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Information and Advocacy for Nuclear Disarmament

Newsletter no. 21

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Wishing you better news than I can really offer, here is our letter for the month. First a report on the terrific meeting we had on the 4th, then some follow up on Carly's report from the same meeting, and a few updates on some of the other issues we follow. Peace and Love, tracy

Our **February 4 get together at Anacortes Library** was full of information and inspiration. Bud started us out, welcoming the new attendees and sharing a bit of our history, and introduced Carly Brook, who had braved the foul weather to join us, driving up from Seattle. Carly is coordinator of the Washington Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, of which we are a member group, and which lives under the umbrella of Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility. Carly told us about the current legislative session in Olympia, where committees in the Senate and House are considering a resolution that would put our state on record as opposing nuclear weapons, and urge Congress to do the same. (HJM 4008 and SJM 8006, both on our website) Carly and Bruce Amundson, of WPSR, testified at hearings at the legislature Feb 7 on our behalf. We have since learned that the house version has remained in committee, and the deadline for further action has passed, so that it will have to be reintroduced next year. In the Senate, the Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations, and Elections did send it ahead to the Rules Committee. It now must be approved there, and voted onto the **Senate floor for final vote, by the 19th of February. If we want to add our voices, right now** is the time. Carly's toolkit is here: <https://www.wanwcoalition.org/wa-toolkit-to-prevent-nuclear-war> We are very grateful to Carly for joining us, and for guiding the coalition's work around the state.

The featured speaker of our meeting was Leonard Eiger, lifelong peace activist representing the **Global Zero Center for Nonviolent Action**, and his presentation was wonderful. The video of the meeting is available to watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5GGZe3ZKD8Y> Ground Zero is one of the most active and certainly the most long lived working peace group in our state. They have protested against the Trident submarine base, which is the most heavily armed nuclear power in our hemisphere, since before the first nuclear warheads arrived on the White Trains. They have consistently served peace and justice with a perseverance and respect for nonviolence we can all learn from. We hope to work with this group much more in the future. If you want to subscribe to their terrific newsletter, go to their website <https://www.gzcenter.org/> We are most thankful for Leonard and Cheryl's visit, and Zain Butler's videorecording.

The **Golden Rule** is currently engaged in her own brand of peace advocacy in Hawaii. The crew have been speaking to citizens and government leaders about the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons Treaty passed by the UN General Assembly in 2017, and since gathering ratifications by 35 nations. In response to their work in Hawaii, Honolulu and the state have passed resolutions similar to the ones working through councils and legislatures all over the country. They are also raising funds to continue on to the Marshall Islands and Japan this summer. If you are interested in helping them on their vital journey, [please visit their website](#), soon.

News from New Mexico: The 2021 federal budget is set to accelerate the shifting of funds from nuclear waste cleanup to nuclear weapons production. Los Alamos Laboratory has been involved in both since its founding in 1942. There is still weapons development work going on there, and decades old wastes polluting the groundwater that have not been remediated, and this budget has expanded plutonium pit production 57% while decreasing cleanup 46%. source: <https://nukewatch.org/>

As our **presidential primary** approaches, we would all like to know more about how the candidates think about nuclear weapons, and especially these three questions: No First Use, Sole Authority, and Renewing New START. Obviously, none of these are asked with any urgency by any of the TV reporters we usually hear from on the campaign trail, but we have got some hints from the more reliable sources, like the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, [in a recent issue](#). It seems that Warren and Sanders have been most outspoken on No First Use, having cosponsored a Senate bill that says that explicitly. Biden agrees, and the others have waffled. Sole Authority also is split. Warren and Sanders have said it is too important for one person to have that power, while Buttigieg and Klobuchar disagree. All seem to favor New START and the Iran Agreement. More information about their positions on all these issues would be very helpful.

Our next No More Bombs meeting will be May 4, at 1 PM at the Anacortes Library, when our guest speaker will be Betsy Bell, longtime peace advocate and author. More about Betsy and the meeting coming up. Please visit our website <https://www.nomorebombs.org/> to stay in touch, and contact any of our steering committee members with your suggestions, complaints, or any comments about the work we are doing. We are: Bud Anderson budathome2012@hotmail.com, Julia Hurd hurdjulia@gmail.com, Wim Houppermans wh5314b@gmail.com, and me Tracy Powell tracy@nomorebombs.org. You can also call or text me at 360-840-3826. If you wish to get more involved, and help plan more activities, please join in.

