FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This issue of PSR Reports is the first since I joined the organization as executive director. My few months here thus far have been exciting and inspiring. In conversations with staff, members, chapter leaders, and board members, I have been continually impressed and humbled. It’s an honor to lead such a vital community with a rich history of accomplishment.

I came of age in the 1980s, and can remember living with the fear of nuclear conflict, which seemed inevitable. I remember the role that PSR played then in steering us away from disaster. I am eternally grateful to the PSR community for those efforts and for its continued work since then to combat climate change and protect us from toxins in our air, water, and food, and in the products we use. It’s that history—and the wisdom of our collective lessons learned—that inform us as we address the challenges we face today.

Some of you know that before joining PSR I spent many years working in adult and non-formal education. In the last few years, I became more deeply immersed in federal education policy and in budget policy more broadly. I worked with advocates from many different sectors fighting to protect federal anti-poverty programs, which came under intense attack starting in 2010. So immersed, in fact, that I may have developed a reputation as a bit of a wonk. But continued on page 7

FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

As the immediate past-president of PSR and chair of the executive director search committee, and on behalf of the board of directors, I am tremendously honored to welcome Jeff Carter, J.D., as PSR’s new executive director! Jeff is a dynamic and experienced nonprofit executive with more than a decade of leadership experience at the local, state, and national level. He has a strong track record in management, strategic planning, fiscal administration, fundraising, coalition building, advocacy, and civic engagement. January found Jeff hitting the ground at a run—getting to know his staff, meeting environmental and security groups in the D.C. area, reaching out to thank PSR supporters, and then flying to L.A. to engage with chapter leaders and board members from across the country at their annual meeting—getting to know his new “PSR family.” We look forward to working with Jeff to amplify PSR’s respected medical and public health voice, an indispensable beacon during these troubling times in our country and the world.

It’s been a privilege and honor to serve as PSR’s president for the past two years. In passing the baton to John Rachow, M.D., I want to extend a heartfelt thank-you to the staff in D.C., the board, and the chapter leaders for their tremendous support and for the invaluable work they do every day to realize a healthier, just, and more peaceful world.

LYNN RINGENBERG, M.D.

PSR Welcomes Jeff Carter as New Executive Director

PSR Members Resist Climate Change

PEOPLE’S CLIMATE MARCH, WASHINGTON, DC, APRIL 29, 2017

PSR cosponsored the People’s Climate March, calling for climate protections and clean-energy policies. Top: PSR members march in Washington, D.C. PSR chapters also joined sister events from California to Main. Bottom: PSR Board Members Ira Helfand, M.D. (second from right) and Alan Lockwood, M.D. (far right) staffed the media tent before the March. Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA) and Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey (second and third from left) also briefed the press.
FROM THE PRESIDENT

PSR, Finding a Way Forward

Since PSR’s founding 56 years ago, incredible changes have taken place in the world, yet some things stay the same. We have not seen the detonation of nuclear weapons in war for nearly 72 years, and the United States and Russia ceased atmospheric nuclear testing in the 1960s. But nuclear weapons remain on alert, and experts are reporting now that the risk of nuclear war may be higher than at the height of the Cold War. Several states not signatory to the 1974 landmark Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) have acquired nuclear weapons: India, Pakistan, North Korea, and Israel. Worse, the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, or P5 (the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, and China), have made only faint progress in reducing arsenals, taking weapons off alert, or even making unequivocal declarations of no first use.

Underlying the sad state of nuclear affairs is corporate globalization and its attendant unhindered global militarization. Ongoing conflicts involving state and non-state actors in several regions, coupled with the shifting of complex alliances among P5 states, are creating a global tinderbox.

Accelerating climate change—a clear driver of violence within human societies, catastrophic transformation of the biosphere (the current rapid demise of species has been deemed the Sixth Great Extinction), and resource wars—is setting the stage for a new global arms race.

Over the last six months, the rise of extreme political and economic polarization, the breakdown of fact-based reasoning, and a U.S. political transformation have set up the rollover of 40 years of environmental protections of air, water, and land. All this darkness is underscored by the advancement this year of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists Doomsday Clock to two-and-a-half minutes to midnight, the latest it has been set since the height of the Cold War 64 years ago, eight years before the founding of PSR. The clock is tolling a call to action.

With existential tipping points at every turn, we are all challenged to find a way forward.

