Resist Board Meeting Minutes

12-13-1982

Resist Board Meeting, Dec. 13, 1982

Resist

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalrepository.trincoll.edu/minutes

Recommended Citation
https://digitalrepository.trincoll.edu/minutes/134
December 1, 1982

Dear Resisters,

The next meeting is SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 at 11 a.m. at Pam Chamberlain's:
65 Antrim St., Cambridge. In case you get lost, Pam's phone number is 864-2992.

As most all of you know, the November meeting was cancelled for lack of funds. We did an emergency mailing which is doing reasonably well: $2,000 over cost and about a 10% rate of return with more to come. We also did a mailing to the list we use for trading and sales, but as this has just gone out it's hard to say how it will do. We may or may not give out money at the meeting; it's too early to tell now. In any case, there will be lots to do.

First of all we'll welcome new board member Beatriz Manz, who the interview committee of Pam, Kate, Amanda, and Meredith met with several weeks ago. Beatriz, who is Chilean, is an anthropologist and was, until quite recently, a professor at Wayne State University. She specializes in Guatemala and is an active member of the Guatemala Scholars Network, an activist group of left concerned academics, as well as of CAMINO, the Central America Information Office. It is through this latter group that we came to know her; both Wayne and Amanda have worked with the group as well and CAMINO received a Resist grant in the spring of 1981.

It is not definite that Beatriz will be at the meeting, as she may not have returned yet from her visit to the refugee camps on the Mexico/Guatemala border.

Another item on the agenda will be planning for a benefit cocktail party to be held this February or March at George's. Grace has agreed to give a reading and we will be looking for other celebrities and 'inviters.' Any ideas in this department would certainly be appreciated.

Also, as I think everyone knows by now, I will be leaving Resist at the end of January to move to New York City and (hopefully) a job with the straight press. We've put advertisements in a number of movement publications and have been deluged with job applications some of which are quite impressive. A major task of the meeting will be sorting through these and setting up interviews. We hope to have the new person start by mid-January to allow for some overlap. "If you know of anyone who would be interested in the job and who has some journalism or editorial experience, please have them apply now later than December 10. I have really loved working at Resist and it was difficult to decide to leave - as Meredith can attest to. I will continue to be an active board member and to work with the newly-formed Draft and Military Educational and Legal Defense Fund, which Resist played an important role in starting. Thanks to all of you for three wonderful years.

P.S. Enclosed find the description/proxy sheet for proposals as well as an updated name and address list.
1. El Pueblo (San Antonio, TX) -- Would like $500 as a downpayment on a typesetter.  
   _Y, _N, _Maybe Comments: ____________________________

2. Comm. to Defend the Mexican Political Prisoners (CO) -- $778.00 for a newsletter and buttonmaking machinery. _Y _N _Maybe Comments: ____________________________

3. Columbus Tenants Union (OH) -- $500 towards reprinting Tenant Tactics.   
   _Y, _N, _Maybe Comments: ____________________________

4. Medical Aid to El Salvador (NYC) -- Any part of an anticipated deficit of $5,435 for a conference on "Health and Social Change in Central America.  
   _Y, _N, _Maybe Comments: ____________________________

5. U.S. Student Association (DC) -- Any part of $68,500 for "Militarism and Higher Education: A Networking Project" _Y, _N, _Maybe Comments: ____________________________

6. Center on Law and Pacifism (CO) -- Any amount to be used for a slide projector and tape recorder, or a typewriter, or travel money. For their prison program.  
   _Y, _N, _Maybe Comments: ____________________________

7. Overview Latin America (Camb, MA) Any amount for general support. Cost of each issue is $550. _Y, _N, _Maybe Comments: ____________________________


9. Syracuse Peace Council (NY) -- $500 to pay for food and miscellaneous for two young European interns. _Y, _N, _Maybe Comments: ____________________________

10. St. Louis CALC (mO) -- $500 for an intern - a West German C.O. _Y, _N, _Maybe Comments: ____________________________

12. WIN Magazine(NYC) -- $500 towards a promotional mailing. _Y, _N, _Maybe Comments: ____________________________
__Y, __N, __Maybe Comments:

14. WRL-SE (Durham, NC) -- $500 for distribution of special issue of their newsletter on "racism and the struggle for peace." __Y, __N, __Maybe Comments:

15. Environmentalists for Full Employment (DC) -- $500 to send 125 copies of their book, Fear At Work, to key union, political, environmental and press people.
__Y, __N, __Maybe Comments:

16. Vietnam Veterans Against the War (Ga) -- $350 for a counter-recruiting project for Georgia and South Carolina.
__Y, __N, __Maybe Comments:

17. Nerve Center (New Haven, CT) -- $500 seed money to establish a research and resource organization focusing on chemical and biological warfare.
__Y, __N, __Maybe Comments:

18. TNCOSH -- $490 to advertise and distribute their booklet, A Workers Guide to Information Sources on Occupational Safety and Health, and to print membership flyers.
__Y, __N, __Maybe Comments:

19. Now & Then Productions (NYC) -- $500 towards editing costs of videotape @ June 12.
__Y, __N, __Maybe Comments:

20. Cleveland Beacon (OH) -- $500 to expand their operations and hire a staffperson.
__Y, __N, __Maybe Comments:

21. African People's Socialist Party (Oakland, CA) -- $487.50 to produce a book based on the Int'l Tribunal on Reparations for Black People in the U.S.
__Y, __N, __Maybe Comments:
MINUTES OF RESIST MEETING, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1982

Present were: Amanda (recorder), Meredith, Ken, Pam, Kate and Louis. We had proxies from Carlos and George. (Bell's was received Monday.)

