



## Rally in KC celebrates nuclear ban treaty

By Mary Hladky

On a cold Jan. 22, 50-60 peace activists gathered near the fountain at Mill Creek Parkway and 47<sup>th</sup> Street in Kansas City, Mo., to celebrate the “entry into force” of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). To date, 52 countries had ratified this treaty. So nuclear weapons in these countries are illegal. How cool is that?! The vote for the TPNW in 2017 was 122-1, with one abstention and with many countries boycotting the vote—namely, the nine that have



*Flags fly for countries that have ratified the nuclear ban treaty. Dr. Yolanda Huet-Vaughn, on the left, says we must move money from life-extinguishing nukes to meeting human needs. Dr. David Drake says Physicians for Social Responsibility supports the Green New Deal and abolishing nuclear weapons. —Photos by Jim Hannah*

### Celebrating nuke ban treaty

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## 3/7 Annual Meeting: Get on board the Peace Train!

We extend a warm invitation to our members and guests to attend our *virtual* Annual Meeting Sunday, March 7, from 2 to 4 p.m.

The theme will be “Marching on to Freedom Land,” referring to the Civil Rights Movement freedom song also called “Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Round.” Sunny Hamrick, with guitar, will lead us so we keep on a-walkin’, keep on a-talkin’, and



we’ll also sing “Peace Train.” A highlight this year will be the

first-ever Peace Jeopardy game. Rumors have it that prizes will be won.

Physicians for Social Responsibility project director and PeaceWorks-KC Board member Ann Suellentrop will update us on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Dave Pack, Board treasurer and a numbers wizard, will deliver the financial State of

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## New START wins approval in US, Russia

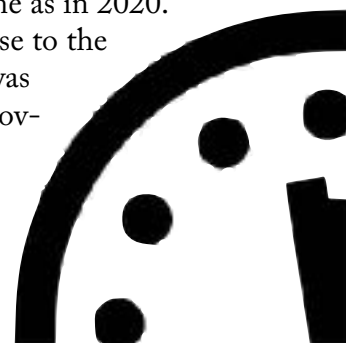
On Jan. 26, the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) won approval from President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin. The New Start extends, for 5 more years, the bilateral cap on U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals. The agreement first set in 2010 was slated to expire Feb. 5.

The New START limits both countries to 1,550 *deployed* strategic nuclear warheads, 700 *deployed* nuclear missiles and bombers, and 800 deployed and nondeployed launchers for nuclear missiles and bombers. Nondeployed warheads are not counted under the New START. The total (deployed + nondeployed) warheads of the US and Russia are estimated at 5,800 for the US and 6,375 for Russia.

ICAN, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, notes, “Throughout the time the New START agreement has been in place, Russia and the United States have spent billions each year to build *new* nuclear weapons systems. This is now banned under international law (through the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, TPNW). With the New START quickly extended and the TPNW in force, the groundwork has been paved for significant disarmament advances in the coming four years. The nine nuclear armed states [the US, Russia, United Kingdom, France, China, Israel, India, Pakistan, North Korea] have no excuses not to walk that path.” ♣

## Doomsday Clock still as bad as it’s ever been

*The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* uses the Doomsday Clock to say how close we are to devastation. Given the “entry into force” of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, some persons hoped the clock might be moved back from its 2020 time: 100 seconds to midnight. Not so. On Jan. 27, the scientists announced they’re keeping the time the same as in 2020. Why? Ineffectual response to the Coronavirus pandemic was seen as evidence of the governmental, institutional, and public lack of readiness to deal with the even greater threats of nuclear war and climate change. ♣



### 3/7 Annual Meeting — *cont. from p. 1*

PeaceWorks report. Henry Stoever, a Board co-chair, will zero in on recent issues and events.

Projections for PeaceWorks-KC will feature a 2022 Walk/Bike for Peace from Wichita to Kansas City, Mo.