Yet, as the 2017 PSR president, I am feeling optimistic. PSR is moving forward with a dynamic new executive director, Jeff Carter; the board of directors is committed; chapter leaders convened this spring to strategize, and the membership is responding to PSR’s New Leadership Campaign. I am blessed to be following a path diligently cleared over the last two years by Immediate Past President Lynn Ringenberg, M.D., who led the search for our new executive director, and am energized by the 2018 president-elect, Pouné Saberi, M.D., M.P.H., a rising star. Incredibly, with a convincing majority vote by the United Nations General Assembly, a UN Working Group convened in March 2017 to start drafting a nuclear weapons ban treaty. This engagement by the governments of nonnuclear states stems partly from their decades of impatience with the P5. But this treaty process is also the culmination of more than seven years of diligent work, beginning with the civil society Humanitarian Initiatives Impact fueled by PSR’s Two Billion at Risk report—which outlined the impacts even a limited nuclear war would have on humans—and notable contributions by PSR leaders within our international affiliate, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear War (ICAN).

PSR also sounded an early alarm about the human health risks of global warming. Our Death by Degrees series of reports, begun in the 1990s, outlines the state-specific medical consequences of climate change. Two PSR chapters have recently added new reports to this series. Other mainstream medical groups are now joining us in voicing these concerns.

In February 2017, PSR issued a report on the health risks of methane extraction, a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and a driver of global warming. Unprecedented political efforts this year to dismantle the statutory basis of environmental protections offer PSR a rich field of opportunities for advocacy work, defending the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Clean Power Plan, the Clean Water Act, and the Clean Air Act. PSR/National is ideally situated in Washington, D.C., to engage in this work, while PSR chapters reach decision-makers locally.

I expect that you, our loyal PSR members, will enthusiastically join us—volunteering with chapters, responding to calls to action on breaking issues, and making good use of the extensive resources at psr.org, where you can access reports, webinars, and PSR YouTube channel videos.

Of course, we also need and cherish your ongoing financial support of PSR. Together we can make a difference.

JOHN RACHOW, M.D.
Ban Treaty Talks Confront U.S. Nuclear Weapons Policy

By Martin Fleck

A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.
—RONALD REAGAN, 1984 STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

PSR agrees with former President Reagan. And it has been clear since PSR’s founding that the only way to ensure that a nuclear war is never fought is to eliminate nuclear weapons entirely. More than 120 nations have, in the last few years, promoted a nuclear weapons ban treaty as a key milestone on the road to total elimination. Negotiations to make this treaty a reality began March 27–31, 2017, at the United Nations headquarters in New York, and will resume on June 15.

The Humanitarian Impacts Initiative has been growing since 2013, which saw the first Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons conference, held in Oslo. This was followed by conferences in Nayarit, Mexico, and Vienna in 2014. The conferences heightened demand for concrete steps to reduce nuclear dangers. The conversation moved to Geneva, where a UN Open Ended Working Group recommended that the General Assembly convene negotiations for a “Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, Leading Towards their Total Elimination.” In October 2016, the UN First Committee on disarmament voted 123 to 38 (16 abstaining) to adopt this recommendation, followed by another overwhelmingly favorable vote of 113 to 35 (13 abstaining) in the General Assembly in December.

All along the way, detractors have painted the ban treaty process as hopelessly idealistic and an exercise in futility. PSR and its allies have consistently maintained that the real fantasy is to think that we can safely continue down our current path. The ban treaty is a key element of our decades-long effort to stigmatize nuclear weapons and those who say they would use them.

The nuclear-armed states are waking up to the fact that the ban advocates plan to win. On the opening day of the ban negotiations, U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley and the ambassadors of France and the United Kingdom held a press event to denounce the treaty. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov commented that “efforts to coercive nuclear powers to abandon nuclear weapons have intensified significantly recently.” Beatrice Fihn, Executive Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) points out that this collection of “Great Power” statements “demonstrates how worried they are about the real impact of the nuclear ban treaty.”

PSR and our medically oriented allies—International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), the International Red Cross, and others—have brought to the world’s attention the catastrophic humanitarian costs of any nuclear weapons detonation, and the potentially civilization-ending climate impacts that would result from a nuclear exchange involving 100 or more of these devices. Current global stockpiles include roughly 15,000 nuclear warheads, some 90 percent of them in U.S. and Russian hands.

