11-6-1988

Resist Board Meeting, Nov. 6, 1988

Resist

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

Recommended Citation
Resist, "Resist Board Meeting, Nov. 6, 1988" (1988). Resist Board Meeting Minutes. 188.
https://digitalrepository.trincoll.edu/minutes/188
Dear board member,

You'll find the business items of the agenda at the end of this letter: if you have any feedback, please write or call. Also for those who can't come to this meeting, please send in your proxy.

AGENDA

** Any last minute items of information by staff which are important to meeting.

GRANT REQUESTS

Peace/Anti-militarism work

1) Committee of Rainbow Light (Ithaca, NY) - They're asking for $600 toward expenses of duplicating/distributing a video (and for other costs) on electromagnetic radiation weapons used by military against Seneca Peace Camp. We'll be looking at the video on Nov. 1st, 7pm at Nancy Wechsler's house.

2) Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (Des Moines, IA) - $589 requested for printing costs of brochure on group.

3) Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors/Western Region (San Francisco, CA) - Request of $600 toward purchase of computer

4) Infact (Boston, MA) - $600 asked for printing and mailing costs of their GE boycott newsletter.

5) Mid-Peninsula Peace Center (Palo Alto, CA) - Postponed from last meeting. We need more info on them: a reference and more info on their position on gay/lesbian/disabled and older persons rights. They're asking for $600 for a laser printer and software for their computer.

6) National Coalition in Support of UN SSDIII (NY, NY) - Unspecified amount requested to help with deficit from June 11th demonstration.
Middle East work

7) Mobilization for Survival/Middle East Task Force (Cambridge, MA) - $425 requested for purchase of slide projector/cassette player.

8) National Alliance of Third World Journalists (Washington, DC) - They're asking for $600 for costs of a special issue of their journal on the Palestinian struggle.

9) North American Coordinating Cmte. for NGO's on Question of Palestine (Jamaica Plain, MA) - $600 asked for expenses of outreach to social studies teachers for NACC's annual conference.

10) Palestine Solidarity Cmte./Latino Task Force (Jamaica Plain, MA) - Request is for $600 for expenses of producing their newsletter "Noticiero Palestino."

Central America & Caribbean work

11) Association of Haitian Workers (Brooklyn, NY) - They're asking for an unspecified amount for expenses of their organizing work.

12) Center for Central American Studies (Silver Springs, MD) - Request of $600 for expenses of promo campaign for newsletter "El Salvador on Line."

13) Committee of US Citizens Living in Nicaragua (Managua & Austin, TX) - $600 asked to help with purchase of a computer used by their newsletter for organizing support in U.S.

14) PA Guard Out of Central America (Media, PA) - Request of $600 for costs of organizing a demo in Harrisburg on Nov. 12th.

15) Student Central America Network (Boston, MA) - They're asking for $600 for expenses of their Campus Organizing Project.

Miscellaneous

16) Tompkins/Cortland Labor Coalition (Ithaca, NY) - Request of $600 for expenses of conferences on health and safety issues for workers.

17) Committee for Abortion Rights & Against Sterilization Abuse (NY, NY) - $2,000 (??) requested for costs of publishing their pamphlet.

18) Syracuse Cultural Workers (NY) - $600 request for purchase of slide projector and screen.

19) N.H. Citizen Action (Concord) - Their request is for $600 for expenses of their Prenatal Care Campaign.
20) Death Penalty Resistance Project of TN (Nashville) - $500 asked for costs of producing a brochure.

21) Incest Survivors Network (Cambridge, MA) - $390 requested for costs of a planning meeting for organizing a demonstration on child sexual abuse.

LOAN REQUEST

22) Curbstone Press (Willimantic, CT) - Asking $1,000 loan for 6 months for production of book on Guatemala, "Granddaughters of Corn."

BUSINESS/POLICY ITEMS

* Personnel Policy Committee - This was postponed from past meeting. We'll need volunteers (Roxanna has expressed interest). Staff will have a paper for discussion: responsibilities, etc.

