
Resist Board Meeting, Dec. 15, 1991

Resist
Dear board member,

You'll find the business items for the meeting at the end of the grants agenda portion of this letter, as in the past. I'll send you updated info for the requests, plus the references, about a week before the board meeting.

If you have any comments and can't come to the meeting, please send in your feedback as well as your proxy.

AGENDA

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

GRANT REQUESTS

Prisoners

1) Native American Prisoners' Rehabilitation Project (Villa Hills, KY) - They're asking for $600 toward production and distribution costs of their newsletter, "Iron House Drum." Thick pub - I'll ask a board member to review it and report to the board meeting.

   Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

2) Dee Farmer & Associates (Springfield, MO) - Requesting $550 for printing and mailings to the AIDS community to call to Congress to amend the Rehabilitation Act.

   Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

Peace/Anti-militarism

3) Interfaith Resource Center for Peace and Justice (Wilkes-Barre, PA) - They're asking for $600 toward the costs of printing and mailing their newsletter.

   Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____
4) New Hampshire Action for Peace & Lasting Security (Concord) - $600 requested to produce an updated version of their "Security in the '90s" brochure.
   Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

5) A Peace of Love (Fairhaven, MA) - Request of $100 for printing fliers.
   Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

6) Albuquerque Center for Peace & Justice (NM) - They're asking for $600 for general operating expenses.
   Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

Community/Anti-racism

7) Texas Alliance for Human Needs (Austin) - Request of $600 for software for computer facsimile transmission.
   Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

8) Asian American Union for Political Action (New York, NY) - $600 request toward the cost of producing their newsletter.
   Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

9) Committee in Solidarity with the Central American People (Eugene, OR) - $350 to fund an Undoing Racism Workshop.
   Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

Central & Latin America and the Caribbean

10) Boston Area Network on Central America (Cambridge, MA) - They’re asking for $225 to pay the 1992 telephone bills of their Central America Hotline.
    Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

11) National Pledge of Resistance (Oakland, CA) - $600 asked toward the purchase of a computer.
    Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____
12) Refugiados por la Paz (Harlingen, TX) - Request of $600 for computer software, hardware, a printer, and for consulting services.
   Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

Miscellaneous

13) Wobanaki, Inc. (Missisquoi, VT) - They're asking for $600 to help with the expenses of their Tribal headquarters.
   Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

14) Asian, Latino, African & Native Americans for Justice & Peace (Portland, OR) - Request of $600 to fund their Communities of Resistance Art Project, a component of the Resistance 500 Campaign.
   Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

15) Philippine Workers Support Committee (Honolulu, HI) - $600 requested toward the costs of a special issue of the "Philippine Labor Alert", and to update and publish their brochure.
   Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

16) Chicago Mozambique Support Network (IL) - Request of $600 to produce an Anti-Apartheid Calendar/Newsletter.
   Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

17) Chinese Construction Workers Association (New York, NY) - $600 asked for the purchase of a copying machine.
   Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

18) Arab World & Islamic Resources and School Services (Berkeley, CA) - They're asking for $600 for printing costs of a "how to" curriculum, "A Medieval Banquet in the Alhambra Palace." They sent the book, which is thick. I'll ask a board member to review it and report to the board meeting.
   Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____
19) Streetwise Self Defense (Provincetown, MA) - A request of $600 to fund an intensive program of self defense for lesbians, gays and bisexuals on Cape Cod.
   Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

20) Dorchester Women’s Committee (MA) - Requesting $600 for general operating expenses.
   Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

21) Left Green Network (Iowa City, IA) - Requesting $600 toward the purchase of a computer.
   Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

LOAN REQUEST

22) Disposable Workers of Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station (North Huntingdon, PA) - $1,000 loan requested for expenses of producing and mailing their newsletter.
   Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

BUSINESS/POLICY ITEMS

* Resist’s 25th Anniversary - Discussion.

* Board Search Committee - Report.

* Office - Finances and other miscellaneous items.

* Next board meeting - This meeting will be held in Boston on January 26, 1991. We will need someone to volunteer to host/ess the meeting.

For peace and justice,

Nancy
Nancy Honiz
Resist staff
Resist Board Meeting
December 15, 1991
Paul Lauter’s apartment, NYC

PRESENT: Pam Chamberlain, Merble Reagon (chair), Nancy Wechsler (minutes), Louis Kampf, Paul Lauter, Larry Goldsmith, Hank Rosemont, Ken Hale, Amy Swerdlow, Bell Chevigny, Tatiana Schreiber, and Nancy Moniz (by proxy).