The U.S. government wants to go on a trillion-dollar, 30-year spending binge to completely revamp the entire U.S. nuclear “enterprise,” already universally considered to be the deadliest arsenal on the planet. These U.S. nuclear aspirations set the pace for a new nuclear arms race, as all nuclear-armed states try to compete. Meanwhile, tensions between the nuclear-armed states continue to ratchet up, and the results of the 2016 U.S. presidential election have thrown into stark relief the PSR tenet that there are no “right hands” for nuclear weapons.

But what about North Korea? At her press event, Ambassador Haley asked, “Is there anyone who thinks that North Korea would ban nuclear weapons?” But the North Korean situation shows the value of a ban. North Korea’s embrace of nuclear weapons indicates that nuclear weapons are inadequately stigmatized. And past agreements to halt North Korea’s nuclear program, most notably in 1994, suggest that international diplomacy may be the best approach.

We cannot keep kicking this particularly volatile can down the road, waiting for a world political situation we deem “safe” for disarmament. PSR’s chapter leaders around the nation are confronting members of Congress and asking them to take a stand against the trillion-dollar buildup. The nuclear-armed countries are working to ensure that the ban treaty negotiations help point us in the right direction.

Voicing the Need for a New View of Nuclear Weapons

On April 27, to bring the disarmament message to the heart of the American political landscape, PSR cosponsored a conference, “Toward a Fundamental Change in Nuclear Weapons Policy” at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Convened by the Buddhist organization Soka Gakkai International—with support from 21 cosponsoring organizations—the all-day conference drew 100 participants, including policy experts, scientists, faith leaders, and campaigners. Panels examined nuclear flashpoints around the world, the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, and a range of policy options to reduce nuclear weapons risks—including the ban treaty.

An Interfaith/Youth panel featured (left to right) moderator Lyllyanne Davey from Global Zero and panelists Erica Fon of Women’s Action for New Directions (feminist perspective), Basem Chaaban of The Center for Peace (Muslim perspective), Jamie DelMarco of Friends Committee on National Legislation (Quaker perspective), Mike O’Malley and Olivia Saito of Soka Gakkai International-USA (Buddhist perspective), and James O’Sullivan of St. Joseph’s University (Catholic perspective).

A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.
—RONALD REAGAN, 1984 STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Beatrice Fihn, Executive Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), addresses the crowd.

Roy Acheson, a member of ICAN’s International Steering Committee and director of Reaching Critical Will, spoke on the significance of the historic nuclear weapons ban treaty currently under negotiation at the UN. “This is about affecting the way that people perceive these weapons as legitimate tools of security—and changing that back to what they really are which is suicidal, genocidal weapons of mass destruction and terror and harm.”

There are no “right hands” for nuclear weapons.

www.psr.org
Fracked Gas, New Battleground in Fight Against Fossil Fuels

By Barbara Gottlieb

The world is shifting around us—literally, as climate change destabilizes our physical surroundings; politically, as a new administration seeks to reverse our nation’s efforts to rein in greenhouse gas emissions; and economically, as renewable energy sources overtake coal and nuclear reactors as the most viable ways to power our nation. In response, PSR has adjusted its climate work to focus more closely on natural gas—one that could push us close to a climate tipping point (see box below). These two factors make fracked gas a key battleground in the fight against fossil fuels.

Many PSR chapters are already fighting fracked gas:

- PSR’s Chesapeake chapter was a leader in the successful crusade to make Maryland the first state that has proven methane gas deposits to pass a statewide fracking ban.
- PSR/Florida is working with coalition allies to push the Sunshine State to follow Maryland’s lead.
- PSR/Philadelphia is training Pennsylvania health professionals to understand and oppose fracking—not an easy task in a heavily gas-producing state.
- PSR/Los Angeles is fighting urban fracking, used to extract oil and some methane.
- PSR/New York has been a trailblazer in fighting pipelines that would transport fracked gas.
- PSR’s Oregon chapter is addressing the urgent need to halt construction of gas-fired power plants. That’s a particular concern right now, as many utilities move to replace the dwindling supply of coal with methane.

Too Dirty, Too Dangerous

This spring, PSR published a report that summarizes recent scientific studies of the serious health threats posed by fracking. Too Dirty, Too Dangerous: Why Health Professionals Reject Natural Gas, heavily footnoted and with links to source material, is a valuable new resource for everyone working to stop fracked gas. The report is available at psr.org.

