

The Debs Foundation Newsletter

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



SPRING 2015

The 2014 Banquet: A Retrospect



The 2014 banquet lived up to expectations. We had anticipated a bit of a down year in terms of dinner ticket orders and dinner program ads. But many factors can influence these things and we have two criteria which are foremost in our minds during the selection. First and foremost, is the person "Debsian" in his or her life work? Secondly, can this person be present for the banquet? This allows a lot of variability in the candidates we choose from and what will prove to be the appeal to our audience. Some are union people, some not, some men and some women,

some minorities and some not. But in the final analysis all of the award recipients have been excellent choices and fine representatives of the Debsian ideals of equality and brotherhood for all of society.

This year's award recipient met these criteria. Sara Horowitz has demonstrated what can be done for a certain segment of the population. This class of workers includes an increasing number of Americans—at least 42 million of them—and about one-third of the workforce, yet no way these so-called worker-employers could have membership in an organization which provides the benefits which industrial workers have through union membership. Horowitz is to be congratulated for her wisdom and foresight in forming Freelancers Union to fill this need. While here in Terre Haute Ms. Horowitz spoke with students from ISU's School of Business as well as sharing her ideas with banquet guests. It was an evening well spent.

Recent Passings

We sometimes do not know when foundation members pass away, but often a relative of the deceased mails us the request that the name be removed from our mailing list. Sometimes it is a simple deletion; with others there is an expressed interest to continue on the mailing list but to change the first name. Oftentimes the membership has been in the husband's name, so the spouse wants the membership continued but changed to the surviving spouse's first name.

Two passings recently came to our attention which seem worth mentioning for obvious reasons. One came recently from Gail Adele in Bellingham, Washington. Her mother, Viola Homan, who had lived in Moscow, Idaho, had been a member for years. Gail writes: "My mother died on Nov. 21, 2014 at the age of 99 plus 4 weeks. Please remove her from your mailing list. Thank you." When we are made aware of it, it is worthy of mentioning when a member of this age passes.

The other death is of the passing of a Terre Haute resident, Judge Dexter Bolin. We knew him as kind and non-pretentious, a large man with a keen intellect and a big heart. In addition, he was for a number of years our largest contributor. He was a life member, which costs \$250. We don't have many life members, but the notable thing about Judge Bolin is that he would pay this amount every year. In addition, he would pay \$250 more than once a year, always totaling \$500 per year or even more. He also attended our banquets almost every year, and this was when he would make one of his \$250 contributions. Obviously, there is more than one reason Dexter Bolin's passing is worthy of note. He passed away January 24, 2015, "after an extended illness," the newspaper said. I am almost certain that I saw him at our fall banquet. He will be missed.

Spring Business Meeting

Saturday May 2nd, 2015 - 1:00 pm

Hilton Garden Inn Conference Center

A Date to Remember

As mentioned elsewhere in this issue, the spring board meeting will be held May 2. We will announce the recipient of this year's Debs Award and the date of the banquet and conduct other business as well. Don't miss it!

Senator Donnelly...

Indiana's Democratic Senator Donnelly voted with the Senate Republicans for the XL Pipeline. He stated that he was delighted to support American jobs and bring cheaper energy to the Midwest. Doesn't he know that, once constructed, the pipeline will require few workers, and is being built for one reason: to get the oil to Texas refineries and for sale on the world market.

Debs In 1915

Although he may not have been fully aware of it, Debs 100 years ago found himself at a crossroads in his career. The Socialist Party was being torn apart by war in Europe. Debs made his feelings known by the declaration: "Patriotism, like brotherhood, must be international and all-embracing TO BE AT ALL." However, even among prominent socialists there was a growing opposition to Debs' attitudes. One prominent Socialist Party member, Charles Edward Russell, was for war preparedness. So was Upton Sinclair, who believed that the most urgent necessity was the defeat of Germany. Sinclair incorporated this attitude in a letter which he mailed to Debs, hoping that it would be endorsed by the Socialist leader.

Debs' rejection was emphatic: "... Any kind of an army that may be organized . . . under the present government will be controlled by the ruling class; and its chief function will be to keep the working class in slavery. The invasion and attack I want the workers to prepare to resist and put an end to comes from within, from our own predatory plutocracy right here at home."

"I do not know of any foreign businesses," wrote Debs in memory of the Ludlow Massacre, "that could come nearer skinning the American worker to the bone than is now being done by the Rockefellers and their pirate pals. The workers have no country to fight for. It be-

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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.

longs to the capitalists and plutocrats. Let them worry over its defense, and when they declare war as they and they alone do, let them also go out and slaughter one another on the battlefields."

As Germany continued its submarine attacks on allied shipping, an increasing number of Socialists began to support the preparedness campaign in the United States. But these conversions to the war side in the U.S. had little effect on Debs. Even if he had been completely alone in his view, it seems certain that he would have remained "true to himself."

