

OCTOBER 2018
BALLOT
INITIATIVES
and more...

WILPF

Cape Cod

[WILPF's] long and noble history has consistently drawn attention to the links between systems of injustice, inequality, racism, militarism, and patriarchy as fuelling global and individual insecurity. We have been the linking voice reminding that violence kills, displaces and negatively impacts all of humanity; that militarism is deforming our societies, violating rights, irreversibly damaging our environment, and devastating public health; and that the economy of war and economic warfare puts profits over people and over the planet.

Now, more than ever, when the global arms trade is valued at over 375 billion USD per year and global military spending as a whole reached 1.68 trillion USD in 2017, our founding cry is palpably relevant.

from the PREAMBLE to the Omnibus Resolution on Militarism,

adopted by the 32nd Triennial Congress of WILPF,

meeting 20-22 August 2018 in Accra, Ghana.



NOTES FROM SEPTEMBER MEETING

We welcomed guests and new folks to our meeting on the 24th, back in our blue room at the Harwich Community Center. Jessie Petkopf, a WILPFer from Arizona, and her stepson James attended, as did presenters Ross Berry and Beth Picnick. A full and informative meeting followed an extraordinarily delicious potluck supper!

- Donna reported a **balance of \$3,064.91** in the bank, although this doesn't account for our donation of \$500 to National WILPF, which hasn't cleared the bank yet.
- Jan Kubiak passed out postcards addressed to Rep. Bill Keating about the Citizens Climate Lobby initiative, calling for a **carbon fee with a dividend going back to homeowners**. The CCL, which is a bipartisan group that was founded by Republicans (!), wants a *national* policy to deal with carbon emissions. There exists a Climate Solutions Caucus in Congress which is truly bipartisan -- if a person wants to join, they must bring with them a member of the opposite party to join at the same time! We would like Rep. Keating to join this caucus and signed postcards to him to that effect. Jan also recommended a book by Shahr Mazri, *Beyond Debate*, about climate change.

...**BALLOT QUESTIONS FOR NOVEMBER**...

WHY WE SHOULD VOTE YES ON ALL THREE...



It is vital that we condemn and counteract the role that heavily militarised governments play in supporting human rights abusers around the world, leading to human security disasters.

from the PREAMBLE to the Omnibus Resolution on Militarism

~ We began our discussion looking at **Question 3**, which would *repeal* the public access rights granted to transgender people in 2016 legislation. If repealed, the result would be that a shop owner could refuse service to a transgender person. Because the question is written in a devious format, it's important to **VOTE YES** to preserve the public access rights of transgender people. Alycia led this brief but important discussion. At its conclusion, she shared with us that her medical tests are not good and she is quite tired, although keeping working as long as possible on the issues that are important to her. She finished her book about the cross-US walk she did several years ago, is completing her Unitarian Universalist religious education curriculum based on the stories she wrote this year, and is working on a booklet for social service agencies on ways to support transgender children. As always, Alycia is an inspiration to

us all, for her dedication, commitment to a peaceful world, and determination to pursue her important work. We appreciated her clarity on this ballot initiative.

~ Next, we turned to **Question 1**, which sets patient limits for bedside nurses. Beth Picnick is such a nurse, having spent decades mostly in Intensive Care. She said patient care has changed over the past 20 years, such that patients are not getting the care they need. This initiative was *written by bedside nurses!* They have been working on it for several years. Their concern is patient safety.

Beth pointed out that "Vote Yes" ads are mostly from groups of acute care nurses, families of those with long-term illnesses, and those who actually work at the patients' bedsides. On the other hand, the "Vote No" ads are from hospital management, administrators, insurance companies, etc. -- those not involved in patient care but rather in management and bottom lines.

Contrary to opposing ad messages, the initiative does not set specific ratios, there is no government interference in nursing decisions, and there is plenty of flexibility in the limits. *No emergency rooms will close -- it is illegal to close an ER!* What the initiative does is limit the number of patients per nurse, according to the specialty.

California has had these limits for 14 years and they have been positive. None of the frightening events put forth in opposition advertising have materialized.

This bill lets us be the nurses we all became nurses to be.