Annual Meeting participants will vote on candidates for these positions: Board co-chairs—Sunny Jordan Hamrick, Cris Mann, Henry Stoever; Board vice chair—Mary Hladky; Board secretary—Spencer Graves; Board treasurer—Dave Pack. Officers hold one-year terms, and directors hold two-year terms. On the slate for a repeat two-year term are Ann Suellentrop and Leigh Woody. New director candidates are Itto Outini and Teresa Von Hagel. Candidates for the Nominating Committee are Mary Hladky, Charles Carney, and Cris Mann. More candidates may be added before and during the Annual Meeting. Call Henry Stoever at 913-375-0045 if you are interested in serving as a PeaceWorks Board member!

Get on board the Peace Train! ♣

—By PeaceWorks Co-Chair Cris Mann

**Link:** <http://peaceworkskc.org/peaceworks-events/3-7-virtual-annual-meeting-get-on-board-the-peace-train>

### Here is my annual membership for PeaceWorks

- Membership.....\$40
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- Send newsletter electronically

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or, for tax deductibility, to  
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# Ban Treaty: ‘the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons’

By Ann Suellentrop

**1. Over 2/3 of the world’s countries support the Ban Treaty (the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons) because nuclear weapons are too dangerous.** They threaten all life on Earth. Nuclear weapons could be set off by accident or by hacking, through theft by terrorists, or by war. They are designed to burn cities, which would loft tons of soot into the atmosphere, block the sun, and plunge the world into another Ice Age. Crop failures for years would cause billions to starve and die. The only way to keep us safe is to eliminate these weapons. The Ban Treaty sets a worldwide standard, even if the US doesn’t sign it. It’s an international treaty among countries. It’s the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons.

**2. There are negative prohibitions that affect the US and Kansas City.** The Ban Treaty stigmatizes nuclear weapons and restricts the 36 multinational corporations that make them. The 52 countries (and counting) that have ratified the Ban Treaty can have *absolutely nothing* to do with nuclear weapons or assist these companies in any way. For example, Honeywell—manager of the nuke-parts plant in KC, Mo., the National Security Campus—has a factory in Mexico that makes air conditioners. Mexico could pass a law that prohibits government or private financial support for the factory. It could prohibit Mexican citizens from working at the factory. And if the Honeywell CEO visited the factory, he could be arrested. International treaties affect the US even if we don’t sign them. For example, we didn’t sign the land mine international treaty, but no company in the US makes land mines anymore.

**3. There are positive obligations that affect the US and Kansas City.** The Ban Treaty mandates assisting radiation victims and cleaning up contaminated environments. For example, the US has contributed funds to help victims of land mines even though it didn’t sign that treaty. The US has exploded about 1,000 nuclear bombs in New Mexico, Nevada, and the Marshall Islands during testing. Also, uranium mining on the Navajo and Sioux reservations highly contaminated the lands, and the companies never properly sealed up these mines when they abandoned them. All this has resulted in the suffering of hun-

dreds of thousands from dozens of types of deadly cancers and birth defects. RECA, or the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, has paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to people, but many more persons have never been compensated, including the General Services Administration Bannister Federal Complex workers here in Kansas City. This compensation program is due to end in the US on July 11, 2022. The Ban Treaty could stimulate further assistance for victims, such as expanding RECA.



*During the Jan. 22 rally, Ann Suellentrop turns the mic to the 50–60 persons there, as they repeat after her, “The Power of Love! The Power of Justice! The Power of Soul! The Power of Truth!—that’s freeing us from nuclear weapons today!” Later, she noted, “That’s from Gandhi. It’s what satyagraha means.” —Photo by Jim Hannah*

**4. This is a turning point in history.** It is up to us to make the Treaty work! We can join ICAN (the International Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons), PeaceWorks-KC, and Physicians for Social Responsibility-KC. Together we can ask our elected officials to sign the Parliamentarian’s Pledge and introduce resolutions in support of the Treaty. We can ask local officials to join Mayors for Peace. We can press financial institutions to withdraw their support from nuclear weapon companies. We can encourage faculty and students to demand that their universities sever ties with nuclear weapon companies.

