

The Debs Foundation Newsletter

P.O. BOX 9454, TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47808

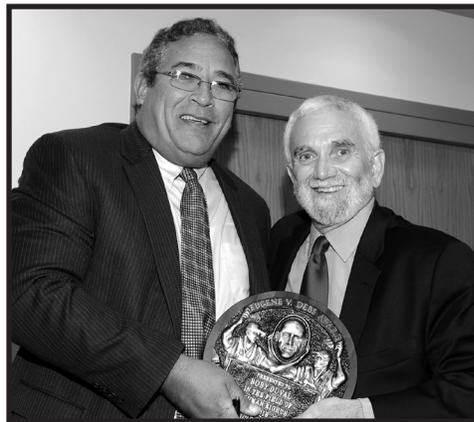


SPRING 2011

The 2010 Banquet

We knew the essentials of Bobby Duval's life already—hockey star at Loyola University of Montreal, imprisoned for asking questions, saw all but four imprisoned at that time die of abuse and malnutrition, survived to become a community organizer and operator of an athletic camp to provide schooling, food, and shelter and soccer coaching to children from the slums of Port-au-Prince—but Duval provided more touching details of his life in his acceptance speech.

The situation in Haiti became so volatile that his family had to move out of the country, but he had cherished memories of his pre-teenage years in Haiti. He returned to Haiti after college and was a star on Haiti's popular Violette soccer team. To this point in his life, he had not been particularly politically savvy, but the disparity between what he saw around him now and the idealized images from his childhood caused him to begin asking questions. After eight months he was abruptly arrested and held in prison. There never was a trial and no charges ever were filed. Duval credits President Carter and then UN Ambassador Andrew Young for gaining the release of himself and the other four surviving prisoners. Terms of their release included that all five would be deported, but Duval was allowed to remain in Haiti. He credits Andrew Young and Jimmy Carter for this.



Plaque presented to
Bobby Duval by Noel Beasley

Bobby Duval has worked for 30 years now under volatile and unpredictable political conditions. By focusing on humanitarianism and low-key community action, he has, at great risk, accomplished a great deal for the poor.

He indicated that the crisis created by the earthquake and the current political vacuum cause him to revisit the options for what he and other like-minded persons can do to steer the country to a society in which the government serves the people, away from the pattern of the last 200 years where ruling elites exploit the people.

We have never had an award recipient more appreciative and even humbled by having been honored by the Debs Award. We wish him and his country well.

Banquet Music: Talk about Timing!

Anne Feeney has presented the cultural entertainment section of our dinner program for over a decade. In place of Anne, on her recommendation, this year the slot was filled by Joe Jencks. Joe is a full-time touring artist. His list of credentials is impressive. He received a degree in music from a university in Decatur, Illinois. He has performed in Carnegie Hall and was sent by the State Department on tour to the Caribbean nations, where he focused on exposing school children to the rich music of the American working class.

To say that his selection of songs was prescient would be an understatement. His first selection, "I Dreamed I Saw Joe Hill," fitted this description because, as he mentioned, the song was written in the early 1930s when the excesses of unrestrained capitalism had brought us to the Great Depression. Jencks reminded us that when asked what the IWW would do without him, Joe Hill said three words: "Don't mourn. Organize!" His last song was one he wrote for an AFT protest rally in Ohio when educators were on strike against a non-responsive local government. The refrain struck a note of defiance and determination: "We will never give up, we'll never give in; and will never, ever go away. We will build a brand new future for our daughters and our sons, and will

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SPRING BUSINESS MEETING • Saturday, April 16, at 1:00 pm, Debs Home

Our New Website: A Reminder

As was mentioned in the last membership mailing, we have a new website address. It is www.debsfoundation.org. The change from dot com to dot org has no particular value but was necessary to get free from the original domain possessor. We think, however, that the new name is a good bit better identifier for those searching the internet, some of whom may want to know about Debs but who don't know his first name.

The entire website is more user-friendly, with a number of new features and "teasers." For us, another pleasant feature is that we get instant responses when we go to Rick at Oasis Computer Solutions with additions or changes to website content. And by the way, we save over \$400 annually in cost, an amount not pegged to the price of crude oil.

If you haven't already, check out the new website.

Not Front Page News

Senator Grassley and Senate Finance Committee staffers concluded their three-year investigation into the financial irregularities of tax-exempt with a report that makes no recommendations for additional governmental oversight. The probe got under way because of widespread allegations that several high-profile TV preachers were abusing their church status by living lavishly while taking in millions of dollars tax-free every year.

