

War Tax Resisters Penalty Fund

Appeal #44, Spring 2014

Share amount requested of each member: \$30.00

Seeking a total: \$10,410 in contributions

See details of the requests from three resisters below:

Make checks payable to CMTC (PO Box 2551, Asheville, NC 28802) or pay by credit card at
www.wtrpf.org)

Please respond within two weeks after receiving this appeal if possible.

NOTE: We welcome all contributions, even if they are less (or more!) than the share amount.

Welcome to the first appeal from the new WTRPF steering committee. We have been in contact with some of you by mail as we worked to restart the fund after several years of inactivity. A number of you contributed to our start-up fund which now holds almost \$2,500 in donations. Thank you. We intend to use this money to pay our annual dues as a NWTRCC affiliate, to pay mailing costs of our first few mailings (we hope to switch almost entirely to email), to maintain our website, and to seek out new supporters.

Welcome back to you loyal supporters of past appeals. We hope to serve you faithfully for many years to come. We have adopted the following as our statement of purpose: *“The War Tax Resistance Penalty Fund provides a process of mutual support through which war tax resisters and their supporters can distribute financial assistance to war tax resisters whose taxes are collected and for whom the collection of penalties and interest is a burden. In providing this mutual support, the Penalty Fund hopes to sustain and expand war tax resistance as a form of conscientious objection to war.”*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PREVIOUS STEERING COMMITTEE:

New leadership for the WTRPF. After thirty-two years with nearly the same steering committee, a group of war tax resisters from the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (NWTRCC) has offered to take on the administration of the WTRPF. With the loss of Ken Brown, the committee became inactive. This will be the last appeal from the old steering committee and the first from the new one.

To those of you who have been part of the Penalty Fund Thanks for your support for 32 years and counting! People of conscience are beautiful and we have enjoyed working with you in this important work. In fact, we should have given the project over to the new steering committee long ago, but we had trouble letting go. Now is the time. We're grateful to the fresh faces coming to our aid and we plan to support the War Tax Resisters Penalty Fund for years to come. Here is our report on the last appeal:

Report on appeal #43: (October 2010)

Number of active contributors: 320

Inactive members 330

\$10,775 requested

Total collected: \$7492 (71%)

NEW REQUESTS INCLUDED IN APPEAL #44

Larry Bassett. Larry lives in Lynchburg, Virginia, and has worked for CMTC, NWTRCC, and the NCPTF at various times. He was pleased “to be able to earn a living working at a job that I felt honored to be able to have.” In a letter of conscience to his congressional representative, he wrote: “I do not object to taxation of income, and I would not object to paying my fair share of taxes for positive, life enhancing government programs, But I will not pay someone to kill in my name or to make weapons whose sole purpose is to threaten life. ... We must practice being moral in order to become moral.” Larry is seeking to recover \$247 Penalties and interest.

John Lindsay-Poland. John is from Oakland, California, and has been resisting war taxes since the mid-1980s. “It has been of a whole with a public refusal to register for the draft, with accompaniment of courageous activists in Central America threatened with violence by U.S.-funded militaries, and the research and organizing I do on U.S. militarism with the Fellowship of Reconciliation, by whom I’ve been employed since 1989. I have not filed federal taxes, preferring instead to redirect funds to social organizations over the years.” The IRS has seized John’s funds for tax years 2002 and 2004 for which he paid **\$4,211** in interest and penalties. “It is my intention to continue to resist payment of war taxes, which may require substantial changes in my employment ... but I will attempt to continue my work for demilitarization of U.S. policy in whatever ways possible.

The Steering Committee has decided to ask for only **\$2,273.94** in this appeal in order to keep the share amount low. We will include the remainder in the next appeal.

John Marley. John has been a non-filer “in the belief that it is a waste of time and emotional energy to interact with the IRS at all. I have not, however, been a silent resister.” John has posted his status as a war tax resister on Facebook, provides counseling, support, and information to potential and current resisters, and has been deeply involved in operating the People’s Life Fund (NCWTR’s alternative fund which annually distributes grants to social justice and peace organizations in Northern California). When someone exposed his tax resistance to the IRS and his employer, the East Bay Community Law Center that employs him ignored calls for his dismissal. Haunted by Richard Nixon’s famous quip during an antiwar demonstration in 1970 (“Let them march all they want, as long as they pay their taxes”), John has kept up his resistance for 23 years, determined not to give permission for war through voluntary surrender of his taxes. He asks for assistance to pay statutory additions for years 2002, 2004, 2005, and 2006 in the amount of **\$14,725**.

We have decided to ask for only **\$7,858.50** in this appeal in order to keep the share amount low. We will include the remainder in the next appeal.

To pay your share online: visit www.wtrpf.org Questions: email webmaster@nwtrcc.org or call Peter at 574-532-3720.

To pay your share by mail:

Send checks payable to our fiscal sponsor CMTC to:

Conscience and Military Tax Campaign
PO Box 2551
Asheville, NC 28802

Note: Please do not make your check payable to WTRPF. We will not be able to deposit it in our CMTC account!

If you received this appeal by regular mail, please consider receiving appeals by email to save trees and money.

Your email address _____

For future appeals:

_____ Yes, I want to receive WTRPF appeals in the future

_____ No, please remove my name from the WTRPF mailing list

If we have not heard from you for a year, we will remove your name from our mailing list.

Sincerely,

New WTRPF Steering Committee: Peter Smith (Indiana), Shulamith Eagle (Vermont), Bill Ramsey (North Carolina), Jerry Chernow (Wisconsin), Shirley Whiteside (Colorado)

NEWS

Loss of a friend. Ken Brown, a founder of the War Tax Resistance Penalty Fund, emeritus professor of philosophy, and director of Peace Studies at Manchester College, passed away in November 2010. The office light that blazed all night many nights as Ken churned out letters, articles, opinion pieces, campaigns, and lectures has been put out. He and his partner and wife, Viona, who left us in December of 2013, practiced tax resistance for many years. At the height of Vietnam War, an IRS auditor visited the Browns’ home to collect, but after a long visit with Viona in which she listened to his personal anguish over a broken relationship with a child, the auditor left, unable to collect from the person who showed him such great compassion. We give them up reluctantly but celebrate the many profound, creative, and joyful contributions to peace they shared with us.