



PEACE NOTES

A PUBLICATION OF THE PEACE EDUCATION CENTER

Summer 2016

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Try Out our Summer Newsletter – Online!

The PEC is excited to bring you this newsletter with lots of timely and interesting material. Read the powerful statement on the recent gun violence in Orlando and learn about the work of the Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence from Linda Brundage. Read Erick Williams' thoughtful piece on why police misconduct is so infuriating. You will also find heartwarming stories about local people working for peace: our selections this year for Lifetime Peacemaker Award, Peacemaker of the Year, and the young activists who won the Tom Schneider Peacemaker Award.

The federal government doesn't escape our scrutiny – read about how military spending is going up even more than the Pentagon asks for each year, and most specifically, how the Obama administration is preparing to dump a trillion dollars into nuclear weapons!

This newsletter is being published online only. This gives us the flexibility to include links to source material and to include more and longer articles. Please let us know if you like the hard copy newsletters or if reading this online works okay for you. In the future, we will continue to alternate between online and online along with a hard copy mailing. If you'd like to opt out of the hard copy mailings, email us at peaceedcenter@gmail.com.

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Michigan Coalition Statement on Orlando Pulse Night Club Mass Shooting

Linda K. Brundage, Ed.D.
Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence

Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, together with its 31 affiliate state gun violence prevention organizations, are saddened and horrified by today's shooting at the Pulse Night Club in Orlando, FL. Saddened and horrified, but not shocked. We are no longer surprised when someone motivated by hatred is able to easily obtain assault-style weapons and rounds upon rounds of ammunition, turning another place of joy and celebration into a site of devastation and mourning.

Reports indicate that this shooting -- with fifty killed and at least fifty more injured -- is the deadliest mass shooting in American history. The shooter was an American citizen and officials are investigating this as an act of terrorism. In truth, every mass shooting is an act of terrorism - it incites fear and terror and aims to create chaos and panic.

In the coming days, we will learn more about the shooter, and more about the victims, survivors and heroes who braved danger to help others. We will mourn with the grieving families and friends as they lay their loved ones to rest. We will listen to politicians express platitudes while doing nothing to keep the weapons of war off our streets. So while we send our thoughts and prayers to the victims and survivors, we also pledge to honor them with a demand for action NOW for stronger gun laws and commonsense policies to keep our loved ones safe.

(See page 13 article on the Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence)



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In Memory

Bill Petry (1940 - 2009)
Tom Schneider (1942-2011)

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Fellowship for Today
First Church of the Brethren
Greater Lansing Unitarian Universalist Church
MSU Mennonite Fellowship
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Affiliated Organizations

Greater Lansing Network Against War & Injustice
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Peace Notes is a publication of the Peace Education Center. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Board.

A Summer Calendar for Peace & Justice

» Meetings & events that celebrate, and promote community .

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PEC believes that even issues that might seem hopeless in this political climate still need to be voiced. That's why you'll see us at various events collecting signatures on non-binding petitions to our elected officials. We encourage you to not only sign the petitions, but to help us collect more signatures to let our representatives know the issues that are important to us. Current petitions include:

- Repeal of the AUMF (Authorization for Use of Military Force)
- End arms sales to Middle East Countries
- Support establishment of the Department of Peacekeeping
- Audit the Pentagon's budget

All systems need feedback if they are going to change. We at PEC are trying to increase that feedback through in-office lobbying, petitions, and individual letters to representatives and newspapers. Please join us in this and in all the local events that reinforce our vision of a peaceful and just society. Contact our co-chair, [Terry Link](mailto:link@msu.edu), link@msu.edu to learn more.

Regularly Scheduled Events:

Every Friday • Noon Peace Vigil, 12-1 in front of the State capitol

First Tuesdays • Greater Lansing Time Bank Potluck and Orientation at Foster Community Center from 6-9 p.m., midmichigantimebank.org

First Thursdays • Peace Education Center Board Meeting 7pm at University United Methodist Church, 1120 Harrison Road, East Lansing.

3rd Mondays • Greater Lansing Network Against War & Injustice (GLNAWI) planning meeting, 7pm. Held in the PEC office at University United Methodist Church 1120 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing.

