

### October Chapter Association Meeting In Review

The Minnesota/St. Paul Chapter hosted this year's Chapter association meeting in October. Seven chapters were represented as well as the NP Minneapolis Office, the IGC and NP international staff, about 25 people in all. As well as community building and getting to know each other and our Chapters, we focused on growing and strengthening the Chapters and USNPCA, the long-term NP plan and our role in it, our relationship with NP and NP staff, and reports on Chapter work and NP field work. It was a very exciting and energizing 4 days.

Mel Duncan gave us a report on the NP field teams, the NP briefing at the UN and the 5-year long-term plan for NP which has four pillars: field work, regional development, organizational capacity and public awareness. In later sessions we discussed how the Chapters could contribute to the long-term plan. Fundraising is a major way for us to contribute to NP and field work in particular, and we discussed the possibility of USNPCA and the individual Chapters setting fundraising goals. Some of the other ideas were encouraging chapter members and others to participate in the Emergency Response Network for supporting field work, working on starting and supporting regional peace teams for regional development and all of our outreach methods for public awareness. As we organize ourselves and grow we can contribute enormously to NP.



In a lighter moment, attendees were treated to the musical talents of Sherry Zitter and Bob Edgerton.

Erika Schatz from the Minneapolis office led us in a discussion of the working relationship between the Chapters and NP staff. Both sides had concerns which included; Chapter members about who to contact and how to get things done and how to get feedback and have input; and staff members about staff work overload and Chapters working more independently (doing their own follow up etc.) which could help relieve some staff overload, and Chapters remembering to always include the fundraising component in our work. Erika also laid out the organization of NP staff so we could better understand how NP works. This session was very helpful in clarifying our relationship to NP and how we can move forward.

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On Saturday night we had a report from Steve Clemens, a member of the Minnesota Peace Team at the Republican National Convention. NP and the Michigan Peace teams had supported the training of the trainers for the peace team. Steve's report was fascinating and he raised many issues and questions about this kind of work. His talk also raised the issue of nonpartisanship which we discussed at another session as it is integral to NP.

We elected a new USNPCA Coordinating Committee and had some new volunteers for other committees. See the complete lists on the website.

These are just a few of the highlights of a packed weekend. You can find the minutes of the whole conference on the USNPCA website under the tab "About USNPCA". The Minneapolis/St. Paul chapter did a wonderful job of organizing the conference and welcoming us, and the Carondolet Center where we stayed and the food cooked for us by Amanda Cross of the NP Minneapolis office were wonderful.

Thank you to all!

Compiled by Marsha Carlson  
[mjcarlton@pcumail.com](mailto:mjcarlton@pcumail.com)

## How to Order NP Informational Materials for Tabling, Presentation, and Fundraisers

Chapter materials can be ordered from the Peaceforce Oregon Chapter. To streamline the process of filling orders, our stocked items can be viewed on-line and all orders are processed through a live order form.

Available items include:

Peace In Action Brochure

Peace Bonds Brochure

NP 2007 Annual Report

Bumper Stickers

Donation Envelopes

Rumors of Peace, current and previous issues

And more...

To view the stock of chapter materials, please visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/5dege5>

To order materials, fill out the form at the following link:

<http://tinyurl.com/65onsd>

Please fill out the form and click the "submit" button to process the order. Feel free to contact Terri with any questions via email or call/text at 503.816.4826.

Terri Shofner

[tshofner@gmail.com](mailto:tshofner@gmail.com)



The USNPCA Chapter Newsletter is published quarterly, to assist the sharing of ideas, success stories, and important information among chapters whose members are dedicated to the practice of nonviolence, and the creation of a sustainable peace throughout the world. The newsletter is compiled by Marsha Carlson and produced by the Inter-Chapter Communication Committee. Information to be included should be submitted via email to: [newsletter@usnpca.org](mailto:newsletter@usnpca.org).

## Chapter Reports

### NP Bay Area – San Francisco

NP Bay area has been only sporadically active for a while, but we're gearing up to grow the chapter again.

In October I attended the USNPCA national meeting in St. Paul. I'm new to NP and I learned a huge amount about NP and the NP chapters and met wonderful, dedicated people from all over the US. I was very inspired, and I'm enthusiastic about working with NP Bay Area.

