

SYNERGY REPORT

*Building a World
That Works for
Everyone*

Passion creates the action; responsibility carries it forward.

HOW MAP'S DIRECTION UNFOLDED IN 2014

by Sook Holdridge

The direction of the Alliance is determined by the decisions and collaborations deemed important by member organizations and their delegates.

Peace actions/resolutions were most prominent in 2014. They included...

- ending America's role in the Afghan war before the end of this year,
- protesting the placing of new sanctions on Iran,
- donating \$100 toward the Community Peace celebration,
- supporting the event with Iraqi delegates at the bridge,
- endorsing the Nov 3rd event with Sami Rasouli and Coleen Rowley,
- sponsoring and financing the "**Beyond the Divide**" film at the Parkway,
- sponsoring and financing Paul Chappell's 3-day "**Waging Peace**" campaign,
- sponsoring and allocating \$2250 toward the Peace Scholarship Essay Contest to be held at Macalester College in the Fall of 2015.

Direct political actions/communications delegates approved included...

- the drawing up of a well thought out single action resolution to present to all caucuses in the next election,
- showing support to the President for his actions to free Bowe Bergdahl,
- writing a letter to the Columbus, GA Mayor and Chief of Police for squashing the rights of the "*School of Americas*" protesters.

After delegates approved MAP's signing on to the Charter for Compassion, the annual meeting was planned around that theme.

The only environmental action was the approval of \$500 in support of the Future First Congress. They reminded us that our collapsing life-support systems have as much to do with our security as does peacemaking.

Another observation is that member organizations are generally in the dark about what the Alliance is agreeing to at council meetings. It is crucial that delegates take seriously their liaison role between their organizations and what is being discussed and decided at council meetings.

Delegates can't be expected to do all the heavy work between council sessions. Member organizations have the opportunity and ample time to be more pro-active in urging their people to participate in the creating of and following through on proposals for which they have a passion.

All the Leadership Team can do is provide the platform and facilitate collaborative processes as best it can. For example, the LT now sends each open space group their activity report along with its participants' names and email addresses. This opens the door for more cross-communicating between council sessions. In the final analysis, we share the same goals of serving the common good. It makes good sense that we can work together **better** by pro-actively cross-communicating throughout the year.

MAP In 2015?

MEMBERS SPEAKING OUT:

- **Elise Chambers** - In 2015, we'd love to see MAP connect with youth. Also, tackle maybe one or two major initiatives that garner MAP more visibility.
- **Joe Schwartzberg** would like to see more attention paid to global issues: environment, human rights, public health, etc.
- **Rebecca Janke** would like to see us contact Tony Jenkins, peace educator, as the featured speaker for the Annual Celebration in 2015.
- **Adele Hanson** - Reach out to younger people. A friend of mine said the Gen Xers biggest concern was "the environment." There is a connection between climate change and a quest for peace, and we need to take that much more seriously.
- **Larry Johnson** wants massive brainstorming on how to make our collective peacemaking efforts more powerful in coalition e.g. nonviolent leaders like Jesus, Gandhi, MLK, etc.
- **Bob Nechal:** Bring in featured speakers to provide insight regarding the Middle East, US police behavior, Russia / Ukraine and world health.
- **Sook Holdridge:** I'd like to see an all day Saturday MAP workshop replacing the April council meeting.

MAP'S POTENTIAL FOR BROAD SCALE COMMUNICATIONS

What if. What if an Alliance initiative was so powerful and effective, all MAP member organizations decided it worthy of communicating to all **their** contacts? For example:

Howard Hanson: ELCA Synods P&J has a data base of **500 or so names**...mostly sent to representatives and board members of Church peace and justice forums, civil rights groups and conservation clubs.

Elise Chamber: The Conflict Resolution Center sends a monthly newsletter to around **1700 people**. We trained over 150 new mediators throughout Minnesota, with programs for restorative justice practitioners, and child protection mediation.

Gail Hughes: Global Solutions-MN sends out about **400 mailings and emails** periodically, plus, it is connected with hundreds more through its third Thursday forums. And **Joe Schwartzberg** is reaching thousands through his new book aimed to move the U.N. into the 21st century.

Rebecca Janke: Growing Communities for Peace and the U of M Human Rights Center interface with **50,000 - 75,000 people** every year through conferences and their "traveling book store."

Larry Johnson: Plymouth Church Global Connections Committee sends out periodic communications to its members, as do most churches affiliated with MAP. (And thank you Larry for taking the lead in securing Plymouth for hosting MAP meetings.)

Bob Nechal: FNVW corresponds weekly via an electronic e-blast with **2200 constituents**. Additionally, they mail out **200 printed copies of their quarterly newsletter** to others not getting the e-blasts.

Steve Cobian: Walker Community Church reaches out to **160 people every Wednesday**. Steve is most proud of the new Walker building in 2014, that houses many community events and monthly free meals. They also rent out space for progressive group meetings.

Dick Bernard: I send a lot of e-mails. My MAP list alone is over 100, and its only one list. Mostly, the lists are peace and justice oriented. The Nobel Peace Prize Forum has been a particularly important activity for me, as has been the U.S. Peace Memorial Foundation.

Kathy McKay: We, The Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project, have 2800 people on our newsletter email list. We are facilitating recent Iraqi refugees to tell their stories, and are hosting guests from Iraq.

That's just **nine** MAP organizations out of **sixty seven**. When you look at our collective energy, MAP is doing a whole lot. As a community working cooperatively together, we've only scratched the surface of our potential. We need to raise the bar.

Note...this newsletter is available to print out at MAPM.org

THE LEADERSHIP TEAM—WHO TO CONTACT ABOUT WHAT

Delegates have selected seven of their own to serve in a leadership role to manage the structure, process, and tasks necessary for MAP to function well.

These are the people to contact when you have inputs, questions, or grievances:

Dennis Dillon: convener and Plymouth Church liaison. dennis.dillon@msn.com 612-333-0723

Wayne Wittman: membership. waynecwittman@gmail.com 651-695-5297

Burt Berlowe: news releases and letters. bberlowe@comcast.net 612-722-1504



Madeline Simon: website/member lists. madeline-mpls@msn.com 952-854-2976

April Knutson: recording secretary. knutsoo1@umn.edu 612-823-5989

Mary Faulkner: treasurer. rfomplsmn@aol.com 612-823-5524

Sook Holdridge: delegate contacts and the "Synergy Report" sook51@gmail.com 952-922-7311

Annual Luncheon Program
December 9th 11:30 - 1:30
Plymouth Church, 1900 Nicollet

"TURNING COMPASSION INTO ACTION"

Compassion is at the base of all that we do to bring about positive change within ourselves, and society at large.

Therefore, the program for the annual meeting is highlighting four distinguished panel members sharing how they are

"Turning Compassion Into Action" in their own life's journey.

The speakers are:

- **Louisa Hext**, moderator, talking about what she does to promote "*The Forgiveness Project*,"
- **Matthew Maruggi**, Assistant Professor of Religion at Augsburg and scholar in Applied Ethics,
- **Jan Selby**, founder of Quiet Island Films and producer of award winning films,
- **Jody Thome**, President of The Center for Doing Good, and executive/leadership coach.

All four are affiliated, in some way, with the **Charter for Compassion**, which promotes compassionate activism as a normal, transformative presence around the world.