Money

The big topic once again was money, or the lack thereof. We have about $2000 in the bank, $3000 in debts, and $2800 in loans which are, or will be, due to board members. Amanda talked to Frank B. about money before the meeting and he said that the big money will not start coming in until towards the end of December. (FLASH: We received an anonymous contribution for $3000 the day after the meeting.) Internal mailings continue to do well, and we're combining the December and January issues of the newsletter to save money. A 6000 piece mailing (the first with our new brochure enclosed) is bringing in its first returns. We have also gone into the mailing list business ourselves and have sold it two times so far with orders scheduled about every other week through the spring. We plan to mail about 14,000 pieces in January and continue an ambitious mailing schedule through the spring.

Staff Selection

The lack of money led to a discussion about the wisdom of hiring another staffperson right away. After much discussion we decided to postpone the starting date until March 1 (instead of January 15) but continue with the interview and selection process during December and January. (With the above $3000 windfall do board members feel any differently about this decision? Meredith and I feel that we should stand by it until we get a better idea of the money situation in general.)

Before deciding to postpone hiring, we discussed five other options, to wit:

1. Hiring Frank B. to do the newsletter from Philadelphia. (Board felt that this was not a good idea for two reasons: newsletter most interesting part of the job and so should stay as a staff task; and it's important that the newsletter have that close link with what's happening in the office.)

2. Having only one staffperson for the foreseeable future. (Rejected as impractical and too drastic for the moment.)

3. Sticking by our original plan of hiring the new person to start in mid-January.

4. Dissolving the organization. (Too drastic for the moment.)

5. Hiring an intern. (Staff pointed out that we have been trying to do this without success since September.)

Meredith feels okay about working alone in the office as long as it's a temporary condition. Amanda will help out with the newsletter and the cocktail party from NYC after she leaves February 1. Which brings me to:

The Cocktail Party (a new collaboration between Judy Chicago and María Manhattan?)

Cocktail party is tentatively planned for mid-February or early March. We all have a lot of work to do! As stated earlier, George has offered his apartment and Grace will read. We need to locate more "inviters" food, and drink, and mailing lists. Names that came up for "inviters": Bella Abzug,
Ruth Messinger, other writers and poets that Grace might know. We will be calling NY people in the next week to discuss the party in more detail. George tells us that we need six weeks after the invitations are mailed to pull the party together and we must have the inviter before we can print the invitations. Do NY people feel that it's practical to do this? because staff feels that we're going to need a lot of help.

Loan Fund

In the last minutes we reported Amy's plan to set up a loan fund for funding fundraising mailings, benefits, etc. As directed by the board, staff wrote to the Ferrys and were rejected. Carol (who wrote) felt that loans would not be paid back and we might as well just give grants if that was going to be the case. We had an offer from a war tax resister to put his $3000 dollars in an escrow account and use the interest. Board was concerned that this would draw the IRS' attention to us, but staff will investigate further. How does board feel about going into the escrow account business in general? because if positively we can advertise the account and could perhaps generate new income this way. On the other hand this would be directly competing with the War Tax Resisters (above offer came from someone who had investigated them and felt that they were too disorganized to trust with his money) and might well involve a lot of bookkeeping.

Staff Selection Addendum

More on the selection process: We have received about forty (40) applications so far. Meredith and Amanda are doing some initial screening using a point system (0-2 points each for three categories: politics, letter and resume, and writing) and have narrowed the field to about eleven (11). Board went over the finalists and graded them using the same rating system and eight interviews. Pam has offered to store all the boxes now in Amanda's basement. We had a request to use these files from a Brandeis student writing his senior thesis on the history of the draft resistance movement. Unfortunately we had to turn him down because of concern that some of the material might be classified, requiring the staff to review all twenty some boxes before he could use them. Does anyone have any suggestions for the more permanent disposition of this material?

The Call

All movement on this appears to have come to a halt. We haven't heard from Dick Ohmann recently, and apparently no board members have sent comments to him individually. Hans offered to write a draft, but staff has not yet gotten back to him. Is the Call a priority?

Before going on to the grants, the date for our next meeting has not been set. It will be in late January or early February and the exact time will depend in part on the money situation. So stay tuned.
12/13/82 Resist Meeting -- 3

Grants

Because of the money situation we decided to not give out any money. We did go through the grants, however, postponing all those that weren't definite rejections. Here are the results. Postponements are marked with an asterisk and will be reconsidered at the next meeting.

*1. El Pueblo. Staff will check on whether they have been funded by the Live Oak Fund -- the latest addition to the Funding Exchange here in Texas.

* 2. Committee to Defend the Mexican Political Prisoners. -- More information requested.