Introductions: This was Larry’s first board meeting, so we went around and did brief introductions.

GRANTS: We gave out a total of $8675 to 17 groups. (That’s $1675 over the $7000 our formula set for this meeting.)

1. Native American Prisoners’ Rehabilitation Project (Villa Hills, KY) YES to a $600 grant for production and distribution of their newsletter "Iron House Drum." NM (by proxy)-yes, this is an important issue.

   Haven’t done more than one issue of the newsletter. We’ve funded them previously. They seem to have broadened their work and outreach. No one had read the full newsletter.

2. Dee Farmer & Associates (Springfield, MO) $200 (SOME) of the $550 requested, for printing and mailings to the AIDS community to call on Congress to amend the Rehabilitation Act. NM (proxy): Yes, good reference. Discussion: What is she specifically trying to do? Is this practical? How are these petitions going to happen? Is amending federal regulations a good use of money? Discussion about whether or not Resist has a policy about funding prison organizing? Acknowledgment that board has differences on this issue.

   Good issue, but is this much of a strategy? Should we write back and get more information? This is really a public education campaign to get word out to AIDS community. AIDS organizations are not likely to make prison issues high priority. In grant application it says "primary role is improved prison inmate conditions." Is this Resist priority? Larry looked at court cases Dee filed. Mostly HIV and transsexual cases. Straw poll: Yes 2 (includes NM proxy), Some 7. In letter mention that in future applications please be more detailed about strategy. Write positive letter. (NM can talk to Larry about letter if she has any questions.)

3. Interfaith Resource Center for Peace and Justice (Wilkes-Barre, PA) NO GRANT. They had requested $600 toward the costs of printing and mailing their newsletter. We had a long discussion on this one. NM (proxy): Has questions about their "non-positions" on question 10. Discussion: Good project, but didn’t like their letter. We didn’t like that they wrote they had no intention of taking positions on reproductive rights, abortion, gay/lesbian, disability issues, etc. We haven’t been dogmatic about this, but it is inexcusable for a peace and justice group to not have a stand on gay/lesbian issues. Wechsler pointed out that in their series of discussions someone was coming to talk about Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker’s movement. Who was she, and was she anti-abortion? (Yes) Did the group even have a discussion about abortion and les/gay issues? Should we postpone to get this info? Should we take into account their geographic location and give them a yes/some with some criticism of their non-positions? We looked over their women’s conference brochure. Very apolitical-- self-help, health, how to be successful as a worker. People found conference program disheartening. Given they are a peace and justice group, and not a single issue group, we didn’t like they hadn’t taken a stand on les/gay issues. Many groups that haven’t taken stand on abortion have taken stand in support of les/gay issues. Question was raised about whether we should re-think our "policy" of taking into account geographic location--going easier on groups in some areas of the country. Was this allowing them to play into the rightwing climate, and allow more rightwing people to join--and not be confronted/challenged? Decision: They have other sources of funding, they don’t seem to do coalition work, even with individuals. NO GRANT. Say something like: We as Resist have struggled with how to support organizations
like yours. We have trouble because any group working with peace and justice issues needs
to struggle with social issues as well. We hope you will take this up, and reach out to
groups working on these other issues. We believe the best way to broaden support is to
take up these other issues. Some Catholic groups do take positions around reproductive
rights and gay/lesbian rights. (NM can talk to Pam about this letter.)

4. Withdrawn before the board meeting.

5. A Peace of Love (Fairhaven, MA) YES to a grant of $100 (as requested) for printing
fliers. NM (by proxy) Yes. Very little discussion.

6. Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice (NM) Yes to a grant of $600 for general
operating expenses. NM (proxy) yes, good references, 5-7 people of color on board,
commitment to diversify and they did it. References positive. We’ve funded them before.
Question: can groups hit us up once a year for ongoing program work? Or do we want to
fund new programs or projects to make groups self-sustaining? We don’t have a firm
position. Our guidelines say we will fund for general operating expenses, but we prefer
to fund specific projects. They haven’t come to us for three years.

7. Texas Alliance for Human Needs (Austin) Yes to a grant of $600 for software for
computer fax transmission. NM (proxy) Yes, very good organization. $100,000 budget for
all of Texas. Use money well. Questions raised about the amount of foundation support
they already were receiving, and to what extent they were radical. People felt good about
the group.