We must turn from death-dealing to life-enhancing activities, to things that build peace and security. ♡

*—Ann Suellentrop, MS, RN, presented these points during the Jan. 22 rally, “Celebrate the Nuke-Ban Treaty.” She is project director for Physicians for Social Responsibility-KC and serves on the PeaceWorks-KC Board.*

## Celebrating nuke ban treaty

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nuclear weapons and their allies. About 35 other countries have signed onto the treaty, indicating they will begin the ratification process.

Our celebration featured several outstanding speakers. Here's a summary of talks by three of them.

**Dr. David E. Drake, D.O.**, of Des Moines, is the new president of the national Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), whose mission is to prevent what we cannot cure—nuclear war. Drake said he's been involved in activism around abolishing nuclear weapons most of his life. While he was bicycling through Japan as a young man, he visited Nagasaki and Hiroshima. He was very moved by his visit to the Hiroshima Peace Museum, and it was then that he decided he wanted to be a doctor.

Drake said that in 2016, he and his wife were proud PSR representatives at the UN. They lobbied country representatives to take a stand on working to outlaw nuclear weapons and to vote for the TPNW. PSR supports the Green New Deal, said Drake, plus the abolition of nuclear weapons and the 5-point plan of Back from the Brink (see page 5).

**Dr. Yolanda Huet-Vaughn, M.D.**, who directs Argentine Family Health, was a founder of the Kansas City Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR-KC) in 1982. Huet-Vaughn, a woman of moral courage, served an 8-month military prison term as a conscientious objector to the 1991 Gulf War.

Huet-Vaughn told us the government spends billions on nuclear weapons every year while millions of people have no health insurance, or extremely poor coverage. We have a chaotic medical system, she charged, that must be fixed by moving the money from life-extinguishing nuclear weapons to meeting human needs. Nuclear weapons produce tons of nuclear waste, she added, which is transported

**Celebrating nuke ban treaty** — continued on p. 5

*Photos from top to bottom:*

*Our flag flies in the cold wind, under the care of Dennis Gallie.*

*Leigh Woody holds the mic for Sunny Hamrick as they lead our version of "Imagine"—Imagine no nuclear weapons / It's easy if you try! / So much to live and hope for / Above us, peaceful sky.*

*Tom Mountenay hugs Bennette Dibben after they hang 51 flags for the nations that, by mid-January, had ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.*





*Above, rally participants hold huge banners so Mill Creek Parkway drivers can see them.*

*Right, glad for the 50-60 persons attending the rally, are Ann Suellentrop; Dr. Yolanda Huet-Vaughn, MD; Dr. David Drake, DO; and Atsuki Mori of Warrensburg, Mo., formerly from Japan.*



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throughout the country, endangering our communities. Nuclear weapons don't keep us safe and they are not just, she said, adding that she believes in truth, beauty, kindness, and science to bring about a better world. Simply put, she insisted, nuclear weapons threaten all life and must be eliminated.

**Henry Stoeber**, one of our fearless PeaceWorks leaders, reminded us that everyone has an inalienable right to live in a nuclear-weapon-free world. Inalienable rights are those rights referring to life, liberty, happiness, property, due process, and equal protection under law. After World War II, member nations of the United Nations created the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on Dec. 10, 1948, to enshrine those inalienable rights internationally. "The TPNW we celebrate today restores those inalienable rights to life itself," said Stoeber. ♡

—*Mary Hladky is vice chair of the PeaceWorks-KC Board of Directors.*

## Back from the Brink—preventing nuclear war

Here's the 5-point plan of Back from the Brink, a group of 354 organizations (including Peace Action, of which PeaceWorks-KC is a member).

We call on the US to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:

- removing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- ending the sole, unchecked authority of a US president to launch a nuclear attack;
- taking US nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert (relating to ICBMs (intercontinental ballistic missiles), land-based missiles, located mostly in the Midwest);
- cancelling the plan to replace its entire nuclear arsenal with enhanced weapons; and
- actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-arsenal states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals. ♡



