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**Spring 2010
Circulation 1000+**

2010 Membership Drive Underway: Have you joined the Peace and Social Justice Center?

If you haven't joined or renewed your membership in the Peace and Social Justice Center for 2010, this is your invitation to become part of the growing Peace and Social Justice Community in South Central Kansas. Our members are involved in peace education, School of the Americas Vigil, civil rights, healthcare reform, immigration, the demilitarization of our youth, environmental issues and work to end the death penalty. They lobby their elected officials and demonstrate in the streets. And they keep all this going by paying their annual membership dues. These dues help pay for our part-time director, office and meeting space and to keep members informed about the issues and connected with each other.

If you are not a Peace Center member please take a few moments to complete the enclosed membership form. Thanks for considering this invitation. If you are already a member of the Peace and Social Justice Center of South Central Kansas thank you for your support.

Phonathon Survey Results

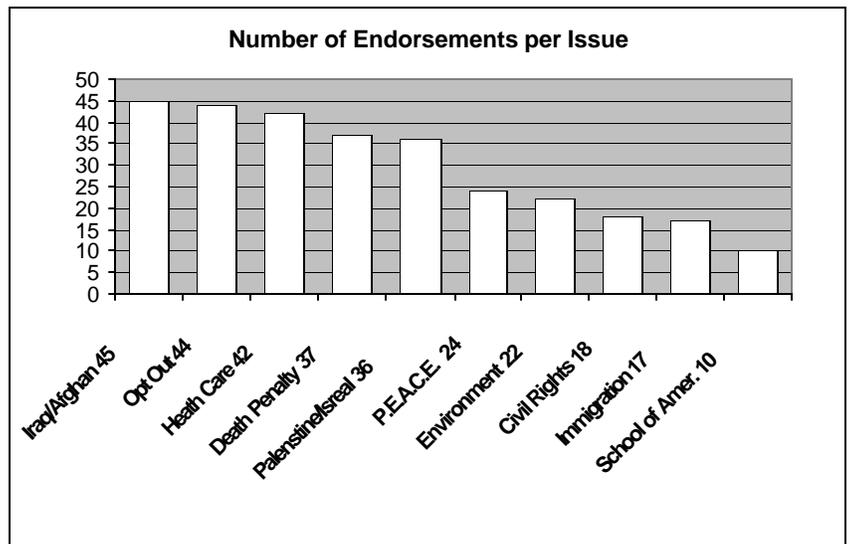
As part of the yearly phone-a-thon this winter, members were polled about which issues we find most important. From a list of ten issues, we asked members to pick the top two or three most important issues addressed by our local Peace and Social Justice Center.

Many members thought that all ten issues were important and good work. Seventy-one members selected a few of their top issues for a total of 295 responses (see chart).

Not surprisingly, these members rated issues of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan most important. Ensuring that schools met the requirements set forth in No Child Left Behind to provide an accessible way to "opt-out" of having student contact information provided to military recruiters was a close second. Our efforts in support of the expansion of health care provisions rounded out the top three issues. We will continue to address these issues with all our might at every fork in the road.

From reform of death penalty laws, to promoting peace between Palestine and Israel, and promoting an understanding of peace in school children, issues the Peace and Social Justice Center faces daily found support among the membership, which validates much of the focus of our current work.

Those issues garnering less support are seen as challenges for the future. We wish to thank everyone who participated as this information is both rewarding and helpful in steering our organizational course.



Peace Center Calls for Cuts in JROTC in USD 259

The deepening recession continues to have negative effects on our schools. The Wichita school district expects a devastating \$25 million loss for the next school year. School officials are looking to parents, community members, and district employees to choose from a list of services and programs to cut or keep.

In 2009, 57% of high school parents opted out of military recruitment. By contrast, JROTC contributes to the militarization of our youth. JROTC serves a small number of Wichita students compared to the thousands of students in music, art, and foreign language programs. If you serve on a school site council or are employed by the school district, please consider proposing the removal of the JROTC program in favor of protecting reasonable class size, music and art, alternative high schools, latchkey programs, and libraries. These programs are positive choices for our children's future.

Half the Sky

from the Chinese proverb "Women hold up half the sky"
Women represent half the world population,
two-thirds of the labor force, receive one-tenth of the world income
and own less than one percent of world property

Molly's Brigade/CodePink – Why We Demonstrate

We demonstrate because the streets are ours – and it's one of the most democratic actions we can take. Consider these statistics: Our nation spends **almost 2 billion dollars per day on war – a best-kept secret.** We are almost 4% of the world's population but account for 41% of worldwide military spending. We have 1,445,000 active duty personnel, with another 1.2 million National Guard and other reserve. The Pentagon has over 3.5 million people at its disposal *excluding* private military contractors (think Blackwater) and a current military and war budget exceeding 1.1 trillion dollars. The U.S. sells or gives its Gods of Metal to nearly two-thirds of the world's nations accounting for 68.4 percent of the global arms sales (think Taliban). The U.S. has established control over at least 191 governments and has over 700 (low estimate) military bases on foreign soil – and 12,000 nuclear weapons (think Hiroshima/Nagasaki). Source: informationclearinghouse.info.

