

OFFICERS' MEETING – MINUTES
12/03/09

Present: Milt, Barbaras J, S, and L, Bob W, Dwayne, Norm, Marcia

Treasurer's report – Marcia obtained a reduction of about \$700 from Paschal's because of the service problem. Net profits were about \$5,000. Our balance is \$8,227 with about \$400 obligated. We will spend \$2,000 to subsidize four of the convention delegates' expenses. We also need to spend about \$100 to replace our banner (lost after the dinner). See attached treasurer's report for details. (Corrected to reflect \$90 more in checks from Milt.)

Douglass-Debs Dinner

We have a core group that comes each year, but Milt urged us to think about reaching out to other sectors of the progressive community.

Elaine Bernard gave a good message about how a strong left benefits everyone.

The Billionaires' skit got good reviews. It contributed an element of humor.

Everything went well. Despite the delays, most people stayed for the singing. Parking and location were good.

Negatives (besides the service delay): The space was a bit crowded. The sound system was too low. The other party next door was noisy.

Marcia recommended we seek another place as nice but bigger.

DSA Convention

Milt commented that we had one of the larger delegations, after Chicago, NYC and Detroit. Many reports by others cited our work. The Boston local was inspired to take up the foreclosure issue. Read the writeups by Barbara J. and David Duhalde on dsausa.org, and be sure to read the Priorities Resolution that was passed. Jess was inspired to say he would plan a youth event for us.

Newsletter

The next issue is due. Contents: Dinner (Milt), convention (BJ and others), foreclosures (Milt), education program, China (Bob W.), meetings (Jan 16). Each of the three new delegates: please contribute a paragraph on what the convention meant to you (Jorge, Jess, Barbara L). Maybe reports on Ft. Benning, peace demos, etc. We will print cheaply in black and white. We should try to issue it before the January meeting.

Education 1) Scheduled events

David Clarke will speak on the drug war at our next membership meeting, Jan. 16. Socialist Education Circle will meet Dec. 13 to discuss Larry Keating's book "Atlanta: Race, Class and Urban Development." Milt proposed asking Larry to organize a bus tour of areas affected by the events the book analyzes. Norm suggested making a video of it.

Education 2) May Day program proposal

Norm proposed a socialist education day for the kind of people who used to attend the Progressive Summit. Milt proposed that it be less bookish and more focused on Atlanta issues, such as Grady, housing and homelessness, transportation, jobs. "Who Rules Atlanta?" Marcia said it should lead to actions. What is the purpose? Bring people working on different issues together, share what they've learned. Bring in others to help build the event. An afternoon, with lunch, access to outdoors. Tie in w Econ Bill of Rights. Marcia suggested emailing our membership and then reach out to other groups. Norm will organize a meeting to discuss further, on a Sunday afternoon.

Fighting Foreclosures Coalition

(See Milt's emailed report on recent activities.) Rainbow Push decided to demonstrate at each monthly auction. The court hearing has not been scheduled yet but a defense fund has been started, with about \$1,400 already.

Policy on email lists –

Milt: The policy posting issue did not involve any formal decision. We will continue to post DSA related activities. If anyone in the core group wants to send out other notices, that can be simply done by sending out to just the core group. So far, no one has objected to emails being sent to them. Bob W can also include a link to International Action Center with weekly schedules that would be available on our website.

Website

There is a new Hot Links feature which includes the DD Dinner video and will be updated as more stuff happens.

Other

Milt recommended statevoices.org, a nationwide progressive network.