

Newsletter



Alaska Peace Center

Issue 17

*Respectfully acknowledging that we are on the
unceded ancestral and current land of the first peoples of Alaska*

May 2023

Alaska Peace Center Activities and News, June 2022- May 2023

We have lost our beloved Suzanne Rich Osborn, 1940 – 2023. She and her husband, Phil Osborn, have been steady participants in APC activities for decades. She began her Peace activism walking from Kansas to Moscow, Russia in 1961.

She will continue to inspire our vision of Peace.



9th Annual Peace Feast, June 4 '22, presentations
from:

First Alaskans Tribunals, NAACP, Chena Tool Library, FCAC Renewable Energy and Interfaith WGs, Save Our Domes, FCNL, Roaming Root, ARK, Meals On Wheels, and KWRK-LP 90.9FM



Renewable Energy Fair, at Chena Hot Springs, Aug 14 '22,



APC Booth at Tanana Valley State Fair, July 29-Aug 7 '22, during Military Appreciation Day



Armistice Day, November 11, 2022, with Fairbanks Peace Choir and Veterans For Peace, coverage by Fairbanks Daily News-Miner.

APC Activities and News, Continued:

“Peace Presence to End War in Ukraine”, Geist Road and University Avenue, Summer 2022. Public presence for Peace.

January '23 Began coordinating with Juneau and Fairbanks VFP chapters regarding **Nuclear Weapon Free Alaska and Arctic**

Office rent and Fair fees increased for 2023

Purchased **new flat screen** for resumption of Potluck and Presentations at APC office, and for enhanced Zoom sharing

Ongoing Borough Bus Ad – Last year’s proposed new APC bus ad was rejected by the Borough because it featured a drawing of a nuclear detonation.

Potlucks, Presentations and Discussions:

Sept 30, '22 Video, “Land Acknowledgement: A First Step ...” Part II, Indigenous people’s request for **Land Back – why and how to**, a presentation and discussion, held with CRFM Quakers

Oct 28, '22 Community Gathering, **Proposed Nenana-Totchaket State Agricultural Land Sale**, potluck, presentation and discussion, with Native Movement and Nenana Tribal members

Feb 27 '23 Video, “The Making of the Movie ‘**The Rebellious Life of Rosa Parks**,’” a “Democracy Now” panel discussion and presentation

Mar 31 '23 Video, Interview with director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (**ICAN**), and discussion of **Nuclear Weapons Free Zones**

Apr 28 '23 Movie, “**Peace One Day**,” establishing Sept 21 as the UN International Day of Peace

Upcoming events

June 3 '23 **10th Annual Peace Feast**, Dance Hall Pavilion, Alaskaland (Pioneer Park), potluck, BBQ, presentations

Jy 28-Aug 6 '23 **APC Booth at Tanana Valley State Fair**, volunteer, visit

Aug 13 '23 **APC Booth at Renewable Energy Fair**, Chena Hot Springs

Sept 21 '23 **APC Commemoration for Suzanne Rich Osborn**, International Day of Peace, location TBD

Sept 29 '23 **Resumption of APC Potluck, Presentation and Conversation**, at APC office or announced location

Nov 11 '23 **Armistice Day**, ringing bells and singing songs of Peace, Veterans Memorial Park, 11am

Alaska Peace Center is associated with and promotes Fairbank Peace Choir, Alternatives to Violence Project/Hands of Peace, KWRK-LP 90.9FM, and Veterans for Peace

*The Covid pandemic has taken its toll on participation. **We greatly appreciate the continued financial support we have received this past year!** We look forward to resuming Potlucks with our monthly Presentations, beginning September 29, 2023. And we hope to see you in person soon!*

Financial Support Opportunity

If you already shop at Fred Meyer, please consider their Community Rewards Program. 1% of your purchase cost can be donated to the Alaska Peace Center without increasing your cost or reducing your rewards. To participate, go to fredmeyer.com, log on to your account, click on “Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program” and search for “Alaska Peace Center” or enter our code YD172.

The War in Ukraine

By Alan Batten and Maia Genaux

Last year we published an article examining our concerns about the Russian military invasion of Ukraine. We are updating that article here. Our concerns persist, and unfortunately very little has changed.

