



## **2011 AGM: Secretariat Report**

I offer my sincerely apologies that I could not attend this years AGM. But I say hello to you all and offer this report as a summary in my absence.

### **Secretariat Organizational Update**

Pax Christi USA has gone through a couple changes, regarding our role as secretariat, in the last year. Our Executive Director, Dave Robinson, has gone on sabbatical and has transitioned out of that role after 10 years of helping to lead and shape our organization. We all wish him the best in his new ventures, one of which already includes being an advisor to the Holy See UN Mission on disarmament issues. This role is currently tasking him with attending the sessions and reporting on the arms trade treaty talks at the UN.

Also, I have left my position at Pax Christi USA and am no longer the acting secretariat for Abolition 2000. Taylor Reese will be taking my place on those duties. Please welcome him and go to him now with any ideas, questions, comments, or collaborations you may have, or have in mind. He will do a fantastic job I am sure.

I have to say I have really enjoyed my time as secretariat and the Abolition 2000 community has been invaluable in my own personal growth and education. I have a passion for and understanding of nuclear disarmament and abolition that was not there before. I sincerely appreciate all you have given me in this way and I look forward to being a part of this community on my own initiative and I am making myself free to help out in any way I am capable. I will continue to be a part of the Coordinating Committee activities as Taylor gets his feet underneath him.

### **Summary of the 2010 AGM**

At the 2010 AGM in NY, during the 2010 NPT Review Conference, we adopted several proposals. These proposals included:

- 1. Creation of a Working Group on an Arctic Nuclear Weapons Free Zone**
- 2. Creation of a Nuclear Energy Working Group**
- 3. Establishment of a Translation Team**
- 4. Establishment of a New Media Team**
- 5. Establishment of a De-alerting campaign**

**6. Additionally, It was agreed that more accountability should be built in to the Network Working Groups and that the Coordinating Committee would set up new procedures including reporting requirements for the Working Groups.**

**7. Finally, Tim Wright (ICAN) explained that there is need for members to continue to push delegates to support a NWC. Moreover, he informed Abolition 2000 that there have been several discussions among delegates at the NPT Review Conference's General Debate about the need for the international community to support a NWC.**

Over the course of this 2011 AGM you all will evaluate how are efforts fared in these areas and what further work can be done to improve these efforts, making them more effective.

## **Coordinating Committee Update**

The Abolition 2000 Coordinating Committee has been very active over the last year. We have been making regular conference calls (usually monthly, more recently bimonthly) in order to keep on top of our network's communication needs and activities. These include calls about the working groups, youth network, new START ratification, the world social forum, The NATO meeting in Lisbon, fundraising letter, website activity, monthly email updates, member organization activities connected with members of the coordinating committee, the Fukushima nuclear crisis, consultation with ICRC, AGM planning, and others.

## **Global Council and Global Council/Abolition Caucus Yahoo Group list serve**

There are currently 67 Global Council Members represented on letterhead. Additions to this will need to include: **Sukla Sen, Ray Achesen (who will be invited), Daniel Durand, Keku Nakamura, Arielle Dennis, Jim Green, Yayoi Tsuchida, Monica Szymurska, and Pol Heanna.**

The Abolition Caucus list serve is monitored solely by Norm Cohen where as the Global Council list serve is primarily monitored by the secretariat. But we currently have 465 members on the Abolition 2000 Caucus list serve, 53 of those have joined since the last Abolition 2000 AGM in May 2010.

The Global Council list has 80 members who have posted 545 messages between the 2010 AGM and the 2011 AGM.

## **Secretariat Activity**

The secretariat has been active primarily on coordinating conference calls, taking notes, facilitating communication for and between the network when needed, putting together and sending out the July 2011 fundraising appeal, facilitating new members requests and financial transactions (donations, etc..), and helping with resource and logistical activities of all kinds.

Three undertakings on activities connected with member groups or working groups of Abolition 2000 that the secretariat either initiated or helped facilitate include:

1. A trip by Pax Christi IKV to Washington DC to promote their extensive, and cleverly named, report "Withdrawal Issues" on the removal of US tactical nuclear weapons form Europe. This

included 2 days of hill visits with senators and congressmen and women, some of whom hold key positions with regard to this issues.