* Newsletter - Tatiana would be interested in soliciting participation from some board members to be on a Newsletter Advisory Committee. They would meet with her from time to time to help prioritize topics for NL articles. We'll discuss this at meeting.

* Computer soft-and hardware resources - An idea from the last board meeting. For discussion with staff. People who do have input/info. on this, please send into office before meeting.

* Board Outreach Committee report and update.

* Office - Finances and miscellaneous items

* Next board meeting - time and place - The staff is suggesting we have the next meeting after the first of the year. The holidays and prime funding time at the end of the year would make it difficult to have a meeting in December as well as the fact that we've been meeting every four weeks (with an interim meeting thrown in) since end of August.

If I receive any additional info before the meeting on any of the above, I'll send you copies.

For peace and justice,

Nancy Moniz, Resist staff
RESIST BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 6, 1988

Present: Ken Hale, Nancy Moniz, Nancy Wechsler (minutes), Merble Reagon, Louis Kampf, Pam Chamberlain, Connie Chan, Tatiana Schreiber.

References from Board members: Nancy Moniz requests that when she asks board members for references that if you can't do it within a week of the board meeting you let her know. That will give her enough time to track down other references. It's fine if you can't do it, she'd just like to get some notice.

GRANTS

We gave out a total of $5250 to 17 groups, including one group which was given a contingency grant.

1) Committee of Rainbow Light (Ithaca, NY) - They're asking for $600 toward expenses of duplicating/distributing a video (and for other costs) on electromagnetic radiation weapons used by military against Seneca Peace Camp. NO GRANT. References: One didn't have much communication with them, the other knew about Seneca but not Rainbow Light. Discussion about insular nature of group, the fact that they had no positions on other issues, and we had questions about whether or not this was a strategic issue to organize around. We discussed the possibility of newsletter article on electromagnetic radiation. We agreed to ask them for more info if they had it. In letter we can mention that we are about encouraging groups to broaden their constituency.

2) Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (Des Moines, IA) - Requested: $589 requested for printing costs of brochure on group. GRANT: $350. Reference: Dan P., Pacific Peace Fund. They have funded them, approach interesting, they have presence in low income community, good at making connections, creative. Questions were raised about whether or not their tone was paternalistic "teaching inner city people." Also criticized for not having perspective on disability.

3) Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors/Western Region (San Francisco, CA) - Request of $600 toward purchase of computer. GRANT: $370. References: positive. Important group, good literature.

4) Infact (Boston, MA) - $600 asked for printing and mailing costs of their GE boycott newsletter. GRANT: SOME ($200) Reference: Mark from Boston Mob. Heard through the grapevine that they don't treat staff very well. Don't know how they deal with labor at GE, not into conversion. Tess raised issues of effectiveness of boycott—seems hopeless. Many people agreed with this but still felt bad about not giving them some money.

5) Mid-Peninsula Peace Center (Palo Alto, CA) - Postponed from last meeting. We needed more info on them: a reference and more info on their
position on gay/lesbian/disabled and older persons rights. They're asking for $600 for a laser printer and software for their computer. **GRANT:** $370. Paul L. talked with friend who said they serve an important function in the area. Strongly recommended.

6) National Coalition in Support of UN SSDIII (NY, NY) - Unspecified amount requested to help with deficit from June 11th demonstration. **GRANT:** SOME ($200). It was suggested we put a box in the newsletter with calls for donations. Questions were raised about the effectiveness/point of the demo--it took lots of people's energy. How much would our little grant help? Some sympathy for how hard it is to raise money after the fact.

7) Mobilization for Survival/Middle East Task Force (Cambridge, MA) - $425 requested for purchase of slide projector/cassette player. **GRANT:** $400 We all felt generally supportive of MOBE's Middle East work. Wechsler said MOBE was having financial troubles.

