

S.A.L.S. JOURNAL

a quarterly publication of the Southern Appalachian Labor School

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Summer/Fall 2001

July Flood Cleanup Continues SALS Contributes to Rebuilding

Two devastating floods less than two weeks apart in July caused severe damage to and total loss of many homes in the Fayette County area where SALS operates its New River Safe Housing Project. Ever since, all available resources of our organization have been dedicated to helping families clean up and rebuild from the damage. AmeriCorps, YouthBuild and Workforce Investment Act Teams have all pitched in to do everything from shoveling mud out of basements to setting up new modular homes for families left homeless by the raging waters.

SALS has been training and coordinating young people in home repair and construction for the past five years through the YouthBuild and AmeriCorps programs and more recently expanded both its service area and pool of participants with local Workforce Investment funding. Hence the organization was in a position to immediately field crews to help with flood relief and cleanup.

In a July letter sent to our Director John David, Carl Moore of the WV Housing Development Fund (WVHDF) praised the SALS teams, "On behalf of the WVHDF, I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to you and your staff for the efforts that you have expended in the aftermath of the recent devastating flooding, and the dedication you have shown to the rebuilding that we are currently undertaking.... There are no words to adequately express our gratitude for the commitment shown by your staff to the recovery efforts. We cannot accomplish the work that is needed in the flooded areas without this assistance. You and your staff are to be commended for these endeavors, and we are grateful for your hard work."



Water covers Rt 61 at Kincaid up to door of post office

During flood recovery as well as during "normal" times, safe and adequate housing is an issue to which SALS has been dedicating a majority of its resources. It's gratifying to be able to quickly respond to this weather related crisis and know we're making a difference. However, even after the flood recovery is over, many Fayette Co. families will still be living in unhealthy homes. We hope this disaster has the silver lining of highlighting the continued need for housing improvement in West Virginia.

Seeking Those Who Lost Homes

SALS is still seeking to locate Fayette County families whose homes were lost or severely damaged in the July flood. As a CHDO (Community Housing Development Organization) for the WV Housing Development Fund, the Labor School may be able to provide these families with a new home either on their own land or elsewhere in Fayette Co. Families interested must be registered with FEMA and should contact Jennifer Hammor Debbie Spurlock at 304-779-2772.

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Health Care for All... Almost in Maine

By Gary Zuckett

"As goes Maine, so goes the nation" is an old saying. It will be interesting if it applies in an exciting new development in Maine's health care debate. On June 4th their State House of Delegates passed LD 1277, "An Act to Establish a Single Payer Health Care System." "Single Payer" is a term used to describe a plan to coordinate health insurance for all the state residents i.e. a universal health care system.

Speaking at a kind of victory celebration at the State House, Rep. Paul Volenik, D-Brooklin, who sponsored the universal bill, said some say the health care system is broken "but let's not find a way to fix it." Other say leave things the way they are.

"This week 87 House members and 18 Senators said something different," Volenik said. "We said the system is broken, and let's find a solution that fixes it, that provides health care for every one of us, that (helps) struggling businesses and saves us money."

Economies of scale and elimination of excessive paperwork that plagues our health care system are some of the ways Single Payer can reduce the cost of health care. A study done for Governor Caperton's Health Care Reform Commission in the early 90's predicted that a WV Single Payer system would be the most efficient way to provide health care for all West Virginians. So why haven't we done it? Basically, because too many Fat Cats are making too much money from the system we have now. Translated into politispeak it sounds like this: "The political will is not there for single payer health care reform."

Bravo to Maine for having the guts to tackle the insurance, drug and the rest of the medical industry head on!

However, there's a fly in Maine's ointment to cure their ailing health system. Maine governor Angus King may veto LD 1277. King said he is opposed to the legislation because it is more than a study. "The bill makes the fundamental decision we're going to a single-payer system. Then all you're doing is designing what the tax structure is going to be," King said during a call-in show on Maine Public Radio.