-Beth Picnick

Ross Berry, who works with the Massachusetts Nurses Association, explained further that management doesn't want more nurses. If a unit comes in under budget, the supervisor of that unit receives a bonus, which influences decisions about staffing. The opposition is interested in protecting their financial positions. Their ads have exaggerated the cost of this initiative if passed (Boston College found that the costs would be \$46 million maximum, not the \$1.5 billion claimed by hospital owners) and posited fearful consequences.

Once again, it's important to **VOTE YES** on Question One.

Ross welcomes letters to the editor, lawn signs, bumper stickers. He is willing to speak to groups anywhere, any time. Contact him at rberry@mnam.org if you want to help!

~ Regarding **Question 2**, WILPF has done a lot of work on corporate personhood and the Citizens United decision granting personhood to corporations. This initiative calls for the establishment of a commission to facilitate the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which would "roll back the provisions contained in the 2010 Supreme Court Citizens United decision," per an editorial in the Cape Cod Times, 9/22/18. The editorial continues that this decision

"opened the floodgates to virtually unlimited spending and corporate influence in our elections and ...continues to threaten the very underpinnings of our democratic process."

It is essential to **VOTE YES** on this question, too.

Related to this issue, Jan Hively handed out petitions for a future initiative that would limit the out-of-state contributions to Massachusetts political candidates or ballot questions.

- We next turned to a report on the **September OneWILPF phone conference**. Donna represented the branch and quite enjoyed the experience! She learned that National is developing a new member packet [sound familiar? now we don't have to do it!] There will be a future webinar about recruiting and membership. The current US Section membership is 1,592, which is quite small, so getting our message out and growing our membership is a big focus.

She also reported that WILPF US has joined Ultimate Civics.org, a group whose goal is to inspire people to find their moral compass and their role in the civic governance of our country. They have developed a middle/high school curriculum on civics, which isn't often a regular course of study as it was when some of us were younger. The course teaches about the Constitution, Bill of Rights, how to make changes, etc. Donna suggested we have a committee to look into ways to support this effort. Jan Hively, however, reported that the League of Women Voters also has a full civics curriculum which they are looking to get into the local schools. She offered to look into this so we won't be duplicating others' efforts.

The October OneWILPF call will focus on **reports from the International Congress in Ghana**. This will be very interesting and important. *Anyone can join this call -- we are not limited to a single representative from the branch!* Maybe we should host a "phone party" and be on the call together sometime. If you are interested in joining the call, you need to pre-register.

Preregister by going to wilpfus.org/story/one-wilpf-calls and click on the ***Pre-register*** link. You'll receive a confirmation with complete and easy-to-follow instructions on how to get onto the call, plus all supporting documentation for the discussions.

Please bring your own table setting!

If we all bring our own plate, utensils, cup and napkin for the potluck, we can lighten our basket considerably! Thank you....

- We then turned to a discussion of our branch's goals, programs, and energy levels. Our calendar is planned only through November, so we discussed how the rest of the year will be filled. What do we want to study or learn more about from a guest speaker or film? Some ideas were raised, including militarism and the increasing militarization of *everything*, our relation

with WILPF International, environmental issues, questions about what drones are doing on Otis Air Base, and more. Jan H. offered to do the February program on WILPF International's work and we agreed to publicize in this newsletter the open sessions remaining.

- We agreed to go ahead with folded business cards, which we can get for about \$35. Elenita will work on this project.

The meeting adjourned with clean-up, dishwashing, and our usual hugs.

§ Our website address is wilpfcapecod.org
§ Our listserve for members is capecodwilpf@googlegroups.com

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WILPF INTERNATIONAL'S ADJUNCT PROGRAMMES

If you should seek out the website of WILPF International [wilpf.org], you will find a focused list of "What We Do." The areas of focus are Human Rights; Disarmament; Women, Peace and Security; and Crisis Response. Two of these foci are implemented through two adjunct organizations headquartered in New York City.

Reaching Critical Will [www.reachingcriticalwill.org] was started in 1999 to consolidate WILPF's efforts on disarmament and arms control. RCW works for the prohibition, control, and disarmament of many different weapon systems; the reduction of global military spending and militarism, and the analysis of gendered aspects of weapons and war. This is a fulltime, staffed office, dedicated to global disarmament and an end to war. As a WILPF member, you are part of this effort. If you would like to receive their newsletter, subscribe at the website above.