8) National Alliance of Third World Journalists (Washington, DC) - They're asking for $600 for costs of a special issue of their journal on the Palestinian struggle. **GRANT:** $360. References were positive. Louis wanted to see contents of newsletter on Palestinian struggle. Questions were raised about whether or not this would be redundant. MERIP has put out a lot of good stuff lately.

9) North American Coordinating Cmte. for NGO's on Question of Palestine (Jamaica Plain, MA) - $600 asked for expenses of outreach to social studies teachers for NACC's annual conference. **GRANT:** $300 contingent on Louis Kampf and Tatiana liking their packet of information. Reference: National AFSC involved somewhat in this coalition effort. Jeanne Butterfield, who is contact person for this and next grant, is in Line of March. Project seems useful. We want to see what they are going to actually put in the packet, cover letter, etc.

10) Palestine Solidarity Cmte./Latino Task Force (Jamaica Plain, MA) - Request is for $600 for expenses of producing their newsletter "Noticiero Palestino." **GRANT:** SOME ($200) Reference: Good people, important project. Resist grant would be helpful. Questions raised about the need for this, and about whether or not it would be better to get stuff on Palestinians into pubs that already reach Latino community. Is this pub the best way to reach people? Is this a priority?

11) Association of Haitian Workers (Brooklyn, NY) - They're asking for an unspecified amount for expenses of their organizing work. **GRANT:** $370. Reference: Paul L.- good feelings about what they have done in past. We gave them a grant, and hope they will work on increasing leadership among women. (Group in 95% male.) We also wanted to know what they are doing around AIDS and workers rights, possible will do NL article.

12) Center for Central American Studies (Silver Springs, MD) - Request of $600 for expenses of promo campaign for newsletter "El Salvador on Line." **GRANT:** SOME ($200). References: Very positive. Questions were raised about necessity of it being a weekly publication. Some people thought they should
be able to raise money from their subscribers.

13) Committee of US Citizens Living in Nicaragua (Managua & Austin, TX) - $600 asked to help with purchase of a computer used by their newsletter for organizing support in U.S. NO GRANT. Reference from Live Oak in Texas and George Vickers. Live Oak: Pro-Sandinista supporters interested in organizing support in this country. NL is for US. George: Not impressed, isn't useful, defensive and redundant. We decided this wasn't a high priority for Resist.

14) PA Guard Out of Central America (Media, PA) - Request of $600 for costs of organizing a demo in Harrisburg on Nov. 12th. GRANT: SOME ($200). References were ok. We were concerned that they didn't have positions on other issues, and that they didn't have follow-up planned.

15) Student Central America Network (Boston, MA) - They're asking for $600 for expenses of their Campus Organizing Project. NO GRANT. This is a part of NECAN. Questions were raised about strength of People of Color and particularly black students in this network. Do they take up issues of People of Color? Mark at MOBE had worked with this group in W. Mass. He was critical of them. They are oriented to CISPES line. Focused on issue, reluctant to do wider work. Conflict between SCAN and black students in W. Mass around issues such as retention and recruitment. Questions were raised about our funding of student organizations and whether or not they could raise the money from sympathetic faculty, and from student government. We will suggest this to them.

16) Tompkins/Cortland Labor Coalition (Ithaca, NY) - Request of $600 for expenses of conferences on health and safety issues for workers. GRANT: SOME ($200). What about reproductive rights issues in relation to hazardous materials? Is this project something we should fund? We should encourage them to take positions on issues in question 10, especially reproductive rights issues. Criticisms were raised of their use of the term "non-white" to represent people of color. Ethnocentric.