This breakthrough in Maine is the result of over a decade-long sustained push by grassroots groups like the Maine People's Alliance. Carol Taylor of the Alliance warned that the work has just begun. Not only is the governor and Republicans opposed, the insurance industry will fight the idea, she said. Millions will be spent "on a misinformation campaign."

Indeed the insurance (and other "health") industry has the "deep pockets" to buy enough "political will" to derail any type of health care reform that threatens their bottom line. A single payer system does just that by eliminating them as middlemen who skim large profits from people's misery. What we have here is the moral debate on the status of health care. Is it a commodity to be bought and sold to those who can afford it? Or is it a human right that our government should provide to all its citizens? I vote for the latter.

This should be an interesting fight. If Maine succeeds in Single Payer health reform I'm sure we'll see other progressive states looking hard at this as a way to health care for all. West Virginia, get in line...

PS: The US House of Representatives is considering House

Concurrent Resolution 99 (HCR99) "Directing Congress to enact legislation by October 2004 that provides access to comprehensive health care for all Americans" Ask your WV Congressman (or Woman) to cosponsor this resolution introduced by Rep. John Convers.

The SALS *Journal* is published by The Southern Appalachian Labor School, a regional grass-roots organization dedicated to social & enviornmental justice and workers rights. We welcome articles and submissions by our readers. Send to: Gary R. Zuckett, Editor, SALS Journal, POB 258 Page, WV 25152. Phone 304-779-2772 SALS reserves the right to edit or refuse submissions. Workers Education Local #189 LABOR DONATED

Black Lung Victim Was Champion Too, South Fought For Miners Till His Lungs Gave Out

from:THE CHARLESTON GAZETTE: 08/17/2001 Bv: DAVITT MCATEER

Coal miners and black lung victims have lost a true champion. Mike South died recently at 52. His obituary says the cause was complications from pneumonia. According to his wife, Kathryn, Mike's strength failed, despite a lung transplant that gave him a new lease on life. You see, Mike didn't just fight for miners with black lung - he was one.

Mike was born and raised in Beards Fork. And it was working in the coal mines of West Virginia - after it was clear that coal dust caused black lung and after Congress set a limit on dust levels - that gave Mike the brutal disease that killed him.

Mike was no old miner, worn out after a long career. He looked young. He thought young. He wanted very much to live. But his lungs were dying, and all the doctors in the world couldn't fix that. So for years, Mike pulled an oxygen bottle around. It helped him breathe and it helped him carry his message to Washington: Black lung, a man-made disease, has to be wiped out, forever.

Mike may have been a victim. But he was definitely a fighter, all the way to the end. It was my honor to know him, and to try to help his cause, when I headed the U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration.

During the Clinton administration, under the leadership of Labor Secretaries Robert Reich and Alexis Herman, MSHA stepped up enforcement of the coal mine dust standard. It changed how dust samples are taken, to prevent cheating by mine operators. Finally, it proposed new rules to make other, important sampling improvements.

At the same time, the Labor Department issued final rules - now being challenged by the industry - designed to level the playing field for miners and their families who apply for black lung disability benefits. Just recently, a federal judge upheld these regulations, though more litigation will surely follow.

Mike South knew these efforts weren't perfect, SALS *Journal*

but he was a practical man and he supported changes for the better, even when he knew he'd have to keep fighting for more. Today, the mines are less dusty because of Mike, the rules for black lung victims are a little more fair, and fewer miners are exposed to dust.

But make no mistake - there is more to be done. The benefits regulations need to be defended in court, and the proposed dust-sampling regulations need to be finalized. Those steps are now up to the Bush administration, which first hesitated in court, and which has dragged its heels on the regulatory front.

Mike would have fought this battle, just like so many others. It's now up to the rest of us to build on Mike's legacy. Black lung claimed enough victims long ago.

