

The Debs Foundation Newsletter

P.O. BOX 843, TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47808-0843



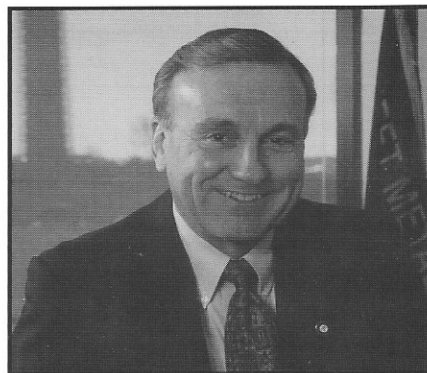
FALL 2000

SULLIVAN THE YEAR 2000 AWARD RECIPIENT

Michael J. Sullivan, General President, Sheet Metal Workers' International Association, has been chosen the Eugene V. Debs Award recipient for year 2000. The award banquet will be November 11, in Heritage Ballroom, ISU campus, Terre Haute. Mr. Sullivan becomes the 35th person to be honored in this fashion. Looking to the new century, Michael Sullivan is seen as one of the progressive young union leaders to move the labor movement forward as American society adjusts to new challenges and faces old obstacles to peace, social justice and quality of life issues nationally and worldwide.

Sullivan began his career in sheet metal work in his hometown of Indianapolis, where he completed his apprenticeship in 1969. He was elected Business Representative of his local in 1973, and from 1979 to 1994, he served as his local's Business Manager and Financial Secretary-Treasurer. Also during this period he was president of the Indiana Building and Construction Trades Council and Vice President of the State AFL-CIO. He was appointed by the Governor of Indiana to serve as a member of the Indiana Workers' Compensation Commission and the Hoosier Alliance Against Drugs. He also was Chairman of the Labor Institute for training and President of the Michigan-Indiana Council of Sheet Metal Workers.

Shifting to union leadership at the national level, Sullivan was elected General Secretary-Treasurer in 1994, having served as a member of the General Executive Council from 1983. He has been General President of the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association since March, 1998, and was elected to a



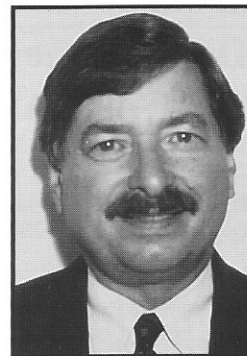
*MICHAEL SULLIVAN
Debs Award Recipient, 2000*

five-year term at the union's 40th General Convention in August, 1999. In his new capacity, he directs and supervises almost 200 local unions throughout the United States and Canada involving some 150,000 members, providing skilled services to the sheet metal and air conditioning industry, to the transportation industry in both freight/commuter railroads and shipyards, and to other metal-related manufacturing and service operations. In addition to these union duties, he serves as a Vice President on the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO and as the Labor Co-Chairman of the Democratic Governors' Association.

Sullivan is a second generation Sheet Metal Worker. Growing up in a union environment, in Indiana, he has always been an admirer of Terre Haute native Eugene V. Debs. It is not likely that any one person will come to be known as the Eugene Debs of the 21st century, but Michael Sullivan is one who has and will continue to lead the labor movement in the right direction. We hope you can join us November 11 in honoring him.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The keynote or presentation speaker this



*RICHARD MCCrackEN
Keynote Speaker*

year will be Richard McCracken who is an attorney that represents a number of labor unions and is one of the founders of the Comprehensive Campaign style of union organizing. McCracken is a partner in the

San Francisco law firm of Davis, Cowell and Bowe. He serves as Special Council to the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union (HERE), and continues to be a pioneer in the development of unique strategies to defend and expand the rights of workers. He has made invaluable contributions as legal counsel to many organizing campaigns and successful strike actions. His address is expected to be informative and challenging.

A special feature of this year's banquet will be the performance of singer Anne Fenney. Back by popular demand from last year, Anne seems to be able to draw at will from an inexhaustible repertoire of songs of labor and social criticism. Her appearances are always challenging as well as entertaining. Anne is excited about the prospect of having a new recording out by banquet date.

For good food, congenial guests and challenging speakers, the Debs Award Banquet is the place to be November 11. Additionally, those who are able to fit it in to their busy schedules should plan to come a day earlier to attend the conference on Debs and the socialist movement. The complete conference schedule appears inside this issue. All sessions are open to the public.