2. The production of a sign on letter of major religious organizations, sent to the White House, on the topic of de-alerting nuclear weapons. This sign on letter garnered an invitation to the White House to discuss this topic with Brooke Anderson, Chief of Staff of the US National Security Council.
3. The hosting of Mayors for Peace representatives Aaron Tovish and Jackie Cabasso at the Pax Christi USA house in Washington DC for 3 days.

### **1. Website and Monthly email updates**

The secretariat has not been fulfilling the full function of website maintenance nor has there been a membership email communication platform that the secretariat is primarily facilitating. The website has continued to be updated in combination between PCUSA, the Rideau Institute, and Jenny. A new Monthly Email Update has been created by Alyn Ware and has recently been added to a web based email platform by Susi Snyder. These monthly updates have gone out since January of 2011 and have proven to be very useful as both a record of our activities and as a resource for our membership and beyond. The Secretariat may discuss with the Coordinating Committee about increased involvement with the membership email platform.

### **2. Members Information-**

We have 285 members without email information. We are tracking bounced physical addresses at our office in DC as they come in. Currently there are 35 'return to sender' addresses and 1 request to discontinue mailings.

We have had a little over 300 members added to the membership list since May of 2010 but it appears many of those were back logged entries. Approximately 4 or 5 are members that I or Taylor has personally added.

### **3. Updated Enrollment Card-**

The Update of the enrollment card now reflects our stronger promotion of and partnership with both PNND and Mayors for Peace by including them as check off items for member promotion.

## **Finances and Fundraising (activity and ideas)**

In July we sent out a fundraising letter to our membership which included a request for monetary contribution. We asked for a modest donation from organizations, suggesting that they contribute at least 0.1% of their annual operating budget.

To date, we have received 19 member donations. These have amounted to a combined \$930 and €1000. The latter amount was a single generous donation from the Réseau Sortir du Nucléaire.

In addition, we received a \$2000 grant from the Caipirinha Foundation.

An increase in financial contributions and a bigger operating budget is currently a major issue with the Abolition 2000 network. Money is tight for many organizations, especially since the 2008 financial

crisis. I have been thinking of ways to try and improve the financial status of Abolition 2000. In the 2008 AGM report it was stated by the former secretariat (the Rideau Institute):

*“I have struggled to develop a fundraising proposal for Abolition 2000 for one key reason: Abolition 2000 is not an individual-member-based organization. It is a global network of 2000+ organizations with their own memberships and objectives. There is no strong, direct attachment to Abolition 2000 that could help any fundraising drive”*

This remains true for the secretariat today and the suggestion of each member organization doing one small fundraiser for Abolition 2000 through their own memberships still remains a viable option for increasing funds. But issues arise with the increased competition for funds among organizations themselves and less resources available within their own membership. This poses a possible situation of ‘conflicting interest’ for our member organizations (organizations being forced to de-prioritize themselves where funds are scarce).

Furthermore, our own Abolition 2000 annual mailing, and the ask of each member organization to contribute 0.1% of the annual budget to Abolition 2000, is an effective strategy for increasing revenue. Over \$4000 dollars has been raised thus far through this mechanism. Yet this does not factor in costs for mailing and is, itself, still representative of a bare minimum, perhaps not even that, of the required funds necessary to facilitate the activities of and promote the work and resources of Abolition 2000. The time of the secretariat alone costs much more than this per year, much less material costs and other related expenses. All secretariat organizations (as well the organizations of all highly active members of Abolition 2000) have made significant contributions in that role of Abolition 2000 which has required the use of funds and resources from that secretariat organization out of their own annual budget, at a loss to them. This can perhaps be sustainable for Abolition 2000 if the secretariat organization and highly active member organizations connected to the Coordinating Committee remain satisfied with a scenario of uncompensated contribution (labor and material). Indications are that this could very well be the case, and possibly necessary, given the current intake and known availability of funds.

