO accountable for Crimes Against Humanity.** NANCY PRICE reported that the Tribunal will be held over the coming weekend (Oct 14-16) in The Hague... "the trial of the Century" because it is the beginning of the people insisting on holding corporations accountable for their abuse of power and threats against health and for committing ecocide. Nancy reported that the events will be livestreamed and folks can watch them live or watch the recordings of them later. She noted that organizing around these events is important, since mainstream media won't report it. **She suggests members order the HUMAN RIGHT TO HEALTH & SAFE FOOD Infographic Cards** to use to educate about this issue with Glyphosate on our food crops threatening our health.
4. **POLL REQUESTING HELP WITH PINCH HITTER FACILITATORS & NOTE TAKERS for Break Out Rooms.**
Marybeth asked for volunteers so we have enough help managing break out rooms.
Thanks to the following folks who volunteered to be Facilitators, as needed:
Iolande Argent (Sacramento CA), Nancy Price (Davis CA), Paula LeRoy (Santa Cruz CA), Carol Urner (Portland OR), Anne Henny (East Bay CA).

Thanks to the following folks who volunteered as Note Takers, as needed:

Betty Traynor (San Francisco CA), Joan Goddard (San Jose CA), Joan Brannigan (St. Louis MO), and Odile H Haber (Ann Arbor).

5. REPORT ON SOLIDARITY EVENT PLANNING TO DATE was provided by Marybeth Gardam, because Barbara Taft was unable to attend the call.

An interim call was held on October 3rd and everyone who said they wanted to help plan this event was invited to that call. The following items were discussed:

- The month of April was chosen as the soonest we could organize an event all across the US.
- This event would combine aspects of 3 events our branches already celebrate: Earth Day, WILPF's Anniversary and Tax Day.
- An overarching title is still needed. One suggested was ENVISION A WORLD AT PEACE, since it would allow a more upbeat and fun element, along with the serious information we need to convey. Be more inviting to different segments of our communities than the 'usual suspects' in the peace community.
- A new overarching title will frame but the meme #MoveTheMoney, which is being used by WILPF International and Peacewomen, will be featured in printed materials and signage, to unite all the events across the country and talk about transitioning from a war economy.
- So that as many branches and at-large members as possible can participate, the MINIMUM required action is very simple: Make a Banner that announces your location as "Des Moines WILPF says #MoveTheMoney" or "Chicago WILPF says #MoveTheMoney", wherever you are, even if there is not branch there (yet). Once the banner is made, a photograph of people holding it should be taken in front of a scene that easily locates the site.... The Golden Gate Bridge, a cornfield, the ocean, the Chicago Bean, the Empire State Building, etc. Then those photos should be sent to National so we can post them on our website and FB page, send them out widely and share them across the country. We want every WILPFer with a Facebook page to share them widely.
- Many other ADD ON activities can be use to expand the event and make it more visually interesting. Penny Polls, Music, Visual Arts, Spoken Word artists, collaborating with a local school or art class or drama group... adding family-friendly activities, singing peace songs, etc. But the MINIMUM we are asking is the banner piece.
- For those who want to suggest more ideas, or who would like support for putting your plans into action, contact us at 1WILPFcalls@gmail.com.

6. REPORT ON THE WORLD BEYOND WAR CONFERENCE - Leah Bolger discussed how successful the WBW Conference was in September in Washington DC. Many WILPFers attended and some spoke at the conference. Leah was clear that WBW is more about being ANTI-WAR than PRO-PEACE. They want to replace the current security systems based on war, militarism and violence with one based on respect, international law and diplomacy. There were 240 attendees and over 22,000 people watched the excellent live-streamed and recorded speakers on their website WorldBeyondWar.org. They will have DVDs available soon of the speakers and presentations. Every attendee received a copy of their publication THE ALTERNATIVE GLOBAL SECURITY STRATEGY, 2nd Edition, which they believe is a blueprint for abolishing war. WILPF authored the chapter on Patriarchy and War.

HOW CAN WILPF MEMBERS COLLABORATE WITH WORLD BEYOND WAR? Leah made these suggestions:

- A- Order copies of the ALTERNATIVE GLOBAL SECURITY STRATEGY publication. They are inexpensive and available in individual or bulk orders on the World Beyond War website.
- B- Watch the videos of speakers from the conference on the WBW Website and view them as part of your program meetings.
- C- Order DVDs of the speakers to show in your community. They will be available on the WBW website soon to order.
- D- Participate in the WBW Speaker's Bureau if you or someone in your branch are experts in specific areas of war funding, weapons, and peace organizing actions.
- E- They are trying to identify 'country coordinators' to represent WBW in other nations. So far they have 40,000 people signed up from 36 countries. They feel this is something WILPF could help with, because of our international connections. WILPF Sections might help them find a country coordinator.

Leah suggests people contact her directly with more ideas or to get involved. She's at leahbolger@comcast.net.