3rd Tuesdays • The Cost of Militarism Education Team (COMET) Reading Group, 7pm at Everybody Reads Bookstore, Lansing - explores the use of U.S. military power to protect corporate interests, the excessive allocation of funds to "defense spending," and the costs of American imperialism. pballbach@comcast.net

Upcoming Events:

June 16 • 6:30-9pm Action of Greater Lansing, Fire of Faith World Café. Sharing/dialogue about Lansing neighborhoods. 1st Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa, Lansing. Register here.

June 17-19 • People's Summit in Chicago, <http://www.thepeoplesummit.org/> Convening of social justice advocates to strategize and further direct action.

Friday-Saturday, June 24-25 • Great Lakes Renewable Energy Fair, Ingham Co. Fairgrounds, Mason.

Sunday June 26 • 4 pm - 9 pm Community Peace & Justice Annual Potluck. At the home of Judith Bridger, 831 Collingwood, East Lansing.

Saturday August 8 • 70th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Atomic Bombs. - Oak Ridge Tenn. To sign up for chartered bus or carpooling from Michigan, contact Kim Bergier at 2mistnbc@gmail.com - 248-515-2380.

September 18-25 • Peace Quest, 2016 (see page 4 article)

Lynn Bartley and Melany Mack volunteers at the 2015 Peace Day March held at Potter Park in Lansing.



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Peace Quest 2016

A week of peace-related events, called Peace Quest 2016, will be held from September 18 to 25, 2016 in the greater Lansing area. The week will focus on practical steps citizens can take to promote peace, resolve conflicts, learn about other faiths and cultures, and promote mutual understanding. The week will coincide with the International Day of Peace on Sept. 21.

Peace Quest 2016 is being organized by a team of volunteers from the Greater Lansing United Nations Association, the Peace Education Center, the Michigan Coalition to End Gun Violence, Edgewood United Church and other organizations.

This year's effort is an expansion of a single day of activities held in 2015 on Sept. 27. More than 200 people participated in a peace march at Potter Park Zoo and the event was so successful that the organizers decided to expand their efforts to a full week of activities in 2016.

Peace Quest 2016 will begin on Sunday, Sept. 18 with a variety of activities, including a peace march for people of all ages, nationalities and faiths that will be held in Meridian Township's Central Park. The organizers plan to plant a Peace Pole in one of the township's gardens and activi-

Jim Detjen

ties are expected to include music, food, speeches and activities.

There will be no charge to participate. There is ample parking at the Central Park location, which is adjacent to the Meridian Township administrative offices and Meridian Historical Village.

The week of peace-related activities will conclude with a Concert Across America being organized by the Michigan Coalition to End Gun Violence on Sept. 25. A variety of other events, including lectures, films, music, an art contest, sporting events and a voter registration drive will be held throughout the week.

Peace Quest 2016 will be one of several hundred activities being planned all across America in September in honor of the International Day of Peace. These activities will promote conflict resolution and nonviolence. They will also raise awareness about gun violence, police brutality, nuclear weapons, climate change and environmental degradation.

If you'd like to learn more or become involved with the planning, please contact Lynn Bartley at lynnawb@aol.com, Terry Link at link@msu.edu, or Jim Detjen at jamesdetjen@gmail.com.

I'm Angry – You're Angry – We're All Angry!

Becky Payne, editor

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Anger is the buzzword this year. We're angry at politicians who swear they are "for the people," then line their pockets with the people's money. Angry to see good jobs disappear, angry at an ever-more confusing health care system, and angry with schools, services, and roads falling into neglect. Me? I'm angry at media for obsessing over political peccadillos, while doing very little to profile REAL problems. A few infuriating issues that are being ignored...

Spending for (defective) military equipment rises again...

While the needs of the nation go begging, again this year the Pentagon is scheduled to receive more money than it asked for! Would that money help veterans or maybe raise soldiers' salaries? Nope, it's for big expensive weapons, many of which don't even work! Military spending isn't about keeping us safer, it's about lining the pockets of military contractors – who in turn, line the pockets of congress men and women. [Read more.](#)

... while basic needs go unmet.

If you think that building all those worthless bombers and ships at least provides good jobs, think again. A dollar given to the Pentagon yields fewer jobs than a dollar given to [most any other service](#). Those fat campaign contributions from military contractors speak louder to our political leaders than do needy people.

Soldiers beg for treatment...

