

Field Organizer / Outreach Consultant Update

Hello! Glad to be here with you all. I officially started working with NWTRCC in the middle of September and it has felt like a relaxed, sweet, and steady beginning so far. Which, for anyone familiar with organizing positions, is a pleasant surprise! I have set up my “office” in my home in North Philadelphia. The beginning of my time as the NWTRCC Field Organizer / Outreach Consultant has been a combination of “listening” and “doing” so far.

For the listening portion: I have been able to get to know Ruth and Erica more (what a great team!). I spent a day with Ruth in Brooklyn learning about the NWTRCC structure and membership base as well as the organizing history of the network. I have met with (in person and on the phone) a few of the more active war tax resisters in Philadelphia and around the country hearing about the work that they are doing to organize in their communities, as well as ask them what support would be useful. I also attended the New England War Tax Resistance Gathering, getting to know that crew better and hear some of their vision for organizing going forward.

Much of what I have heard from war tax resisters so far is a desire for the war tax resistance network to be more active and diverse. In particular, the network is aging and very white. This is not representative of the people who are actually targeted by systems of violence in this country or around the world. For the most part, people I talked with understand this requires building relationships and supporting the work of other organizations. Tellingly, in my research through NWTRCC’s history, the 2012 survey of the membership base had 1 respondent who was under the age of 30 at the time of the survey and only a handful of non-white respondents.

Excitingly - that is precisely in line with my vision for the organizing that I am “doing” with NWTRCC. For those of you who do not know much about me, my organizing life has already been one of intersectionality, building relationships and solidarity between movements across lines of race, class, gender, sexuality, and nationality. I am bringing that experience to my work with NWTRCC. As one example, Ari Rosenberg (another Philly WTR and past member of the NWTRCC AdComm) and I are working together to organize a community workshop in Philly near the end of January on tax resistance. The goal for the workshop is to build the connections between war, the prison system, the police state, and deportation.

I look forward to the coming months of working with and support the war tax resistance movement! **I will be hosting a webinar and conference call on November 19th to talk about the year of organizing ahead of us! Please join online or by phone to get to know me better and provide your input for what support would be useful.**

Refusing To Pay For Oppression: A Webinar With Sam Koplinka-Loehr
Saturday November 19th, 12 PM Eastern Standard Time
Join Online! <https://app.gotomeeting.com> Or Listen In By Phone! (872) 240-3412
Meeting ID: 730-720-765