

General Membership Meeting of the Northern New Jersey Socialist Party (SPUSA)

Sunday September 16, 2007

Montclair, New Jersey

Attending: Stephanie G., Andrea P., Greg P., Lauren R., Tessa S., Brian V. and Dave W.

Observing: Trevor P.

Meeting called to order at 3:30 pm

Recent Actions

Report back from the August 25th anti-war march in Newark.

Greg, Tessa & Dave attended. They reported that the march was big (over 1000 folks) and about a dozen SPers attended. The Local tabled and marched together behind the SP banner.

The group agreed that they should be more involved in the Peace & Justice Coalition and Greg said he would post the times/ dates of upcoming meeting on the email list. He also reminded the group that the Northern NJ Local is a member of the Bergen County Peace & Justice Coalition, which belongs to the statewide Peace & Justice Coalition and that Bergen County members should try to attend BCPJ events/ meetings.

Report back from the September 15th ANSWER Coalition Anti-War action. Greg, Tessa & Dave attended. There was around 15,000 anti-war activist and about 1000 pro-war demonstrators. The SP tabled at the opening rally and marched together (about 8 folks). There was also a "die-in" led by the IVAW. The rally was very positive but smaller than the last few ANSWER actions.

August 11th Pro-Immigrant Action

Greg, Andrea and Dave attended and helped organize the action. The irregularly organized Residents Against Racism's vigil was expanded for the 11th, bringing out around 25 folks in support of the workers (there was around 15 anti-immigrant "Patriots" there as well).

The action went from 8 to 10 am and we had support from the Bergen County Peace & Justice Coalition. The National Lawyers Guild attended as observers and the event was covered in the Bergen Record.

Upcoming Actions

September 22-29th Troops Out Now! Encampment & Rally in Washington DC

Greg handed out fliers for the upcoming Troops Out Now! mobilization. There will be an encampment starting on the 22nd and concerts ("Rock the Rulers" every night (including Brian's band "Public Disturbance" playing on the 22nd). The Socialist Party will have a contingent at march/ rally on the 29th and all members are encouraged to attend. and info. will be posted at www.sp-usa.org.

September 25th – Protest against Bush's Speech at the United Nations

There will be an organized protest to Bush's speech at the UN starting at 8:30 am. The Socialist Party contingent will meet up at 8:00 am at the @ the 51st stop of the 6 train – corner of 51st and Lexington Ave. in Manhattan.

October 27th – United for Peace & Justice (UfP&J) Mobilization in NYC

Greg reported that there will be a major anti-war mobilization in New York City on October 27th. The Bergen County Peace & Justice Coalition (which the North Jersey SP is a member) is organizing a small demo in Ft. Lee on the morning of the 27th and will march across the George Washington Bridge to meet up with peace activist from Washington Heights. We hope the NYC local can meet with us and join the contingent on the NYC side. Greg will post updates on the SPNJ website and all members are encouraged to take part.

Other Events

International Peace Day: Lauren reported that the 21st was International Peace Day and that there would be a vigil in Montclair sponsored by Peace action from 3:30 to 5:30 pm.

Constitution Day: Tess reported that Sept. 18th is Constitution Day. No actions were organized yet.

SPUSA National Convention

Greg gave an update on the national convention and encouraged all delegates to make plans ASAP. The local agreed to fundraise to help with travel costs.

The next Local meeting will be after the SPUSA Convention (October 19-21).

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm

Minutes by Greg P.