The Texas-based Kenneth Copeland is the most flagrant case of such lavishness. He and his wife Gloria live on a \$6.2 million "parsonage" on 5 acres by a lake. He has a private cattle ranch, a power plant and oil and gas wells and drives several Harley-Davidson motorcycles, a Mercedes, a Cadillac, and a Corvette convertible. His tax-exempt Kenneth Copeland Ministries has a fleet of airplanes and its own private airport.

In what should be seen as a cave-in to pressure from Religious Right constituents, Senator Grassley (R-Iowa) and committee staffers concluded their investigation with a report that makes no recommendation for additional governmental oversight.

More astounding, actually shocking, is that the staff report recommends repeal of the federal tax law ban on church electioneering. Grassley had been under intense pressure from the Religious Right since his committee launched the investigation. In the end his action was a complete sell-out to Radical Right forces. So much for church-state separation!

An informative article on this case appears in the February 2011 issue of [Church & State](#). See also the committee's report, posted on the Finance Committee website.

Banquet Music *continued*

work 'til all workers rise as one." Remember, this was October 2, a month before the general elections swept in a large Tea-Party-backed contingent to Congress and a number of ideologically-driven state governors. Now teachers unions and other state employees in state after state are fighting against odds to save their jobs and their union bargaining rights.

As usual, our evening was concluded with singing "Solidarity Forever."

DEBS FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2011

Published by

The Eugene V. Debs Foundation

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The *Debs Foundation Newsletter* is published twice yearly for distribution to members and friends of the Foundation. The Eugene V. Debs Foundation is a non-profit, private organization which maintains the home of Eugene and Kate Debs as a museum and shrine to labor, and carries on educational and informational programs which aim to honor and promote the goals for which Debs struggled: industrial unionism, social justice, and peace. For those wishing to become members, an application form is provided elsewhere in this issue.



Excerpted from *Newsweek* article by Niall Ferguson titled "Sale of the Century" which reveals one way out of the debt crisis.

The root of the problem is, of course, a lack of political will extending down from the president himself to the lowliest Tea Party activist living on Social Security and Medicare...

...The U.S. needs to do exactly what it would if it were a severely indebted company: sell off assets to balance its books...

...an argument is usually made by unions: private or foreign owners will be tougher on American workers than good old Uncle Sam...

...the goal of public policy should not be to protect public-sector workers from market discipline that will raise their productivity...

...the government owns somewhere between 600 million and 700 million acres of land, or about 30 percent of the country's land surface, much of it in the Western states, where as much as half the land is federally owned.

Washington could also sell its stakes in the Southeastern Power Administration and related assets as well as the Tennessee Valley Authority's electric-power assets. There's Amtrak (which runs at a loss) and the extensive hydroelectric empire of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

And then there are the assets that have the potential to be among the most lucrative of all: America's highways. Plenty of other countries—Japan, Turkey, and even China, to name just three—have already privatized substantial parts of their transportation infrastructure, leaving private companies to manage both revenues and maintenance.

My Question: Then, a few more decades of refusing to raise taxes on the rich, what is left to sell off?

The 2010 Financial Statement

In examining the 2010 financial statement, there are a few observations which will shed light on the year's income and expenditures. Income has been on a downward trend in 2010 as in recent years. Income from the dinner program ads was down significantly, and dinner ticket sales were low. Also, although our membership roll has remained roughly the same over recent years, the number of members remaining active and paying their annual dues has decreased dramatically. Income from dues and contributions in 2007 was \$22,829 compared to only \$9,860 in 2010. We appeal to our members to remain committed, dues-paying supporters of the Debs Museum and Foundation. On the expenditures side, there were several necessary non-recurring expenses. Two of roughly

equal amounts were for replacing the old—roughly 20 year-old—security system by ADT, and for finally getting free from the original firm doing domain and website maintenance. This was a confusing and time-consuming task, and we thank Rick at Oasis Computer Systems for persevering and getting the job done.

Perhaps most significant is an income item. It was necessary to draw out almost \$30,000 from the Endowment Fund's money market account. This is convincing evidence of the necessity of a major capital campaign which will assure adequate resources to pay annual operating expenses as well as cover unforeseen costs in future years.