8. Asian American Union for Political Action (NY, NY) Yes to a grant of $600 for producing
their newsletter. NM (proxy) depends on Paul’s reference. Has questions on politics.
Paul: His reference (Peter) said this was more than a one-woman operation. Useful group,
very positive, very serious. Discussion: Proposal sounded sectarian, rhetorical. It
seems they’ve mostly supported struggles of other organizations, not one thing they
initiated. Just internal education. Pam suggested this was a good way to mobilize 2nd
generation people into what Chinatown is going through. Paul mentioned they had been
involved in recent NYC elections. Question raised about whether or not we’ve funded many
Asian-American groups in NY? It was suggested we should turn them down and suggest they
come back later with a specific political organizing project. We decided to fund. In
letter: We have some reservations about the kind of rhetoric used, it often turns off the
kind of people they (the group) wants to reach. (NM: Talk to Paul about wording if you
have any questions.)

9. Committee in Solidarity with the Central American People (Eugene, OR) Yes to a grant of
$350 (as requested) to fund an Undoing Racism Workshop. Positive reference. NM (proxy)
yes, good group, good reference.

10. Boston Area Network on Central America (Cambridge, MA) Yes to a grant of $225 (as
requested) to pay 1992 telephone bills for Central America Hotline. Questions raised
about how many people use the hotline? CASA and NECAN said they use it. Some board
members said they called.

11. National Pledge of Resistance (Oakland, CA) Yes to a grant of $600 toward the
purchase of a computer. Positive references. NM (proxy) yes.

12. Refugiados por la Paz (Harlingen, TX) Yes to a grant of $600 for computer software,
hardware, a printer, and for consulting services. NM (proxy) had problems with answers to
question #10. LK: This is not a general peace and justice organization, but more single
issue. Good board makeup. Questions raised about amount of foundation funding, and
service nature of work. People differed in how they felt about the answers to question
#10. Impressed with makeup of organization. By definition they are doing social service,
but it has political content. YES: positive letter. say something about their answers to
question #10, like, "It is hard to believe gay/lesbian rights is a non-issue for people in your community as we are sure there are people in your community, as in any community, who are gay/lesbian or disabled, etc."

13. Wobanaki, Inc. (Missisquoi, VT) Yes to a grant of $600 to help with expenses of their Tribal headquarters. Positive references. Ken is going to try to visit them later. He talked to tribal judge, but he was one of the people applying. Ken was impressed. Ken talked to a few people about the group. Questions raised about the role of women. Ken discussed which tribes were matrilineal and which were not. Questions raised about whether it is correct to call any tribes matriarchal, especially now, when women don’t have any real power. NM (proxy) - good references, but weird answers to #10. Hank brought this up also. We then had a discussion about which term was being used now, Native American or Indian, and the differences between them. Groups seem to be going back to calling themselves Indian. Indian implies there is one people. It was suggested to call people by tribal names. Larger groups (such as Indian Treaty Rights Council, etc) are using Indian. In Latin America people use the Spanish word for indigenous, not the Spanish word for Indian. Only Indians call themselves Indian. (More was said on this, but the minute taker couldn’t get it all down.)

14. Asian, Latino, African & Native Americans for Justice & Peace (Portland, OR) Yes to a grant of $600 to fund their Communities of Resistance Art Project, a component of the Resistance 500 campaign. NM (by proxy) Yes, good references, good plan. References-positive. Focus on Quincentennial. People liked that it was visual, concrete, do-able, reasonable. Question was raised about what we have done on Quincentennial as Resist. We highlighted what we had done with the newsletter, re: printing articles, grantee reports, resource lists. Agreed we hadn’t written anything analytical about the organizing being done. More discussion on group: positive it is arising out of multi-racial group. We should write something in the newsletter about them.

15. Philippine Workers Support Committee (Honolulu, HI) Yes to a grant of $600 toward the costs of a special issue of the "Philippine Labor Alert," and to update and publish their brochure. Hank says they are still active, we’ve funded them in the past. The only game in town. Good brochure. Intended to organize Filipino women—who are at bottom. We should fund. Brochure clear and straightforward. Questions raised re: who would read newsletter except people interested in labor? Question raised about KMU—does group do work in support of other unions or smaller ones? Ken talked a bit about their publication, what kind of articles they have, what they cover. They seem to cover lots of different issues. Their Spring tour of women from Gabriella is a good project. <<NM: Send Hank proposals for Hawaii, for all board meetings, even ones he won’t be at. Thanks.>>

16. Chicago Mozambique Support Network (IL) Yes to a grant of $600 to produce Anti-apartheid calendar/newsletter. NM (proxy) Yes. Discussion: Highly academic project group. Question: How would support network lead to other kinds of organizing? How did idea of calendar come about? How would other things be included? Boston group is good group. They send delegations, which come back and do report backs. We don’t know that much about Chicago group. We don’t know that much about what is actually happening in Mozambique right now. Is anyone up on it? It didn’t seem that anyone was. (NM: if you have questions about the letter, call Pam.)