PeaceWomen [www.peacewomen.org] *From the PeaceWomen website:*

" WILPF's mission is to achieve feminist peace for equality, justice and demilitarised security. Women must participate! Gender analysis must be applied! Conflicts must be prevented! All actors must disarm! PeaceWomen.org is a space for peacemakers to engage, learn and be part of a global movement to advance a holistic Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

"Want to know why it matters, who has responsibilities and what that means around the world? We feature information about women peace leaders, the social movement on women's power to stop war, monitoring tools and more than 23,000 resources on issues of gender, peace and security. "



[The Security Council] Urges Member States to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict...

UN Security Council Resolution 1325, the focus of PeaceWomen's work.

OK, here's one really cool thing on the PeaceWomen website: a map of the world on which you can enter the name of a country and get a regional profile of the "war" situation there. In addition to a brief description, the site provides the country's military expenditure, ways that money could be better spent, the status of the country's National Action Plan (NAP) for implementing UNHCR 1325 (mandating the involvement of women in all peacemaking and peacekeeping efforts), and the country's financial commitment to implementing the UN's Women, Peace, and Security programme. **Try it! Enter the name of any country and see what you get. It's fascinating...**

PeaceWomen also has an e-newsletter -- subscribe on the website above. It's where I found the Resolution on Militarism from the Congress in Accra.

Cape Coddors -- *we are not alone on our little beautiful threatened peninsula. We are part of a web of women worldwide struggling for peace, an end to militarism, a safe place for them and their children, and a voice in making peace. Be part of this web -- sign up for these two newsletters and stay connected with the amazing work being done by our sisters around the world. When we, in our fairly privileged lives, are feeling low, this is an amazing gift of inspiration.*



AN IDEA FOR PROGRAMS THIS WINTER

Dear WILPF sisters:

At Hawk's Nest in August and again at our September meeting, it was the mention of "the militarization of everything" that generated passionate and eager discussion. That discussion stirred my heart in ways I haven't felt in a while at our WILPF meetings. I understand that WILPF's weird and deeply felt need to make connections among all the issues we address, rather than focusing on a single issue, makes it nearly impossible for us to come up with an "elevator speech" to describe our work. That is our strength and also our downfall. It's complex. We don't have a snappy slogan. Even trying to describe what makes us "dangerous women" is a challenge!

But militarism -- that gets us going. It is our root. It is our reason for being. It is our passion. Ending it is our devout hope. We see it everywhere -- in the way the environment is attacked, the way women are treated, the way money and energy and research are allocated, the way non-majority groups of all sorts are diminished and abused, the way priorities are set, the ways people go hungry and homeless and forgotten... the roots are in militarism and its control over, as Paula said, everything.

I kind of feel like we need to get back to our roots, to look at war and its impacts on women, children, industry, the environment, society, safety, security. So here is what I'm thinking:

For our winter meetings, how about having a mini-film fest? We own a set of five films titled **WOMEN, WAR & PEACE**. Each is about an hour long, so we would have time for discussion. Many of us have seen *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*, about the amazing way the women of Liberia put an end to the "endless" war in their country. So powerful, so inspiring, so empowering. I'd be happy to see it again! I need that inspiration. The other films focus on Bosnia, Colombia, and Afghanistan, as well as an overview called *War Redefined*.

So could we use the months of January through May to do a deeper dive into the work of women to end war and militarism? We could publicize these events and invite the public to join us. Maybe we could take turns previewing a film and leading the discussion, if you wanted to. There is much information we could add to the discussion, from our Triennial Congress, from PeaceWomen, from Reaching Critical Will, from other branches in the US, and from our sisters around the world.

Just a thought. What do you think?

Elenita



SEEDS OF CHANGE: A CALENDAR OF THINGS TO DO!

§ Thursday, October 11: **OneWILPF National Phone Call, 7:00 p.m. EST:** *This month's focus will be reports back from the **international triennial Congress in Accra**. Here is an opportunity to join with members from across the US Section of WILPF, help design national events and campaigns, connect with other branches about the ways they are finding success in outreach and actions, and get updates on international WILPF programming. **You need to preregister to be on the call.***

***Preregister** by going to wilpfus.org/story/one-wilpf-calls and click on the **Pre-register** link. You'll receive a confirmation with complete and easy-to-follow instructions on how to get onto the call, plus all supporting documentation for the discussions.*