7. BREAK OUT ROOMS WERE ORGANIZED AND PEOPLE CHOSE WHICH ONES THEY WISHED TO PARTICIPATE IN. The topics for break out rooms included:

- **Solidarity Event Planning** with Sandy Thacker as note taker and Anne Henny as Facilitator.
- **Next steps in WILPF members collaborating with World Beyond War**, with Nancy Price facilitating and Marybeth Gardam notetaking.
- **Sharing Resources, Strategies and Materials across WILPF US**, with Betty Traynor taking notes and Ellen Schwartz facilitating.

45 minutes were devoted to organizing in each of these Break Out Rooms, followed by reports back by the 'reporter/note taker' in each group.

REPORTS BACK:

Break Out Room 1 - SOLIDARITY EVENT PLANNING - IDEAS FOR ACTIONS BY WILPF BRANCHES DURING APRIL 2017

Actions should be creative, visible, fun, outside the box, publicized
 Actions should connect with either Tax Day, Earth Day or WILPF anniversary
 Branches could either create an event or piggyback on already existing events (like Earth Day events)

Barnstorming suggestions for actions:

Banners of branches and members-at-large around the country with pictures sent in to be posted
 Tax Day Penny Poll vote – where would YOU invest your money, which priorities?
 Visiting legislators with \$100 in one-dollar bills as fun and visible way to make a point about priorities

(the book "Becoming a Citizen Activist" by Nick Licata was mentioned as a resource)

Hand out peace song sheets and singing together with musical accompaniment
 Reading famous songs or speeches by women with anti-war sentiment (Jane Addams, Aung San Suu Kyi, Joan Baez, Dorothy Day, Rachel Corrie, etc.)
 Raging Grannies sing-along

How do we broaden our scope so that these actions and WILPF US gain national visibility?

Social media components to increase national visibility

Write articles with pictures for local newspapers

Raise money at the events for community causes

Make a book of pictures of events and actions, send to U.S. President or other politician as gift

Develop a proposal that can then be presented to all branches and to program committee for approval

Figure out how to leverage solidarity event to help build membership

ALL PARTICIPANTS ON THE ONE WILPF CALL, WHETHER THEY WERE IN THE SOLIDARITY EVENT BREAKOUT ROOM OR NOT, SHOULD SEND ANY AND ALL IDEAS FOR THE APRIL SOLIDARITY EVENT TO: 1WILPFcalls@gmail.com

Break Out Room 2 – NEXT STEPS: WILPF Collaborates with WBW -

DISCUSSION ABOUT NEXT STEPS WE COULD TAKE:

ELLEN: It was a wonderful conference, rebooting the peace movement in the US and the world.

CAROL: WILPF has always focused on the Root Causes of War... it makes sense for us to be part of this new effort, the vision of World Beyond War. We have to work FAST, work HARD and work TOGETHER to be clear about the urgency. We are already facing WWII.

ELIZABETH: Was pleased and honored to speak after Carol. We have to act in many ways at once to end war: to declare a real NonViolent movement that focuses on non-violent communication, getting rid of guns, returning to civility and civil discourse, stressing mutual respect and outlaw weapons of war. We must teach nonviolence to the children of the world.

LEAH: Odile had the idea of regular monthly meetings of those who want to work with WBW. How to get involved and participate in the speaker's bureau.

ODILE: We need to work within DISARM though... maybe as a subcommittee.

NANCY: Nancy pointed to a speech/video online at wilpf.org (WILPF International) where Madeleine Rees speaks about Patriarch and Militarism. Really important speech ... well done... could be watched in branch meetings and public forums.

JANE: We have to refocus on providing LEADERSHIP, to give direction and ideas to DO... ACTIONS.

ODILE – We want to connect as supporters in action, to refocus our efforts on ending war. What specifics to begin with, focus on... details from the Helsinki Conference.

CAROL: WILPF needs to stand on our OWN identity... in coalition with WBW but maintaining our own voice and our own visibility as WILPF. We participate in WBW as we do with many other organizations. WILPF needs to be who we are. But we can participate in and benefit from a Speakers Bureau that lets our own experts speak from their own experience and history. We have to have respect for one another within our separate organizations.

MARY S: Important to keep the focus on the Root Causes of War.

NANCY: Some of those root causes we address in our CLIMATE JUSTICE+WOMEN+PEACE Infographic and we are working on our Study Guide for that project too. There is the role of racism in war too.

NANCY: WILPF's unique perspective could focus on the need for a WOMEN'S BUDGET.

LEAH: We need to focus on the amount of expensive WASTE; what we are spending money on that could go to services and education, sustainable energy, etc. We know what we could do with all that money we'd save if we stopped funding endless wars. We need an EVERYBODY Budget, not just a WOMAN's Budget.

JANE: People don't understand the connections. How can we bridge the information gap and show people how what they care about in their daily lives connects to the militarization and endless war scenario? We need illustrative information that brings it home to people. PEOPLE AROUND HER

ELIZABETH: We need a strong plan... ACTIONS that are strategic and coordinated... we need both political and economic decisions that tilt us away from war and towards life.