Eugene V. Debs And The Politics of Dissident In Modern America November 10-11

This conference is jointly sponsored by the Eugene V. Debs Foundation and Indiana State University. It is held to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Debs' first run for the presidency on the Socialist Party ticket. Sessions are scheduled for morning and afternoon, Friday and Saturday, November 10 and 11, on ISU campus. Except for the Friday morning session in Stalker 215, all sessions are in Holmstedt 115. The public is invited.

Eugene V. Debs and the Politics of Dissent in Modern America

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Debs' first run for
President on a Third Party Ticket
Indiana State University
November 10-11, 2000

Sessions
(All Sessions Open to Public)
Friday, November 10, 2000

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Stalker Hall 215)

I. New Perspectives on the Socialist Party
Chair: Jacob H. Dorn, Wright State University

Presenters:

Stephen Burwood, Southwestern Oklahoma State University,
"Debsian Socialism in a Transnational Context."

Sally M. Miller, University of the Pacific, "For White Men
Only? The Party of Eugene V. Debs and Variables of
Ethnicity, Gender, and Race."

Todd Anthony Rosa, George Washington University, "'No
Country to Fight For': The Socialist Party of America, the
Neutrality Acts, and the Tradition of Eugene V. Debs."

Commentary: James Barnett, University of Illinois at Urbana-
Champaign.

12:00-2:00 p.m. Lunch

2:00-4:00 p.m. (Holmstedt Hall 115)

II. Dissenting Third Parties and the American Electoral System
Chair: Julie Walsh, St. Joseph College

Presenters:

Peter Argersinger, Southern Illinois University, "Taubneck's
Laws: Third Parties in American Politics in the Late
Nineteenth Century."

Gerald Friedman, University of Massachusetts, "Success and
Failure in Third Party Politics: The Knights of Labor and
the Union Labor Coalition in Massachusetts, 1884-1888."

Mark Lause, University of Cincinnati, "James B. Weaver's
1880 Greenback-Labor Campaign: the Post-Civil War
Roots of the American Socialist legacy."

Commentary: Julie Walsh, St. Joseph's College.

7:00-9:00 p.m. Dinner (Generations)

After Dinner Speaker

Jim Barrett, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign,
"Bringing the Personal into the Political: the Case of
William Z. Foster and the Communist Personal Narrative."

DEBS FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Fall 2000

Published by

The Eugene V. Debs Foundation
Box 843

Terre Haute, IN 47808

Website: www.eugenevdebs.com

Foundation Officers:

Jack Sheinkman, *President*

Noel Beasley, *Executive Vice President*

Charles King, *Secretary*

Woodrow Creason, *Treasurer*

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.

Saturday, November 11, 2000

9:00-10:30 a.m. (Holmstedt Hall 115)

III. Christian Socialism in the Era of Debs
Chair: Robert Clouse, Indiana State University

Presenters:

Jacob H. Dorn, Wright State University, "Eugene V. Debs and
the Socialist Christians."

Kyle Wilkison, Collin County Community College, "The
Religious Left in the Lone Star State: Christian Dissenters
in Early Twentieth Century Texas."

Commentary: Robert Clouse and Donald Richards, Indiana
State University

10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. (HH 115)

IV. The Socialist Politics of Eugene V. Debs
Chair: Sally Miller, University of the Pacific

Presenters:

Jason Martinek, Carnegie Mellon University, "Reading and
(R)evolution: Educational Politics and Deb's Social
Democracy of America, 1897-1898."

Bill Pelz, Institute of Working Class History, "Eugene Debs
and the Primacy of Class."

Commentary: David Sterling, University of Cincinnati

12:30-1:45 p.m. Lunch

2:00-3:30 p.m. (HH 115)

V. Symposium: Maurice Isserman's New Book, *The Other
American: The Untold Life of Michael Harrington*
(Public Affairs Press, 2000)

Discussants: Paul Burkett, Indiana State University and Jim
Livingston, Rutgers University

Response: Maurice Isserman, Hamilton College

3:30-4:45 p.m. (HH 115)

IV. Evolutionary Socialism in the Progressive Era
Chair: Louis Ferleger, Boston University

Presenters:

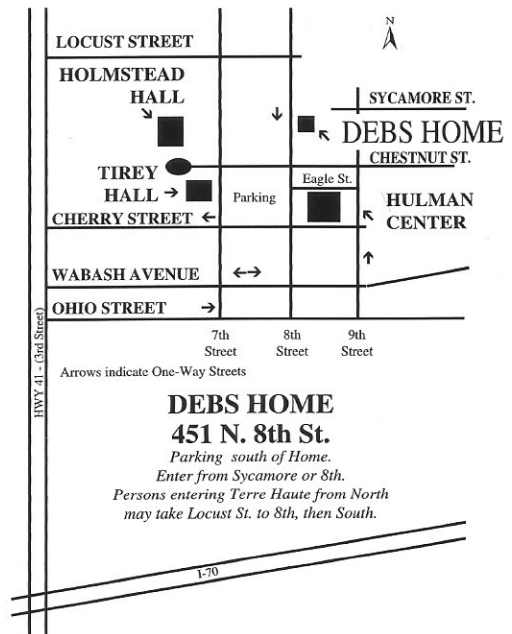
Martin J. Sklar, Bucknell University, "Capitalism and
Socialism: Utopian and Realistic."

Jim Livingston, Rutgers University, "John Dewey was Right
about World War I."

Richard Schneirov, Indiana State University, "Revisionist
Socialism as Interpreted by William English Walling."

Commentary: The audience.

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET TERRE HAUTE November 11 2000 Honoring Michael Sullivan	
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS Afternoon 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.: Debs Home Open Evening 6:00 p.m.: Social Hour and Reception (cash bar), Heritage Ballroom, Tirey Hall 7:00 p.m.: Banquet Honoring Michael Sullivan	
The fall business meeting will be Sunday, November 12 at 9:00 a.m. at the Debs Home	



Parking is free in lot shared by Hulman Center and Tirey Hall.

Individual Greetings

This is your opportunity to participate in sending greetings. Use one of two forms. For a listing of your name (one or two persons), send \$20. For a listing by name including your personal greeting not to exceed 20 words, send \$30. Indicate if not attending the banquet in order that a copy of the souvenir program can be mailed. This order must be received by October 25. Use space at bottom of this page to provide name, \$20 or \$30 listing (include message) and if attending the banquet.

Dinner Ticket Order

(\$25 per ticket)

NOTE

We offer a choice of entrees. Please **indicate your choice when you order tickets and again at the door.**

Name _____

_____ X \$25 = \$ _____
number of amount
tickets enclosed

Chicken Dijonnaise _____
Number

Baked Trout _____
Number

Tickets must be paid in advance, checks payable to The Debs Foundation, P.O. Box 843, Terre Haute, IN 47808
Please check one of the following options.

☐ Hold tickets at the door, in the name of _____
(actualy the preferred way)

☐ Mail my tickets to the following address:

Inquiries may be directed to Charles King, 812-237-3443.

Website Showing Promise

The foundation's charter requires that, among other things, we carry on educational and promotional activities. This commitment has led to numerous activities over the years: speakers, scholarships, conferences, a newsletter and, lately, a website. Obviously, the founders could not have envisioned the use of the internet in the execution of our mission, but this mid-year, we finally got to the point of developing a website.

Expectations are high for our website at www.eugenevdebs.com. Possibilities are endless for a medium which is available anywhere in the world. We hope that the website will generate income by building membership and selling memorabilia and, most importantly by providing an informative and educational source. We especially want to promote its use among middle school and high school students. The experience of the past few weeks demonstrate that things are happening as we had hoped.

On Labor Day, a call came in from the mother of a school age boy. Her son was doing a class presentation on Eugene

Debs, and was having to rely on our website for most of the information since local libraries had nothing helpful. The report was to be given Friday and they wanted to have memorabilia shipped--buttons, postcards and photographs--by express mail to be available for the Friday presentation. We were happy to oblige. By the way, this call came from a community north of Dallas, Texas.

Several orders have come in for memorabilia from the display on the website. These individuals often express surprise and pleasure at learning of the foundation on the internet. We of course appreciate all these evidences of interest, but are especially pleased that some school age children are learning about Eugene Debs through the internet. There is a lot of good educational material out there on the internet and we are delighted that information on Debs is part of the fare. Perhaps you can help spread the word about this material to schools in your vicinity.

**Recycle your
Newsletter by
sharing it
with a friend.**

The form at right is for year 2000 dues or for new members. Year 2001 dues statements will be mailed later in the fall.

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 843
Terre Haute, IN 47808-0843

Your dues and contributions are tax deductible. The Foundation owns and maintains the Debs Home and offers several educational and cultural programs. We are a voluntary organization with no paid staff.

EUGENE V. DEBS FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 843

Terre Haute, Indiana 47808-0843

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 977
TERRE HAUTE, IN