§ Saturday, October 13: **Candidates' Debate:** Bill Keating vs Peter Tedeschi; Julian Cyr vs. John Flores. Moderated by the League of Women Voters. *Cape Cinema, Route 6A, Dennis. 10:00 a.m.*

§ Saturday, October 20: **SO MUCH ABUSE: LET'S END IT TOGETHER Conference.** Do you envision a Cape Cod where all girls and women are valued, all people respected, where children can live and thrive in a non-violent and safe community? Then plan to be part of the solution! Sponsored by Independence House, this conference will culminate in town-by-town gatherings to bring together the ideas, information, and solutions raised throughout the day's workshops. This is a unique approach to building a safe Cape Cod and WILPF should be a presence! *At Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School, 210 Station Avenue, South Yarmouth. 9:00-5:00. Cost: None! Free! For info: 508-771-6507, x230.*

§ Saturday, October 20: **Rachel's Children:** Speakers Ruba Awadallah, Eran Effrati, and Lara Kiswan will discuss Israel's incarceration and prosecution of children in military courts. *At First Lutheran Church, 1663 Main Street, West Barnstable. Time & Cost: TBD.* Sponsored by Tree of Life Education Fund. For info: Elaine Brouillard, 508-737-0662.

§ Monday, October 22: **WILPF Cape Cod monthly meeting.** Program: *Harwich Community Center, Oak Street, Harwich Center. 6:00 p.m., potluck supper; 6:30-8:30 p.m., program followed by business meeting.* To be on the business meeting agenda, contact Sherrie at sherrieb58@gmail.com.

§ November 16-18: **First International Conference Against US/NATO Military Bases, Dublin, Ireland.** *For more info, go to wilpfus.org/news/updates.*



BECOME A DANGEROUS WOMAN! JOIN WILPF TODAY...

Help make peace, freedom, and justice a reality for all. You can use this form to join WILPF or to renew your membership.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

email address: _____

(You will be added to the Cape Cod WILPF email list to receive notices and news about the branch. You may remove your name from that list at any time.)

WILPF membership fee: **\$35.00** (not a sliding scale)

Your membership includes WILPF International, WILPF US Section, and the Cape Cod Branch. This fee is split between International (\$17) and the US Section (\$18).

Contribution to WILPF Cape Cod: \$ _____

Supports the work of the Cape Cod branch, including programming, news gathering, and educational activism

TOTAL: \$ _____

**Mail your check, payable to WILPF Cape Cod, to
Sherrie Burson, 52 Dusty Miller Lane, South Chatham, MA 02659.**

War, along with military production, consumption, and exercises, are intensive greenhouse gas-emitting accelerators of climate change, which is an inherent factor in global harm, displacement of peoples, and conflict; therefore, it is a direct violence in itself.

We are all too familiar with military requisites for raw materials, leading to exploitative extraction and transportation through an expansive global supply chain and contributing to climate change as well as protections for multinational corporations.

from the PREAMBLE to the Omnibus Resolution on Militarism

A poem from the era of WILPF's founding in 1915:

Out here the dogs of war run loose,
 Their whipper-in is Death;
Across the spoilt and battered fields
 We hear their sobbing breath.
The fields where grew the living corn
 Are heavy with our dead;
Yet still the fields at home are green
 And I have heard it said:
 That --
 There are crocuses at Nottingham!
 Wild crocuses at Nottingham!
 Blue crocuses at Nottingham!
 Though here the grass is red.
There are little girls at Nottingham
 Who do not dread the Boche,
Young girls at school in Nottingham
 (Lord! How I need a wash!)
There are little boys at Nottingham
 Who never heard a gun;
There are silly fools at Nottingham
 Who think we're here for fun.
 When --
 There are crocuses at Nottingham!
 Young crocus buds at Nottingham!
 Thousands of buds at Nottingham
 Ungathered by the Hun.
But here we trample down the grass
 Into a purple slime;
There lives no tree to give the birds
 House room in pairing-time.
We live in holes, like cellar rats,
 But through the noise and smell
I often see those crocuses
 Of which the people tell.
 Why!
 There are crocuses at Nottingham!
 Bright crocuses at Nottingham!
 Real crocuses at Nottingham!
 Because we're here in Hell.

*-Maud Anna Bell,
from "World War I Women Poets," [https:// schoolhistory.co.uk](https://schoolhistory.co.uk)*