



Information and Advocacy for Nuclear Disarmament

Newsletter number 20

January 2020

Let's get down to work, fellow Doves!

The challenges ahead are daunting, but we are prepared, and together we can nudge the world back from the brink. That at least is my belief, because I believe in your big hearts. So, how do we proceed? Each one must find the tasks we are best suited for, and get on with the job at hand. This letter lays out a few.

Topping everybody's list this year is the election. My only advice is vote and make your voices heard, whoever you choose. We all know the outcome we are all counting on: anybody is better than the one we got.

Lobbying our representatives in all their jurisdictions is the other form of active citizenship we can perform. Resolutions that shape policy, and laws that define and enable justice and adherence to our core principles. We will look at the ones available to us here in our corner of the world.

Learning all we can about the details and broad perspectives involved in the issues we wish to influence, reaching out to other folks who can teach us and learn from us, and in the process improve our skills in the work we must do. Only together can we carry the burdens we have chosen.

As the primary elections and caucuses get nearer, it would be really helpful to have a clue about what the Democratic presidential candidates think about the issues we care about, like nuclear disarmament. Unfortunately, not much press coverage has even touched on this subject. One source of information is <https://livableworld.org/nukevot2020/>, a project of Council for a Livable World, and they share what they have learned about their stance on nuclear weapons issues. The poll graphic they show is not encouraging. Make of it what you will. Another source I found was a series of youtube clips of one person asking several candidates a couple questions at rallies, and only Andrew Yang seemed to understand the questions and have good answers. The others either dodged or obviously had no clue. I really wish we had better tracking, and if any of you find some, please share. However, it is becoming obvious that the peace issues we care most about will not be determining factors in the presidential race. One thing we can be sure of is that we need a new president. Whoever becomes the candidate will need our wholehearted support all the way to the end.

In Olympia this month, the resolutions [SJM 8006](#) in the Senate and [HJM 4008](#) in the House have been reintroduced, and are now in committee. These bills, if passed, would declare that our state opposes nuclear war and supports nuclear disarmament. It would also direct Washington's Legislature and Executives to deliver this message to Congress and the President. If we want this to pass, we must all express our concerns and wishes to our state legislators, and right away. Phone calls and emails, and personal contact if you know them. Soon and often.

-----Yes this message is a repeat. Last month we described the bills, now we are in lobbying mode-----

10th District (La Conner, South Fidalgo, Conway, Camano and Whidbey Is)

Representative Dave Paul (360) 786-7914 Dave.Paul@leg.wa.gov

Representative Norma Smith (360) 786-7884 Norma.Smith@leg.wa.gov

Senator Ron Muzzall (360) 786- 7618 Ron.Muzzall@leg.wa.gov

40th District (Anacortes, San Juan Islands, Alger, Mount Vernon, and Burlington)

Senator Liz Lovelett (360) 786-7678 Liz.Lovelett@leg.wa.gov

Representative Debra Lekanoff (360) 786-7800 Debra.Lekanoff@leg.wa.gov

Representative Alex Ramel (360) 786-7970 Alex.Ramel@leg.wa.gov

39th District (Sedro-Woolley, East Skagit County, and Snohomish County)

Senator Keith Wagoner (360) 786-7676 Keith.Wagoner@leg.wa.gov

Representative Robert Sutherland (360) 786-7967 Robert.Sutherland@leg.wa.gov

Representative Carolyn Eslick (360) 786-7816 Carolyn.Eslick@leg.wa.gov

We are working on setting up meetings with these folks, and will keep you posted as the session continues. You can too. Personal conversations with our elected representatives keep Democracy alive. **As advocates for Peace, we rarely get opportunities to actually participate in the lawmaking process. This is it! Let's make the most of it, and each do our part, by contacting our legislators. Thank you!**

On the national stage, there are bills that have been introduced already, and will need more support from our Senators and Representatives, on a couple aspects of the Back from the Brink initiative. **No First Use** is the subject of [S 200](#) and [HR 669](#). Much less likely to ever pass, but my favorite so far is [HR 3853](#) .

Our Senators and Representatives can be contacted at their DC offices, and we can tell them what we think about these bills, and even encourage them to pursue more specific subjects like Removing hair trigger alert status, Cancelling "modernization", and Negotiating in good faith with other nuclear armed states to disarm.

