

Trinity College

Trinity College Digital Repository

Resist Board Meeting Minutes

Resist Collection

10-2-1988

Resist Board Meeting, Oct. 2, 1988

Resist

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

Recommended Citation

Resist, "Resist Board Meeting, Oct. 2, 1988" (1988). *Resist Board Meeting Minutes*. 187.
<https://digitalrepository.trincoll.edu/minutes/187>

A call to

RESIST

illegitimate authority

One Summer Street, Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

617/623-5110

Frank Brodhead
Pam Chamberlain
Connie Chan
Bell Chevigny
Noam Chomsky
Kate Cloud
Tess Ewing
Norm Fruchter
Mitchell Goodman
Kenneth Hale
Frank Joyce
Louis Kampf
Hans Koning
Paul Lauter
Beatriz Manz
Nancy Moniz
Richard Ohmann
Wayne O'Neil
Carlos Otero
Grace Paley
Roxanna Pastor
Henry Rosemont
Tatiana Schreiber
Renae Scott
Meredith Smith
Amy Swerdlow
Ken Tangvik
Rene Valle
George Vickers
Nancy Wechsler

Board Meeting - October 2, 1988 - 11am
Paul Lauter's apartment (subject to change)
500 E. 77th St.
New York, NY 10011 / Tel (212) 570-0997

Dear board member,

It seems things do even out sometime: for this meeting we received fewer proposals (23) than usual. We received 49 for the August meeting and had to schedule an interim meeting to deal with the overload on September 8th.

At the last minute, the meeting place had to be changed from George Vickers' place to Paul's. This might change since I couldn't get in touch with him or others. I'll send a note to all as soon as possible if this changes.

AGENDA

GRANT REQUESTS

Central America work

- 1) Central America Alternative News (Boulder, CO) - They're asking for \$500 toward expenses of producing a weekly 1/2-hour news program.
- 2) New England-El Salvador Art Exchange (Cambridge, MA) - \$545 requested as seed money for this new group for initial fund raising efforts.
- 3) Central American Refugee Committee (San Francisco, CA) - Request of \$600 toward cost of brochures as part of their "No Human Being Is Illegal" campaign.

Gay and Lesbian work

- 4) Gay Community News (Boston, MA) - \$600 requested for costs of their subscription promotion project.
- 5) Privacy Rights Education Project (St. Louis, MO) - They're asking for \$350 for cost of production of a brochure on sexual privacy.
- 6) Knoxville's Ten Percent (TN) - \$600 asked for general operating expenses.

7) ACT UPH (Houston, TX) - Postponed from Aug. 28th meeting. We needed more info on their outreach efforts to the Latino/a community and also their position on controversies in the lesbian/gay community in the Spring. No answer yet. Request is for \$600 for expenses of outreach direct mail campaign.

8) Lesbian & Gay Freedom Ride (NY, NY) - Also postponed from Aug. 28th meeting. We needed an update of their Ride in July & August. No answer yet. They're asking for \$600 for costs of printing, postage & buttons for Southern organizing Ride.

Middle East work

9) Middle East Peace Coalition (Northampton, MA) - Request of \$600 for expenses of their Fall speakers series.

10) Newton Committee for Israeli-Palestinian Peace (MA) - \$?? asked for expenses of an educational campaign on ballot question in Newton in Nov. on two state "solution".

Peace/Anti-militarism work

11) Mid Peninsula Peace Center (Palo Alto, CA) - Request of \$600 for a laser printer and software for their computer.

12) Ecumenical Peace Institute (Berkeley, CA) - They're asking for \$600 for books, periodicals and videos for their library which is used in organizing work.

13) Monmouth Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (Red Bank, NJ) - \$600 asked expenses of their Children's Peace Fair in April 1989

14) Vietnam Veterans Against the War (Brooklyn, NY) - \$580 asked for costs production of a pamphlet and brochure for their School Speakers Project in New York and New Jersey.