Veronika Safarova had a house party at her home in Oakland in October when Erica Schatz and Linda Burkett from the Minneapolis NP office were in the Bay Area. Linda presented a slide show about NP and answered questions. There was a lot of enthusiasm for NP, and we also collected enough donations for a cell phone for a year overseas for NP. Several people at the house party volunteered to table at the Bioneers Conference happening that weekend in Marin County.

We had our first chapter meeting in quite a while on November 22 to discuss reactivating and what we would like to focus on. Several volunteered to help with the Bay Area Fundraising Tour with Jan Passion next February and March when he returns from Sri Lanka. Linda Burkett is organizing the tour from the Minneapolis office. We also decided to focus on contacting people who attended the Nonviolent Conflict Intervention Training for Trainers held last June to see how we can support them in offering trainings. Since the Bay Area is so large, we discussed rotating our meetings in different parts of the area. Possibly several chapters could grow.

Thanks to the USNPCA and the Minneapolis/St. Paul chapter and the Minneapolis NP office for coordinating the wonderful national meeting. And thanks also to NP staff for all the support we in the Bay Area have gotten.

Marsha Carlton  
[mjcarlton@pcumail.com](mailto:mjcarlton@pcumail.com)

### Greater Boston Chapter

Sunday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, NP-GB hosted a event with Michael True, peace educator and author, at the Cambridge Friends' Meeting House. The talk was followed by a forum of four nonviolent training peace groups, including NP MO, Nonviolent Communications, to talk about how we can network and unite our common vision. We had about 40 people attend and participate.

Three members of the NP-GB attended the USNPCA conference in St. Paul, Sherry Zitter, Nancy Wrenn and Judy King. It gave our chapter new ideas for events and organization of the chapter responsibilities. It was a wonderful weekend of sharing and hearing the wonderful work of our national office and the peace teams in Sri Lanka, Mindanao and Guatemala.

Sherry Zitter and Judy King gave an introduction to NP on November 18th to the Wellesley College Student Peace Alliance which included women with peace and justice majors. We had 10 students attend who were eager to learn about our work and participate in our exercises. We gave them ideas for things they could do with NP or with involving other student groups.

NP-GB is planning a fund raiser with Mel Duncan on December 6th in a private home. We will begin with a performance of the Constellations, an ensemble of women devoted to the promotion of world peace and social justice, followed by a speech by Mel. Nancy Wrenn, Helena Halperin, and Judy King are organizing the event.

Judy King  
[jrk1956@comcast.net](mailto:jrk1956@comcast.net)

## Minneapolis/St. Paul Chapter

We are indeed fortunate to be located in the Minneapolis, St. Paul area. It was our pleasure to host this year's annual USNPCA gathering. We enjoyed the planning and preparation, but the best part was that several of our members were able to participate in many of the meetings. Along with the people who came a distance, we relished the meals that Amanda Cross, Mel Duncan's secretary, cooked up for us. The entire time was a real plus for our chapter.

We have the obvious advantage of having one of the headquarters of the Nonviolent Peaceforce right here. It means that we have our own "club house," and a staff to consult with. In our gratitude for this we are trying, bit by bit, to take over some of the time-consuming extras of the staff, notably the Annual Carnivale, a money raising and fun event that has been the responsibility of staff members since its inception. We are beginning with small assignments and hope to take more of the onus off the staff each year.

An Arts Festival for Peace was held by a local group. We tabled at this event and our Linda Burkett presented her power point on NP. As a result we picked up six new people interested in being in our local chapter. These included one of the organizers of the event. Tabling really can pay off!

Ann Warner  
*annandales@earthlink.net*

## Peaceforce Oregon Chapter

Even though we have yet to have our first chapter meeting (since we're scattered in three different cities) we are charging ahead with activities galore.

Nonviolence as a Way of Life was a conference in Eugene, Oregon organized by the Coalition for Non-violent Living (September 11th-14th). Dave Berrian of the Western Washington Chapter and myself, Terri Shofner, tabled for NP and presented on Nonviolent Conflict Intervention. Dave was great to work with, and I hope our two chapters will continue to collaborate on events in the greater NW region.

The first weekend of October I attended the USNPCA meeting in MN. This provided valuable insight and guidance for our chapter. From our chapter we have Amy Gilmore Cairns serving on the Training

Committee and I have been elected to a two-year term on the Coordinating Committee. Additionally our chapter has taken over materials distribution for USNPCA. So if you need brochures, newsletters, bumper stickers, etc., let me know.