"Every war eventually ends with diplomacy. The question is how long the killing goes on before the diplomats stop it." Phyllis Bennis used this language to cap off her op-ed about the Ukraine War (Populist Progressive, 1 April 2022). It encapsulates what will eventually end this destructive and heart-breaking war.

One can identify the initiation of this war as either the Russian invasion or the preceding many years of NATO provocation. This will shape an individual's view of what is appropriate US/NATO involvement, the various culpabilities, etc.

The Alaska Peace Center does not condone armed conflict. The challenges of how to protect land, life and well-being are enormous given that stance. We consistently advocate for negotiation instead of weaponry. And we recognize that this stance does not meet the approval of many individuals affected by ongoing war. We continue to call out the overt racist aspect of the US population being strongly focused on the plight of the Ukrainians, while expressing much less concern about ongoing US engagement in the devastation of Palestinian, Syrian, many African populations, and other peoples and lands worldwide.

Well-being anywhere depends on well-being everywhere.

... Thanks to human intransigence, these wars are continuing. More people are being killed and injured, over 100 million are currently displaced. More toxins are being thrown into global air and water. ...

This Planet needs humans to find Peace.

An Arctic Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone – Update

By Alan Batten and Maia Genaux

The events in Ukraine remind us that we are living continuously under the threat of a global nuclear holocaust.

In an effort to stop this threat, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) has been working worldwide since 2007 to get nations to sign on for abolition of nuclear weapons. In January 2021, the "Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons" (TPNW) entered into force at the UN with 92 signatories.

In another effort, there are already five nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZ) throughout the world plus the Antarctic, Seabed, Outer Space and Moon Treaties. These are multi-national treaties banning the development, manufacturing, control, possession, testing, stationing or transporting of nuclear weapons in a given area.

The end goal, as so aptly put by Nobel Prize winning Mexican diplomat Alfonso Garcia Robles, is to gradually increase the areas "from which nuclear weapons are prohibited to a point where the territories of the powers which possess these terrible weapons of mass destruction will be something like contaminated islets subject to quarantine". By isolating nuclear weapon states, NWFZs send the powerful message that there is a consensus against the presence of nuclear weapons and that this should be the norm of the entire world.

Supporters of an Arctic NWFZ include Canadian Pugwash, the InterAction Council, the Inuit Circumpolar Council, Fairbanks and Juneau Veterans For Peace, and President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union.

Support for the Alaskan part of an Arctic NWFZ is already codified in Alaska law.

See < <http://www.akleg.gov/basis/statutes.asp#44.99.115> > and scroll down to Sections 120 and 125.

Alaska Statute Sec. 44.99.120. declares, in part, that it is the policy of the State of Alaska "to promote a mutual and verifiable freeze followed by reductions in nuclear warheads, missiles, and other delivery systems in order to halt the nuclear arms race and to reduce the risk of nuclear war."

The Alaska Peace Center is working with Juneau VFP chapter 100 and a coalition of their supporters, to make Alaskan youth aware of the extreme and continuing danger of nuclear weapons, to engage them in the movement to create an Arctic NWFZ, and to promote statewide awareness of the existing Alaska Statutes.

Updated Summary of BEAN POLL RESULTS By Maia Genaux

The Bean Poll, created by Heather Koponen, is an opportunity to show how you would like your federal income tax dollars distributed, instead of as prescribed by the federal budget.

You get 20 beans, representing the federal taxes you pay, including income deductions for Social Security, etc. The question: How would you choose to distribute your 20 beans among the 6 categories we offered, listed below?