## A Call to Live Nuclear Free

*We've heard the clarion calls before*

*Lest we forget*

*Martin Luther King Jr. gave his speech*

*"Beyond Vietnam" a year before*

*Going to the Biblical Mountain top*

*On April 4, 1968*

*Shots heard around the world*

*Assassinating our prophets*

*To make them silent for that*

*Which makes us uncomfortable*

*Reminding us*

*That hate will consume us through violence*

*But it's not even that, violence vs nonviolence*

*It has to do with our extinction as a human race*

*Black Lives Matter filled our streets with protests*

*That overzealous police indiscriminately target*

*Blacks and Browns in law and order campaigns*

*Pointing to a rampant problem of white superiority*

*And then we saw it*

*A coup attempted to overthrow the government*

*Mainly a white mob trying to reverse an election*

*Violent, forceful, striking Capitol Police with flags*

*Unmasked, they spread Pandemic-like terrorism*

*The prophet called for a new set of values*

*Actually a revisiting of peace, justice and ecology*

*Based on truth, honesty and love*

*Requiring a different atmosphere*

*Banning nuclear weapons for human survival*

***This is where ICAN's treaty comes just in time***

***To make all nuclear weapons illegal***

***Agreed upon by an international community***

***Of nations to create life and forestall death***

***To breathe in hope and breathe out a future***

***For our grandchildren and for all human races. ♡***

—By Ron Faust (On occasion of a celebration in Kansas City Jan. 22, 2021, to acknowledge a treaty of over 50 nations to ban nuclear weapons)

### Contact elected officials

**Mayor Quinton Lucas:** 816-513-3500

**City Council:** 816-513-1368

**President Joe Biden:** 202-456-1111 *comments*,  
202-456-1414 *switchboard*

**Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.):** 202-224-6154

**Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.):** 202-224-5721

**Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-5<sup>th</sup> dist, Mo.):**  
202-225-4535

## Remember which elected leaders embraced the election lies

By Jim Hannah

It's been said that all politics is local. So how did our local politicians represent us in regard to President Trump's unsubstantiated claims of election fraud? Well, three Republican state representatives lent their support to these claims, which were dismissed as groundless by a host of both Republican- and Democratic-appointed attorneys general, election commissioners, judges, the US attorney general, and even the US Supreme Court.

Despite this preponderance of facts, Trump's fantasy of a stolen election found support from three legislators from Eastern Jackson County: Dan Stacey of Blue Springs; Jeff Coleman of Grain Valley; and Bill Kidd of Buckner. It is noteworthy that other Republicans from Eastern Jackson County did not participate in this delusional and divisive political theatre.

Unfortunately, our Republican US Congressman, Sen. Josh Hawley, led the charge enabling President Trump's fantasy. His fist bumps in support of the Trump crowd that stormed the US Capitol on Jan. 6 egged on those already inflamed by an hour-long harangue from the president. That image will forever haunt Hawley's political career, should he decide to ignore calls for his resignation.

Words and actions have consequences. US Rep. Sam Graves, who represents part of Independence and Blue Springs, was also among those who questioned Electoral College results, when Congress' role was simply to count—not contest—the votes. There were ample other legitimate opportunities for legislators to express their concerns.

So next time you're in the voting booth, remember these names. And vote for those who will reverse, rather than reinforce, dangerous attacks on truth and trust. ♡

—This column, by Jim Hannah of Independence, a member of the PeaceWorks-KC Communications Team, was published as a letter to The Examiner Jan. 19, 2021.

**Rep. Sam Graves (R-6<sup>th</sup> district, Mo.):** 202-225-7041

**Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-4<sup>th</sup> district, Mo.):** 202-225-2876

**Sen. Roger Marshall, MD (R-Kan.):** 202-224-4774

**Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.):** 202-224-6521

**Rep. Sharice Davids (D-3<sup>rd</sup> dist., Kan.):** 913-621-0832



## Stand Up KC caravan corrals McDonald's

By Sunny Jordan Hamrick

“What do we want? \$15 and a union! When do we want it? Now!”

My dear friends, that “now” is perhaps closer to this moment than ever before. On Jan. 15, the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday, low-wage workers all across the country rallied, calling for President-Elect Joe Biden to hold to his promise in raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour. Snow flurries didn’t keep low-wage workers all around the country from going on strike, rallying support, and presenting their continued cries for change in the ways they are treated.