McAteer, from Sheperdstown, was director of the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration.

Mike South lived in Beards Fork. His spouse, Kathryn, is the SALS YouthBuild Project Director. Mike, amoung many other projects, was a SALS Board member. We all miss him dearly.

In Their Own Words: AmeriCorps Member's Stories

Billy Kincaid, AmeriCorps USA Member

My experiment with AmeriCorps has been great. I enjoy the people I work with. I have met all types of people since I've joined AmeriCorps. I really enjoy the program mainly because I like the way it helps people in need. I have also learned a lot about construction since I've been with the program.

I work on George's crew in Page. We are getting ready to start another new house. I'm looking forward to this because it gives me a chance to learn the construction of a complete house from the ground up. I have also done the measurements and paperwork for Group WorkCamp. I enjoyed meeting people from all around that came in to help those in need. AmeriCorps is a wonderful program and it should always go on.

Thomas McClung, AmeriCorps USA Member

Since I started with AmeriCorps in October, I have helped Dave Shaver and his YouthBuild crew build a new house in Wriston. I helped some of his YouthBuild members learn to read a tape measure and cut different lengths of wood. When we finished that house, I started going to peoples houses who had applied for work to be done by Group WorkCamp. I measured the outside of their house or trailer for any outside work they wanted done or I measured the inside rooms for paint or drywall. I am currently helping Dave Shaver and his YouthBuild members build a new house in Page.

Joe Webb, AmeriCorps USA Member

In the last several months, I have had numerous opportunities to further my knowledge in constructing new and repairing older houses. I also have enjoyed working with YouthBuild and have learned from them and had chances to share what I know. I had no idea what to expect when I began, but it turned out to be rewarding to my being.

I started with John Wroten and Ron Yellets as my supervisors in Gauley Bridge and Ingram Branch. At Gauley we worked on foundations. In the branch we put in a trailer for a nice elderly lady whose house was



Smiling Faces at AmeriCorps Ceremony

not livable. Both of those jobs were very fulfilling. I was then elected to drive other AmeriCorps members in our issued SALS van. We went around from Beards Fork to Montgomery and no farther than Gauley Bridge. We had to find houses and then take measurements on the houses we found for the Group WorkCamp project.

I spoke to many people about our housing repair and rehabilitation program. If they met the requirements and signed the agreement, I would then bid them a good day and told them we would see them on their set date. The last project I've been on is on George's crew. We are working on a nearly finished new home. A young lady is set to move in this year. While on George's crew, I also work at SALS doing Joe jobs. Examples being tending to vehicles, picking up litter, and helping kids with their home work. We have just started a tutoring program with YouthBuild. I believe this work is enriching and fulfilling.

Jennifer Hamm, AmeriCorps USA Member

My first months as an AmeriCorps member have been quite exhilarating. Meeting and mentoring new YouthBuild members has been very rewarding indeed. Much of my time has been focused towards affordable housing for low income families. This has involved learning new housing skills at various meetings and training sessions with the West Virginia Housing Development Fund (WVHDF). I have also been certified for the Point System on the computer which is part of the application process in dealing with WVHDF's new guidelines for the HOME Program 2001.

We have been able to get three clients into new affordable housing (Margaret Black, Deborah Casey,

and Michelle Stewart) with the help of Patty Davidson, WVHDF's technical assistant, under the new HOME Program 2001. In the near future we hopes to get a client into the Powellton house that was rehabbed by YouthBuild students and is now ready for occupancy.

There are always low income families calling in needing repairs to their homes. It seems impossible to help everyone in need. We just keep on striving to help one applicant at a time trying to make a difference in these families lives.

Donations and funding to repair these homes is much needed in our non profit organization. We can't help others in need without your support. Your donations will make it possible for a family to have a safe place to live instead of a shelter or the street. Please take time today to help others in need. All donations and checks should be sent to the Southern Appalachian Labor School Box 127 Kincaid, WV 25119. Please memo your donation or check for housing.