Looking at the 2009 report by Rideau on costs associated with the secretariat and with Abolition 2000:

#### *Financial Resources*

*Costs associated with secretariat vary from year to year. Currently, in the absence of any news funds since 2005, the Rideau Institute has been operating on the following sustaining budget:*

- *Coordinator’s salary – one day/week.*
- *Website hosting, maintenance and graphic design (\$5,000)*
- *Transportation and accommodation (AGM) for one staffer (\$3,000)*
- *AGM (\$1,000)*

*Total: approximately \$21,000, but highly dependant on location of the secretariat*

*However, ideally, a fully operational budget could include the following:*

- *Coordinator’s salary: approximately 1 -2 days / week (\$15,000 - \$20,000)*
- *Website hosting, maintenance and graphic design (\$5,000)*
- *Material design and printing (\$5,000)*
- *Supplies for AGM: stationary, food, rent, etc.... (\$1,000)*
- *Transportation and accommodation (AGM) for one staffer (\$3,000)*

- *Mailings and other services (\$5,000)*

*Total: \$35,000 to \$45,000*

These numbers are not significant and seem, conceptually, completely within the reach of Abolition 2000 considering the renewed high profile of nuclear disarmament work, the volume of our members and member organizations, and their combined budgets. Yet still the problem remains of the assumed scarcity of resources for each individual member organization and the resulting inability for most of them to contribute even a modest amount of funds. I am not here accounting for member organizations who are able to contribute but, for one reason or another, are not contributing either in a one off way or annually.

This leads me to a couple of considerations and possibilities for fund raising:

1. Perhaps member organizations are not inclined to contribute without first knowing how much we have, how much is needed, and to what function the money is going toward. As Abolition 2000 is not a registered organization in and of itself, but is a network of organizations, fuller financial disclosure and a transparent financial plan accompanying any further fundraising efforts may motivate members to contribute through increased information and confidence in the network's financial accountability and organization. Seeing where the money goes, what it is being used for, and what is still needed can provide added appeal for those being asked to contribute financially.
2. If we, as a network, are not finding membership contributions to be adequate for our financial needs, than we may want to consider grant writing as an option to raise money for operational costs. Since Abolition 2000 is not an NGO and needs the secretariat to operate in this function to be eligible for grants, the secretariat would take on primary responsibility of this activity but would require contribution (writing and proof reading time, information, ideas) from the coordinating committee in order to provide the highest possible rate of success. The secretariat would also require help in identifying possible funders and foundations to pursue for grant applications. Many foundations, more easily identifiable, do not allow unsolicited requests so this would need to be taken into consideration as a search for foundations was taking place. Looking at a yearly publication (guide) of charitable foundations and trusts would be necessary. All funds would be line itemed and made available for Abolition 2000's work with a certain percentage of the funds successfully obtained being allotted to the secretariat, consistent with the monetary needs of the functioning of secretariat for the organization that has this role. Lastly, if funds exist, these could be made available for contracting some people within Abolition 2000 (primarily from the Coordinating Committee) to do specialty work, and costs associated with that, which has up to now been being done for free, based upon the needs of the moment. Approval of the use of these funds and any person to be contracted would fall under the normal decision making structure of Abolition 2000 currently instated.

The full functionality of Abolition 2000's work is already, in theory, incorporated within the secretariat. This makes grant writing a viable method for fundraising and an ethical means of raising finances from foundations who require accountability and reports on their donations. It reflects the reality and necessity of the interconnected nature of global nuclear abolition work and the organizations that partake in this activity. Decision making structures within Abolition 2000 would of course remain as they are currently.

This would be a new level, or a next step (perhaps even the limit), in the coherence of the network as a conceptual structure and would require new responsibilities. Yet, it could also prove to provide financial stability for the network, opportunities for growth, and offer greater reach and profile, allowing the network to be more efficacious.

## **Conclusion**

Pax Christi USA has been happy to have filled the secretariat position for Abolition 2000 thus far. We remain very active and dedicated to nuclear abolition work within our own organization and work closely with major players in Washington DC to push for domestic and international policies toward the reality of a nuclear free world.

Thank you.

In the Peace of the Non-Violent and Radical Christ

Manuel Padilla, Pax Christi USA