Even with all that Pentagon money, veterans still wait months for doctor appointments. A recent NPR report stated that even after an extra \$10

billion was allocated to fix the problem, wait times are getting longer! [Read more.](#)

... and aren't even safe among their colleagues.

Rape in the military is rampant, partly because those who report rapes are more likely to be disciplined themselves than to see any punishment for the rapist. A recent NPR report stated that there were over 6,000 reported sexual assaults

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Working with Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

The PEC has been part of a local lobbying group working in conjunction with FCNL, out of Washington, DC. Recently, we have met with key staff in both Senators Peters' and Stabenow's offices, urging the passage of S.2123 a bill that would reform the mandatory minimum sentencing that automatically sends many nonviolent criminal offenders to life sentences. Many of these are drug-based crimes. FCNL believes this is one of those rare pieces of legislation that has support on both sides of the aisle - both Rep. John Conyers and Rep. Mike Bishop are co-sponsors of the legislation.

FCNL is well respected on the Hill for honest, respectful, and committed work. The local FCNL group was started by veteran peace activist Margaret Nielsen, a retired social work faculty member from MSU. We worked with FCNL late last year to get the Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) repealed.

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during 2015. "The real number is likely three or four times higher," they quote. [Read more here.](#)

Pampering big business goes trans-Pacific...

In our last newsletter, you learned that in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) that is being considered, "Actions such as raising the minimum wage, improving working conditions, restricting fracking, requiring food labeling, inspecting food imports, allowing generic drugs, and regulating banking would be prohibited where corporate profits are impacted."

Foreign Aid and Immigrants Are Not the Problem.

It's easy to blame our sad economic situation on money spent on refugees and immigrants, along with spending on [foreign aid](#). The US spends less than 1% of its annual budget on foreign aid. And the approximately [\\$1.5 billion](#) in aid to resettle refugees doesn't even register when held side-by-side with around a [trillion](#) in the military budget. (\$1.5 billion = \$.0015 trillion)

Military Recruitment Opt-Out

Contributed by the PEC Youth Outreach Program

High schools are required by law to hand over student contact information to the U.S. military. If you have young people in your life who do not wish to be contacted by military recruiters, August or September is the time for them to "Opt out" of the list given to the military. If students do not get a form in their orientation package or their school does not have a form, the PEC has one on their website. www.peacecenter.org

USE YOUR VOICE!

If the issues you are reading about in this newsletter are important to you, your representatives in Washington (and in Lansing) need to hear from you. Take a moment each week to contact the people making decisions about war, peace and justice...

Senator Debbie Stabenow

1-202-224 4822

731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

www.stabenow.senate.gov/?p=contact

Senator Gary Peters

1-202-224-6221

724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

www.peters.senate.gov/content/contact-gary

Representative Mike Bishop

1-202-225-4872

428 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

<https://mikebishop.house.gov/contact>

Representative John Moolenaar

1-202-225-3561

117 Cannon House Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20515

<https://moolenaar.house.gov/contact/email>

Representative Tim Walberg

1-202-225-6276

2436 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

<http://walberg.house.gov/contact/>

LEFT: PEC CO-Chair, Terry Link presents a 2016 Tom Schneider Peacemaker award to Shreya Sriastava at Haslett High School

RIGHT: Eliana Kaplowitz, also a Tom Schneider Peacemaker honoree was introduced at the Peace Education Center's annual meeting in April



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Announcing Tom Schneider Peacemaker Award Winners for 2016

This year, the Peace Education Center of Greater Lansing awarded two high school seniors with the 4th Annual Tom Schneider Peacemaker Award. Eliana Kaplowitz of East Lansing High School and Shreya Srivastava from Haslett High School were selected from the many nominations from tri-county graduating seniors for their fine records of working for peace and justice.

This award is named for a former Peace Education Center board member who died unexpectedly in December of 2011. For Tom, peacemaking was an every-day cause. Tom believed all of us could become peacemakers, primarily by going out of our way to listen and respond to people, regardless of who they were. He dedicated his daily life to working to create peace. As a young man he served as a volunteer in the Peace Corps and worked as a community organizer. He took a trip around the world visiting many countries small and large on every continent, engaging people he'd meet to learn about them, their lives and their culture. He co-founded a shelter for the homeless, and was an avid recycler. He was personally committed to preserving the environment and making the world a better place.