Candi Massey, AmeriCorps USA Member

Since I started in the AmeriCorps program, I have sponsored two college groups (Cabrini and Manhattan) who chose to volunteer their spring break time to helping SALS with our Coalfield Housing Project, where a site supervisor and YouthBuild crew rehabilitate and repair homes for low income families. Some of the college volunteers also went to the Vo-Tech Center to help tutor YouthBuild members.

I have helped to complete preparations for the homes in Fayette County that will be repaired by Group WorkCamp this summer. This included going to numerous houses to talk with people about what they wanted done and what their biggest priority was.



Congradulations at AmeriCorps Ceremony

We also made several trips to do mileage and directions to the homes so the Group WorkCamp volunteers wouldn't get lost.

The AmeriCorps members have recently signed contracts with several YouthBuild members to help them obtain their GED's. We will be tutoring them in the areas they need help to pass their GED's. We will also be giving them all the support and encouragement they need while they are working toward getting their GED's.

Joyce Brown, AmeriCorps USA Member

In March, John Wroten passed the baton to JR Williams to resume work on the Powellton rehab. Within the past three months JR and his crew have miraculously gutted and refurbished the interior of the 800 square foot dwelling. The refurbishing process includes new wiring, interior floors, ceilings and walls, plumbing with bathroom fixtures, sewage system, insulation and a heating/cooling unit. The Powellton work site was also worked on by 40 plus college students from Florida, Michigan, New York, and Pennsylvania.

In lieu of their traditional Spring Break in Daytona or Cancun, these young men and women wanted to make a difference and chose to give up the beach to volunteer with the SALS Coalfield Housing project. "They were eager to learn and jumped right in helping to do what needed to be done," said JR. Hats off to the Alternative Spring Break volunteers. Also, three YouthBuild participants passed portions of the GED test and one, Brian Cunningham, accepted a position with AmeriCorps.

Debra Spurlock, AmeriCorps USA Member

My first year as an AmeriCorps member has been very exciting and informative. I have attended a number of training sessions offered by the West Virginia Housing Development Fund which recently started taking applications under the new Home Program 2001. There was lots of new information to learn. With this training I plan to help as many families as I can to obtain adequate housing.

I have also been very working on preparations for Group Work Camp. This program brings volunteers from faith-based organizations from all over the United States

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AmeriCorps, continued from page 5

together to help the elderly, handicapped and low income people with home repairs. Most of the people that do the repairs are teenagers. Each group has an adult supervisor. They repair roofs, paint, and build porches among other things. Its really amazing what these kids can do. Not only do they repair the homes but they also build a caring relationship with the resident.

I know all of this first hand. Last year my husband and I were both out of work and having a hard time. We were fortunate enough to get a new roof and a paint job. We really enjoyed getting to know all of the workers and sharing their beliefs. It was an experience we will never forget. In fact, a couple of the workers have kept in contact with us.

I have been busy getting ready for this year's Group WorkCamp. The first step is taking applications. Then the house has to be seen and measured. All of the correct papers must be put with each application. It must be determined how many days the repairs will take along with the skill level of the repairs. Each home must be issued a site number. Lots of work is involved in preparing for a WorkCamp. But seeing the look on the residents faces is worth all of the hard work.

YouthBuilders - A New Start in Their Own Words

Amber Bunting, YouthBuild Member

I have been with the Youth-Build program for nine months now. It has been one true experience that has given me a lot of confidence and responsibilities. YouthBuild is a very good program. It has helped me strengthen my goals for the future and has made me feel like a better person because I am helping people in need.

My present assignment is at New Page Housing Lot #4. I would like to thank George Hensley for all that he has taught me so far and for being a great supervisor. My coworkers are Petey, Bubby, Anthony,

Larry, Dane, and Joe Webb. I have so much fun

working with these guys, they are all good workers and I hope that they use their skills to further their careers.