3. Columbus Tenants Union. Not a priority.

4. Medical Aid to El Salvador. Too much money, should raise money from membership, and did not reply to staff questions.

5. USSA. Good luck, too much money.

6. Ctr. on Law and Pacifism. Social service program, not political.


8. Overview Latin America. Duplicates NACLA work, not very good quality.

9. Pacific St. Films. This was really just a token request. Too much money.

*10. Syracuse Peace Council Some board members felt it was irresponsible to bring interns over without funding.

* 11. St. Louis CALC

* 12. WIN -- No grant. Loan? Why doesn't the Peace Development Fund help them out with a full page ad? General discussion about WIN's quality, agreed that it was pretty disappointing in general.

13. Lake Superior Radioactive Waste Project. No, liberal, should be other money. Both George and Ken felt a general discussion of nuclear power as a Resist priority was in order. We had a short discussion and agreed it wasn't.

* 14. WRL-SE. Their special newsletter on peace and feminism was good. This probably would be too. Unfortunately the connections between racism and nuclear weapons are tenuous at best. Saying the Freeze will benefit blacks more than anyone else, or that it is anti-racist, is false. Besides who will this pamphlet reach? Surely not anyone who is not already convinced that racism is bad. On the other hand, it is important for the peace movement to be anti-racist for ethical, if not practical reasons. Interesting discussion, more discussion needed.

15. Environmentalists for Full Employment. No. Why doesn't their publisher send out sample copies? They have a rave review from the Wimp, why doesn't he give them the couple of hundred bucks?
12/13/82 Resist meeting -- 4

* 16. VVAW -- Looks good. One-person operation?

* 17. Nerve Center. This work is important, but need to know their rationale for setting up a new organization. What else is being done on this issue? IPS? The Nation?

18. TNCOSH -- Good group, many people from the Highlander Center. Z-money, $500.

19. Now and Then Productions -- Not a priority.

20. Cleveland Beacon -- Apparent hassle between parent organization (DSA) and the group putting this out about whether its a worthwhile project. Our sources report that they have almost no distribution/visibility in Cleveland. Rejection letter will say that we don't want to get involved in an internal struggle.

21. African People's Socialist Party -- We rejected the NYC wing of this project last time. APSP has not roots in the Black community. This is not a useful project. Is a Tribunal really necessary to convince Black people they are being discriminated against? Did not appear to get much press.

That's all folks.

P.S. I've marked five questions on which staff needs board input. Please think about them for the next meeting or, for NY people, phone calls in the coming week. Thanks, A & M
Frank Brodhead  
6445 Green St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19119  
215/848/4377(H)  
241-7172(W)

Bell Chevigny  
112 W 81st St.  
New York, NY 10024  
212/874-4876  
337-0700(W)

Pam Chamberlain  
65 Antrim St.  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
617/864-2992(H)  
770-7596(W)

*Noam Chomsky  
15 Suzanne Rd  
Lexington, MA 02173  
617/862-6160(H)  
253-7819(W)

Amanda Claiborne  
277 Highland Ave.  
Somerville, MA 02143  
617/776-8876(H)  
623-5110(W)

Kate Cloud  
26 Granite St.  
Somerville, MA 02143  
617/666-3969(H)  
623-5096(W)

Norm Fruchter  
577 6th St.  
Brooklyn, NY 11215

*Mitchell Goodman  
Temple, ME 04984  
207/778-3717

Ken Hale  
209 Waltham St.  
Lexington, MA 02173  
617/861-8164(H)  
253-3228(W)

Frank Joyce  
21769 McCormick  
Detroit, MI 48236  
313/886-4867(H)

Louis Kampf  
14 Glenwood Ave.  
Cambridge, Ma 02139  
617/492-3468(H)  
253-5147(W)

*Hans Koning  
c/o London Management  
235 Regent St.  
London, W1  
England

Paul Lauter  
228 E 85th St., 12D  
New York, NY 10028  
212/570-0997(H)  
516/876-3104(W)

**Wayne O'Neil  
31 Bournside St.  
Dorchester, MA 02124  
617/288-1017(H)  
253-2557(W)

Beatrice Manz  
332 Charles River Rd.  
Watertown, MA 02172  
617/924-6669

Carols Otero  
Rolfe 5303 UCLA  
Los Angeles, CA 90024  
or  
1018 Amherst Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90049

Grace Paley  
126 W 11th St.  
New York, NY 10011  
cr  
Thetford Hill  
Thetford, VT 05074  
212/929-4905(H)  
914/337-0700(W)  
802/785-2608(VT)

**Henry Rosemont  
RT 1, Box 112X  
Lexington Park, MD 20653  
301/863-5409

Meredith Smith  
18 Park Ave.  
Somerville, MA 02144  
617/623-7738  
623-5110

Amy Swerdlow  
80 Central Park West  
New York, NY 10023  
212/580-8646

George Vickers  
205 W 19th St.  
New York, NY 10011  
212/741-9545

*Dick Ohmann  
203/347-9411 x 2761(W)  
413/625-2715 (H)

*Does not receive board packet or minutes.

** In China for academic year 1982/1983.