Think seriously about joining Molly's Brigade/CodePink—we vigil on Fridays. Check the weekly email calendar for location. "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

—Margaret Mead

Dr. Margaret Flowers, pediatrician, appeared at the White House gate – letter in hand, addressed to President Obama – she was asking him to revive the concept of single-payer healthcare. She, along with her colleague, Dr. Carol Paris, were eventually arrested and handcuffed. Both doctors are members of Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP), with Dr. Flowers being a Congressional Fellow for the organization.

This was not the first arrest for Dr. Flowers. Senator Max Baucus (D-MT) had her arrested at a Senate Finance Committee meeting when she and her group asked for a "place at the table" for hearings on a Senate health care plan. Dr. Flowers knows first hand how terribly broken the democratic process is. If you're interested in the transcript of Dr. Flowers interview with Bill Moyers go to <http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/02052010/watch3.html>

This woman and her colleagues are national heroes. Add another doctor to the hero list – **Dr. Robyn Liu, Greeley Co. Medical Center, Tribune, KS**, who also went to DC, to lobby with PNHP. She was featured on a National Public Radio chat program. She's one of five doctors at the hospital in Tribune. Thank you, wonderful women.



Musleh and Poage report on their trip to the Gaza Freedom March

Friends of the Peace Center, Maher Musleh and Rev. Michael Poage, were welcomed back from their recent trip to Cairo to join the Gaza Freedom March. Forty people joined in to welcome them and to hear their report at a potluck on Feb. 23. In Cairo, they participated in the demonstrations by 1400 international marchers, who were denied entry into Gaza by the Egyptian government after being promised cooperation. They continued their journey visiting Maher's relatives in Jordan and the Israeli-occupied West Bank. The family was originally from Tulkarm, a town in the West Bank. This was the first of several reports they will present in and around Wichita.

School Safety with Dignity for Students

Suspended for throwing a tater tot. Arrested for shoving a fellow student. Sent to jail for doodling on a desk. These types of stories are all over the media across the country. Many of these types of incidents occur in the Wichita area every year. In an effort to keep schools safe, students are being treated as criminals. Many argue it seems that common sense and old-fashioned school discipline have fallen by the wayside in favor of stricter zero-tolerance policies for non-criminal behavior. Instead of detention, it's handcuffs and a juvenile criminal record.

The ACLU of Kansas and Western Missouri has been working for several months to create a taskforce and action plan to help stem the tide of kids being pushed through the school-to-prison pipeline. The School Safety with Dignity program seeks to bring community organizations and the Wichita school district together to create ways to treat students with the dignity they deserve and the safety they require. The Peace Center is proud to be part of this taskforce to create a safe environment for education without criminalizing students. Similar programs are sprouting up across the country as communities realize the implications of criminalizing students.

Peace Center Wish List:

We need a working lawn mower before Spring.

Please call 263-5886

Pat Cameron Peacekeeper Award



Recognition of the recipients of the Pat Cameron Peacekeeper Award took place at the Peace Center annual meeting in December. The award, named for one of the founders of the Peace and Social Justice Center, will be

given every year to a person who exemplifies the work of the Center. Cameron, who left his post as Peace Center fundraiser at the end of 2009, served as director early in its history and now has joined the Education Fund board.

Pat Cameron has been a steady presence at Peace Center events, including demonstrations, vigils, and workshops. His fundraising skills have kept the Peace Center financially stable for many years.

Mary McDonough Harren and Sr. Ann Catherine Burger are the recipients of the Peacekeeper awards for 2009.



Sr. Ann Catherine recently retired from the Peace Center board after several years of serving as board treasurer and a member of the finance committee. She was a member of Churches United for Peacekeeping, the organization that became the Peace and Social Justice Center.

Mary McDonough Harren has been a peace activist since the Vietnam War. She organizes demonstrations, vigils, and other events, and writes the "Half the Sky" column for the Peace Center newsletter. For many in Wichita, she is the face of the Peace Center as she works tirelessly for peace and justice in our community and around the world.

Death Penalty Abolition Senate Vote

When the Senators voted on Final Action, the vote was **20-20**, so SB 375 did not advance to the House. This was the first Senate vote since 1994 on the question of death penalty retention/abolition.

Senators who Voted to Abolish: Brungardt, Emler, Faust-Goudeau, Francisco, Haley, Hensley, Kelly, Kultala, Lee, McGinn, Morris, Owens, Pilcher-Cook, Reitz, Schmidt V, Steineger, Taddiken, Teichman, Umbarger, Vratil.

