

OFFICERS' MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 18, 2010

Present: Marcia, Paul, Barbaras S, L, and J, Norm, Milt, Bob W, Jorge, Austin, John and Gloria Slaughter

FINANCES -- Close to \$2,000 has come in as contributions for the dinner, some from new donors. Goal is \$3,000. WAND will be paid rent for Aug and Sept.

MISC. COMMUNICATIONS –

- Arlene Holt Baker and Charlie Flemming thanked us for helping build the July 22 foreclosure action.
- Milt contributed to the GA Rural Urban Summit and he sent \$100 for the dinner.
- We agreed unanimously to be a sponsor of the Community in Resistance Tour (Alice Lovelace) in Sept, donating \$50 (Alice is getting us \$100 from AFSC for the dinner).
- Vincent Fort sent a thank you to those individual members who helped with his campaign.
- Milt met a teamster named Jim Nicholls at the labor awards dinner; he is running for state rep, district 17. He seemed very progressive so Milt will invite him to our September meeting.
- Anita Beaty emailed us that she holds a lunch for supporters on the third Thursday of each month and would like one of us to attend.

GPJC – Ann Mauney asked if someone from DSA could be on their steering committee, which meets monthly. Marcia can be our representative after she returns from her travels.

OFFICE SPACE – Milt reported on the offer from AFSC of free meeting space and a large filing cabinet. The parking is tight but the building is two blocks from a MARTA station. Some questions: How easy would it be to book Saturday mornings and Sundays? We will investigate their regularly scheduled meetings in the two large rooms to see how available they are. If we get an intern would there be space there? If we need regular office space for an intern or paid staff we will inquire about a desk. We agreed to let Milt follow up and if there are no obstacles to accept their offer.

NEWSLETTER – All articles are ready for layout (though Jorge may submit something). We will ask for submissions for the next issue. Printed copies will be sent to those few on our list without email but it will be mainly electronic.

EDUCATION GROUP – October 31, 3-5 pm in Norm's club room. Reading: *After Capitalism* by Schweickart. Norm suggested that it be divided into two sessions. First: Preface through Chapter 3. Norm and Barbara L will present. Second: 4, 5 and 6 (early December). We agreed to purchase two copies because no used ones are available. Barbara S will circulate the books.

OCT 2 MARCH ON DC FOR JOBS – Currently the major DSA priority. Possibility Charlie may get a bus. We will notify the membership list of transportation arrangements

when those are known. There will be a DSA social event in DC afterwards. We will urge the national office to consider a DSA t-shirt. Barbara J will be the Atlanta coordinator for info to and from the national office to help form a united contingent at the march.

OCT 7 NATIONAL DAY OF STUDENT DEMOS TO DEFEND FREE AND AFFORDABLE PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION – Please let us know if you hear about local demos.

LOCAL OFFICER ELECTIONS – Need to hold elections Sept. 25. Kempton can't chair a nominations committee this year. Paul S will chair a committee with Dwayne (if he agrees; Jorge is backup) and Austin, to produce a slate of willing candidates. We also need a substitute for Bob W while he is teaching abroad for the next 6 months. (We may need to change the meeting schedule if we find an actual employed person.)

MEMBERSHIP MEETING – Ray Micklethun will be speaking at our Sept. 25 meeting. We need to also make a brief presentation about SEBOR, and hold the election.

DOUGLASS-DEBS DINNER -- Bob King of UAW and Elizabeth Bunn were not available as speakers, but Milt has engaged Kim Bobo of Interfaith Worker Justice. The Athens GA Workers' Center is connected to them. ABLE may also be interested in meeting her. A workers' center in Atlanta could be discussed at some point. Barbara S said Bobo posts really good articles on Facebook (friend her if you do Facebook). Anita and Walt Andrews will be honored. Andrews' union is buying a table. The SODEXO students are being honored and will be our guests. Barbara S will talk to the printer about making the program booklet process smoother. Dinner will be buffet style (to avoid service problems). We need to pick out two main dishes; Jorge will help. We will again give complementary tickets to low-income guests. Barbara S will provide a preliminary flier for distribution at meetings. Paul proposed that this year's award be etched in black aluminum instead of stone, easier to deal with and cheaper, especially if done locally; so authorized.

OPEN LETTER RE GA TAX JUSTICE MOVEMENT -- John and Gloria Slaughter came to discuss their "Open Letter." Perdue's new "Special Council on Tax Reform and Fairness" is parallel to the federal deficit commission. It is an attempt to bypass the legislative process to eliminate income, corporate and capital gains taxes and to shift the burden to sales tax while lifting the exemption on food etc. but maintaining an inadequate budget for essential social services. We need to unite to form a campaign to fight for just tax reform, a people's budget etc. Milt pointed out this is consistent with national DSA positions, EJA, SEBOR etc. But what other groups are involved? John said it shouldn't be from one organization but all together, maybe a task force and they need our ideas. The letter has gone out to many progressive organizations and unions, but we need to build a mass movement. The Slaughters felt that our suggestion of starting with a public forum as we did with the foreclosure coalition was a good one that they will explore.

-- Barbara Joye; but keep reading! What follows was kindly supplied by Bob W.

SOCIAL SECURITY -- Austen Wattles encourages us to focus on Social Security issues; he perceives an on-going attempt to erode this premier accomplishment of FDR's New Deal. He did not make specific suggestions, but opined that we might work up a general membership meeting around the issue.

ATLANTA FIGHTING FORECLOSURE COALITION -- Milt Tambor reported on past and future activities. He noted that in the aftermath of the July 22nd demonstration Well Fargo gave summary data on \$-amounts they have "spent" on loan negotiation, and invited AFFC to bring specific cases to their attention. But, like Bank of America, evaded discussion of general principles and guidelines under which they might undertake a general revamping of the loan restructuring programs. Vincent Fort and Bill Brennan are preparing a bill of particulars, to present to both banks, demanding actions and policies to be applied globally, as opposed to the case-by-case actions so far.

NEXT MEETING -- The next Executive Committee meeting is set tentatively for September 23rd; confirmation to follow.

BON VOYAGE - Marcia Borowshi and Bob Wohlhueter were offered a collective "bon voyage" for their sojourns, respectively, in Israel and China.