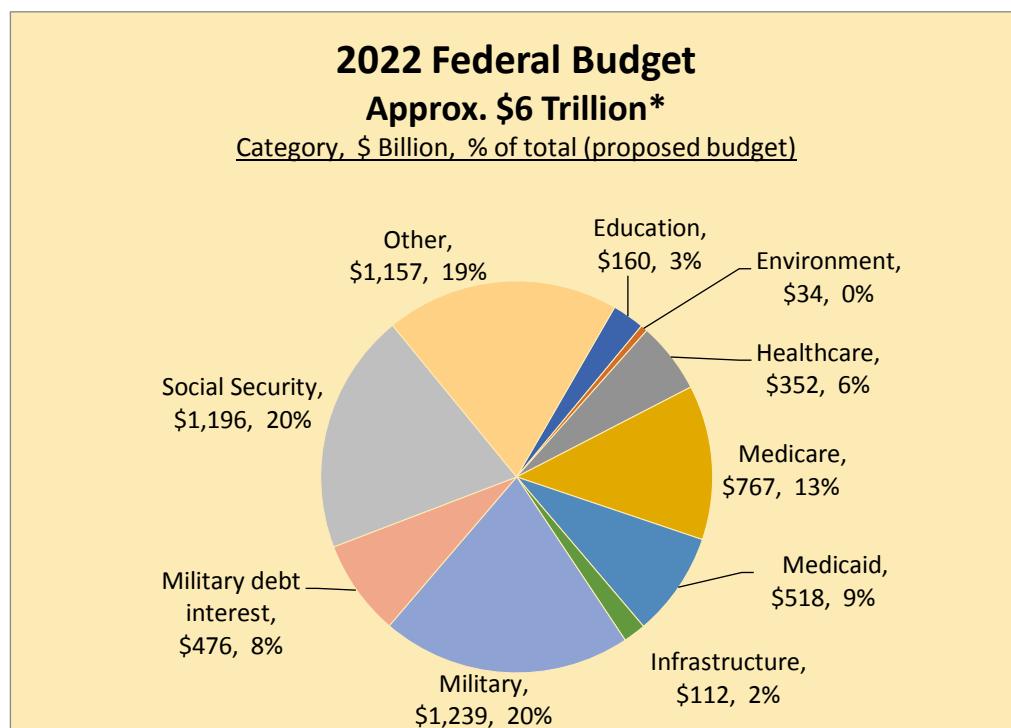
We offered this Bean Poll at the TVS Fair and the Renewable Energy Fair in 2019, 2021 and 2022 (2020 Covid). Of course, this is just an informal social poll, seeking public participation, opinions and conversation. Here we offer a moderately defensible effort to interpret the '21-'22 results, in the context of the US 2022 Federal Budget.

The results for 2019 2021 2022:

	2019	2021	2022
# of beans:	3,260	5,260	7,720
Environment	23%	23%	22%
Healthcare	24%	21%	20%
Education	27%	20%	24%
Infrastructure	15%	17%	14%
Military	6%	9%	12%
Other	5%	10%	8%

A summary of the total 2022 federal spending, by our categories could look like:

- 1) Other 39% (w/ Social Security)
- 2) Military 28% (w/ interest on debt)
- 3) Healthcare 28% (w/ Medicare and Medicaid)
- 4) Education 3%
- 5) Infrastructure 2%
- 6) Environment 0-1%

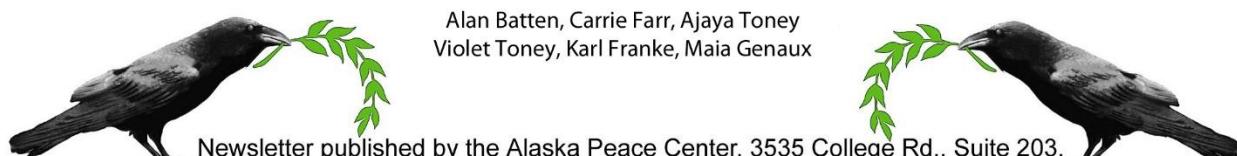


*2022 Budget Proposed \$6.011T, Actual \$6.3T. For "Proposed" details, search "Bean Poll" at <AlaskaPeace.org> (Aug 29 '21)
For "Actual" details, see <www.cbo.gov/publication/58888>

The Alaska Peace Center is committed to nonviolent conflict resolution and to working for peace within ourselves, our communities and our world. APC opened in 2005. It is a nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) status.

Board members and officers:

Alan Batten, Carrie Farr, Ajaya Toney
Violet Toney, Karl Franke, Maia Genaux



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