15) Mass. Jobs with Peace (Boston, MA) - \$600 requested for costs of billboards for their "Build Homes Not Bombs" campaign

Women's projects

16) Women's Learning Resource (Albuquerque, NM) - Request of \$460 for expenses of their "Social Issues/Social Change" series of classes and TV presentations about racism, heterosexism, ableism, and other oppression in Albuquerque and northern NM.

17) Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (MA) - They're asking for \$1,500 (?) for costs of translation into Spanish of their "Rape Survivors Booklet".

18) Aid to Imprisoned Mothers (Atlanta, GA) - Postponed from Aug. 28th meeting. We needed info on copy for their leaflets. They've changed their request to \$600 for a newsletter to women prisoners on AIDS. Proposed copy is enclosed.

Miscellaneous

19) Fund for Open Information & Accountability (NY, NY) - \$600 request for expenses of producing their quarterly publication "Our Right to Know".

20) Street Magazine (Somerville, MA) - This is a re-submittal of a proposal we turned down in June. I talked with several board members about their new info and it was decided to look at them again. See letters. Their request is for \$525 for a printer for their computer.

21) Salud (Phoenix, OR) - \$500 asked for their Racism/Cultural Sensitivity Workshop in Feb. 1987.

22) Survival International (Washington, DC) - \$600 requested for costs of printing their quarterly newsletter "Notes from SUISA"

23) Center for Community Action (Lumberton, NC) - They're asking for \$600 for expenses of their Leadership Organizing work in Robeson County, NC.

BUSINESS/POLICY ITEMS

* Board Outreach Committee Report

* Office - Finances and miscellaneous last minute items

That's all for now. If I receive any additional info before the meeting on any of the above, I'll send you copies.

The board meeting following this October 2nd meeting is set for November 6th at Ken Hale's house in Lexington, MA.

For peace and justice,

Nancy

Nancy Mohiz, Resist staff

Resist Board Minutes
Sunday, October 2, 1988
New York City

Present: Frank B. (chair), Tatiana S. (minutes), Nancy M., Kate C., Pam C., Paul L., Louis K., Grace P., Tess E., Hans K., Renae S.

(Bell is in the hospital with a broken leg.)

Grants: We have \$5750 to spend. It looks like we gave out \$5075 to 14 groups.

1. Central America Alternative News (Boulder, CO) \$500 toward expenses of producing a weekly 1/2 hour news program. Chris of Chinook fund gave positive reference. They have funded them in the past. TS: It's ok, has potential. YES: with letter they should take positions re: question 10, and should either have Central Americans on production staff or in advisory position.
2. New England-El Salvador Art Exchange (Cambridge, MA) \$545 as seed money for fundraising efforts for this new group. NM: Not redundant work, there is no other group like this in area doing work on El Salvador; only on Nicaragua. Tess: Her experience has been that cultural groups not supportive of E.S. art exchange. Wechsler (Proxy): Hesitant because of material aid component. Not high priority. Tess: Says this is red herring, as most groups have some material aid component.
3. Central American Refugee Committee (SF, CA) \$600 toward cost of brochures as part of their "No Human Being is Illegal" campaign. Vanguard: Very good, best in area, problems getting funding, mostly refugee group, strong women leadership, good coalition work. Paul: very supportive.
4. Gay Community News (Boston, MA) \$600 for sub promo campaign. Good organizing work. NM: high priority because they need to keep going. NW: new phase in fundraising. Tess: GCN always on brink, new group on staff trying to make the paper more self-sufficient.
5. Privacy Rights Education Project (St. Louis, MO) \$350 for production of brochure on sexual privacy. Sue Hyde: Hopeful sign doing state-wide work and work on other issues, many tactics, filling important gaps. NW/FB: point out the authors are Resist donors. Paul: likes angle of the material, important outreach in middle of US. Pam: brochure too wordy. Suggests SOME.
6. Knoxville's Ten Percent (TN) No Grant. They didn't answer NM's letter. Kim Kline: Appalachian Fund: did find them one of the few gay groups in Knoxville. Closeted white men/ need to work on racism. fairly liberal, but "Knoxville, not Boston." Trying to bring in more women. "To be gay in Knoxville is extraordinarily dangerous." Knoxville is 8% black. Tess: not political. Kate: agree, they make a point of having no politics. Louis: On the other hand, they're in hard situation, yet they ought to go somewhere else for the money." Should ask people to pay for the paper. NO Grant, with supportive letter. Understanding of difficulty of their situation, but we