Debs persisted in his peace crusade, under the aegis of Thomas Paine, Wendell Phillips, Charles Sumner, Abraham Lincoln, and John Peter Altgeld, all of whom had opposed the unjust wars of their own times.

One war Debs would not oppose: "I am not a capitalist soldier: I am a proletarian revolutionist. I am opposed to all wars but one. I am for that war with heart and soul, and that is the world-wide war of the socialist revolution. In that war I am prepared to fight in any way the ruling class may make necessary, even to the barricades. That is where I stand and where I believe the Socialist Party stands, or ought to stand, on the question of war."

Unfortunately, Debs found himself standing more and more alone in his views. Such Socialists as Berger and

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A Look at the 2014 Financial Statement

Expenses were down. Fortunately, there were no large expenses for work in and around the Debs Home. Unfortunately, income was down considerably. This is due to much lower responses to the ads for the dinner program and also lower ticket sales. The end result is that we will be having to draw on our Vanguard account before this year is finished.

It is indeed fortunate that the foundation account is

invested in stocks in the S & P, and our account balance at the beginning of 2014 was \$538,946.47 and \$587,081.01 at the end of 2014.

Since we no doubt will find it necessary to draw some money from savings in 2015, it is good to know that there is no reason that stock values will not continue to exceed the amount we will have to withdraw.

2014 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Eugene V. Debs Foundation

Lisa Phillips, Treasurer

Expenditures:

Utilities

Duke Energy	1,755.43
Vectren	2,056.84
Indiana American Water	391.42
City of T.H. Sewage	254.38
Frontier	420.77
TOTAL	4,878.79

Museum Director

Salary	17,414.53
Indiana Dept. of Revenue	1,393.44
Internal Revenue Service	5,669.40
Workman's Comp. Insurance	247.00
Medicare	323.32
TOTAL	25,047.69

Banquet

Sodexo (food service)	3,619.58
Jewett Printing	1,648.52
Meier Johan-Wengler	490.00
Essay Contest Winner	500.00
Video Record Banquet (Bob Bruce)	100.00
Anne Feeney Honorarium	1,000.00
TOTAL	7,358.10

Other Expenses

Amtrust North America	256.00
Amalgamated Bank	300.00
USPS (permit)	300.00
Indiana State University	800.00
American Welding	42.50
AAA Electric	202.14
Terminix	349.20

Meier Johan Wengler (1913 plaque redo)	475.00
ULine (mail tubes)	132.00
Wabash Valley Visions and Voices	175.00
Print It Plus (parking sign)	99.00
Deluxe (print checks)	97.60
Tyco Integrated Security	665.42
AIM (Assoc. of Indiana Museums)	40.00
Complete Outdoor (rental)	58.50
Early Films (Copying early banquets)	298.00
Tyco	219.00
Graham Grain & Lowes	77.06
Office Supplies	47.46
Postage	417.07
Kroger	11.98
Jewett Printing	821.78
Total	5,884.71

TOTAL EXPENSES\$43,169.29

Income

Dinner Program Ads	4,000.00
Dinner Tickets	4,920.00
Dues	13,910.47
Shadow Auction Svc. (old loveseat)	190.00
Indiana Dept. of Revenue (refund)	786.89
TOTAL INCOME	\$23,807.36

Debs in 1915 continued from page 2

Hillquit drew his sarcasm: "those so-called socialists who prefer nationalism to internationalism must never be given another chance to betray and destroy the movement." Alas, as Ray Ginger puts it (p.332), through the last half of 1915 and the first months of 1916, Eugene Debs was one of the handful of prominent men who opposed war preparedness. Yet, as late as spring of 1916, Debs felt a sense of optimism. There was little evidence how strong the war sentiment was growing, no evident awareness that his next run for President would be, not 1916, but 1920, from behind prison walls.

EUGENE V. DEBS FOUNDATION

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A snapshot of inequality

4
BIGGEST HEDGE FUND
HUCKSTERS
2013 COMBINED INCOME
\$10.4 BILLION

158,000
US KINDERGARTEN
TEACHERS 2013 COMBINED
INCOME
\$8.3 BILLION

- There are about 158,000 Kindergarten teachers in America. Their combined pay in 2013 was \$8.3 billion.
- That same year, the four highest-paid hedge fund hucksters on Wall Street raked in a total of \$10.4 billion.
- Yes, **only four men**, who do zilch for the Common Good, hauled off more in personal pay than the **158,000 people** (mostly women) who provide the essential, start-up schooling of our nation's children.
- Now, guess which group is required by law to remit a greater share of their incomes to Uncle Same in taxes? Right.

Source: *The Hightower Lowdown*, Feb. 2015

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Membership Dues: The Eugene V. Debs Foundation

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

_____ \$10.00 Student/Limited Income _____ \$100.00 Sustaining Member

_____ \$25.00 Regular Member _____ \$250.00 Life Members

_____ \$50.00 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.