

OREPA and RACISM

THIS BROCHURE describes the work of the Board of Directors of the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance and the responsibilities and expectations of members of the Board.

OREPA WAS FOUNDED in 1988. Currently we have a mailing list of 1,100 people, with more than 700 donors. OREPA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity.

OREPA IS COMMITTED to stopping nuclear weapons production in Oak Ridge; the primary programmatic work of OREPA is the Stop the Bombs campaign. OREPA embraces nonviolence as a fundamental philosophy and strategic principle undergirding all that we do; our second programmatic goal is to create and nurture nonviolent community.

OREPA'S BOARD is also engaged in deep planning for the future, through a succession planning process (anticipating the retirement of our long-time coordinator in 2023) and the Next Generation campaign that seeks to raise funds and encourage engagement in nuclear weapons issues in the rising (under-30) generation.

OREPA is a member of the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability, Community Shares of TN, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), and the Nuclear Ban Treaty Collaborative.

OREPA believes that its struggle to rid the world of nuclear weapons is just one part of a growing movement to bring true peace and enduring justice to all the world's people. We believe that we cannot ignore the part that racism plays in fragmenting this movement. Nor can we ignore the part that racism has played in the history of the bomb—from the use of the first weapons against an Asian nation to “first strike” threats against other nations of color. We cannot ignore the devastating effects the development of nuclear weapons has had on communities of color here in the United States—from the mining on native lands by Native Americans to the siting of nuclear waste dumps near low income communities, often communities of color. The six trillion dollars we have spent on nuclear weapons since 1940 is \$6 trillion we have not spent to relieve the burdens of poverty which fall disproportionately on the backs of people of color in the US.

We declare our solidarity with communities of color as they struggle for justice. We believe, as Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” We invite all people to put their hands to the arc with us, and help us bend it—toward justice, and away from violence and racism.

OREPA and RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION

Powerful voices from religious and secular communities have been at the forefront of the nuclear abolition movement about as long as there has been a nuclear bomb. OREPA, a secular 501(c)(3) organization, reflects this reality. While we are not a religious organization, we seek to be a gathering place where everyone can feel comfortable holding their own beliefs and expressing them in an environment of respect and appreciation. We invite people to be as religious or spiritual as they choose, to own their faith perspective and to give voice to it; we also ask them not to project their faith perspective onto others, and to assume that a variety of faith perspectives or spiritual expressions will be represented among those gathered.



The Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance

OREPA works nonviolently to build a culture of respect for the earth and its inhabitants that is free from the threat of nuclear weapons.

**Board of Directors
Information
February 2022**

WHAT THE BOARD DOES

- Sees that OREPA fulfills its mission
- Fiscal oversight of the organization (through Executive and Fundraising committees)
- Supervises the staff (through the Executive Committee)
- Long-range planning
- Short-range planning, goal setting, evaluation and accountability (Board and committees)
- Coordinates the work of committees (staff and Board)
- Assists with fundraising (Fundraising committee and Board)

IN 2022

The Board has three special initiatives as we move into 2022:

- Building support for the Ban Treaty
- Succession planning for OREPA leadership
- Organizing against weapons production

MEETINGS

The by-laws of OREPA call for a Board of 6-18 members. We try to maintain a Board of 10-12 members. The Board meets once a month in Knoxville (via Zoom during the pandemic) and holds an annual planning retreat in late spring. Committees usually also meet once a month, scheduled when the members can meet.

EXPECTATIONS OF BOARD MEMBERS

OREPA's Board is a working Board; it is not an honorary position. Board members are expected to:

- attend monthly Board meetings and annual planning retreat (1day in June)
- serve actively on a committee of the Board and be a liaison between the committee and the Board
- read Board materials
- support the work of OREPA financially with what is (determined by you) a significant gift
- participate in the life of the organization (attend meetings, rallies, vigils, demonstrations, potlucks, etc when possible)
- be willing to make a public expression of your support for OREPA
- accept and respect OREPA's commitment to nonviolence, including direct action, as a tool for social change
- be direct and clear with other Board members if at any time you can not fulfill the above responsibilities
- assist, with other Board members, in arranging leadership for Sunday vigils.

Board members are **not** expected to:

- get arrested for civil resistance
- *be at every single thing OREPA does*
- sacrifice their health or the health of their families in service to OREPA

The Budget

OREPA's budget for 2021-22 is \$136,000. Of this, we will raise approximately \$4,000 from religious communities, and the rest from grassroots contributions, Community Shares, appeals, and special events like the Peacemaker Award celebration.

Committees

OREPA's work is done through committees which are accountable to the Board. Our working committees are:

Fundraising
Action and Events
Executive Committee
Legislative/Policy
Personnel
Outreach/Organizing

Terms

Board members serve two year terms, beginning in January. Terms are staggered so that half the Board completes its term each year. Board members are eligible to serve two consecutive terms; after two terms (4 yrs) members must take at least a one-year sabbatical from service on the Board.

CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Dennie Kelley
Lauren Startup
Kevin Collins
Pam Hindle
Betty Coleman
Lee Ann Swarm
Ed Sullivan
Jay McMahan
Ann Myers

CURRENT STAFF

Ralph Hutchison, coordinator
Cody Dishner, organizer