We have about one more week of being on the roof and I am so glad because it has been very hot. I can't wait to be inside where I can learn wiring. That is something I haven't done. I always look forward to learning new projects.

When I get my GED, I am going to stay in Youth-Build and learn all that I can about building houses. After that I will be going to the Valley Training Center in Beckley to take business classes. I want to have my own business in the future and I will make sure I achieve my goals no matter what because I have a 15 month old son. I have to raise him by myself and I will make sure he has everything he needs.

Anthony Reese YouthBuild Member

I have been in YouthBuild for one year. During that time I've learned a lot about building houses. This program has been very inspiring and an educational experience. George is a unique supervisor, he knows his stuff when it comes to houses. I have to say any question that I ask he can answer. I have done a lot of things such as masonry, block, brick, and electrical which is my favorite. I really enjoy laying block and wiring. Without my crew members, I couldn't do anything. All of them are hard workers and I'm going to hate it when I leave here. My goal for the future is going into the Army or getting a contractor's license and start my own business.



YouthBuilders on porch of repaired home



YouthBuild erects truss at New PageHousing

Bubby Phillips, YouthBuild Member

I have been with YouthBuild for eleven months. I have done about everything to build a house. When I started here we were on Page Lot #7 Margaret Black's house and they were finishing drywall and painting. I installed pickets for the porch banisters, sidewalk forms, and landing step pads for the steps. We then started on Lot #3, Shelly Stewart's house. I helped Matt Perdue wire all the sockets, switches, overhead lights, and fire alarms.

About one month after we finished Stewart's we got a new member Amber Bunting. She helped do all the drywall along with Dave Hill, Matt Perdue, Petey Daniels, and Anthony Reese. We did a good job on the drywall and painting. We got started on the trim, kitchen cabinets, and counter tops. Then we put all the appliances in. Next, we did the landscaping and seeded the yard.

I hope to get my GED soon so that I can move on with my life, get a better job, and get a family started. This is a good start for people who have, for whatever reason, dropped out of school. I recommend it for all youth who want to get a good jump on their lives.

George Hensley, YouthBuild Site Supervisor

It's hot, hot summertime, the nails and the sawdust are a "flying" at New Page Housing. This current project is the final new home to be built at this location. Since finishing the new home for Michelle Stewart, YouthBuild members Anthony, Amber, Bubby, Larry, Dave, and Franklin have been busy laying blocks, framing and roofing. Along with the SALS *Journal*

current YouthBuild crew is Joe Webb, an AmeriCorps Volunteer, who has kept busy working between this job site and the mentoring program.

I am very proud of this current YouthBuild crew. They are a mix of veteran members who are finishing their second YouthBuild term and a new YouthBuild member with less than nine months of experience. The quantity and quality of this crews work, both at the Vo-Tech and on the job site, has vastly improved. Many new skills have been learned and developed. This positive improvement has been invaluable during the latest construction project. Moreover, everyone feels more relaxed and confident as work continues.

Free the Charleston 5

Picketing workers face felony charges, jail

From SC Progressive Network, www.scpronet.com

For defending their jobs, five longshore workersmembers of ILA longshore Local 1422 and clerks and checkers Local 1771 in Charleston, South Carolinaface possible imprisonment on federal criminal charges. They and some 150 co-workers planned to picket a ship in their port that was using a non-union longshore crew when the state responded with a massive contingent of law enforcement officers and an altercation ensued. The five have been indicted for inciting and planning to riot, a felony punishable by up to five years in prison.

The AFL-CIO, has initiated a national campaign for their defense and their predominantly African American local. "This is a very compelling case, one that brings together all the issues, voice at work and the right to organize, issues of racial justice and issues of democracy," said Bill Fletcher, assistant to AFL-CIO President John Sweeney and acting coordinator of the national campaign.