Folks were interested in meeting between the ONE WILPF CALLS to start planning. Perhaps do a google poll to see when we could meet.

Break Out Room – SHARING RESOURCES, Materials & Strategies between branches and members.

DISCUSSION ABOUT NEXT STEPS WE COULD TAKE:

PART 1 of this Breakout Room was a list of actions that the Triangle Branch participates in...

See below report from Miriam Thompson had some great ideas to contribute from the Triangle Branch in North Carolina. **They are one of our most active branches and their activism on many fronts results in high visibility in their community and increased membership and interest in their branch.** Miriam's examples of what kinds of actions they take and how they partner with community organizations was really important and should inspire other branches to think of ways they could duplicate some of this activism and collaboration in their own communities. **This is what THEY do in Triangle Branch:**

The Triangle Branch has a theme for all the work that they do. They call their work:

A World Without War -- At Home & Abroad....

Their major upcoming co-sponsored project is **LINKING LIBERATION STRUGGLES** - a major public forum at our local HBCU - North Carolina Central University that we got to co-host the Forum. The sponsor is our local Abrahamic Initiative on the Middle East (AIME) - www.aimeproject.org. We will link voices of Native, African and Palestinian American, Muslim, Immigrant, Latino and Jewish Voices for Peace. She will share the flyer with the details of the event. They plan to highlight the Movement for Black Lives platform that address social justice issues at home and connection with the U.S. military support for the Israeli Occupation of Palestine.

So here they are PARTNERING WITH: North Carolina Central University, Immigrant, Muslim and Jewish activist organizations, and the Movement for Black Lives. **Partnering offers visibility and strength!**

Their 2nd project is supporting the **NAACP's Labor Committee** that Miriam co-chairs in solidarity with **RaiseUp for \$15** and their Farm Labor Organizing Committee.

Here they are PARTNERING WITH: the NAACP and RAISE UP FOR \$15. More allies and hopefully new WILPF members!

Their 3rd project has them heavily involved in Voter education, registration and GOTV, highlighting our WILPF local and global human rights and world without war agenda and how increased military and war spending could be used at home.

So here they PARTNER WITH: local political organizations for voter rights and voting integrity groups. **More allies, more visibility, more power for WILPF by allying with other organizations.**

Their 4th project includes work they do with **the local Peace Media Group** to intensify getting our issues in the print and local social media. They have a regular broadcast program that carries news that is not covered by mainstream media and reports on the buildup of militarism while asserting the need for peace. **This involves them in the local MEDIA arena and get their name out in public on a different level.**

Finally, their 5th project targets young emerging activists. They use \$1000 a year of their savings to fund local mini grants to young people whose projects speak to WILPF's history and current projects. **This means that they are laying the groundwork for future leaders within their branch and their community... by connecting on a regular basis with young activists. PARTNERING for future growth.**

All of these activities address human rights violations, wars at home and abroad, collaboration and intersecting issues. They connect with peace and justice allies and partners, building on their historic allies like Martin Luther King, Jr. Coretta Scott King, Eleanor Roosevelt, Ella Baker and more. They have been part of the historic MORAL MONDAYS movement since it began, standing shoulder to shoulder with the black community leaders and interfaith leaders

Part 2 of the Breakout Room looked at techniques for sharing...

DISCUSSING WAYS TO SHARE ACTIONS, STRATEGIES AND MATERIALS, the participants of this Break Out Room suggested starting a **BLOG** which could be linked to our WILPF website. Branches would send in a list of the events that they work on by category... with operating plans for carrying out the events/actions, costs, and materials they print or post to promote the events/actions.

The Blog would be relatively flexible and easy to update.

Some calendar dates could be used, if they relate to specific actions (like Tax Day, Mother's Day, etc) but in general the **calendar dates are less important than the KINDS OF ACTIONS** being undertaken and the categories of the work.

The KIND OF EVENT could be listed.

Members/branches could click on it to see which branches participate in that kind of event.

Then they can click on the specific branches that are posted to see exactly what they do, how they do it, and how they promote it.

The important part is that branches would have to BUY INTO this to keep the information updated.

And we might need someone assigned to do the blog and keep it updated, an intern or staff person.

It would look like:

TAX DAY

Fresno	Des Moines	Boston	Houston
	PROCESSES		
	PROMOTION		
	MATERIALS		
	COLLABORATIONS		
	BUDGET/COSTS		

8 ADJOURNED -- Goodnight All!

9 SOAPBOX - It was such a full meeting that only a handful of members remained on for the Soapbox portion of the meeting. It was Mary Sanderson's (Madison WI) first ONE WILPF Call. We asked her for her impressions. "Engaging, informative, with good structure". A Homerun!!!

We discussed the need for a next step to get a written proposal on the SOLIDARITY EVENT so members can present this to their branches to get feedback, input and buy-in.

Ellen Thomas was excited about setting up a monthly call for WBW work, as a subcommittee of DISARM.

NEXT ONE WILPF CALL: Thursday, Nov. 10th 4pm pacific, 7pm eastern.

ATTENDEES OF OCT CALL:

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