support groups that do "political work" as in outreach, organizing, advocacy work. They could submit a proposal for such a project that would do outreach to lesbians or people of color; could contact us for ideas on range of projects. Knoxville discussion continued: Service/social vs. political activism. Tess: Sympathizes with difficulty being gay in Knoxville. Renae: difficult to get diverse group in the area. Pam: Wants to support "potential" for politicization with this group by giving money. Grace: Speaks to possibility for development through forums. Tess: We shouldn't fund group based on "potential", should fund based on good project that includes outreach and advocacy. They don't even mention if they have lesbians. Thinks it would be "double standard" to give \$ for something we'd like them to do that they have no plans to do. Add to letter our concern about whether the group includes women.

7. Act Up/Houston. Has been postponed several times due to needing more information re: splits in gay community there about racism/sexism. Live Oaks noted they had picketed British Embassy. NM: some. Tatiana: Likes their ideas--good diversity for a new group. Grace: agrees, good diversity for new group. Likes that they broke down who they are. Tess: agrees, says yes. NM: Some, due to splits and that they haven't come down on correct side. Renae: Sees problem re: no to Knoxville versus possible Some for this group when we know nothing about the situation in Knoxville and maybe we know too much about the situation in Houston. Hans: Too undefined, premature to give them \$ at this time. Tess: Should support, activist group with political purpose and also diverse. Louis: They haven't answered last letter. Suggests postpone again. NM: Opposed to full grant because AMIGA of Houston says they haven't done outreach to people of color. Decision: NO. Because we didn't receive reply; forced to turn down proposal. Can submit new proposal with more specific clarifications and text of brochure.

8. Lesbian & Gay Freedom Ride (NY, NY) They haven't sent updated information but NW found article in NATIVE about them. Marlene Fried thought project sounded good. Maxine Wolfe (ActUp, former R2N2 person) said yes, good work, good pre-contact public presence, energetic, taking risks, very committed. NW: small number of people. Still need money. Some. Pam: No evidence that they still need \$. If they'd needed it, they'd ask. No. Tess: Needs more evidence of effectiveness of this work. NO Grant: Because we needed update information, not even sure if money is still needed. If so, re-submit including updated info including effectiveness of trip. No guarantees for funding.

9. Middle East Peace Coalition (Northampton, MA) SOME \$200. Toward expenses for their Fall speakers series. Margaret Cerullo says respected people, good coalition, good politics. Louis: Worth supporting because Eqbal Ahmad does good work but questions because depends largely on NJA and also "New Outlook" doesn't trust New Outlook politics. Paul: Some, not more. "Odd" budget. \$300 for copying? (But others say this must be for posters.) Paul thinks they should fund raise at meetings to raise the \$. Frank: Points out they have got some individual contributions.

10. Newton Committee for Israeli-Palestinian Peace (MA) No Grant. Louis: He hadn't heard of them until the referendum issue. Good being done in Newton,

but "crazy" to do 5 month referendum campaign. What about long term effort? Doesn't really want to oppose unfortunately it gets all Jewish orgs out of the woodwork to oppose it. Hans: Thinks it's a fresh and interesting idea good to take wider. Tess: Not clear what they can do in short period, not clear what Resist grant would do for them. Still good they're doing it. Wec: Good they are doing it, should raise the money in Newton. NO Grant: Wish good luck, worth doing, interesting approach, our limited resources, etc., not sure how useful our small grant would be, maximum grant is \$600, serious referenda campaign would take longer range planning.