Besides the criminal charges, the Stevedoring company that hired the scabs is suing the two Charleston locals, their presidents and 27 members for \$1.5 million in alleged losses it suffered because of the picket line disrupting work. The suit raises the issue of whether workers can be held financially responsible for industrial actions, and raises the specter of bankruptcy for the locals and these individual workers and their families.

Continued on next page

Free Charleston Five, continued

The trouble began Oct. 1, 1999 when Nordana Lines notified Local 1422 it was ending its 23-year relationship with the union and would begin using non-union labor to work its ships. The local responded with picket lines. After peaceful pickets were relatively successful in delaying two Nordana ships, the state of South Carolina-which prides itself on being right-to-work state and advertises itself to investors as having the lowest rate of unionization in the country-decided it was going to break the longshore union's power.

To protect the "right" of some 20 scabs to work the Nordana ship, Skodsborg, Jan. 20, the state sent in some 600 police in riot gear. Some rode on horses and others drove armored vehicles. Helicopters circled overhead and police patrol boats cruised the waterside of the terminal.

According to Riley, the police initiated the clash, pushing back the group of pickets. Trying to calm the situation, Riley and other union officers created a buffer between the police and the pickets. At that point one of the cops ran out of formation and clubbed Riley on the head. Then a fight began.

When it was over the police arrested nine longshore workers on charges of misdemeanor trespassing. The charges were dismissed for lack of evidence, but state Attorney General Charlie Condon went to the Grand Jury and sought and obtained indictments on federal charges against five Local 1422 members. Condon has made it clear he intends to prosecute the workers vigorously and has said his plan for them includes "jail, jail and more jail."

"The Attorney General is planning to run for governor next time around and he's trying to make a name for himself," said South Carolina AFL-CIO President Donna Dewitt. "I think he plans to make himself a name at the expense of these five guys." The Jan. 20 incident happened about the same time as 47,000 people-mostly African Americans-marched and demanded the Confederate flag be taken down from the state capitol. "That scared the Republicans to death in this state," Dewitt said. "And here you have a minority local union that's strong and got plenty of money and is very involved in the political roots of the community. They're using the longshore union as an example because they are strong leaders and the state doesn't want others to see them that way."

The campaign will seek the acquittal of the

Charleston 5 and the dropping of the WSI civil lawsuit, while building a strong case for workers' rights and exposing the racist efforts of the state to limit Black Power in South Carolina

"Local 1422 is a largely African American local, a very important segment of the Charleston community," he said. "It is significant that they are under attack because they are living proof that unionization is the best anti-poverty program ever created. You have workers with a decent standard of living precisely because they are unionized and organized. And I don't think that fact escaped the attorney general or other anti-union forces in South Carolina."

The longshore workers' commitment to the community extended to political action, and that brought down attacks on union members' democratic rights, Riley said. "Our problems began when we started getting involved in state politics," he said. "We were trying to be socially responsible to those around us. We can't sit there and say 'We got ours, forget about everybody else.' So we wanted to start trying to put people in positions to change what's going on in South Carolina."

Labor helped elect the first Democratic governor in South Carolina in 12 years, who in turn nominated Riley to the State Port Authority. The South Carolina Manufacturing Alliance and the state Chamber of Commerce went berserk and managed to pressure the governor into withdrawing Riley's nomination. Republican state legislators then introduced a bill-dubbed the Kenneth Riley Bill-prohibiting union members from serving on state boards and commissions. Its proponents touted it as a way to reduce union influence in state politics-in a state where only 3.8 percent of the workers are in unions. The bill has passed the House and has gone to the Senate.

Currently local defense committees for the Charleston 5 are being formed around the country. South Carolina AFL-CIO President Donna DeWitt has requested all State Labor Federations to take the lead in the formation of these committees and urge their member unions and the Union Cities in their jurisdictions to get involved. The committees will try to bring in community organizations, civil rights groups, religious and academic institutions, and other political activists to help raise money for the defense fund and to be ready to take part in a national day of action when the criminal trial begins. (Donations should be sent to: Campaign for Workers' Rights in South Carolina / PO Box 21777 / Charleston, SC 29413.)

