LANTERN FOR PEACE

The Lanterns for Peace event is held each year on the anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. The lanterns are lit to remember those who lost their lives in the attack and pledge to work so that nuclear weapons will never again be used. Reverend Franz Rigert, Conference Minister of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ (UCC) spoke. The UCC national assembly passed a Back from the Brink resolution in June 2019. Approximately 100 people attended Lanterns for Peace.

BACK FROM THE BRINK

PSR WI spent the year gathering more local sponsors of the Back from the Brink Nuclear Disarmament-Divestment Resolution and lobbying City Council members to support it. The Resolution calls on the US to:

- renounce the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- end any president’s sole, unchecked authority to launch a (first strike) nuclear attack;
- take US nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert;
- cancel the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons; and
- actively pursue a verifiable agreement among nuclear armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

The Resolution also commits the City to nuclear weapon free contracts and investments. As of 12/2019, a majority of Alders are in favor of the Resolution. PSR WI is still working on the contract language with Alder Rummel and the City Finance Director.

COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Bob Gould, former President of National PSR and chairperson of the American Public Health Association’s Peace Caucus, spoke in Madison about the health impacts of armed conflict on maternal and child health. He was interviewed by WORT radio and the Progressive magazine. He co-authored an op-ed in the Capitol Times emphasizing the need for the US to honor the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty.

PSR WI members gave presentations on the need for nuclear disarmament to Edgewood College nursing students, the Reeb Unitarian Universalist congregation and Monona Grove high school students.

Dr. Monica Vohman and Amy Schulz, RN, speak to nursing students about health effects of nuclear radiation.

PSR Wisconsin (PSR WI) was founded in 1983 & has worked to educate the public about the need for nuclear disarmament, climate change solutions and environmental health.

"WE MUST PREVENT WHAT WE CANNOT CURE."
WEHN hosted the Making the Connection: Environmental Health in Wisconsin conference on March 5th. It was attended by about 120 health professionals, environmental advocates, and citizens. The conference focused on environmental issues such as nanoparticles and their effect on human health, cancer and the workplace, and regulation of environmental chemicals. Additionally, a dynamic environmental justice panel gave impassioned reports of their work in varied Wisconsin communities protecting indigenous land and water, and fighting PFAS contamination and concentrated feed operations (CAFOs).

**EDUCATIONAL SPEAKING EVENTS**

WEHN steering committee members were a part of 11 climate change and 15 environmental health related events and activities. Speaking engagements featuring WEHN members focused on topics such as the health effects of climate change, endocrine disruptors, pesticides, and other air and water pollutants.

**CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ACTION**

PSR WI and WEHN took action on environmental health and climate change by:
- Signing onto 13 letters in support of environmental and climate actions
- Wrote three official comments
- 3 members spoke at an EPA Roundtable about the effects of lead on prenatal and children's health
- Attended 3 hearings regarding local, state, and federal environmental regulations
- Claire Gervais met with Representative Mark Pocan regarding climate change & a clean energy bill
- 3 members attended Conservation Lobby Day at the Capitol
- 3 members helped develop an amicus brief to encourage the government to rely on experts & data rather than the legislature and political process to set standards for environment

**MEDIA OUTREACH**

- Claire Gervais, MD, was interviewed on WORT radio about the Making the Connection conference
- Beth Neary quoted in article regarding PFAS contamination in Madison
- Claire Gervais wrote a published op-ed titled, "Sign today to urge Madison schools to use 100% renewables"
- Claire Gervais co-wrote an op-ed with Mark Redsten (Clean Wisconsin) titled "Summertime heat can bring hazardous ozone pollution"
- Claire Gervais wrote a published op-ed titled, “Support student climate strike”

**MINGARI**

In India, Chingari Trust provides special education, treatment (OT, PT and speech) and rehabilitation to children and grandchildren of gas victims born with birth defects, disabilities or life threatening conditions due to the ongoing pollution and contamination of their environment from a Union Carbide chemical tank explosion in 1984. Chingari Trust now has more than 930 students registered and 300 children currently receive care.

Thanks to donors from Wisconsin and PSR WI, Chingari Trust has a nutrition program to provide a complete meal to every student, every day at school.

To learn more and to donate please visit www.psr-wisconsin.org/about-chingari
PSR WI BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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SAY NO TO F35’S AT TRUAX
The US Air Force is considering the bed-down of a squadron of F-35 nuclear capable jets at Truax Air Force Base in Madison. PSR WI submitted a comprehensive response to the Air Force’s Environmental Impact Statement regarding such a bed-down. Our response raised the issues of nuclear capability as well as the health and safety threats posed by these jets.

We included research on the air pollution associated with jet exhaust, the water pollution associated with firefighting foam and F35 “stealth” coatings as well as the harmful effects on children of loud, impulsive sounds. We also requested more information on the safety record of the F35’s. Our members participated in three press conferences, a WORT interview about the F35’s and published an op-ed on the sound issue.

MEET OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
We hit the jackpot! Hannah Fisher received her bachelor’s degree in Agriculture and Society with a minor in Agronomy and concentration area of environmental studies in May 2018 from Iowa State University. After graduation, she spent 3 months as a fellow at Clean Wisconsin.

She not only brings knowledge of environmental studies and non-profit management to PSR, but has expertise in media communications and website design. She tactfully reminds PSR members of tasks, oversees the steering committees, finances and fundraising. The organization and programming have benefited greatly in the last 15 months from her knowledge and hard work.

A detailed list of PSR WI activities and financial reports is available upon request.

PSR WI is a chapter affiliate of the national organization, Physicians for Social Responsibility.

Physicians for Social Responsibility Wisconsin is a 501(c)3 organization and registered as a charitable organization with the State of Wisconsin. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

PSR WI is a proud member of Community Shares of Wisconsin.