A senior at East Lansing High School, Eliana Kaplowitz was given this award for her dedicated efforts to end racism, discrimination and inequality and build social justice. She has tutored at Edgewood Village, served as a representative with the Minority Student Achievement Network, the Superintendent's Advisory Committee, Students for Gender Equality, Students United for Social Progress and has served as president of the high school's Amnesty International chapter. In these many achievements, Eliana has helped shrink the opportunity gap for others.

Shreya Srivastava was recognized for her dedicated and selfless efforts to develop awareness around the strength of diversity and the possibilities of peace in our time. Shreya has been actively involved with the Greater Lansing United Nations Association and initiated and was president of the Model UN program at Haslett High School. She was a key organizer of the International Day of Peace celebration last fall and is helping organize the week of events been planned for this September. In addition she volunteered over 200 hours with Sparrow Hospital, with aspirations to become a physician with Doctors Without Borders.

PHOTO: The PEC Board presents a Lifetime Peacemaker award to Bob Alexander (back row, 4th from left)

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Bob Alexander & Julie Bishop Lifetime Peacemakers

The Lansing area is fortunate indeed to have so many activists who have worked for decades at the causes we hold dear to our hearts. At our April Annual meeting Julie Bishop was presented with a Lifetime Peacemaker Award and at our May board meeting the PEC was delighted to present another Lifetime Peacemaker Award to Bob Alexander.

Bob Alexander and his wife Julie are both former board members of PEC, but Bob's special recognition was noted not simply for his efforts directly with PEC, but his lifetime of working against war and supporting progressive causes, such as raising the minimum wage and ending fracking, two of his more recent ballot-proposal signature-gathering efforts.

Whether out front or behind the scenes, Bob has been at the heart of many efforts to make a better world. From his days as a Peace Corps volunteer, Teacher Corps in Kentucky and Detroit, to his innumerable activities on behalf of progressive candidates – including Zolton Ferency, Lana Pollack, the Human Rights Party and Presidential candidates Fred Harris, Dennis Kucinich, Al Gore, Barack Obama, and recently Bernie Sanders, Bob has been a force for a better politics, including two valiant runs for U.S. House of Representatives.

At rallies and marches to end war and violence and fight for justice, Bob has been there. He has probably collected more signatures on petitions than any living Michigander. We celebrate his lifetime achievement that continues to inspire our work with this award.



Julia Bishop has been a brave and powerful activist for peace and justice for many years. During the Vietnam War era, with young people finding their voices on ending war and other social causes, Julia was a member of the first “volunteer collective,” a precursor to the Peace Education Center. She remained on the PEC board for many years as treasurer – and rarely missed a meeting. She brought much-needed wisdom and perspective as PEC dealt with growing pains and worked to accommodate all the different views represented on the board. She was brave enough to stand up for her beliefs, even leading to her arrest during a protest.

Julia was also a tireless worker with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and the United Nations Association. She bicycled everywhere before it was politically correct. She has stored dozens of boxes of UNICEF cards and gift items in her home since back in PEC's early days to the present, which she donates as a fund-raising item every year for our annual Alternative Holiday Sale.

Julia is humble to a fault and does not like attention for all she has done. We graciously thank her for allowing us to mention her achievements in this small fashion in appreciation for all that she has provided and continues to provide.

Police Accountability is Too Important to be Left to Police Chiefs

by Erick Williams

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We need to hold police more accountable. Police officers have a legal monopoly on the use of violence and the power to deprive citizens of their freedom. The public has a larger stake in effective, safe police work than it has in almost any other profession. Yet we regulate plumbers and electricians more closely than police.

Most police misconduct springs from a few officers who repeat their misbehavior.¹ We need a system that detects and weeds out those repeaters; but the current system encourages repeat misbehavior.

In Michigan about the only type of offense that causes an officer to lose his badge is conviction of a felony. Other licensed professionals can lose their licenses for a range of offenses like incompetence, dishonesty, failing to report misconduct. Cops can continue to work as cops as long as they have not been convicted of felonies. Imagine how dangerous a medical operation would be if we allowed incompetent surgeons to continue operating as long as they had not been convicted of felonies.

Complaints against most licensed professionals are handled by professional boards appointed by the governor. We need a similar board for police but we don't have it. Complaints against police officers are handled by the local police chief or sheriff who employs the officer. Employer-based regulation is flawed. Organizations have bonds of loyalty that are hard to break and instincts of self-preservation that are hard to rise above. The result is that when civilians complain about police officers who mistreat them, the officer is almost

always exonerated, and when police officers complain about misconduct and corruption in their own departments, the department almost always exonerates itself.

