

The Debs Foundation Newsletter

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



FALL 2010

Debs Award Banquet October 2

This year's Debs Award recipient, Bobby Duval, is being recognized for his human rights work in Haiti, although his political activism is also part of the picture.

As regards his political activism, he spent 17 months in prison for speaking out against the excesses of the Duvalier dictatorship. He was starved and tortured, and saw hundreds of fellow activists die there, some beaten to death in front him.

Duval is the son of Haiti's Creole elites, a prominent automotive family. He became a soccer star, leading Montreal's Loyola University to a championship in the early 1970s. After graduation, he returned to Haiti and was a star on Haiti's popular Violette soccer team. That playing role ended abruptly in 1976 when he was jailed for his political activism.

After release from prison, he returned to the Violette Club as club president. By this time, he had a son whom he wanted to have the opportunity to learn soccer. He saw that the majority of Haitian children were being left on their own to learn soccer.

This is when Duval took on the role of human rights activist by providing a training facility where children can learn soccer and basketball. The owners of an unused field were persuaded to allow Duval to clean up the 15-acre field and build two basketball courts and an outdoor lunchroom where the children can eat, this in addition to the soccer field.

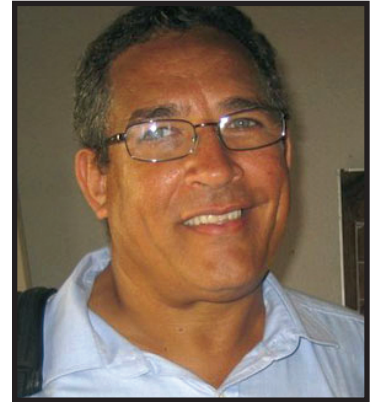
This shows that, for Duval, soccer is more than the workouts and more than just a daily plate of hot food for the children. The field is near some of the poorest neighborhoods in this poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Most are slum kids and their models are juvenile delinquents. But Duval's kids won't turn into bums. They learn discipline and how to dream a

brighter dream. Soccer can be a key that helps open other doors. Some of his players have gained the opportunity to play at higher levels. Two of Duval's players, including his son, were invited to try out with a second-division team in France. Duval hopes the successes will encourage the children to stick to it, to learn discipline, become goal-driven. Instead of being on the street, they learn their capabilities, and they learn life skills.

By the way, at Duval's training camp, everything is free---soccer gear and the hot meal the players get after practice---and Duval also pays their school fees and medical bills.

The destructive earthquake which struck Port-au-Prince recently has thrust Duval into the international spotlight. Being near the airport and a piece of level ground not littered with debris, the training facility was converted to a tent city where thousands of the homeless could be fed and provided tent shelters. Duval used his multi-lingual skills to interpret for aid workers and for network news, especially CNN. Duval's services facilitated the spread of news of the plight of the earthquake victims around the world, and encouraged international relief efforts.

Duval's life has been an outstanding example of public service and humanitarianism of the first order. We are happy to honor him with the Debs Award this year and hope you will join us October 2 for this event.



Bobby Duval

FALL BUSINESS MEETING • Sunday, October 3, Debs Home

Debs Foundation Secretary Honored by MLPA

By Kathleen Culver



MLPA President Beimborn Presents plaque to King

The Midwest Labor Press Association (MLPA) presents a Eugene V. Debs Award annually, and this year's recipient was Dr. Charles King. According to Gary Brown, Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 157, "Dr. King was chosen not only for his role in preserving the legacy of one of the world's great union leaders and advocates for social justice, but also for his 25 years of behind-the-scenes dedication and hard work. He became a member of the Debs Foundation in 1983, Secretary in 1985, authored the newsletter in 1986, and established the website in 1995.

In accepting the MLPA award, Dr. King commented, "My experience as Secretary goes well beyond the role of Corresponding Secretary. The first expansion of my role was to start a newsletter. The main purpose of the newsletter is to inform members of Foundation events, such as announcing banquet dates and winners and expediting ticket sales. I have seen the importance of informing the readership of events in Debs' life of which the average member may not be aware. We post the newsletter on our website so that the legacy of Debs will be brought to a wider audience.

"I have had a lot of interesting experiences related to the annual banquets, where much of my work, and certainly the high point of each year, occurs. After twenty-five years, many things have become fairly routine, but I'm always afraid I'll forget something. And I have, more than once. One year, just two weeks before banquet day, I realized I hadn't ordered the plaque. The process normally requires six weeks minimum from order to delivery. I got on the phone promptly and explained my dilemma. I was told that it could be expedited, but it would cost almost three times as much. I was just thankful that we would have the plaque for the ceremony, sorry, naturally, that it cost over \$800 rather than around \$300. That's one mistake I never repeated!

"A couple of times we had trouble with the flower arrangements for the head table. One year I forgot to order

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Michael Sullivan, *President*

Noel Beasley, *Executive Vice President*

Charles King, *Secretary*

Mick Love, *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.

them, and another year the florist delivered them early. The caterer was there and took them and placed them in a large cooler, then forgot to take them out. I called the florist on Monday and found out what happened. So, there were no flowers for the banquet, but at least we didn't have to pay for them.