Senators who Voted to Keep the Death Penalty: Abrams, Apple, Barnett, Brownlee, Bruce, Colyer, Donovan, Holland, Huelskamp, Huntington, Kelsey, Lynn, Marshall, Masterson, Ostmeyer, Petersen, Pyle, Schmidt D, Schodorf, Wagle.

Dr. Thomas Kluzak Speaks on the Current State of Health Care Reform



At our annual meeting and dinner last December, we were honored to hear Dr. Thomas Kluzak, of the Physicians for a National Health Program, speak about the current state of health care reform. Dr. Kluzak spoke about the goal of Medicare-for-All, universal health care which has eluded Americans for decades. Publicly funded universal health care would end the tragedy of the uninsured, denials of coverage for pre-existing conditions, medical bankruptcies, reduce costs overall and even improve science in medicine with the central collection of data.

The movement toward genuine universal health care is being held up by the power of the health insurance and drug company lobbies, which have succeeded in buying the influence of many of our elected officials. These lobbies are protecting their interests in a for-profit health care system. They have reduced genuine reform to a law dealing with insurance company abuses like denial of health care for pre-existing conditions. The public option disappeared in the Senate bill, replaced by a mandate that people buy private insurance, some with government subsidies to help pay the for-profit insurance companies for their coverage.

Local and national organizations and activists have continued to press for genuine universal health care demanding "Everybody in, nobody out!" The Peace and Social Justice Center continues to support the call for publicly funded, universal health care. We want a system in which health care is a human right, not a privilege for only those who can afford it. We support Medicare-for-All.

Enthusiastic response to the program at the Annual Meeting and Dinner, Dec. 9.



Actions Requested at this time:

If Your Senator Voted to Abolish: Send him/her an email or a short written note to thank him/her for their vote on behalf of abolition.

If Your Senator Voted to Keep the Death Penalty: Send him/her an email or short written note expressing regret at their vote. Encourage them to keep an open mind should the issue ever come up again this year or future years.

Postal mail: State Capitol, Topeka, KS, 66612
Senators' email addresses can be found at: <http://www.kslegislature.org/legsrv-senate/searchSenate.do>

**Peace and Social Justice
Education Fund
1407 N. Topeka Street
Wichita, Kansas 67214**

Address Service Requested

Cathy Benton, Director
Dorlan Bales, Property Manager

Board Members:

Connie Pace Adair
Dorlan Bales
Janice Bradley
Joni Bradley
Pat Cameron
Pat Ciotti
Doug Everingham
Karen Fitzgerald, Treasurer
Carolyn Marie Fugit, Secretary
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Laura Tillem,
Diane Wahto, Chair
Capri Zimmerman

Email: director@peacecenter.kscoxmail.com
Phone: 316-263-5886

Please designate my enclosed gift of \$ _____
to (please check one)

_____ The Peace and Social Justice Center
_____ The Peace and Social Justice Education Fund (tax-
deductible)

Name(S) _____

Phone (home) _____ cell) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Date _____

Spring Newsletter
Mail to Peace Center
1407 N. Topeka
Wichita, KS 67214

Upcoming Events	
<p>March</p> <p>13 Board Meeting 10:00 to 11:30 am, Peace Center, All are welcome but only Board members can vote.</p> <p>13 Delano St. Patrick's Day Parade 11:30 am (Parade starts at noon). We will meet at the Peace Center and will leave from there at 11:30 to line up for the noon start. Everyone is welcome to walk in the parade.</p> <p>23 Potluck 6:00 pm, Peace Center We will provide table service & drink</p> <p>27 What's Next Action Group Meeting 10:30 till noon, Peace Center</p>	<p>April P.E.A.C.E. Art & Essay Challenge The annual challenge will take place in April. Contest guidelines will be in the weekly email calendar or call 263-5886.</p> <p>17 Earth Fest 2010, "Just Food" 9:00 am to 9:00 pm Herman Hill Park- Wichita Water Center Environmental event, with solar amp music, Recycled fashions, solar cookout demo, speakers will be focusing on food.</p> <p>May</p> <p>1 Mayday Celebration Potluck and Film 6:00 pm, Peace Center Union Maids, a documentary about 3 women organizing trade unions in the '30s. Please bring a dish to share. Table service, iced tea and coffee provided.</p> <p>31 Peace Picnic Riverside Park Gazebo, noon Music, food and P.E.A.C.E. Art & Essay awards will be presented. Please bring your own picnic lunch and lawn chairs and/or blankets.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Call or write your representatives today! Find Senators' email at: http://www.kslegislature.org/legsrv-senate/searchSenate.do Find Representative's email at: http://www.kslegislature.org/legsrv-house/index.do</p>	