

MINUTES – Officers’ meeting 2/4/10

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

Newsletter -- 225 sent, only about 6 returned. Good feedback from Brian Spears and others. Great issue.

NPC report – BJ: The new (somewhat larger, younger) NPC elected at the convention held its first meeting last week. Minutes will be posted on dsausa.org soon. The meeting began w comments on political “lay of the land” and state of DSA by Joe Schwartz and Frank respectively. Joe sees need to emphasize jobs, foreclosure/bank crisis, fiscal crisis of the state, progressive taxes, fighting Peterson attack on social security, build left movement etc. National office still running deficit but less than in previous years.

Much business focused on committee reports and assignments, budget, labor network, Left Forum event in NYC, improving website etc. Joe will recirculate DSA’s immigration position and propose endorsement of the Gutierrez bill. Please ask BJ if you have questions or are interested in more info about any of these.

A major area of discussion relevant to us was the US Social Forum (also see below). DSA will work on a Friday night DSA reception in tent belonging to Frazier Center (a Wayne State U. labor institute) and organize 3-4 workshops with various primary and secondary sponsors (DSA can be primary sponsor of only one): 1) Jobs (with Chicago economic justice group, Jobs w Justice); 2) Foreclosures/banking probably w Atlanta DSA primary sponsor (Jobs w Justice, ACORN, Peter Dreier to be invited); 3) Public sector/education crisis (UDS, maybe AFT, AFSCME); 4) 21st century socialism (Schweiker?). BJ was asked to find out if Rainbow Push would co-sponsor #2.

Social Forum in Detroit June 23-6. -- Atlanta will have a major role in DSA’s workshop on foreclosures/bank crisis, perhaps as principal sponsor. Our members are encouraged to attend. Agreed to register Metro Atlanta DSA w USSF. Barbara advised to say it wouldn’t work to invite Rainbow Push to co-sponsor workshop. Deadline for submitting proposals is end of March. No need to have separate Atlanta workshop. Milt suggested considering travel subsidies for some members.

Open Door – Ed has asked us to present the Mother Jones DVD at their meeting in February; date not yet known.

Foreclosure Coalition – Benefit collected \$1,500, for a total of \$3,600 in the legal defense fund. About 75 people attended, music was appropriate and donated. Still no court date. Questions about building on the success with Wachovia/Wells Fargo case settlements, keeping up pressure on the banks and increasing involvement by member organizations are being discussed by the coalition leadership.

Coming events:

- Noon Feb. 23: **rally at the state capitol**, with Roy Barnes as one speaker because of his history of strong support for legislation vs. predatory lending. There may be

issues about his being a candidate for governor, but that is not what he will speak about.

- **Poor People's Day at the Capitol** -- Education Day Feb. 10 10am-3pm at Hunger Coalition office 9 Gammon St. with panel on foreclosures and homelessness, parade Feb. 11 with space available on Minnie's flatbed truck. Important to participate and make contacts to build for our Mayday event.
- **AFL-CIO** -- coming again in April to push their position vs. foreclosures.

Next membership meeting – Jess has offered to give a presentation on media ownership and control. BJ suggested inviting the people involved in the Atlanta Coalition for Media Justice; maybe ask Heather Gray if she'd like to speak too. WAND has asked for 15 minutes to talk about the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and the Comprehensive Arms Reduction talks. Agreed. Set for March 6 (Paul's birthday).
UPDATE: Changed to March 13.

Education Committee – Next session is Feb. 21 on chapters 5-8 of Joe Schwartz's book, to be followed by a Mayday planning meeting.

Budget – Discussion of several amendments to the budget, on both income and expense sides. Marcia will circulate a revised budget. Discussion of whether to continue renting the office space was tabled for the moment.

Milt moved to spend \$400 for the Adobe software Barbara S. could use for our publications. BJ seconded. Agreed unanimously.

Mayday budget – Bob reported on venue prices he was quoted by a city agency, which included paying for a security guard (about \$95) in addition to \$25 an hour for the smaller room (seats 50) and \$30 an hour for the large room (seats 150). The facility will be open from 9:30am to 6 pm on a weekend. Marcia will discuss arrangements when she visits WAND this week. We will need to rent a PA system for the speakers.

Mayday event – Ian Fletcher is trying to get a speaking engagement for Joe at GSU to pay his expenses.

Title: Milt is on the DSA committee to advance DSA's Economic Bill of Rights. There is supporting literature already and more is being prepared. He feels we should focus on this at our event. He proposed that the title include a reference to that.

To get more than 50 people to attend, Milt proposed getting Grady Coalition, Progressive Summit group, etc. involved. We need a point person for each workshop. Henry and Bob Caine will do health care. Barbara will do foreclosure. Milt will do labor/living wage. Milt will talk to Jorge about the feasibility of the immigration track. Another possibility for either a substitute or fifth track is defense cuts/progressive taxation, which would involve several groups.

We need a moderator for each group. Participants could include Fort, Orrock, Rev. McDonald, Ian Fletcher.

Milt proposed having a DSA reception for Joe Friday night and suggesting that anyone

who wants to meet somewhere for dinner after the event on Saturday. Need location (house) for Friday.