

Metro Atlanta DSA – Minutes: May 26, 2007

The meeting was called to order at the Friends Meeting House in Decatur, with introductions; 20 in attendance.

More Nukes? Panel: Bobbie Paul, executive director of Women’s Action for New Directions (WAND) and Frank Bove, an environmental epidemiologist who is on the board of Eco-Action, discussed Georgia’s Integrated Regional Plan for energy supply expansion. They said the plan includes adding two nuclear power units to Plant Vogtle in Burke County GA with coal as a backup plus a miniscule amount of safe, renewable energy in two “pilot projects.” They also discussed the federal government’s plan to build a new facility to reprocess spent nuclear fuel from plants throughout the world as well as this country and to start a new facility to build nuclear warheads, with the Savannah River Site high on the list of proposed sites for the last two.

Detailed notes on the presentations are omitted this time because your minute taker was facilitating. The presenters’ overall message was that the coordinated federal and industry push for all three dangerous and super-expensive technologies to operate in or just across the border from us are at a critical point and we need to be aware and take action if possible. There are not many opportunities left for public input.

Please visit the web sites of the three organizations that are intervening in the Georgia Power case:

1) www.atlantawand.org -- The WAND site includes a call to attend the last Public Service Commission hearing on Georgia Power’s plan on June 12. You can comment in person or by mail, or just lend your support. Also, when the PSC meets to vote on July 12 WAND and other groups are planning a rally. More about that as it develops.

2) www.eco-act.org -- Eco-Action works with communities to help them respond to environmental health threats.

3) www.cleanenergy.org or for Georgia nuclear issues: www.cleanenergy.org/inYourState/subpage.cfm?ID=20
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy is working with WAND and Eco-Action.

Business meeting:

Treasurer’s report: \$1,088 on hand.

U.S. Social Forum:

--Need help to house out-of-town DSA members, a couple and a student.

--Members of the national committee and many student members will be here.

--DSA-sponsored **workshops:** One will focus on the DSA’s Economic Justice Agenda position paper. Frances Fox Piven will participate. Goal is to help create a more united left with a common economic justice agenda. Please help get good turnout. Piven’s new book is *Challenging Authority, How Ordinary People Can Change America*. She is on the national board of DSA. Carol urged that we publicize this. See ussf2007.org for a list of workshops and much, much more info on the USSF.

--The Coneys will host a **DSA party** during the USSF, on Saturday June 30 at 1644 Eastland Road in SE Atlanta. Please bring a beverage and covered dish. You can park at the church across the street. It’s on the #34 Inman Park bus line.

Everyone is invited to the **steering committee** meetings; next one is June 16 at Norm's condo club room in Decatur.

DSA national convention:

--Nov. 9 at IBEW hall we will sponsor the Debs-Douglas awards dinner, honoring Charlie Flemming, chair of the N.GA Labor Council and Alice Lovelace, USSF lead organizer. We need help; come June 16 to plan and organize. We will need to sell adds in a program book and sell tickets that people can pick up at the door. The Hamiltons, who performed at the Bernie Sanders benefit, will entertain and we will ask Alice to read her poetry.

--There will be workshops, a tour of 1906 Race Riot sites downtown, and other activities.

Next meeting will be fourth Saturday in August. We will need to get right into sending out invitations to the awards dinner when we reconvene. No meeting in June because of the USSF; July is our summer break.

Carol moved that we help buy a full page **ad in the NYT** vs. Bush's fast track trade legislation. Deadline is June 10. It will also put us on record. See www.notofasttrack.org
Unanimously approved.

Announcement: **Meditation for Peace** on Sunday June 24 at 5 pm at Atlanta Rosicrucian Lodge.

Newsletter: Paul S. reminded us that the next issue should be coming out in mid-June (but we're late starting on it). People should submit articles to Norm who will send them to the editors. We will discuss our progress at the steering committee meeting. Consensus was that publishing after the USSF would make the most sense.

-- Barbara Joye