

2008 MIDWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE



Building a Culture of Peace in the Heartland

June 19-22, 2008
Marriott Chicago-Schaumburg
Schaumburg, IL

Campaign for a U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF
PEACE
www.dopcampaign.org

**Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas,
Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Wisconsin**

More Information

(also see overview flyer for speakers, segment times, etc.)

Why is it important that I be at the 2008 Regional Conference?

2008 is a pivotal year in the campaign for causing the growing grassroots support to become known.

- Congressmembers, current Congressional co-sponsors, and others, are asking to see more public support; the ball is in our court, and this Conference is designed to move this effort to the next level;
- We have a strong grassroots campaign which draws from the introduction of the concept of a Dept of Peace in 1792; it's time to expand and grow and make the best use of our grassroots investments to date;
- Learn how to maintain and increase our momentum in sustaining this campaign to ensure our success in creating a federal government function with the priority and intention of addressing violence at the causal level;
- Learn how to better be the change you wish to see in the world in creating a culture of peace, with non-violent communication, media skills and outreach skills;
- The Student Peace Alliance has, since its recent inception, grown at an incredible rate. If you're a student, please attend; if you're not, please join our grassroots campaign in supporting and collaborating with our college, high school and even grade school students. SPA members often declare, "Our Generation Calls for Peace." This is a great opportunity for forming partnerships with the SPA and grassroots volunteers.

Now is the time. Nothing is more important.

Types of Programming Anticipated (Program will be posted before May 20)

- Nonviolent Communication segment by Certified trainers (see www.cnvc.org for more information about this work)
- Presentations on The Student Peace Alliance, seeking passage of City Council Resolutions, Writing a Laser Speech, Organizing Locally, Fundraising, Maximizing your impact by working with the Media and more
- Pre- and Post-Conference Institutes to facilitate more in-depth connection and exploration of peacebuilding, the campaign and citizenship
- Structured and unstructured time to connect with fellow attendees during lunch breaks, pre and post conference programming, and Saturday evening

What is the Department of Peace Campaign? – Legislation (H.R. 808) to establish a U.S. cabinet-level Department of Peace (DoP) is currently pending in the U.S. House. This Bill establishes non-violence as an organizing principle of American society, providing the President with an array of peace-building policy options for domestic and international use. Domestically, the DoP is to be responsible for addressing gang and drug violence, child abuse, prison reform, domestic abuse and other issues of conflict. Internationally, the DoP gathers research, analyzes foreign policy with a focus on non-military peaceful conflict resolution. The Bill establishes a Peace Academy modeled after the military academies with training in conflict resolution and peace-building strategies. **Learn more at:** www.thepeacealliance.org.

Transportation and Hotel: The Marriott Schaumburg is located in the Northwest suburbs, 23 miles NW of Chicago, 12 miles NW of O'Hare airport, 35 miles NW of Midway airport. If you plan to travel by bus or train, you will be arriving in downtown Chicago, Union Station. If you plan to travel by air, we encourage you to make O'Hare your destination. If interested in sharing the cost of shuttle service to the hotel with others, please contact DoPMidwestTransport@aol.com or 312-545-3460 before June 1 or feel free to coordinate with others locally. (Discussion forums at www.ThePeaceAlliance.org may be used for this purpose.) Individual, public shuttle/taxi fares are otherwise approximately \$27 from O'Hare, \$60 from Midway, \$45 from Chicago downtown. The hotel provides complimentary on-site parking. Hotel Reservation details are on Conference Registration Form.

Megabus fares in the Midwest are as low as \$8 one-way to Union Station in Chicago (book as far in advance as possible for the lowest rates) – 877-462-6342 or www.megabus.com; Amtrak also arrives in Union Station – call 800-872-7245 or www.amtrak.com. Contact DoPMidwestTransport@aol.com for more travel information or travel coordination from your state/area. Also feel free to use the Discussion Forums on the national website. Please mark your registration form if considering shared shuttles to and from hotel.

For materials to help promote the conference, please see <http://www.thepeacealliance.org/content/view/483/148/#midwest> or contact DoPMidwestRegion@aol.com or Karen Johnson (Illinois) 312-545-3460