17) Committee for Abortion Rights & Against Sterilization Abuse (NY, NY) - $2,000 (??) requested for costs of publishing their pamphlet. NO GRANT. Reference: Hans: very radical women in this group. Important book. Maxine Wolfe: CARASA not very active since 1981 or so. Had basic problem with original book in that there wasn't much on lesbian issues. Lesbians felt invisible in organizing. It had a marxist analysis. Pam read the new draft. She thought it would be helpful for women's studies courses. Medical and health info good. Lesbian stuff was included. Weakness of book that it does not present honest history of Repro Rights movement, specifically doesn't address how people talk about abortion but use pro-choice terminology. Lacks historical analysis of this change in language. We agreed we would say something like this: We don't fund books that are not directly related to an organizing project. We hope you will include some analysis about the movement's change from talking about abortion to using "pro-choice" language.

18) Syracuse Cultural Workers (NY) - $600 request for purchase of slide projector and screen. GRANT: $370. Questions were raised about whether or
not they need our money. Why are they having a hard time? We agreed they were a good resource. It was proposed that we give them a one shot grant in gesture of solidarity, hoping it would help them over this hump. We should let them know we don't ordinarily fund this type of thing.

19) N.H. Citizen Action (Concord) - Their request is for $600 for expenses of their Prenatal Care Campaign. **GRANT: $370.** Important project. Do they need Resist money? Some questions raised about size of budget and politics, but thought project was important and the NH is conservative.

20) Death Penalty Resistance Project of TN (Nashville) - $500 asked for costs of producing a brochure. **GRANT: $400.** This group is fighting uphill battle in conservative area. Small group, but core of anti-death penalty movement. They use resources well.

21) Incest Survivors Network (Cambridge, MA) - $390 requested for costs of a planning meeting for organizing a demonstration on child sexual abuse. **GRANT: $390.** Kim Westheimer gave positive reference. Core group of 4-5 activists. exciting, with a lot of potential. 1st group to put sexual abuse in a political context. Questions were raised about conflating sexual abuse of children with violence against children in general.

**LOAN REQUEST**

22) Curbstone Press (Willimantic, CT) - Asking $1,000 loan for 6 months for production of book on Guatemala, "Granddaughters of Corn." **YES TO LOAN OF $1000 for six months.**

**BUSINESS/POLICY ITEMS**

* Personnel Policy Committee - Roxanna Pastor had said she was interested. Louis said he would be on it if we can't get others. We postponed this again till the January meeting, when we hope more board members will be in attendance.

* Newsletter - Advisory Committee. Kate Cloud, Meredith Smith, Roxanna Pastor, Nancy Wechsler are all interested. Pam suggested we think about asking some of our pledges. Louis suggested Marjorie Bakken and will talk to her about it. Tatiana will look through pledge list for other possible people.

* Computer soft-and hardware resources - We tabled this to a future meeting. Wechsler is too busy this time of year to focus on this right now.

* Board Outreach Committee report and update. Committee will be interviewing Fran White hopefully on November 16th (7:30). Will have a report for next board meeting, which will include a suggestion about how many new board members we are seeking.

* Office - Finances: Honduras Information Center is moving to JP. RA is moving into the HIC office, and Resist and D&S are splitting the old RA office. This will come to an additional $50/month for Resist.
We have approximately the following in our bank accounts:
Cambridge Trust Company-- $14,000
Working Assets-- $30,680
Working Assets Loan-- $3,500
Working Assets (Cohen) $10,000

All our fall fundraising mailings are either out, or in the process of going out. Wechsler reports that either the money will come in or it won't! She is optimistic, but worries every year at this time. Will probably do some smallish prospecting mailings in the spring. Louis suggested checking out the Women's Review of Books mailing list.

Nancy Moniz is checking out possibility of getting in touch with former Capp St. Foundation donors, now that Capp street is folding.

* Next board meeting - SUNDAY, JANUARY 8TH, 1989. This meeting will be at Nancy Wechsler's or Pam Chamberlain's. We will let you know. See you then.

That's it. Nancy Wechsler
October 6, 1988

Dear Walter,

The board discussed your proposal for setting up an Arthur Raymond Cohen Memorial Endowment at Resist. Here's what we would like to do: We would open a separate money market account with Working Assets, a socially responsible fund where we have our loan and prospecting mailing fund accounts. The name of the account would be "Resist, Arthur Raymond Cohen Memorial Endowment" and would appear as such on the checks.

