

P.O. Box 537
Gt. Barrington, MA 01230
March 11, 1985

Dear Leslie,

Thank you for asking about the work of People for Peace. This organization began four years ago, with the election of Ronald Reagan, when many people in the southern Berkshire County area became concerned over the danger of nuclear war. I began publishing the newsletter Peaceplans to some of my friends, and the organization soon got going.

We carried the "World's Largest Postcard" to Washington, with signatures of over 1500 county residents asking for a unilateral nuclear weapons freeze; we were able to have 25 of our 31 local communities endorse the freeze at spring town meetings.

Our group has gone through ups and downs, but at present we are very active, with the new name Peace Action Network. We through out the previous structures such as statement of purpose, monthly meetings, and steering committee due to lack of interest. We maintained the peace action network part of our organization, which consists of Peaceplans and a phone tree. All in all, 150 people subscribe to the newsletter, with about 120 on the phone tree. Our purpose is to connect up local people who want to be informed, and to act for peace.

Current projects include a local nuclear free zone campaign in six communities, and an ongoing work for peace in Central America which we are currently carrying out through supporting the pledge of resistance. There is no staff--I do most of the work as a volunteer after hours from work. As far as I can determine, this is the way things get done: one person (at a minimum) must be totally dedicated.

Recently, the core persons in the Peace Action Network decided to link up with the Boston organization Citizens for Participation in Political Action. They are helping organize this weekend's conference in Pittsfield, with help from CPPAX as well. The Peace Action Network has thus been sort of adopted by the local CPPAX chapter that we have formed, and we hope that this linking-up process will continue with other efforts in our county.

I'm afraid our leaflets are out of print, but I am including the current newsletter, with the hope that you might come out Saturday for the Conference!

Don't be too down on the Democratic Party. Many of us have become members of our local town Democratic committees, and are also delegates to the state convention. The only reason the Party has