

Highlights from the National Coordinating Committee Meeting of 9/24/11

CCDS National Convention

The NCC voted overwhelmingly to approve a recommendation to the CCDS membership on the timing of the next national convention. A letter and referendum will be sent to the membership soon to recommend postponing the convention until the summer of 2013 due to the complications of the Nov 2012 national elections. The CCDS by-laws require a national convention held every three years which would require a convention held in 2012. Look for your ballot in the mail soon and vote.

Organizing Committee Report

CCDS membership has increased incrementally over the past year with 50 new members. This represents a turnaround as membership had been declining prior to June 2010. Currently there are 397 members. Another 118 are 1 year in arrears, 50 more are 2 years in arrears. The organizing committee has undertaken to call each new member to welcome them and discuss local activity. A plan for a membership renewal drive was discussed with a plan to be drafted by the committee.

All committee chairs have been contacted to discuss work and how to strengthen them. It was noted that 3 committees have not been meeting due to lack of a chair: Climate Change, Finance, and Healthcare. The NEC will discuss how to get these committees going.

Finances and Fundraising

Steve Willett presented a financial report showing progress with a new monthly income averaging \$2,400 a month. The organizational goal adopted by the NCC was \$3,000 a month by December 2011 with 50% of the income as sustainer contributions. Currently 40% of the monthly income is from sustainers contributed by 62 people, an increase of 12 contributors since January 2011.

The fundraising committee is promoting the "Your Legacy Our Future" campaign for wills and bequests. An attractive brochure has been published with a limited number sent to individuals. NCC members were urged to consider including CCDS in a will or bequest as an example to other members. The committee is pursuing fundraising ideas such as a national book tour co-sponsored by universities or other organizations that could provide an honorarium. A special fund campaign will be undertaken to raise money for the next national convention. A motion was adopted to appeal to members of the NCC to personally commit to a regular sustainer contribution in the amount of \$100 above annual dues if possible.

Educational Work

A good deal of educational work has been undertaken. The Socialist Education Project (SEP) has organized several organization-wide political discussions via webex and conference call. Last summer, a two part discussion on neo-liberalism was held and sessions are planned on October 22 and November 13 on David Schweickart's book, "After Capitalism."

The Democracy Charter committee has been working steadily on a study outline entitled "The Long March for Democracy" which aims to contextualize the interplay between economic and class forces and the struggle for democracy beginning with the Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights. The goal is to develop an overarching essay to be circulated in early in 2012 along with a study outline and readings to be used in discussion with other organizations and in cadre development.

Zach Robinson has been working on a multi-media DVD presentation on the Communist Manifesto which will be available to sell at the School of the Americas protest in November (see info below).

Carl Davidson developed an 8-part power point presentation for study of the U.S. Constitution which was used in W. PA for a group organized under the auspices of PDA. To view and use the presentation, go to: <http://www.net4dem.org/cyrev/archive/Constitution-Class-8-parts.zip>

With assistance from a grant, Carl is also building the On-Line University of the Left. Check it out at: <http://ouleft.org/>

Peace and Solidarity Committee

Duncan McFarland reported that the committee has been meeting regularly and is working on a pamphlet on the war economy and the fight for jobs with the CCDS Labor Committee.

Labor Committee

Sandy Eaton reported that 10 members meet monthly. Discussion has focused on the jobs crisis, how organized labor is responding to the crisis and promotion of the CCDS booklet, "It's Time to Fight for Full Employment."

Mobilizer Committee

National Coordinator Janet Tucker heads the work of the CCDS on-line newsletter, The Mobilizer. She urged members of the NCC or members at large who are interested in helping with this important organizational information function to volunteer for this committee or other committees that also need members.

National Co-Chair Resignation

It was with much regret that the NCC accepted the resignation of Renée Carter from national Co-chair and the NCC due to necessary personal priorities. NCC members noted Renee's leadership as Chair of the Resolutions Committee at the 2009 National Convention, her dedication to organizational matters and strategic planning, and her role in organizing the work of CCDS in the South as Southern Regional coordinator. It was noted that National Co-chairs are elected at the national convention and it was reiterated that the NCC is committed to insuring that the National Co-Chairs reflect the diversity of the multi-national, multi-racial working class. A letter of thanks was sent to Renée from the National Executive Committee noting that her leadership will be greatly missed.

CCDS Calendar

School of the Americas Protest and CCDS Southern Regional Meeting
November 18 – 20, Columbus, GA

Plan to attend the annual protest demanding the closure of the School of the Americas, aka, School of the Assassins where the U.S. trains death squads and military dictators in Latin America. CCDS will have a literature table and a conference room to show "The Take," a film about factory take-overs in Argentina. Atlanta CCDS members are working on an 8 page broadside to distribute as well.

On Friday evening, Nov 18, there will be a CCDS Southern Regional Meeting near the site of the SOA protest – details to follow. Any CCDS member or friend attending the SOA protest should contact Carl Davidson (carld717@gmail.com)

Discussion of "After Capitalism" by David Schweickart

Oct 22 and Nov13 at 3:00 PM (ET), 2:00 PM (CT), 1:00 PM (MT), 12:00 PM (PT). Webex and phone information will be sent out before the sessions.