17. Chinese Construction Workers Association (NY, NY) Yes to a grant of $600 for the purchase of a copying machine. Paul: almost entirely male group. Guys hired with big grant—construction—sub minimum wage hiring—led to organizing—separate group/union spun off—brought suit against planning council re: misspending of funds. They decided to keep together and try to organize. Paul said he didn’t check out other groups with whom they share quarters. This is a serious group with real potential. Decision: Yes. Make sure #’s 8 and 17 know each other’s contact person. Mention this info in letter. Also ask them to send us some literature about the other groups they share quarters with. Possibly do a newsletter article about these two groups.
18. Arab World & Islamic Resources and School Services (Berkeley, CA) NO GRANT. They had requested $600 for printing their "how to" curriculum, "A Medieval Banquet in the Alhambra Palace." NM (Proxy) NO. Louis looked over the book. Organization does some nice things. Some good political people. They don’t need radical money for this. Some of this is in textbooks already.

Nothing about the fact that Columbus’ voyage was financed by the defeat of Arabs in Grenada (and expulsion of Jews). Apolitical to get into schools. (NM: I wasn’t sure if this part was supposed to go into letter or not. Talk to Louis or Bell if you have any questions.)

Letter: Work you do is fine. This is not the kind of thing we fund. We support radical projects that don’t have other chances of getting funding. Come back with a different proposal in the future.

19. Streetwise Self-Defense (Provincetown, MA) NO GRANT. They had requested $600 to fund an intensive program of self-defense for lesbians/gays and bisexuals on Cape Cod. NM (proxy) NO. Pam: Contact person is a fiction writer, and martial artist. Not convinced we should give them money. Town/gown tension. No place for adolescents to hang out. No context in which gay/les community has worked successfully with the rest of town to challenge homophobia systemically. Has problems with padded attacker classes. Unrealistic. Need to avoid getting into a fight. They aren’t fundraising from other sources. We would prefer to fund a project that did better job working with year round residents toward some recognition of needs of adolescents. Further discussion: Why are classes being given free? Everyone could pay $5. Would we fund self defense classes without a broader context? How does improved self esteem help prevent attacks? NO grant.

20. Dorchester Women’s Committee (MA) Yes to a grant for $600 for general operating expenses. NM (proxy) very positive. Group rejuvenated and very active. This is where Nancy Moniz lives. Some discussion about whether or not the IWD event is becoming more exclusive and less inclusive. Group better re: black and white women, but don’t seem able to include Vietnamese. Dorchester has a substantial Vietnamese population. Not in position to organize Vietnamese women. Question: Has your strategizing around diversity/multi-culturalism included Asian/Vietnamese community?

We discussed our past history of funding Dorchester Women’s Committee. Do we have a policy of funding groups over and over, each year. There was one year in which we turned them down. This is first time they have applied for general operating expenses. <<NM: Say something to Donna, NOT IN WRITING, that even though we know and like them they need to take writing the grant application seriously....>>

21. Left Green Network (Iowa City, IA) Yes to a grant of $600 toward the purchase of a computer. NM (proxy) yes. References positive. Long statement of principles. Looks like ok people trying to do something. What does Iowa city group do themselves? How does clearing house work? Where will they keep the computer? Will it move around to the residence of whomever is using it at that time?

22. LOAN REQUEST. Disposable Workers of Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station (North Huntingdon, PA) NO LOAN. Some people liked their answers to our questions. Some people were moved by application. Check references, these folks are not working with other groups and are in fact suing one of the groups we funded, a group which should be an ally. Question raised about whether or not we would get our money back, is this a good risk? We don’t fund legal work. We usually fund groups which work in coalition. Should we tell Greenpeace about this? Maybe the group they are suing is doing that already.

