

WNC -Physicians for Social Responsibility Quarterly Newsletter

What has the Biden/Harris Team done to combat climate change?

Most significantly Biden signed the **Inflation Reduction Act** in August of 2022. The law invests hundreds of billions of dollars in clean energy, electric vehicles, environmental justice and more.

The administration has tackled the problems of **super pollutants** such as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and methane which are emitted in smaller quantities than carbon dioxide, but pound for pound trap much more heat. The Senate ratified the international Kigali Amendment on reducing HFCs in September 2022, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued regulations to phase down HFCs. In November 2022, the Biden/Harris administration released an updated Methane Action Plan, which includes 50 specific measures backed by \$20 billion in funding.

This year, the EPA **finalized strong passenger vehicle standards** for vehicle models beginning in 2027 that will cut climate pollution from new cars and light trucks in half by model year 2032 compared to 2026.

The United States has **rejoined the Paris Climate Agreement** which we originally signed in 2016, but from which we subsequently pulled out under past administrations. By rejoining the US has reaffirmed its commitment to being a leader, not hindrance, in the fight against climate change.

What has the Biden/Harris administration done? In a word... Much.

Scott Mahan, MD



A word from the Chair

PSR: Not Just for Physicians

IPPNW International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War was established, with PSR as an affiliate, in 1980. This was as the realization sunk in that in a nuclear catastrophe people would turn to the medical community. (continued on page 2)

Back from the Brink – Unchecked Ability to Launch Nuclear Weapons

One of the planks of the Back from the Brink campaign that continues to gather support is ending the sole, unchecked authority of any U.S. President to launch a nuclear attack.

Perhaps this is a good time to seriously reflect on how this goal is just plain common sense. We have just come through a period of time in which the two main contenders for the office of President both had serious flaws. This is not a political statement; this is a fact. It is pointless to argue that one's moral failures or psychological weaknesses are more dangerous to decision-making than one's physical vigor and overall health. Both are serious impairments that could lead to disastrous consequences in a nuclear standoff. And yet, both candidates were poised to individually have the power to launch a nuclear attack that could destroy civilization. one, solitary person. This is simply madness.

(continued on page 2)

UPCOMING EVENTS

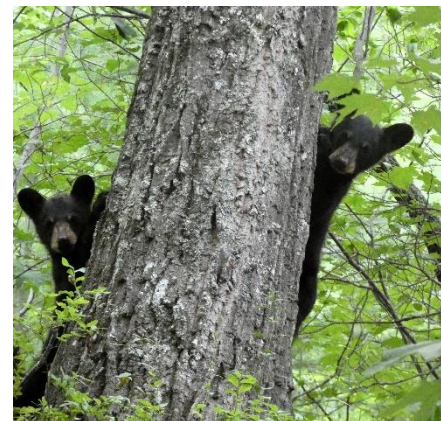
Next PSR Meeting: Friday August 16th at 12:30 pm (meetings third Friday of each month at First Congregation Church at 20 Oak St. Asheville)

Climate Change Workgroup :
TBD

Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance : Aug 9, from 4 to 6 PM. Downtown Asheville- at Pack Square Park (site of prior Vance Monument)

Past Events:

Earthday 5K- Booth Sponsored by WNC-PSR. April 20th at Carrier Park



Chairperson- Brita Clark

Secretary- Terry Clark

Treasurer- Bert Crain

Editor- Scott Mahan

www.wncpsr.org

WNC -Physicians for Social Responsibility Quarterly Newsletter

Back from the Brink (continued)

We have had presidents who have been impaired by sickness, alcohol, and personality disorders. And, to be perfectly frank, none of us are perfect: all of us are limited in the scope of our perspective, our knowledge and our grasp of reality. It is essential that the earth-altering decision to launch nuclear weaponry requires the approval of more than one, solitary person.

Scott Baker

A word from the Chair (continued)

Whole cities would be gone. In areas not directly devastated by a nuclear blast, thousands of burned, broken, and distraught victims would come pouring in, searching for help. Power grids would be destroyed, water systems gone, highways damaged and jammed with disabled vehicles. Any needed supplies would be quickly depleted, and civic functioning would collapse.

International physicians realized that people would turn to them expecting help, but it would be too late. The only option was to stop the arms race and ban nuclear weapons. PSR was started by physicians, but our group includes as many members outside the medical community as we have in it. Our goal is to engage every thinking person in the fight to free us from the threat of nuclear annihilation. We join hands with many other groups in the work ahead. One important goal was reached when the UN General Assembly ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. They are now officially illegal under international law. The nuclear armed nations have so far refused to recognize the treaty, but we continue to work on pulling back from the brink. Here's how you can help:

Contact our senators and your representative by e-mail or through the Washington Switchboard (202) 224-3121* and ask them to support the Back from the Brink call to Prevent Nuclear War by:

- renouncing the option of first use of nuclear weapons
- ending the sole, unchecked authority of any President to launch a nuclear attack
- taking US nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert
- cancelling plans to enhance our entire nuclear arsenal
- actively supporting verifiable nuclear arms agreements among nuclear states

Ask your representative to sign on as a co-sponsor of HR 77 which calls on the US to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war.

For more information: The Back from the Brink website: <https://prevent nuclear war> or

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons Website: <https://www.ican.org>

PSR.org or WNCPSR.org

Brita Larsen Clark

Chairwoman, WNCPSR