The local group Stand Up KC organized a very successful caravan that corralled a McDonald’s where their demands for \$15 an hour and a union were presented. Speakers aligning their support for the movement included workers such as Terrance Wise, Fran Marion, Mayor Quinton Lucas, Rev. Dr. Rodney Williams, and members from other labor movements such as the United Auto Workers Union. “Millions of workers like myself are still getting up every day and going to work and are being forced to raise our families in poverty. It’s time for our political leaders to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour nationwide!” said Fran Marion, mother of two.

Lucas echoed the cry, saying, “It ain’t right that you can be somebody working in Kansas City today for 40, 60, 80 hours a week and not able to take care of your



“Raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour!” says Fran Marion. Behind her are Terrance Wise, left, and Mayor Quinton Lucas. —Photo courtesy of Stand Up KC.

family.” He ended his speech at the podium outside of McDonald’s saying that “politicians, our churches, everybody in our community, everyone needs to clamor for a living wage for workers!” After a very successful and celebratory gathering of cars filling a McDonald’s parking lot, the caravan moved to circle around Research Medical Center, to show support for workers there seeking higher wages for their efforts.

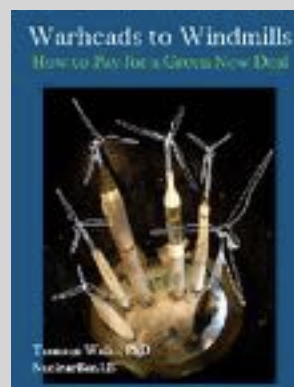
Though in our cars, where we were more distant from one an-

other than at other times of gathering, the victory of a living wage for millions of Americans feels closer than ever. We welcome you to express your support for a living wage to your representatives and get in touch with the Stand Up KC movement, knowing that those who have support are better equipped to support the pathway to peace. ♡

—Sunny Jordan Hamrick, a co-chair of the PeaceWorks-KC Board, is part of the Jerusalem Farm community in Kansas City, Mo.

### Warheads to Windmills—free

The 68-page book *Warheads to Windmills: How to Pay for a Green New Deal*, by Timmon Wallis, outlines business ideas to “move the money” from war and its weapons to green technologies, such as wind and solar energy, that can help address the climate crisis. Contact Ann Suellentrop if you want a free copy: 913-271-7925. ♡





# PeaceWorks

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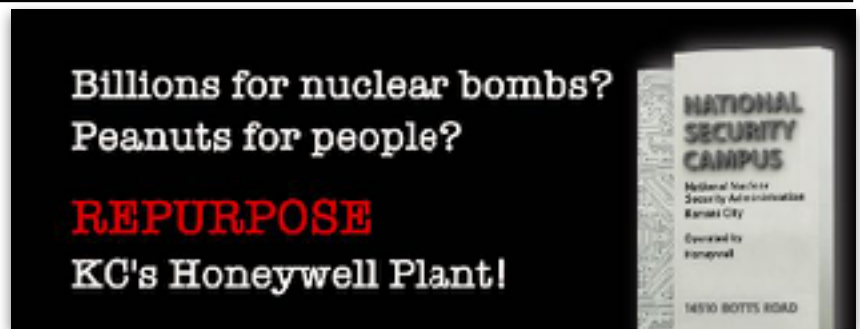
## Billboards

Thanks to a \$1700 grant from the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, PeaceWorks-KC has billboards in Kansas City, Mo. They may be up till Feb. 8 (or longer?). Drive by!

*Billions for nuclear bombs? Peanuts for people? REPURPOSE KC's Honeywell Plant!* is on the west side of 71 Hwy. (south of 125<sup>th</sup> St.), facing north, with a picture of the entry sign for the National Security Campus, operated by Honeywell.

*Imagine ... a world free of nuclear weapons* is on the west side of Main, north of 38<sup>th</sup> Street, facing south.

*Nuclear weapons are ILLEGAL* is in two places: on the west side of Broadway south of 39<sup>th</sup>, facing north, and on west side of Main south of Truman Road, facing north. ♣



PeaceWorksKC.org · ICANW.org · Join us to abolish nuclear weapons