11. Mid-Peninsula Peace Center (Palo Alto, CA) No reference. POSTPONED. Paul: Knows of them, fairly positive reputation. Palo Alto is very conservative, gays closeted. Tess: Says no-- why no position on gay/lesbian issues and disability issues? Paul: great many ties to area, a lot of tensions there re: race. Not easy to raise \$ for radical things. Tess suggests we postpone, ask for answers on questions re: gay/lesbian and disability, older people. Paul is going to see friend who would probably know about group. Frank: has question re: budget. Knows cost of their computer equipment is actually less than they say. Also thinks we gave money 5 years ago to help set up this peace center. POSTPONE: Letter requesting info on gay/lesbian/disability/older. Also in letter, raise questions about cost of laser printers, and upgrade --they could contact us for more information.

Pam: separate issue: Can we at Resist serve as a resource re: costs and cheap sources of computer equipment? People liked this idea if we have the information. Do we have contacts? Paul thinks we'd have connections to some wholesale sources. We could create library of software purchases (FB noted this is illegal). Louis: doesn't want to overburden staff. But we could check with board members re: cost of equipment. Also we could supply names of wholesalers. NM: suggests this could be an agenda item for next time. People should check out their own contacts. Resource center for computer software at Resist? and info on resources for hardware. Should only do this if NW is at meeting since it involves staff time, etc.

12. Ecumenical Peace Institute (Berkeley, CA) NO GRANT. Good references. Funded by Vanguard. Important in the area, good on women, gay/lesbian. Paul: Very good group but low priority. Low priority given publishing and personnel resources in Berkeley.

13. Monmouth Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (Red Bank, NJ) NO GRANT. Tess: Could get \$ elsewhere, no larger political context. Kate: No, not high priority, didn't answer question 10. We should say NO, not a Resist priority, wasn't clear that they saw this work on arms race in larger political context.

14. Vietnam Veterans Against the War (Brooklyn, NY) \$580 for production of a pamphlet and brochure for their School Speakers Project in New York and New Jersey. Grace says they are very good.

15. Mass Jobs with Peace (Boston, MA) SOME \$200. Louis: Not sure how effective they are, organizationally "dishonest" to say \$ from military will automatically go to housing. Tess: They aren't saying that. She's in favor,

likes the project. Wec and Tess: no position on women, gay/lesbian. Pam: Are they avoiding complexity of issue? They are very committed people. They have been deliberate re: racism, but don't understand relevance of gay/lesbian issues. Tess: in favor of some, thinks we should privately push them to take up gay/lesbian and women's issues. We decided to give them SOME. Concerned that they have no position on gay/lesbian rights and women's issues and seem not to see their relevance to housing, militarism.

16. Women's Learning Resource (Albuquerque, NM) \$200. Good reference. Tess: concerned re: style of writing, over use of words like oppression. Grace: left out militarism. Tess: concerned re: their lumping of "women of color" and "Jewish women." Questions were raised as to whether or not the program will be boring or oppressive.

17. Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (MA) SOME \$200. Renae Scott-- reference: They now have a campaign to diversify staff because of pressure from DPH. Thinks brochure too long, but would be good and translation useful. Questions were raised about whether or not this was organizing work. Thought their line on rape was good. Concern was raised about a culturally sensitive translation to Spanish. Should get Latina woman to write a similar brochure. Can they get money from mainstream sources? We decided to give them SOME with a supportive letter recognizing they are in a situation of transition now, and that we want to support their ability to serve more diverse community. We also realize that translation of the document as presented not the best way to reach Latina women, would support other approaches. Pam C. will help with letter if NM needs it.

18. Aid to Imprisoned Mothers (Atlanta, GA) SOME \$200. Fund for Southern Communities impressed with their work. Much discussion about prison work, whether or not this was a one person operation, Resist's position on mandatory testing, etc. Hans argued that compulsory testing was needed in prison. Vote: 9 in favor of funding, 2 opposed (Hans and Paul). Full or some? Vote: 2 want full (TS, FB), rest want some. It was suggested we circulate Tatiana's article on AIDS in prison. We agreed to some with supportive letter saying we are sorry we can't send more, priorities, etc., need to send corrections with concerns re: text of brochure. Prostitutes are not one of the biggest groups. They should run text by someone for accuracy. Get Tess or Wechsler to recommend someone.