2010 FINANCIAL STATEMENT Eugene V. Debs Foundation Mick Love, Treasurer

Expenditures

Indiana Business Report	10.00
Internal Revenue Service	5161.16
Museum Director's Salary	20,399.92
Indiana Dept. of Revenue	1417.25
U.S. Postal Service	800.15
Jewett Printing	1571.34
Deb Leichty (web hosting)	874.00
Oasis Computer Systems	2686.00
ADT (repair and replacement of security system) ...	3577.58
T.H. Human Rights Day	100.00
ISU Cunningham Library	500.00
Ecology Pest Control	850.00
Terminix	349.20
Assoc. of Indiana Museums35.00
Wabash Valley Visions and Voices	175.00
Kay Newkirk (clerical)	60.00
Cellular (annual)	192.00
Galloway Photo	119.60
Apple House (bedding plants)	112.98
Ace Blind and Draperies	751.00
ISU Contoller.....	600.00
Lowe's	109.10
Labor News	66.64
Krogers (doughnuts)9.95
Yellow Pages	396.00
Midwest Labor Press Assoc	140.00
Office Max	252.67
Computer Repair25.00
HH Gregg (attic air conditioner).....	419.96
Am. Welding and Glass	30.00

Ketner & Sons Electric	435.44
State Auto (Home Insurance)	2084.00
Springhill (AC repair).....	454.15
Trophy Shop	13.00
Watler Accounting	35.00
Staples (computer software)	534.99
Staples (supplies)	89.35
Ace Washer (AC Repair)	90.00

Award Banquet:

Boby Duval travel	510.00
Boby Duval honorarium	1000.00
Meier-Johann Wengler	484.11
Jewett Printing	2048.85
Joe Jencks (honorarium and travel)	1000.00
Hilton Garden Inn (lodging)	155.68
ISU Dining	3125.50
ISU Hulman Center.....	929.00
Moore Photography	50.00
Total Expenditures	57,133.05

Income

Dues and Contributions	9860.55
Memorabilia	541.50
Dinner Tickets.....	6742.50
Dinner Program	5183.65

Withdrawal from Endowment Fund	29,970.00
Total	52,298.20
Balance 12-31-09	12,178.03
Balance 12-31-10	6323.47

From the Mailbox...

William Dollard wrote, Nov. 3, 2010

Mr. King, my name is William Dollard. Among my Mother's possessions was a letter of recommendation in favor of her Grandfather, Otto Best, written by Mr. Debs. The letter is attached for you to look at. If you are interested in acquiring this piece of memorabilia concerning two notable Terre Haute sons please contact me. Otto Best was a famous railroad executive in his day and is buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Terre Haute.

Sincerely, William Dollard

Charles King reply, Nov. 4, 2010

We appreciate you thinking of the Debs Foundation regarding the letter you possess. It is very interesting, right down to the classic Debs signature. However, we do not have funds for paying for such memorabilia, although we are happy to receive them and see that they are made available to the public. ... By the way, the letter

mentions that the "young man" is seeking a job as a locomotive fireman. Do you know if he did pursue that line of work. It was a tough job, but so were most of the jobs available in manual labor at that time. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance. Thanks, Charles King.

William Dollard reply, Nov. 5, 2010

Otto Best was a railroad man his entire life. He left Terre Haute shortly after the letter was written and worked for a number of years in Los Angeles for Southern Pacific. Later in life he was an executive in the Superintendent's Office of the NC & StL RR in Nashville, Tenn and retired as officer in charge of the Nathan MFG Company's locomotive brass division in New York City. I do not yet have it but I expect to receive back from a friend of my Grandmother's a gorilla's head carving that was given to her father, Otto Best, by Mr. Debs. I'll let you know. William Dollard

I wonder, would Debs' endorsement today help send a young man off on a successful career?

**DON'T PITCH YOUR NEWSLETTER!
PASS IT ON.**

NOTE: Please check here if this is a:

RENEWAL

NEW MEMBERSHIP

ADDRESS CHANGE

Email Address:



Membership Dues: The Eugene V. Debs Foundation

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

_____ \$ 5.00 Student Member _____ \$100.00 Sustaining Member

_____ \$10.00 Regular Member _____ \$250.00 Life Members

_____ \$25.00 Supporting Member _____ Other

Enclose remittance. Make checks payable to the Debs Foundation.

The Debs Foundation • P.O. Box 9454 • Terre Haute, IN 47808-0843

We are a not-for-profit organization, so your dues and contributions are tax deductible. The Foundation owns and maintains the Debs Home and offers several educational and cultural programs.

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