

DFA ACTION/STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
September 16, 2009
Room 206, Valentine Hall, Lutheran Theological Seminary - 7 PM

Present: Elaine Jones, Chair; Peter Boving, Will Lane, Jeanne Neylon, Robert Lasko, Joe Breighner, Maggie Abbott-Fowler, Denise Weldon-Siviy, Virginia Ciliotta.

Treasurer's Report. Jeanne Neylon reported on expenses from August to date: \$89 for printing of 500 DFA brochures; \$125 to Seminary for room rental from April-September; income for that period was \$166 from donations. Balance as of 9/8/09: \$2,124.52.

Task Force & Committee Reports.

Environment, Energy & Sustainability (EES). Peter Boving reported on his Task Force's activities. They are moving ahead on a proposed energy raising project. In conjunction with this, the Committee is asking DFA to consider contributing \$150 toward membership in PAREI (Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative). Besides membership, this fee would cover access to information and support for energy raising projects.

***Peter Boving moved, Will Lane seconded, that DFA contribute \$150 to PAREI as recommended by the EES Task Force. Motion carried unanimously.

Peter reported that, for the Heritage Festival on Sunday, September 20th, EES will help provide recycling signs for the event. They will have a table available with information on recycling, as well as information about the 350.org event on October 24th International Day of Climate Action. The Youth for Sustainable Recycling group from Gettysburg College will assist. Joe Breighner said this group of very bright, committed students is actively researching projects to do. Peter agreed to place DFA's new brochures on their table.

Health Care Task Force. Will Lane reported as follows: committee members/supporters have written many good letters to the editor that have appeared in the local newspapers; Dr. Dwight Michael responded to Rep. Moul in the Gettysburg Times; also, he has done a power point presentation for the Adams County Commissioners and will do one for the Gettysburg Adams Chamber of Commerce. Wendy Mizenko is showing the "Sick Around the World" film at the Seminary on September 30th. The committee is focusing on the October 20th rally to support the health care bill at the Rotunda of the Capital in Harrisburg at 10 a.m. with discussion about whether to rent a bus for the trip (the goal is for 2,000 people to show up). There was a request that DFA consider some financial support for a bus if this would become necessary.

***Maggie Abbott-Fowler moved, Denise Weldon-Siviy seconded that DFA contribute up to \$200 towards a deposit for the bus, with the understanding that this money would be returned to DFA if the bus fills up; if not, it is to be considered a donation. Motion carried unanimously.

Will Lane mentioned the Mad As Hell doctors group from Oregon would be showing up in the parking lot of the Village Outlets by the flags on September 30th. Time is after NOON-- need to verify exact time since the group is traveling through PA to DC

Lobbying in support of universal health care. Elaine reported that 10-12 people met with Todd Platts recently for about one and a half hours. He made no commitments but listened attentively and promised to read everything about the issues. She has also been trying to set up a meeting with Senator Arlen Specter with no success as yet.

Jeanne reminded the group that House Rep. Bill Kortz will be in Gettysburg on Thursday, 9/24 at 11 a.m. He is running for U.S. senator and supports the Pennsylvania single payer health care legislation.

Community Service Committee. Denise Weldon-Siviy reported: she is spending time on the PA budget stalemate and its fallout, which has brought many services to a halt in the community; the Gettysburg Community Soup Kitchen is still functioning because they don't receive funding from the State; Banks are not lending money to community organizations for interim operating expenditures because they don't know what the funding levels will ultimately be; she attended a meeting on food security issues. As for projects, she wants to have a blanket collection to help out in this dire situation.

Program Planning for DFA Meetups. Following are ideas mentioned:

- 10/7/09 Meetup: show the National Geographic film *Six Degrees* as a leadup to the 10/24 event.
- Joe Breighner would be willing to do a power point presentation on Ethical Consumerism from the viewpoints of: environmentalism, human rights, and labor
- Peace & Justice issues in conjunction with the Interfaith Institute for Peace & Justice as suggested by Wendy Mizenko
- At some point, a program about education suggested by Joe Breighner
- More efforts to reach out to the other side (and examine our own inclinations) suggested by Joe Breighner
- Get recommendations from the national DFA organization
- Show the video of the Bill Moyers/Wendell Potter interview
- War in Afghanistan – could the Code Pink organization send us a speaker? Jeanne Neylon.

10/7 Meetup - Consensus was to show the film *Six Degrees* for the October program.

November Meetup - Consider showing the Moyers/Potter interview.

December Meetup - Consider Ethical Consumerism by Joe Breighner.

Robert Lasko mentioned that we must ask National Geographic for permission to show the film; he will work with Elaine on a letter for this purpose. Will Lane will prepare a press release for the October Meetup program.

Program Committee. Elaine suggested that a Program Committee be formed to help with the task of coming up with program ideas and implementation. Will Lane offered to communicate with others via email, but said he could not commit to chairing a committee. Joe expressed some concern about the difficulties in doing what we've been doing with the number of people who are truly active and committed. Ginny suggested we think about doing Meetup programs every other month, with exceptions for significant events tied to deadline (i.e., election related events). Again, it was emphasized that more active members are needed to be able to accomplish all that we would like to. Will Lane and Lasko agreed to consult by phone with Elaine on planning.

DFA September 26-27th Training. Maggie said the number of attendees is up to about 67, but encouraged others to attend or to sponsor a scholarship for someone else to attend. She also requested that DFA consider sponsoring two scholarships.

***Maggie Abbott-Fowler moved, Peter Boving seconded, that DFA donate \$120 for two scholarships for the DFA Training on September 26-27, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

Other business. Elaine mentioned that Task Forces are not using the website to record their meetings or announce events, etc. Information should be transmitted to Lorraine Mazza as often as needed.

She reported that the Adams County Democratic Committee (ACDC) is preparing a Welcome Packet. The DFA brochure will be included in the packet.

Announcement. The Gettysburg-Leon organization will be sponsoring a Salsa Dance in front of the Majestic on Friday, 10/2/09 from 6-10:30 pm. Good food will be available.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Virginia Ciliotta
Recording Secretary