We have known for years that fracking pollutants put health at risk. Recent studies go beyond risk factors to demonstrate actual health outcomes. Here are two studies referenced in our report:

- A 2016 study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association identified a statistical association between progressively worsening asthma symptoms and the patient’s proximity to natural gas fracking operations. When looking at the health records of more than 35,500 asthma patients, the authors found an association between the distance from the patient’s home to a fracking well and exacerbated asthma.

- Another 2016 study found that expectant mothers living in the most active fracking areas studied were 50 percent more likely to have a high-risk pregnancy and 40 percent more likely to give birth prematurely. Preterm birth is the single greatest contributor to infant death and is a leading cause of long-term neurological disabilities in children.

Although neither study determined causality, the statistical association is striking—and alarming.

The Future: Clean Renewables

The future of energy production, like our future on this planet, lies in clean, renewable energy—sources like solar, wind, and geothermal—and energy efficiency. Renewable energy sources emit virtually no heat-trapping gases, so they won’t make climate change worse. Because they require no combustion, they are responsible for virtually no toxic air pollution. Renewable sources eliminate the need for mining, except for the relatively small

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Preventing Harm by Saving Clean Air and Climate Regulations

By Kathy Attar

All of us suffer when health-protective laws and regulations are weakened, delayed, or blocked. And children, low-income communities, communities of color, and people with chronic diseases suffer most. Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy provided clear evidence that human-caused climate change, for example, has a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable members of our society.

Our government should be ensuring that federal agencies enforce laws that protect our air quality and public health—rather than curbing the power of these agencies to carry out their mission.

Unfortunately, President Trump and Congress have begun an all-out assault on our climate and clean air regulations. They seek to end the Clean Power Plan, allow unfettered leakage from fracking operations, and gut other programs that are critical for reducing greenhouse gases. These steps dismantle the very underpinnings of our environmental and public health protections. This intransigence by the president and Congress is not only misguided, but reckless, because the harmful impacts of climate change are happening now.

PSR is working with our chapters across the country and with public health and environmental groups to fight back.

- Thousands of PSR members have contacted their elected officials, urging them to put the health of our communities before the interests of polluters. We are mobilizing more members daily.
- Members have published letters to the editor in local newspapers and longer articles online, highlighting the critical connection between our health and regulations governing clean air and climate.

In addition, the PSR/National staff plays an active role in several national coalitions that coordinate efforts in order to amplify health messages and advocacy. A group of health organizations including the American Lung Association, American Public Health Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, and PSR have been contacting members of Congress about a number of key public health concerns—urging them to oppose harmful legislation that would jeopardize the role of science in EPA decision-making, weaken enforcement of the Clean Air Act, and eliminate climate change protections. The coalition has garnered media coverage both online and in print.

Despite the administration’s sweeping actions, the majority of people in the U.S. support clean air, clean water, and clean energy regulations. They know that their health depends on these environmental protections. A national poll conducted on April 5, 2017, by Quinnipiac University found that 62 percent of voters opposed the removal of regulations to combat climate change.

The fight to save our public health and environmental regulations from corporate and polluter interests will be difficult. But these life-saving regulations help ensure that the creators of air pollution and global-warming pollution assume the burden of preventing the harm in the first place. As health professionals and concerned U.S. residents, we believe that’s only fair.

More Scenes from the D.C. Climate March

LEFT: Cardiologist David Shearn, M.D., from San Francisco (left) was joined by Virginia orthopedist Doug Hendren, M.D., who brought CDs of the music he’s written about fracking and climate change.

RIGHT: Husband and wife team Jeannie and Alfred Bartlett, M.D., of Maryland were among those up late Friday night creating their signs.

FRACKED GAS

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amount of raw materials needed for the initial manufacturing of their infrastructure; they eliminate the need for fracking, and they produce no toxic post-combustion wastes like coal ash.

After installation, they are essentially free and everlasting; sunshine and wind are there for the harvesting, and they will never grow scarce.

If we replace coal, methane, and petroleum with renewable energy and invest in greater energy efficiency, we can enjoy a future with cleaner air and water, a livable climate, and better health for people everywhere.
Students Build Skills to Enhance Impact

By James Baier

“This event taught me real-world advocacy skills that I can use for the benefit of my patients,” said Amanda Hall, a nurse practitioner student at Drexel University in Philadelphia. She echoed the consensus among the 95 attendees of a citywide advocacy training for health professionals and students held at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia on January 28, 2017.

