

# U.S. Department of Peace and Non-violence - Colorado Campaign CD-2 Table at Local Festival

By  
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Members of the Colorado Campaign to establish a U.S. Department of Peace from congressional district 2 spent the Memorial Day weekend at the Boulder, Colorado “Creek Festival” telling visitors about the national grass-roots campaign to make peace an official and influential part of our federal government by encouraging Congress to create a cabinet level Department of Peace and Non-violence. The Creek Festival, held in conjunction with the 29<sup>th</sup> running of the Bolder Boulder 10K Race on Memorial Day, and the adjacent weekly Farmer’s Market, is estimated to draw upwards of 300,000 visitors. Arts and crafts, direct marketers, health and nature exhibits, environmental protection and preservation exhibits, and of course, lots of food and entertainment, are regular features of the annual event.

Our district group became operational just a few weeks before the festival, so we filed an application for booth space a week after the normal deadline. Fortunately, a few spaces remained unfilled and the very helpful and cooperative festival staff made sure we were placed in a high-traffic area.



**Lulu Rose explains DoPNC to an interested visitor**

Some members of our group are also members of the Colorado Veterans for Peace Boulder Chapter – 120, so it was a natural fit for both organizations to share the booth space and the associated expense. Synergy

produced by sharing space resulted in a total of eighty-five people signing the two contact lists we kept in public view; sixty-one signed the DoPN Campaign list, and twenty-four signed the CoVFP list. I think there might be a lesson here in terms of the advantages of working together with other peace groups, instead of autonomously, to further our mutual goals of peace and justice.

The details of the event seemed simple at first, but it quickly became apparent that we needed to use a division-of-duties approach, which effectively employed each of our participating members in a way that took maximum advantage of their respective skills and interests. We used a borrowed tent/canopy, which would have cost in excess of \$200 if purchased outright. Thanks to Richard Andrews of Troops Home Now, Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center, and the Quakers, for his generosity in loaning us the tent. Other members supplied a table and chairs to augment the two tables and two chairs provided by the festival staff.

We well understood the need for campaign materials including flyers, bumper stickers, postcards, and t-shirts, so several members generously fronted the money to purchase these items locally. One of the reasons we chose to procure from local vendors was the shortened lead-time for delivery, as compared to ordering from the National DoPN Campaign office. If time permits however, we encourage everyone to support the national campaign because, frankly, they need the money to hire full-time staff including trainers, grant writers, and organizers. We in Colorado were very fortunate to see the high caliber of people in the national office when Lynn McMullen and Kathy Kidd conducted training at our recent Western Regional DoPNC Leadership Conference in Niwot, Colorado.

In anticipation of the need for banners for parades, booths, and other public events, Ronald Cole, of CD-6, spearheaded an effort to procure a number of 3’x 8’ color banners from Kinko’s for about \$110 each. The normal price would have been \$148. Kudos to

Ron for his foresight, energy, and hard bargaining in getting this job done quickly and cost effectively. Another member constructed frames for our banner using ¾ inch plastic pipe, and miniature bungee cords purchased at Home Depot, for about \$15. Depending on how the banners are to be used, one-inch plastic pipe might be a better idea for future banner frames.

Our printed material for distribution consisted of a combination of forms downloaded from the DoPNC website and locally prepared flyers announcing upcoming CDoPNC events. Judy Feland was instrumental in finding local vendors who would reproduce our flyers very quickly for 3 cents a sheet including cutting for flyers that were 2 or 4 to a sheet. John Russell and Sunni Eckhardt were particularly helpful in taking the masters to the printers and delivering the finished flyers to the booth.

One very useful item was produced by Bob Lecy, one of CD-2's co-coordinators. He made up two beautiful three-ring notebook briefing guides containing a plethora of information about the DoPN campaign and copies of the proposed legislation, for examination by interested passers-by, and as a source of information for those who staffed our booth. Atta Boy Bob!

While there were a few glitches, including high winds on Sunday night requiring a complete disassembly of the tent, overall the experience was very positive, productive, and instructive. I am certain that our next event of this nature will go even more smoothly, and be even more successful.