Senator Maria Cantwell (202) 224-3441

Senator Patty Murray (202) 224-2621

Representative Rick Larsen (202) 225-2605

Representative Susan DelBene (202) 225-6311

To put the importance of these resolutions in context, **The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists** will make its yearly [Doomsday Clock announcement on January 23](#). As we know, it is now set at 2 minutes to midnight. Are the existential threats to life on earth, imminent nuclear war and relentless climate change, more or less likely than a year ago?

Our next meeting at the Anacortes Library is February 4, 7 PM, and it will be great!

ABOLISHING NUCLEAR WEAPONS: RESISTANCE IS NOT FUTILE!

A Presentation by Leonard Eiger, [Ground Zero Center for Non-Violent Action](#)

“So long as nuclear weapons exist, and nations hold on to them as tools of prestige and power projection, it is only a matter of time before the unspeakable happens.” - GZ

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020 • 7 PM • ANACORTES LIBRARY

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action shares a border fence with the Trident Nuclear Submarine Naval Base on the Kitsap Peninsula and works toward a nuclear weapons-free world.

The number of nuclear weapons deployed at Bangor make it the largest operational concentration of nuclear weapons in the US arsenal. Washington state is the sixth largest recipient of Department of Defense funds.

Leonard will share how Ground Zero continues to evolve in a rapidly changing and violent world. From training, leafleting and vigils, to blocking trains bringing nuclear warheads to Bangor, Ground Zero has remained true to its nonviolent roots for over four decades.



Leonard coordinates Ground Zero's media and outreach efforts.

Skagit Democrats have just adopted a resolution, similar to one adopted by the WA state party in 2018, that calls for no first use of nuclear weapons, and recommends a ban on all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, that was submitted on behalf of No More Bombs by Julia Hurd. You can access the full text on the [Resolutions](#) page of our website. Thank you Julia for all your hard work on this most important process. The more organizations speak out on these issues, the more likely politicians will hear and heed the message.

[Washington Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons](#) held their annual planning retreat in Seattle January 11, and we were ably represented by Bud Anderson. Here is his report:

NoMoreBomb Friends,

1. I attended the WANW Coalition Retreat yesterday. The attached e-mail details the agenda. Carly Brook ran the meeting and stayed with the agenda timing and scope. The meeting moved along rather well. I counted 30 people present from the following areas of the State (from largest to smallest delegations): Seattle, Peninsula (Bangor), Olympia, Bellingham, Anacortes
2. Events in 2020 include Earth Day in April, MLK day Jan 20, 75th Anniversary of Hiroshima & Nagasaki Aug 6 and 9 (Civil disobedience planned for this event)
3. Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility funds the WANW Coalition through internal funding and grants (plowshares). Max is a full time paid Ex Director, Carly is full time Staff resource, and another person is full time environmental person. Fairly impressive for a local non-profit.
4. Perhaps my biggest take-away was the networking at an event like this. I made some contacts of new friends that they might potentially speak at our meetings and I was asked to speak at some of their events.
5. the 75th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombing of Japan in 2020 will be a big deal. I meet 4 or 5 folks that have been arrested at Bangor and plan on being arrested again this year. This will be something to monitor.
6. Last thought, sometimes it feels like we are alone in our quest for eliminating nuclear weapons'; however, in meetings like this we are exposed to lots of other, State wide, like minded folks, that have a passion for saving the world.

Regards,

Bud

Program Director, NoMoreBombs

Dear Friends in Peace,

In keeping with the spirit of cooperation among dedicated people, our **February 4** meeting will be a wonderful opportunity to learn just how much that spirit can accomplish. [Ground Zero Center](#) is a living inspiration to us all. Leonard Eiger's presentation is not to be missed. Please tell your families and friends, and join us in solidarity.

As always, we really need your input, to keep us moving forward in this work. Send your suggestions and comments to any of us on the NMB steering committee. Julia Hurd hurdjulia@gmail.com, Bud Anderson, budathome2012@hotmail.com, Wim Houppermans wh5314b@gmail.com, Lyndon Greene anacomaritimectr@msn.com, or me tracy@nomorebombs.org or call or text me at 360-840-3826. And volunteer to do more, make something happen! We are with you! Thank You All.

Peace and Love, tracy powell