Since personnel records are confidential, police officers who misbehave are allowed to repeat their misbehavior. An officer can move from department to department without having his personnel record follow him.

Deputy Brown²

Deputy Brown was an Eaton County deputy sheriff. Sometime before 2014, he had been disciplined for abusing civilians during traffic stops. He was instructed to videotape his traffic stops. In 2014 he made a traffic stop. But he didn't turn on his body camera.

The driver happened to use his own phone to record the encounter. When the driver asked Deputy Brown for his badge number and supervisor's name, he apparently triggered something in Deputy Brown, who cursed, grabbed the driver, pulled him out of his car, forced him face-down on the ground, handcuffed him, and took him to jail.

Deputy Brown wrote a report that contained an entirely false story about how the driver had gone berserk, making Deputy Brown fear for his safety and how, after several warnings, Brown had to arrest him.

When the driver filed his complaint, he brought his video to the Sheriff's department. But the video got lost. A sergeant in the Sheriff's department disappeared it.

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Eventually, somehow, the video came to the attention of the sheriff. The video demonstrated that Deputy Brown had written an entirely fictional report; it was Brown and not the driver who had gone berserk. The sheriff fired Brown and disciplined the sergeant for suppressing the video. When Deputy Brown's story was reported in the City Pulse in 2016, he was working as a deputy sheriff in Lenawee County.

Deputy Brown's story illustrates several flaws in the way we police the police. He was disciplined for mistreating civilians sometime before 2014, but he was given no punishment, and no public record was made. He was merely instructed to use a body camera in the future. In 2014 he had a repeat offense, typical of officers who commit misconduct. When Brown was fired in 2014, he was not charged with a crime; he was merely fired, and his personnel record remained confidential. He was able to find another law enforcement job. The sergeant who suppressed the video was not charged with a crime, fired, or even demoted, so there is no public record of his offense.

Officer Truel³

An opinion from the Michigan Court of Appeals describes a situation in Dearborn where a police officer was treated unjustly by our broken system of accountability.

In 2004 Officer Truel responded to a call about a fight in a bar. When he got to the bar he saw a person lying on the floor covered in blood. He also saw the Dearborn police chief and other Dearborn police officers at the bar. He was told that the police chief had been involved in the fight and had been wielding a pool cue. The police chief told Mr. Truel that if he knew what was good

for him he would end the investigation and get the f___ out of there. Mr. Truel dutifully stopped investigating and left.

The bar fight attracted media attention and comment from the Dearborn city council. The county prosecutor and state police conducted an investigation which ultimately exonerated the police chief. During the investigation Mr. Truel was called as a witness, and he agreed to testify.

After Truel testified he was harassed and ridiculed by his fellow officers. A week after testifying, Truel found himself under investigation for misconduct, and he was taken off duty.

Officer Truel's story illustrates the structural conflicts of interest surrounding police chiefs. First, the Dearborn police chief was both a criminal suspect and also Officer Truel's employer; as employer, the chief was able to protect himself by ordering Truel to stop his investigation. Second, the chief was "investigated" by the county prosecutor, with whom he no doubt had a relationship (a police chief can make or break the prosecutor's career). Third, in Truel's subsequent misconduct case, the police chief wore at least three incompatible hats – he was the "victim" seeking vengeance, the official accuser and the final decision maker.

Officer Badalucco⁴

Another Court of Appeals opinion discusses the case of Officer Badalucco, who worked in Auburn Hills. She saw her supervisor strike a handcuffed prisoner, and she learned from fellow officers that he had done the same thing on more than one occasion. She reported the misconduct to the deputy police chief. Instead of disciplining the

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manager who had struck the prisoner, the department promoted him and put pressure on Officer Badalucco to resign. The department suspended her and made her submit to psychological testing.

The stories of Deputy Brown and Officers Truel and Badalucco are not rare. There are hundreds of such stories. People who complain about police misbehavior or about standards and practices in police departments are not taken seriously and are sometimes exposed to retribution as the organization seeks to protect itself. Our flawed system of police accountability hurts both civilians and police officers.