Finances: Given the state of our finances, and that this is the last board meeting of 1991, we decided it was ok to go over the allocated amount derived from our formula. Except for one SOME, we gave out the full amount to the groups we decided to fund.

At our next meeting we should discuss whether or not to raise the formula, and/or raise the grant ceiling.
As of 12/12/91 we have:

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**Total all funds:**

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Nancy Wechsler pointed out that a lot of our money is in Calvert and Working Assets money market funds, both of which are getting low interest. The Finance committee needs to discuss what to do. We could wait till the spring and see if CD rates go up (they are supposed to) and put some money into a CD, or we could consider investing in a socially responsible no load mutual fund like PAX, or Dreyfus Third Century Fund. Wechsler mentioned again the need for someone on the board who knows about investing/ finances/ budgets. She's written Cheryl Smith at Franklin Companies (a radical economist and friend of Wechsler's partner) about whether or not she is interested in applying to be on the board. Hoby Spaulding was suggested to contact re: investment advice. (666-9575) Ken Hale thought his wife might be interested in helping out (being on the board??).

**25th Anniversary:** Tatiana gave a short report. She will be working on this starting in January. We are planning some event in Boston in the Fall of 92 (probably November). Maybe an event in NY and SF. A lot of stuff in the newsletter throughout the year. What, if anything, do people want to do in NY? What’s realistic? There seemed to be more energy for the anniversary now. It might be useful opportunity to provide sense of continuity in Left with hooking up things that had to do with origins of Resist 25 years ago and the kinds of work people are doing now. Involve people who had a lot of public visibility--do in some cultural way. Event in NY- -educational/social /continuity/newsworthiness of fact we survived this long.

There's been a revision of the 60's that came out during the Gulf War. Story is that things are still going on. We should still consider getting publicity in the Nation and NY Times. Question raised as to our goals- fundraising or political education. It was felt that both were goals. Visibility will lead to increased ability to fund raise. It was suggested we do some oral history in the newsletter. <<Send people xerox's of 20th anniversary newsletter issue so they remember what we did then.>>

Encourage people to send stuff in to newsletter. Also, we hope people in NY will come to Boston event, no matter what they do in NY. Is there enough energy/interest to do event/oral history/media outreach?

NY people should get together and decide what they can or can’t do. Paul and Amy will organize NY meeting, meet before Boston January 26th meeting. Suggested David at CCR for publicity, or Trudy. Suggestion to have a house party with pledges and political groups. Question raised as to whether Boston cares if Boston big event raises money. We said we weren’t having the event to raise money, it did not have to raise money that night, but we might pick up new pledges, new donors, sell t-shirts, etc. The visibility celebrating our anniversary will give us will help us raise money. We are not planning on charging or trying to have the Boston event be a fund raiser--but a celebration.
<<Send NYC Resist list (individuals, pledges, groups) to Paul. Send Hank the DC/Maryland list.>>

Write to Don Kalish. Progressive faculty group at UCLA. Do they want to do anything for our anniversary?

Archives: We had a discussion about what to do with all our papers. Paul has a lot of our old papers in a closet in his office. He had asked the WI historical society if they wanted them, but they didn't. Swarthmore wasn't sure. Tamiment hasn't replied. What about Labadie in Michigan? The papers need to be cataloged. They aren't much use the way they are. Maybe we could find a graduate student who wants to go through them for a dissertation. Or a library school student. We should write the Labadie collection in Michigan and see if they are interested in our archives. Call Paul Buhle and see what he thinks. See if he knows any graduate student who might want to use archives for dissertation. Question raised whether there were things in archives we needed now in order to solicit things for anniversary? It isn't possible to know.

Board Outreach:

Renae Scott has said she is returning to active board status.

Hank suggested we consider Lucille Clifton from the DC area, who has expressed an interest. We should send her information about Resist and our procedure for applying to the board. (Lucille Clifton, Div. of Arts and Letters, St. Mary's College of Maryland, St. Mary's City, MD 20686) We did not discuss what the next step would be once Lucille received this information and sent us back a formal letter requesting to be on the board. People were enthusiastic about the possibility of her joining.

(See additional discussion above, under Finance section.)

Other Business and Announcements: Louis gave us an update on status of Boston MOBE. He's been helping the group restructure. They are currently looking for an executive director.