The principal organizers of the event were student PSR members, who received close guidance from PSR/Philadelphia Board President Pouné Saberi, M.D., M.P.H., and other PSR/Philadelphia members and staff. Many local institutions and student groups came together to cosponsor the training, including Partners in Health Engage Philadelphia, the Jefferson College of Population Health, and the Thomas Jefferson University chapter of the American Medical Association. Organizers were stunned by the response when they posted the event registration online: all the spots were claimed within two weeks—four weeks before the event took place.

Training topics included writing letters to the editor, speaking with elected officials, writing policy briefs, and a Know Your Rights session on how medical professionals can participate in nonviolent direct action. Speakers included local physicians, nurse practitioners, legal experts, and public health professionals with extensive advocacy experience; many were current and former members of PSR/Philadelphia.

“I liked all the inspirational speakers, the energy, and being able to meet other health professionals from different areas of study,” commented one attendee. That was no accident. One of the organizers’ overarching goals was to draw on the diverse expertise of the multiple academic institutions and health-related professions in the region. The final list of participants included nurse practitioners, EMTs, medical students, psychotherapists, physicians, occupational therapists, public health professionals, nursing students, music therapists, nutritionists, epidemiologists, social workers, and public health students from seven different academic institutions in southeast Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

The second goal of the event was to build the skills and confidence that participants need in order to take effective action. Practical, hands-on components of the training sessions—such as mock meetings with elected representatives—gave attendees real-time feedback from

New Leaders and New Leadership

By Christine Herrmann

When we first conceived of PSR’s New Leadership Campaign last fall, our idea was to tie together an agenda for the next president with an effort to nurture the next generation of new leaders in the environmental health and nuclear abolition movements. This was also an occasion to introduce PSR members to our own new leader, incoming Executive Director Jeff Carter, and to raise $1 million to get him started.

The election results surprised everyone. Work on our hatched-for-new-agenda was soon redirected to protest and resistance, in which we were joined by millions of citizens across the country. Opposition to President Trump’s policies is re-energizing veteran PSR members and inspiring others to reactivate lapsed memberships.

Young people are joining us. Laalitha Surapaneni, M.D., a Baltimore-based physician, helped us organize the health contingent for the People’s Climate March in Washington, D.C. (see box on page 1). She’ll also help launch our Young Professionals Advisory Council, which will encourage new professionals to take leadership roles in PSR. A shout-out also goes to Tiffany Hu, a University of Maryland pre-med student who spends one day each week researching President Trump’s executive orders and federal policy changes, which she summarizes for our chapters; she then helps us formulate action alerts.

Our January member survey indicates that President Trump’s control of our nuclear arsenal and his denial of climate change are of great concern to our members. His rollback of environmental regulations and his complete obliteration of the Clean Power Plan, in particular, are galvanizing environmental activism and new leaders.

We are asking you to step into leadership roles wherever you live: to protest, to advocate, and to educate citizens in your city, township, and state—as well as your legislators. A group of New York PSR members set a great example by visiting

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my shift to the wonkier side was driven by my passion for education and civil rights. Education is what inoculates us against those who abuse science, twist the facts, and sow confusion in order to spread doubt, fear, and, ultimately, a feeling of helplessness. Scott Pruitt’s absurd suggestion this March that carbon dioxide isn’t a primary contributor to global warming is a perfect example of this strategy. I suspect he understands the science. He’s just hoping to create enough confusion to turn public opinion against appropriate action.

Working with adults who have overcome poverty, violence, addiction, racial prejudice, and other barriers in order to obtain the educational opportunities they missed (or were deprived of) when they were of school age has taught me something else: how education can install a greater sense of personal agency, a vital connectedness to others, and a belief that change is possible. This is one of the reasons PSR’s mission resonates with me: at its best, PSR doesn’t just churn out press releases; it helps individuals and communities work together to combat the threats posed by climate change, toxic pollutants, and nuclear weapons.

When I began my tenure in January, I knew that our organization would face an unpredictable and divisive political situation here in Washington, D.C. In particular, I knew we’d face an incoming administration that would try to roll back our progress on climate change and was likely to promulgate policies that would increase the risk of a nuclear conflict. Thankfully, the threats posed by the Trump administration have mobilized our community like never before. PSR has countered unscientific approaches and false claims made by administration officials and members of Congress. Thousands of PSR members voiced their opposition to the appointment of Scott Pruitt to head the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. And PSR continues to take the lead on specific aspects of these issues in critical ways.