SALS YouthBuild Attends Education Forum

by Joyce Snead, GED instructor

Three SALS students, Allison Phillips, Peggy Davis, and Michelle Walker, were selected to attend The Region I & IV Student Forum held at Twin Falls on May 14-15. This forum is being held by The West Virginia Adult Education Association, Inc. - Student Affiliate (BOLT) - Building Opportunities for Learning.

Students were chosen because of their leadership abilities, motivation, and scholastic abilities. The forum was convened to share views and experiences concerning adult education and literacy.

SALS Students Learn About Banking

by Joyce Snead, GED instructor

Mrs. Martha DeQuasie, a representative from One Valley Bank, gave a presentation to the Southern Appalachian Labor School Students on banking. These students were taught how to open checking accounts, savings accounts, and apply for loans. They were also taught how to maintain excellent credit and given points on how they could repair bad credit obtained in the past.

Students participating were: Melissa Tincher, Amber Bunting, Kenneth Taylor, Peggy Davis, Terry Black, Kristin Black, Martha DeQuasie, and Luis Jackson.



Ex Senator and SALS supporter Bob Holiday holds lyrics to traditional organizing song sung by Anne Feeney at SALS May Solidarity Festival SALS Journal

Upper Kanawha Valley Empowerment Zone

By: Nicole Hurley, AmeriCorps-Vista

At the Upper Kanawha Valley Empowerment Zone meeting on April 9th it was brought to the meetings attention that there were needs for donations to the Beards Fork Community Center (SALS). I brought the proposal to the Upper Kanawha Valley Empowerment Zone and, after the meeting, was approached to form a committee to meet at Montgomery City Hall. The committee was formed and the members are: Charlene Newkirk, Vickie Mullins, Brenda Winter, Pam Raynes, Lynn Hardy, Kim Barrett, and Nicole Hurley.

The items to be discussed by the committee are: playground equipment, paint, carpet, and computers. I had to make a budget for the meeting. I also hope this committee is successful and that we get a lot accomplished.

I also got a shovel, a rake, a wheelbarrow, and two lawn mowers donated to the SALS building from local businesses.

Workforce Youth Council

by Brenda Winter, Administrative Coordinator

After attending several meetings of West Virginia Region One Workforce Investment Board's Youth Council in Beckley, a Fayette County committee was set up at Vo-Tech in Oak Hill. The committee is to survey in-school and out-of-school youth and also find youth service providers in our area.

Questionnaire papers were developed and surveys were done at high schools and with YouthBuild students to understand what is needed in providing comprehensive services to area youth. RESA 1 wrote a comprehensive grant to include all 11 counties of the Region One Workforce Investment Board.

Under this grant Vo-Tech in Oak Hill was awarded money to help in-school youth and SALS was awarded a grant of \$141,000 for an add-on Youth-Build Program to assist out-of-school youth. This project will provide G.E.D. educational services, leadership development, and employment opportunities for youth that have dropped out of high school for various reasons. These young folks will build or rehabilitate homes for very low income families while studying for their high school diplomas. This is a wonderful program that helps young people enhance their lives and the lives of others.

Southern Appalachian Labor School - Who We Are

SALS Community Center: 800-515-1349,

304-779-2772, or 779-2280

AmeriCorps/WVU-Tech: 304-442-3042 Construction Coordinator: 304-469-9721 John David, Director - 304-442-3157

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YeS, in these difficult times I understand the importance of an

organization like the Southern Appalachian Labor School. Enclosed is my contribution to keep your essential work on track and moving forward..

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SALS engages in soliticitation for the purpose of acquiring funds to support the Southern Appalachian Labor School. WV residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents for the Sec. of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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