Paul mentioned two recent developments responding to the attacks on PC. Jerry Gaff at the Univ. of Chicago has started Teachers for Democratic Culture. Stanley Aronowitz and Ellen Willis in NY have started Union of Democratic Intellectuals. Conferences in spring in NY. Press conference in January. Paul suggests that maybe we should write something for newsletter about these developments. Paul agreed to write something up. We also decided to pursue getting something for the newsletter about the organizing black women did to get the ad in the NY Times re: the Anita Hill/Clarence Thomas hearings. Elsa Bartly Brown at U of Michigan (Ann Arbor) History Dept. was an organizer of the ad campaign. We could call her, or Phyllis at New Directions for Women (201-568-0226). Also Fran White, Margaret Cerullo and Marla Erlien probably know about the ad stuff. Fran and Margaret both gave talks on PC/multi-culturalism on a Hampshire sponsored panel. Wechsler thinks they are writing some of this up for some journal.

Next Board Meeting: January 26th in Boston. We need a place to have it. Louis can't, he will be just returning from a Radical Teacher meeting; Ken might be able to; Pam will be out of town.

Wrap-Up: We asked Larry if he had any comments after his first board meeting. He said he felt it went well, and was very congenial. It was much as he had been told to expect.

Paul Lauter will be in LA Jan. 16-20 or so. He could meet with Don Kalish et al and check out any group, if we want him to. We need to let him know. We should write Don first, re: our anniversary. Paul will also be in Houston the end of January and the end of February, in case there are any groups he should check out there for us.

That's it.
REFERENCES FOR THE DECEMBER 15, 1991 RESIST BOARD MEETING:

1) Native American Prisoners Rehab/Research Project - Of all the groups for which I've looked for a reference, this group is one of the toughest. Last year we did give them a grant although I couldn't get a reference. At that time I called: People's Resource Center of SW Ohio, Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, Ed Nakawatasi and Linda Thurston of Phila. AFSC, Judy Greenspan of ACLU National Prison Project, the Center for Peace Education (Cinci., OH), Tony Gonzalez of International Indian Treaty Council, Rev. McCraken (a prisoners' rights activist in the area), and Jana Schroeder of AFSC Prison Project in Dayton, OH. None really knew much about the group. Several had seen their newsletter and thought it was good, but other than that - zilch. We gave them a grant since it is an important issue, but urged them to contact other groups, such as ACLU.

This time I called some of the above folks again (such as Judy Greenspan and Ed Nakawatasi) who still didn't know anything about the group. And then - Eureka! I talked with Jana Schroeder who said that she's had some contact with them since last year, mainly about the Conference in Indiana. A lot of the work at the Conference was about Native and minority issues and this group did workshops, etc. The group has also been in contact with her on various issues. They've also worked with IITC and Justice Watch in Cinci, OH (a Resist grantee), so it seems that they have been broadening their outreach.

2) Dee Farmer & Assoc. - Judy Greenspan of the ACLU National Prison Project said that this is "mostly Dee.. he's an AIDS activist in prison.. a jailhouse lawyer... now attempting to do this project... no federal prisoners can use the present law... not eligible.. Dee wants to do education on the issue... He has done wonderfully heroic things... responsible, talented person." Judy feels that a grant will be used well.

3) Interfaith Resource Center - Frank Brodhead didn't know of the group, but said he'll take responsibility for getting a reference. Frank did say, generally, that Wilkes-Barre is predominately a Catholic, coal country area. He is "stunned if anything is going on there." Lots of people have left area since the '40s. More later. // Later - Frank's been checking around and has come up blank so far. Since he's not sure if he can attend the meeting, I can't promise a reference but will try. // I talked with Howard Zinn who is mentioned as being invited to speak at one of their events. He said that the only thing he knows is that they've invited him to do some speaking engagements in April, 1992. They're planning a series of events in 1992 on the Quincentenary.

**4) NH Action for Peace - Withdrawn from the agenda.

5) A Peace of Love - Logan Patrick of NE Central America Network said that he knows the Delanos, although he's not in constant contact with the group. They're doing a cable TV program which has had a good response. Logan's been on the program. The group focuses on relating larger foreign political issues with domestic ones. He said that these are "pretty solid, committed people." He's impressed with them, and with their efficient use of funds. They did a lot of really creative street theatre and leafleting during the Gulf War, stressing the human angle. They got a good response to that. He recommends funding.

6) Albuquerque Center - I talked with Chris Shuey of the SW Research & Organizing Project. They think highly of the Center and have collaborated with them on work about nuclear waste and the Native American community. "Been around a long time... mostly volunteers... produce a good newsletter (grassroots issues, bi-lingual) = impressive NL... group has good politics... does good coalition work on issues such as women, gay and lesbian, people of color including Native Americans." He highly recommends.

