

# WNC -Physicians for Social Responsibility Quarterly Newsletter

## WNCPSR Essay Contest

Western North Carolina Physicians for Social Responsibility (WNCPSR) is proud to be sponsoring an Essay Contest for all high school sophomores and juniors in the Western North Carolina area.

Scholarships will be awarded to winners. There will be two \$1500, two \$1000, and two \$500 scholarships awarded. Submissions to be received from JANUARY 1-MARCH 31, 2026. The contest is open to high school sophomores and juniors in Western North Carolina.

Essays are to be no more than 500 words on one of the following topics:

**Why do we need to abolish nuclear weapons and how do we start?**

**How do low-income and socially disadvantaged communities disproportionately experience the effects of climate change?**

Over eight school districts have been contacted, plus a number of private schools. The deadline for submitting the essay is March 31, 2026.

Essays should be submitted to csmahan@verizon.net. Awards will be given at a ceremony at UNC Asheville on May 16, 2026. Thanks to all the members of the Contest Project Committee: Scott Baker, Terry Clark, Brita Clark, Dot Sulock and Scott Mahan for organizing this contest

Scott Baker, Past Chair WNCPSR

## NO NUKES END GLOBAL WARMING



**PSR**

WNC-PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL  
RESPONSIBILITY

## Is the Golden Dome Necessary?

The current administration has begun spending hundreds of billions of dollars even though the U.S. has already wasted half a trillion, in what will prove to be a futile attempt to solve the human problem, nuclear conflict, with a technologic fix-a Golden Dome for missile defense.

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## A Word from the Chair

Whether you are a long time supporter of the Western North Carolina Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, or someone with an informal connection to our group, you are part of a vital network of people concerned about our planet's future.

In the past year, we've been proud to sponsor the only Southeast showing of the International Uranium Film Festival. We also worked with national PSR and other organizations to provide a local platform for citizens to tell the EPA about the human costs of climate change. We stood together on August 6th to remember the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. (continued page 2)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Next PSR Meeting: Jan 16th

WNCPSR High School Essay Contest on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Climate Change: Jan 1<sup>st</sup>- March 31<sup>st</sup>

Essay Contest Awards Ceremony – May 16th

### Recent Events:

September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025- the U.N. designated Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons



Chair- Brita Clark

Secretary- Terry Clark

Treasurer- Bert Crain

Editor- Scott Mahan

[www.wncpsr.org](http://www.wncpsr.org)

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## A Word from the Chief (continued)

We are now organizing a high school essay contest on the key issues of PSR: the elimination of nuclear weapons, supporting non-nuclear sustainable energy, and confronting climate change. There will be substantial scholarships awarded, and we hope to develop awareness in young people to these threats and to the effects on public health.

Our group was founded over 40 years ago, and we need your help. Please consider making a donation to support our work. Also, if you would be willing to assist in making the essay contest a success, please contact our committee chair (scottabaker50@yahoo.com). Donations of \$150 or more will make you a contest sponsor, with special recognition at the awards ceremony. Help us continue the work we have been doing since 1981. Please send donations to PO Box 17613, Asheville, NC 28806.

These are troubled times, but we've been walking together for a long while. Together, we can make a difference.

Thank you,

Brita Larsen Clark

Chair, Western North Carolina Physicians for Social Responsibility

(from page 1- Golden Dome?)

Before we return to "Star Wars" and an accelerated arms race, we should consider that the required 100% reliability is not possible. Our adversaries will counter with increased numbers of more elusive missiles which are projected to cost a tenth of what we spend on defense, and our already dangerous world will become even more so.

John F. Kennedy delivered a wise and prescient address at American University on June 10, 1963, at the height of The Cold War. He called for detente, arms reduction, a comprehensive test ban and gave the firm warning "peace was imperative". Peace begins with the western democracies taking the lead and all nuclear weapon states honoring their obligations under article 6 of the bedrock 1970 Nonproliferation Treaty: they agreed to continuing negotiations leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons-no foolish dangerous threats- detente- arms reductions.

Real security can come only with the diplomacy that convinces the authoritarian states that rigidly verified arms reduction, not weapons in space, is in everybody's best interest.

(excerpts from October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Letter to Congressional Reps)

Dot Sulock, PSR Member