Take, for example, our new report, Too Dirty, Too Dangerous: Why Health Professionals Reject Natural Gas. In the rush to close coal-fired power plants, some communities now look to natural gas plants as a source of cleaner electricity. But as our report makes clear, emissions from natural gas operations—both extraction by fracking and also gas processing, transport, and distribution—threaten human health and greatly accelerate climate change. What’s more, an emerging body of scientific evidence suggests that the industry cannot feasibly reduce methane leaks from extraction and infrastructure by enough to avoid devastating climate change impacts. A more robust effort to dramatically curtail natural gas use is needed, and PSR is prepared to lead this fight.

Another example: PSR has championed the idea of an international nuclear weapons ban for years, and now, because the Humanitarian Impacts Initiative swayed global opinion, the United Nations has begun ban treaty negotiations. We’re also working to build support around the country for the Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2017, which would prohibit the president from launching a nuclear first strike without a declaration of war by Congress. Although naysayers will argue that this bill has little chance of passage in the current Congress, I predict that PSR will, over time, create a groundswell in support of this basic, commonsense principle—that no one person should have the power to unilaterally launch a nuclear attack.

As a community of physicians and health professionals, PSR has an indispensable leadership role to play in meeting the challenges that lie ahead. Whether the issue is nuclear weapons, toxic chemicals, or climate change, the voice of physicians and health professionals vitally enhances the way that policymakers evaluate an issue.

So we’ll continue to advocate for science-based policies that protect human health, to champion the need to build a clean energy infrastructure, and to dispel the notion that protecting our health is at odds with creating jobs and building a strong economy. We’ll step up our efforts to prevent a new, destabilizing and costly arms race. And we’ll work with our chapters to share the truth with the media, legislators, and community leaders.

Your voice is essential. Now, perhaps more than ever, it will be important for us to stay in touch with one another. I encourage you to engage with us through social media, by email, and in person as we move forward.

JEFF CARTER, J.D.

INVEST YOURSELF

PLEASE CONSIDER...INCLUDING PSR IN YOUR WILL

Leaving a bequest to PSR is a wonderful way to help continue the work you believe in so strongly. We suggest you check with an attorney or tax advisor to see how a bequest to PSR would fit with your plans. Many companies provide matching gifts for employee charitable contributions. Please check to determine whether your gift to PSR will be met, doubled or tripled by your employer. It’s a great way to make your gift go further to support PSR. Just include your company’s matching gift form with your contribution, and we’ll complete it, send it in, and let you know when your gift has been matched!

...OR GIVING A GIFT OF STOCK

A gift of stock is also an excellent way to support PSR’s work. Listed below is PSR’s brokerage information. Please contact the Development Department by phone at (202) 667-4260 or by e-mail at psmatch@psr.org for more information or to confirm receipt of your gift.

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MATCH YOUR GIFT

Many companies provide matching gifts for employee charitable contributions. Please check to determine whether your gift to PSR will be
Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)’s district staff in late March. An expanded group now plans to meet with Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) to discuss the U.N. Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty and the Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2017, which would require congressional approval for a nuclear first strike. They’ve inspired us with their determination. We’d be happy to help you connect with your senators and representative.

PSR’s New Leadership Challenge got off to a roaring start on Giving Tuesday in November 2016. A December matching gift inspired many of you to make additional donations, so we finished 2016 more than halfway to our goal. An anonymous $60,000 donation for our clean energy work in Virginia came through just before the craigslist Charitable Foundation announced they would increase their 2016 gift by 50 percent for 2017. Together, you have catapulted us past $800,000. We’re asking that you continue your generosity and dedication to see our campaign through to an Independence Day finish.

Thanks to all of you who have participated in the Challenge, and especially those who’ve given in excess of your usual gift. Our gratitude also goes to those who have referred your friends and family. We welcome new activists as well as renewed support from our longtime members.”

Progress. Already, several participants have submitted multiple letters to the editor and two have met with their congressional representative. Due to the staggering interest in the training, the organizers plan to hold more trainings this year with additional topics and speakers. If your PSR chapter would like to organize its own trainings, PSR/Philadelphia’s student members would love to discuss their methods and share their materials. Contact the lead student organizer, James Baier, at baierj1@gmail.com for more information.

A short video of the event was produced by Key Elements Group LLC and can be found at: youtube.com/watch?v=MuxxX6EqKj4. PSR