7) TAHN - When this group came to us for a grant in December, 1990, I talked with Charlie MacMartin of Austin CISPES. He was familiar with them. Has worked in coalitions with TAHN, made connex between Central America & domestic human needs issues. Their work is real good - agitating around tax reform, education, housing etc./ actively confront
Charlie MacMartin of Austin CISFES. He was familiar with them. Has worked in coalitions with TAHN, made connex between Central America & domestic human needs issues. Their work is real good - agitating around tax reform, education, housing etc./ actively confront elected officials when officials don’t take a stand on issues. Some 50 low budget, grass roots organizations around the state are part of this - important formation in state. Everyone feels good about them. "No weird politics" in groups involved. He also worked with them in a coalition on the Middle East - had a speaker on human needs from TAHN - made connex with state issues & ME. He feels TARN is politically progressive. TAHN puts more time into lobbying that street action - member groups do this & rely on TAHN for other broader focus work. This is definitely not a social service organization. They’re real good on diversity - more Latinos than African Americans, mostly because of demographics in TX, but more so because African Americans are into their own focus & programs of self-empowerment. Very good organization - he highly recommended funding. This time I talked with Suzanne Henry of AFSC/Austin who agreed with Charlie’s recommendation. This organization is still going strong.

8) AAUPA - Paul Lauter gave the reference at the board meeting.

9) CISCAP - I talked with Linda Reymer of McKenzie River Gathering. She said that they’ve funded the group a number of times. "One of the most sophisticated solidarity groups... very well organized... this is a group that has been pro-active, both during and since the Gulf War... have gotten a lot of people to joining CISCAP... have excellent events... a great group... multi-cultural... work with people of color as part of their agenda... make a real effort to connect issues, ie international with local issues... good coalition building organization." Highly recommended.

10) BANCA - Frank Brodhead knows the contact person and likes him very much. In 1979, Rudy Pastor was one of the Parents Against the Draft... sincere, hard working. He organized one of the most successful Parents Against the Draft groups. Frank didn’t know anything about BANCA itself, so I called Mario Davilla of AFSC/Cambridge. He felt that BANCA has developed a very good system for the Hotline, set up for response to happenings in Central America. People had been asking for this sort of communications and this will solve an existing problem, he said. He doesn’t feel it would be redundant since CASA and NECAN have very small scale hotlines and, in fact, use BANCA’s to get the news out in a wide-spread way. BANCA’s focusing on this project and "at this point, given the different existing networks set up, it makes the most sense for them to focus on this project." He recommends funding them.

11) National Pledge of Resistance - I called Bill Hoffman in the Bay Area. He said they’ve been very active and were during the Gulf War. They’re working with the Palestine Solidarity Committee on a campaign on the Middle East. They’ve developed greatly since their original focus on Central America to now include many issues. They’re good to work with, doing a lot of coalition work. Bill is "impressed with what they’ve done. He recommends funding.

12) Refugiados por la Paz - I talked with Ellen Lamberjack of the Rio Grande Defense Committee (a Resist grantee in Harlingen.) She said that they’re doing "a tremendous job with Central Americans who are living in the Valley... many projects." This group was started by two of the Sanctuary trial defendants because so many refugees appeared at their home needing assistance. They decided to open an office which is the center for different types of work: social service, ESL, community organizing. They are also starting a similar group in Laredo. As far as the political side of their work, they stay on top of Central American issues and spread the word, work with the Rio Grande Defense folks as resource people for the delegations of US people going down to the border.

13) Wobanaki - Ken Hale might be able to check this out for us via a site visit. I also talked with Will Miller of the Green Mountain and Haymarket Funds. He said both funds have
made grants to the organization. This is "the only active and effective group working on the issue of Native American rights in Vermont... they're struggling to re-gain official tribal status from the state and over broken tribal and treaty rights... The headquarters is the center of operations." Will recommends giving them a grant.

14) ALANA - Another reference from Linda Reymers of McKRG. In Portland, "this is one of the most effective groups around these days. They grew out of the Gulf War work of activists of color. They're now focusing on Quincentennial events... giving a lot of leadership in community... they're very clear on the issue of involvement of people of color... work well in coalition with other groups." Linda knows some of the individuals involved, "some of the best activists in Portland." She feels that this particular project is a very exciting one. Recommended.