Adventures in Nonviolence is a series of monthly talks, panels, workshops and/or presentations on various aspects of nonviolence. This project was launched on September 21st, International Peace Day, with a talk on the philosophical and spiritual roots of nonviolence. October 30th we did the second of the series on nonviolent communication. There won't be an adventure in November, but it will resume on December 18th when we're hosted by Whitefeather House, a Catholic worker house, in NE Portland. The topic that night will be a theatrical presentation with interactive experiences into the Nonviolent Jesus. Interest is growing within the Portland community for these workshops. I am reaching out into the community for host venues and finding enthusiastic reception. By changing venues regularly, I'll be able to reach out to a new audience each month. The hope is that come May, when I conclude the series, Peaceforce Oregon will have a name in the Oregon peace community and the number of our members will be increased.

I am also saving all the materials for the NV Adventure series and will make them available on CD at next year's USNPCA conference for other chapters interested in this type of community outreach.

That's it from our neck of the woods.

Terri Shofner  
*tshofner@gmail.com*

### Important Contact Information

*usnpca@usnpca.org* – For general questions. The Inter-Chapter Communication Committee monitors the content and answers or forwards the messages when appropriate.

*usnpca@yahoogroups.com* – A listserv distribution for Chapter contacts and interested Chapter members.

*cc@usnpca.org* – email to all members of the USNPCA Coordinating Committee.

*newsletter@usnpca.org* – The place to send information for the USNPCA Newsletter. The emails are monitored by the Communications Team.

## Philadelphia Area Chapter

Together with the Bucks County Chapter we sponsored Nonviolent Conflict Intervention Training of Trainers October 10-12 in Swarthmore, PA. There were 17 participants from as far as Cincinnati, Washington DC and New York City. Chapter members were among the participants as well as planners and overnight hosts.

Clarkson Palmer  
*ctpalmer@aol.com*

## NP San Diego

We are back in action after a somewhat restful summer! Our monthly chapter meetings began again in September. We've had two tabling events with very good attendance and interest sparked in Nonviolent Peaceforce: the International Day of Peace at the University of San Diego on Sept. 19 and a Sustainability Fair at Point Loma Nazarene University on Oct. 8. On Nov. 8 we will table at the UJIMA International Day of Peace Fair.

Miramar College will sponsor two events for us. On Nov. 7 we will do a presentation about Nonviolent Peaceforce to students and the community at large. Then on Nov. 15, we will have a mini-workshop for Nonviolent Conflict Intervention skills.

On Dec. 13, we'll have a table at the Peace on Earth Holiday Bazaar sponsored by the Peace Resource Center. And we will also participate in the Martin Luther King, Jr. All People's Breakfast in January.

We are very proud that Mel Duncan was chosen one of the **50 Visionaries Who are Changing Your World** by the *Utne Reader*. Congrats to Mel!!

Debby Park  
*rayandeb@gmail.com*

## NP Washington Chapter

Bob Edgerton has taken on the communications with the USNPCA and the USNP Fund Raising Board. David Berrian is taking a sabbatical and studying Documentary Film Making and Mediation.

We had a gathering to celebrate David Berrian's many contributions to Peace and Justice. 35 people gathered at the home of Bob and Elizabeth Edgerton, and after sharing potluck snacks and beverages gathered in a large circle to share our connection and admiration of David Berrian.

We are planning an event for Sunday 12/13 celebrating Mel Duncan's visit to Seattle. A big FUNdraiser is envisioned.

Bob has been pruning and adding data to the [wwnpeaceforce.org](http://wwnpeaceforce.org) lists.riseup.net.

Bob Edgerton  
*Bobcello@aol.com*

### USNPCA Coordinating Committee

Paul Christian – Tucson Chapter  
520 325-1175  
*psc1@cox.net*

Bob Edgerton – Western Washington Chapter  
206 325-0757  
*Bobcello@aol.com*

Judy King – Boston Chapter  
617 876-5486  
*jrk1956@comcast.net*

Terri Shofner call/text at  
503 816-4826  
*tshofner@gmail.com*

Dorothy Werner – Chicago Chapter  
773 338-8330  
*glimmersham@sbcglobal.net*

To contact the Coordinating Committee,  
please email [cc@usnpca.org](mailto:cc@usnpca.org)