We would let the interest accumulate for a year before starting to make grants. We anticipate being able to give out one or two grants per year. We would give out only the interest, or a little less to allow for inflation. Grantees will be informed in the cover letter (and they will see on the checks) that this grant is from the endowment. We will keep you informed as to which groups have received the awards.

Instead of thinking of the endowment as available for anything other than pro-Palestinian issues, we'd feel most comfortable if it were set up to fund areas of work that you and your father, were he alive, would support. Can you designate several such areas? You mention in your original letter to us, "He was always opposed to the arms race, to the cold war, and to American intervention abroad; at home he was a staunch supporter of unions and a staunch foe of racism." We could use that statement as the criteria for funding, if you'd like, or, if you prefer, you could re-write it in some way.

We trust this arrangement will be satisfactory to you. We see the endowment as allowing us to support more of the work we want to fund, and at the same time honoring the memory of your father. We deeply appreciate your continued support of Resist, and your thinking of us for this project.

Let us know if this arrangement is satisfactory to you, and if you would like to revise, in any way, the statement that will guide us in making the endowment grant awards.

We look forward to hearing from you.

For peace and justice,

Nancy Wechsler
for the Resist Board
Nancy Moniz
RESIST
One Summer Street
Somerville, MA 02143

Dear Nancy,

As I look back over your letter to me, I notice that you ask for a brief letter from me to express my interest in serving on the RESIST board. Well, this letter isn't brief but I've decided to send it anyway because I think it might be a useful introduction to the development of my political ideas. What I have learned about your organization from Nancy Weschsler as well as my occasional reading of the RESIST Newsletter has alerted me to the good work your organization does in supporting a wide range of groups around the country that have little access to other funding sources. As I look over the list of grants and loans to organizations in 1987, I note that many of the organizations RESIST funds address issues that have concerned me, especially those that focus on what we used to call black, gay and women's liberation.

I come to my political life from a "race-conscious" family that took political education seriously. The family stories that we learned were always set in the context of black history. My grandfather's involvement in the Garvey movement was viewed with pride and my mother's involvement in voter registration and, in later years, in union organizing among fellow teachers' aides and in advocating the rights of radical high school students was held up as a model for me to follow. I never questioned that my life's work should have a political center to it.

Watching the more exciting civil rights movement in the deep South while I was growing up, voter registration, picketing segregated establishments and demanding access to resources in public schools seemed very tame in my home in the Upper South, Wilmington, Delaware. But I was ready to jump into the thick of things when I went off to college in the North and became involved in the black student movement during the late 1960s. While I was in college the excitement caught up with my home town when rioting in 1968 gave the governor the excuse to occupy Wilmington for several months with the National Guard. I spent that summer working with children and helping to organize resistance to this occupation. At the same time I became involved in resisting repressive anti-drug policies in the local government. Back in college, I found myself pulled in several political directions, especially by Pan Africanism and feminism. I began to see
myself as a feminist within the context of a black movement. In many ways this position put me into a marginal position within both movements. Somehow I wasn’t able to find other black feminists to support me.

I went off to graduate school at Boston University to study African history, still trying to merge feminism and Pan-Africanism. I spent most of my political activity involved in black nationalist cultural events and Southern Africa liberation activity (with a focus on Zimbabwe). Needless to say my feminist leanings continued to create tensions between me and my fellow nationalists. With the convenient excuse of a dissertation to write, I went off to West Africa for a year and a half in the mid 1970s to do research on African women. This experience helped me to break out of a U.S.-centered view of the world. I became much more sophisticated about the relationship between Africa and Africa America and more confident about my critiques of black nationalist views on gender relations.