Too often civilians are mistreated by police officers who are subsequently exonerated. But police accountability is not a cause for civilians

Notes

- (1) Rob Arthur, We Now Have Algorithms To Predict Police Misconduct. Will police departments use them? (Five Thirty Eight, 9 March 2016), http://fivethirtyeight.com/features/we-now-have-algorithms-to-predict-police-misconduct?ex_cid=538twitter
- (2) Todd Heywood, "Traffic Stop Gone Bad: Eaton County Deputy Resigns to Avoid Disciplinary Hearing", (Lansing City Pulse, 20 Apr 16), <http://lansingcitypulse.com/article-13044-Traffic-stop-gone-bad.html>
- (3) Truel v Dearborn, 291 Mich App 125 (Michigan Court of Appeals, 2010).
- (4) Baladucco v Auburn Hills, 2001 WL 1699700, (Michigan Court of Appeals, 2001).

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- Roger L Goldman, Rogue Cops Should Not be Recycled from One Police Department to the Next, (Guardian, 20 May 2015), <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/may/20/rogue-cops-should-not-be-recycled-from-one-police-department-to-the-next>
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only. There are hundreds of other so-called "whistleblower" cases involving police officers who are frustrated -- and even face retribution -- when they take action to keep their workplaces honest and professional.

It's in everybody's interest to keep the police honest. We need a state level professional board, like the boards that govern doctors, nurses, electricians and plumbers to handle complaints against the police, to investigate complaints independently, and to decide cases impartially. When a complaint is substantiated we need to put offenders on a public registry so they cannot simply move to a different jurisdiction and wipe their slates clean. Police work is too important to be governed by local police chiefs and sheriffs.

Public Opinion Favors Renewable Energy

by Bob Wasserman

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A Lansing area poll taken in early May on the future energy options of the Board of Water and Light showed strong public support for renewable energy; 76% want more and 60% want much more.¹

This is in line with national polls. For example, in one taken by Zogby Analytics, Inc. about a year ago, 87% of respondents said renewable energy is important for our nation's future, and in a list of all possible energy sources, solar and wind were at the top with 50% and 42% respectively. Biofuel was at the very bottom of the list, which suggests that by "renewable" people really think "clean"; i.e. solar, wind, hydroelectric, etc.²

One of the options in the Lansing poll was to set a goal to transition completely to renewable energy by 2050. It was supported by 72% of the respondents. This is not an unrealistic goal. In fact, this is one of the achievable goals found in a major study by Mark Z. Jacobson and colleagues from Stanford and UC Berkley. This study presents roadmaps for each of the 50 United States to convert their all-purpose energy systems (for electricity, transportation, heat/cooling and industry) to ones powered entirely by wind, water and sunlight (WWS). The plans contemplate 80-85% of existing energy replaced by 2030 and 100% replaced by 2050.³

Not only is a relatively rapid transition to clean energy technically possible, but clean energy will be much cheaper. Right now the cost in dollars per kilowatt hour is \$0.07-0.14 for natural gas, \$0.7-0.20 for wind and \$0.125 for solar⁴ (coal is

the cheapest but it is too dirty to have a future) and the cost of both wind and solar, especially solar, is rapidly decreasing. And this doesn't include the health costs of the pollution caused by burning gas.

Finally, as an economic engine, renewable energy employment in the United States increased by 6% in 2015 to reach 796,000 jobs. Solar employment continued its rapid expansion - growing by almost 22% to reach 209,000 in 2015. Jobs in the solar industry grew 12 times as fast as overall job creation in the U.S. and surpassed those in oil and gas extraction (187,200) or coal mining (69,929).⁵

In the last half of the 20th century two events occurred of historical significance. One was that humanity discovered that in its modern need for energy it is seriously polluting our planet. The other was that we discovered that we can leave the old fuel burning civilization behind and come into a more advanced clean energy one. But we must act quickly and decisively if we want to avoid catastrophic climate change on the way.

(1) Lansing State Journal, 29 May 2016

(2) PennEnergy, 7 Apr 2015

(3) Energy and Environmental Science, Journal of the Royal Society of Chemistry, #2093, Aug 2015

(4) USDOE Annual Energy Outlook, 2015

(5) IRENA Newsroom, 25 May 2016

Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence

by Linda Brundage

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The Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence is a grassroots organization working toward the prevention of gun violence through community education and stronger gun laws. We are an affiliate of STATES UNITED TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE, a national non-profit organization whose mission is to support state-based gun violence prevention programs.