"One of the pleasures of the award banquet is that I have had the privilege of meeting a lot of America's finest in the men and women who have been award recipients. Most of them have been most gracious and appreciative in what I have done to inform them of what is expected of them. I have been amused that a few have inquired about proper attire—formal or semi-formal. Only a pair were almost unfriendly, seemed to be pretty impressed with themselves, and were not far from being grouches.

"For half of his life, Debs was a labor leader, half a political leader. Today, those who honor Debs tend to focus on one of these facets more than the other. We receive no financial support explicitly from the Socialist Party, although a few members mention that they are socialists. It is my opinion that the best way to describe our members is as Progressive, whatever their party or ideological affiliations.

"I do have the feeling that the different affiliations which identify more with one facet of Debs' life work at times are apparent. Some labor people would like all our award recipients to be labor leaders. Some political activists want us to be more outspoken in denouncing the administration's war or environmental policies.

"A couple of years ago when both our awardee and presentation speaker—Richard Trumka and Cecil Roberts—were most outspoken in denouncing the Bush administration and supporting Obama for president, their remarks were interrupted many times with applause. The next morning at our semi-annual business meeting, we had a number of issues to discuss, including some repairs to the house and possible new draperies for the upstairs rooms. The mailing as usual included the minutes and a membership renewal form. As usual, most dues payments

continued on page 4

**ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET
TERRE HAUTE
October 2, 2010
Honoring
BOBBY DUVAL**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Afternoon

1:00 to 4:30 p.m.: Debs Home Open

Evening

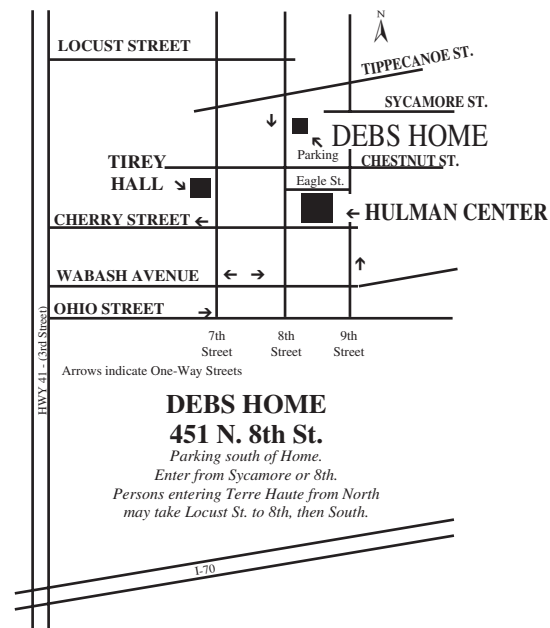
6:00 p.m.: Social Hour and Reception (cash bar), Hulman Center, ISU.
Enter West Doors.

7:00 p.m.: Banquet Honoring Bobby Duval

The fall business meeting will be Sunday, October 3,
at 9:00 a.m. at the Debs Home

The new parking garage across from Hulman Center is now open and accessible from Cherry Street. The parking fee is \$1.00 per hour.

A free lot is directly east of Hulman Center, and another is the large lot south of the Debs Home.



Individual Greetings

You have the opportunity to participate in sending greetings in either of two forms. For a listing of your name (one or two persons), send \$20. For a listing which includes 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 September 22. Use space at bottom-right to provide name, \$20 or \$30 listing (include message) and if attending the banquet. Your greeting honors this year's Award Recipient and the Debs Foundation as well.

Dinner Ticket Order

\$35 per ticket, Table of 8 is \$245
Students K-College - 1/2 price

Name _____

_____ X \$35 = \$ _____
number of tickets amount enclosed

Tickets must be paid in advance, checks payable to The Debs Foundation,
P.O. Box 9454, Terre Haute, IN 47808. Please check one of the following options.

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

☐ Mail my tickets to the following address:

Inquiries may be directed to Charles King, 812-237-3443, or,
cking6@indstate.edu

NOTE

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

Chicken Dijonnaise _____
Number

Vegetable Marinara _____
Number

Program Listing \$20.00 _____
\$30.00 _____

Name or Names:

(If not attending banquet,
provide mailing address across left).

were received in the next month, sometimes 10-20 per day. One response included the dues form, but instead



Charles King's Acceptance Speech

of payment it included a note. It said, "I read the minutes with disbelief. Where is the rage, the anger? The whole world is going to pot. We are engaged in two wars with no end in sight. And all you are interested in is new drapes and prettifying up the garden. I refuse to give my money to such a short-sighted group. It is a disgrace to the legacy of Debs." Mind you this was a report of a business

meeting, not of a protest rally. If we tried to satisfy the expectations of people like this, we would risk loss of our tax-exempt status and more importantly, the support of our labor constituents.

"Regarding the multi-faceted nature of Debs' life, we now have a set of three posters representing respectively, his work as labor leader, as political party activist, and human rights advocate. Interestingly, we receive more orders for the posters portraying him as labor leader and human rights advocate than the one portraying him as party activist.

"I consider it an honor and privilege to serve as secretary of the Debs Foundation, just as I am genuinely grateful for being honored by you tonight. Thank you!"

As a board member, I have seen the multi-faceted nature of the works of Dr. Charles King. Congratulations and thank you, Charles. Your dedication the last 25 years cannot be adequately measured.

Kathleen Culver

**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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