15) Philippine Workers Support - Hank Rosemont gave the reference at the board meeting.

16) Chicago Mozambique Support Network - I first talked with Jenifer Bing-Canar of Chicago AFSC. She didn’t know too much about them other than that they’re connected with the International Forum (an initiative of solidarity groups there who formed a coalition to press forward issues of the Third World), includes Palestinian, Filipino, Veteran and other groups. They also work with others on city-wide issues. I then talked with Jackie Shad of Crossroads Fund who said that this is a "small, solid group. They have had a couple of good events recently... They sent a person to Mozambique, who has come back and is doing speaking engagements." Jackie said that they "do incredible work... raise important issues." As far as a newsletter/ calendar, she said that there is nothing like that on anti-apartheid work in Chicago yet, good idea. She recommends funding.

17) Chinese Construction Workers - Paul Lauter talked with his contact, Peter Kwang, who said that this is a "serious group... has been in opposition, both in court and in organizing, against the Chinatown Planning Council which had gotten a substantial federal grant" to help people in Chinatown but hired workers for $5/hr in contradiction to the terms of the grant. Workers organized and to CPC to court. Then the workers decided to start this group. Peter thinks they’re quite good, said they also work with Fight Back, but Paul doesn’t know that group. Peter is pretty positive about the CCW.

18) AWAIR - Bill Hoffman said that he doesn’t know how big this group is besides Audrey. She’s worked very hard on putting together resources on the issue, very important material. AWAIR is not oriented on local organizing, rather national resources, so haven’t been too active locally. Audrey worked with NAJDA to put out a very good book in the past.

19) Streetwise Self Defense - Please read the two letters of reference in your packet. Also, Pam Chamberlain knows about the situation of homophobic violence in Provincetown. It seems that a lot of the violence comes from local youth. Since this is the constituency, it would seem that a good strategy (along with self-defense training for gays and lesbians) would be working through the local youth workers and school personnel. The ACT UP chapter is on the outs with the school board and local government, so, as I understood Pam, that isn’t happening. Pam also gave a more complete background report at the meeting.

20) Dorchester Women’s Committee - We’ve gotten high recommendation for this group in the past. They especially work well with women of color groups such as Comite Mujeres Puertorriquenas, the Association of Haitian Women and the Palestinian Women’s Committee, all of whom gave top rating to this group’s work. This time I talked with Eleanor Roffman of the Palestine Solidarity Committee. She said she’s worked with DWC in different capacities over the years and now works with them through the local Grassroots Network and PSC. She thinks that their work has expanded greatly over the last several years; they’ve integrated international connections with their community work. Eleanor has had "very positive experiences with them... they continue to do very good work with a clear analysis... this is the kind of tow way street we’re looking for in solidarity work." She
said they currently working on the Women in Black, planning for International Women’s Day and the Quincentenary. "... one of my favorite groups... any time I’ve worked with them they’ve followed through... multi-racial.... a great group."

21) Left Green Network - Board members might know about this network and its history and politics. In any case, I talked with Bill Douglas of Criminal Justice Ministries, the Pledge, and other groups in Iowa. He said that the national clearinghouse is in Iowa City, although there are groups all over the US. He has a favorable opinion of this. It "operates as a progressive caucus within the larger greens movement... doing a good job of pushing the movement in a left direction... make good connections with issues outside environmental ones... deal with political rather that "spacey spiritual" stuff. He recommends funding.

22) DWCPSES - Another tough one. I called people at Labor Notes, none of whom had heard of this. And then.... a funny thing happened as I was reading the Progress Report from the Citizens for Fair Utility Regulation, Fort Worth, TX. We gave them a $500 grant in May because of very good references from two Resist grantees, the Dallas Peace Center and TAHN (#7 above). Well, they included a copy of their newsletter with an article about DWCPSES (see updated info #22) which is negative. I put in a call to CFUR for further info. Lon Burnham (who is also regional director of TX Citizen Action which is publicly challenging licenses of planned power plants.) He said that this group is essentially two folks, Sandra who was married to a Comanche Peak radiation victim and Mickey Dow who "does law suits... He’s been suing everybody and anybody for the last 25 years... Crackpots... far fetched that they are doing any political organizing.... picked on CFUR because CFUR didn’t respond to DWCPSES’s overtures to work with them... our board tried to work with them but found out that they were doing (work) for the money."

Nancy Moniz, Resist staff