In 1978, I moved to Philadelphia to take a job at Temple University. I felt that I pulled off quite a coup for a first full time teaching job. I had an appointment in a Pan African Studies Department in an urban university set in a large black community. Many of my colleagues were political activists and we worked to make the university responsible to the surrounding black community. We offered free courses with tremendous response from people. I found a great hunger for what I had learned about Africa and its history. We ran radical films series, started a community garden and sponsored a speakers series that spoke beyond narrow academic concerns. Despite constant efforts by the university to close us down we were very successful during my two years at Temple. But once again, my feminism got in the way of easy relationships between me and many of my colleagues. Among other things, my courses on African women that were critical of the “motherland” and my refusal to cook for any of our community events made me a threat to the black nationalist orientation of the department. Isolated and without allies, I looked for a new job.

When I moved to Hampshire College, I assumed that I would stay for a couple of years while I looked for some place more suitable--mainly an urban institution. I knew I would miss the work I did at Temple with the surrounding community, the largely older, working students whom I taught and my neighborhood activities, including helping to organize a community radio station. Eight years after my move to Amherst, I wonder where the time went. I still miss the vitality of an urban setting and anticipate that I will return to one in the future when I can find a place where I will not be politically isolated and powerless in my job.

Meanwhile, teaching at Hampshire has a number of rewards and possibilities that I did not anticipate. First, I have been able to form intense student-teacher bonds with a number of students of color from the U.S. and many Third World countries. Hampshire’s unusual structure allows me to offer these students more than I would otherwise be able to give. I watched as events in South Africa raised student consciousness about racism in this country. Through my courses and my talks in the area I have help expose the parallels between white racism in the U.S. and South Africa. But I also became concerned as I noticed that students here as well as around the country often unable to articulate what racism here is about. We do not live
under apartheid and I have tried to help students recognize the contrasts between the two countries so that they could express their opposition to racism in their own lives. I have also worked to affect the structure of this college so that it better responds to their educational and political needs. I've been central in changes in the curriculum that fundamentally challenge the Eurocentric bias of liberal education and I have pushed an affirmative action agenda for faculty, staff and students. Watching students grow both intellectually and politically in an atmosphere where a left political agenda has an impact has been a major element in my decision to stay at Hampshire so long.

Second, I have been able to grow myself since coming to Western Mass. My relations with students and radical faculty members have helped me to deepen my feminist analysis and my understanding of Africa. This is the first place where I have found the support for combining my interests in black and feminist politics. I have been able to forge a set of allies who share an interest in making Hampshire more diverse at the student, staff and faculty levels. Finally I have stayed at Hampshire so long because I have found a community that takes me outside of the college. Related to the development of my feminist politics has been my discovery of the feminist community here in the "Valley"--a discovery that makes my life feel much less isolated than I otherwise would be. I enter this community largely through my participation in Des Colores, the local lesbian of color organization. I often wish that the feminist and lesbian communities here were more politized, and I do find myself driving to Boston for political activity. But I am hopeful that more women will move beyond the cultural feminism that has many of them sidetracked for now.

The fruit of my life as an activist/scholar is most obvious in my writings. My informal association with Radical America has helped me find a public black feminist voice. After a 1984 article on black feminism appeared, I was contacted by Les Temps Modernes for a piece on black feminist politics and I have signed a contract with Pandora press to expand my "RA" article into a book. (Not surprisingly this book is taking more of my time than I would like as I rush to complete a first draft before I take off for eight months in West Africa at the end of December.) My goal as an activist/scholar is to take advantage of my contact with intellectual and activist worlds to produce politically engaged and readable work that furthers our political discussions. In this endeavor, my struggles to remain committed to both black liberation and feminist politics grounds me.

It is this history that I would also like to bring to the RESIST board. I feel like my own work could deepen by the view that I would get of the efforts of left activists to move politically around this country. And I feel that I can offer these organizations and the board the benefit of my efforts to develop a black feminist agenda that remains committed to affecting both local and international politics.

Sincerely,

 fran

E. Frances White