19. Fund for Open Information and Accountability (NY, NY) Grace: good people, good work. Questions were raised about the size of their budget. NO: Not a priority because don't generally fund publications for operating expenses. Also priority for us to fund small groups without larger budget. But we support their work, wish best of success, etc.

20. Street Magazine (Somerville, MA) \$200 SOME. John Demeter: doesn't see its tie to constituency. not directly connected to organizing. Haymarket funded once, then turned them down due to internal problems which had now changed.

21. Salud (Phoenix, OR) NO GRANT. Reference: McKenzie River Gathering--very supportive. NM: They never used money from our previous grant because

project fell through--planned to use it in October. Questions were raised about the "prejudice reduction" model of work. Couldn't tell what the philosophy behind this work from the grant. We agreed to say NO. we have further questions. possibly they should send in new proposal. We like their work generally but have doubts re: budget for this project.

22. Survival International (Washington, DC) TOKEN \$100. Nisqua reference good. Large budget, other fundraising options. Frank likes focus on Brazil.

23. Center for Community Action (Lumberton, NC) \$600 for expenses for their Leadership organizing work in Robeson County. Mab Segrest gave mixed reference. Some reservations, especially re: lack gay/lesbian position, but generally supportive of their work. Paul: very supportive because of nature of work in this county. Renae said she knows people in the group. Hard to articulate how bad the situation is there.

Hans raised question about emergency grant for mural project. It was suggested they can put in another proposal. Also something about CARASA-- will be on November meeting agenda.

Board Outreach:

Meeting with Merble Reagan. Member of National Council on Negro Women. Has networked around issues affecting black women in US. Based in NYC, has lots of contacts. Pam and Louis both very positive.

Decided to invite her to join board. Paul L. will ask her if she accepts, and will contact Nancy Moniz.

Walter Cohen's Proposal: Most people are supportive. Question was raised if we wanted to use the money for emergency grants. Discussion mostly revolved around whether or not we wanted to target specific areas rather than restrict use of money. Decision: We'll ask Cohen to designate several areas and we'll choose what group to give it to. *

<u>Financial Report:</u>	Cambridge Trust Co.:	\$6,073.09
	Working Assets:	\$48,644.66
	Loan Fund:	\$ 3494.42
	<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>58,212.17</u>

We have over \$16,800 in bills coming due the next few months from large prospecting, pledge drive, Resist and national mailings we are in the midst of doing.

Anticipated income: \$20-25,000 from our list. National list should break even or lose a little. October Pledge Drive usually brings us 50-60 new pledges.

Next Meeting: Sunday, November 6th, 11am, Ken Hale's house in Lexington. See you all there.

Letter received by Office Oct 5
Comments on Oct 2nd Board
meeting

From Hans Koning:

I am uneasy about our linkage of so many different issues, both in our funding application forms and our own deliberations. Our list of questions on the forms is like a catechism, a test of orthodoxy. "Paper is patient," they say in Holland: we invite lip service which may not mean much. As an example, there was the request by a peace organization last Oct. 2. They target a scaling down of military spending, and as a second step (they did not imply it would follow on its own) a use of money for housing etc. One of us questioned them as not having acknowledged that gay rights were within their ken, and quoted a municipal ordinance aimed at stopping homosexual couples from renting one-bedroom apts. Now I would object that their targets are quite a full plate and that they may legitimately leave the how and what of any future housing to others.

I worked a decade in England for CND, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. CND has ups and downs but all in all it has been very successful, and it is far more visible than any similar organization here. Realizing that comparisons of countries are tricky, I feel that at least part of the success is based on the fact that CND has stuck to ~~being~~ being a one-issue organization.

*

I would also like to invite people to consider for themselves possible conflicts between the common welfare and private rights. I would hope that we will always ^{be} radicals or socialists first, libertarians second. Illegitimate authority is not the only force despoiling people's lives although it stands as such at Resist's beginnings; many pernicious capitalist undertakings sail under the flags of privacy and liberty.

Oct 3, 1988