We need to look no further than the daily news to be confronted by the devastating effects gun violence has on our society. When a headline grabbing mass shooting occurs we are all impacted by the heartbreaking news. However, many more people we may never hear about are also the victims of gun violence.

- More than 30,000 Americans are killed by homicides, suicides and incidental killings each year.*
- Another 70,000 are injured by firearms annually.*
- One child or teen dies from a gun every 3 hours and 18 minutes, making gun violence the second leading cause of death in youth ages 1-19.*

(*States United to Prevent Gun Violence, 2015)

Despite these grim statistics, movement on meaningful gun violence prevention legislation continues to be either slow in coming or non-existent due to the National Rifle Association. The goal of the Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence is to increase public awareness of existing gun laws, as well as to advocate and lobby for the passage of new legislation aimed at reducing gun violence. MCPGV is actively calling out the NRA which both

writes and supports legislation which will cause more gun deaths in Michigan.

In July, we are celebrating our first year as a 501c3 organization. Though the executive team has been working on gun violence prevention since Sandy Hook, Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence is a relatively new group and the ONLY statewide, state driven grassroots organization in Michigan.

Our organizing model presently consists of an Executive Team, a Statewide Board of Directors and we have 22 coalition member groups consisting of faith groups, peace groups, education groups, physician groups as well as both local and national gun violence prevention groups. We are pleased that PEACE EDUCATION CENTER is one of our very active coalition member groups. We welcome into our coalition groups that agree with us that gun violence has reached epidemic proportions and must stop.

MCPGV is currently focused on several areas of legislation. Senate Bill 442 is a major focus. This bill if passed, would allow loaded weapons in K-12 schools, day care centers, bars, stadiums, entertainment venues, places of worship, hospitals, colleges, in dorms and classrooms at universities and community colleges.

"Guns in Schools" has been a hot topic in Michigan. Currently, CPL holders exercise K-12 open carry. "Open Carry" has resulted in 2 state court challenges (2 outcomes – now with at the appellate court level). SB442 is being offered as a "com-

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promise" bill under the logic that guns would no longer be carried in the "open" but rather, concealed carry would be allowed. MCPGV vigorously testified against this bill in Oct. 2015. We also held a well-attended press conference in November in an attempt to galvanize support against this egregious bill. We have an ongoing post card action which we will initiate if this bill moves to the House from the Senate.

Additional legislation we oppose and have testified against is HB 4795 which is a Super Pre-emption bill which could financially penalize local municipalities and force local governments and individual local officials to pay the gun lobby thousands of dollars for trying to protect residents from gun violence. The bill would allow groups like the National Rifle Association, and individual Michigan residents, to bring lawsuits against local governments and officials for damages and fines.

There are a significant number of good pieces of legislation for things like background checks on all gun sales (40% go unchecked) Child Access Prevention (Michigan has no laws) and stopping open carry of loaded guns in schools and libraries (currently legal). All gun legislation which would begin to protect our kids and communities is languishing in committees due to the NRA stronghold in both the senate and house.

September 25, 2016, Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence is sponsoring **CONCERT ACROSS AMERICA**, which will bring a statewide group of different musicians to Lansing. It will be from 3-6 pm at the new Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing, 5509 S. Pennsylvania, Lansing. This is very exciting as the concert will

be the culmination of a **WEEK of PEACE** events around the International Day of Peace (Sept. 21). The week is being jointly planned and coordinated together with our coalition members, **PEACE EDUCATION CENTER** and **GREATER LANSING UNITED NATION ASSOCIATION**. Mark your calendar and join us for an important week and fabulous concert!

So, like us on fb ([facebook.com/MichiganCoalitiontoPreventGunViolence](https://www.facebook.com/MichiganCoalitiontoPreventGunViolence)), email us at micoalition-2preventgunviolence@gmail.com or send a check to: https://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5610/c/1658/p/salsa/donation/common/public/?donate_page_KEY=13385.

We can prevent gun violence and we **MUST**.



ABOVE: Dr. Linda Brundage speaks to the Peace Education Center's Annual meeting where she accepted the 2016 Peacemaker of the Year Award for her extensive work with the Michigan Coalition to prevent Gun Violence