



Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Triangle Branch Newsletter

www.trianglewilpf.org

May-June 2009

WILPFers Arrested in Cliffside Protest



Protesters in Charlotte on April 20, including Lib Hutchby of Triangle WILPF (front row, second from right) Ruth Zalph (not pictured) and Lib were arrested.

Charlotte, April 20th – Monday will be a day long remembered for its sense of purpose, community, dedication, and commitment to non-violence. Over 300 gathered in a park in Charlotte for testimonials of people affected by Appalachian mountain top removal coal mining; marched peacefully singing and chanting to the Charlotte of Gov. Perdue; and continued downtown to the headquarters of Duke Energy to present CEO Jim Rogers "A Call To Conscience: People's Injunction To Stop Cliffside." This document and action were endorsed by twenty-one groups and eight notable individuals. (See pg. 2)

Both Rogers and the police were notified of our plans and were prepared. Duke Power marked the sidewalk where city property ended and Duke's began. We were warned that crossing the line meant arrest. Led by conscience, 44 of us crossed the line and were immediately handcuffed, put in paddy wagons, and taken to jail to be processed. In jail around noon, out between 5:30 and midnight. We still have hope that Duke Energy will exercise their collective consciences to stop contributing to the endangerment of the health of all life. For more info go to these websites: www.stopcliffside.org www.ncwarn.org www.canarycoalition.org www.mountainjusticesummer.org (see **CLIFFSIDE**, pg. 2)

Moncure Strike Ends with Return of Some Workers



(l. to r.) Bernice Moore, George Garris, Charles Raines, Allen Moore (returning to work) and Lewis Cameron, Lodge President. (April 6, 2009 in the rain)

Moncure, April 6 – After negotiating with Moncure Plywood since April 2008, and striking since July 20, 2008, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) Local Lodge W369 finally was able to reach a settlement with the management and began returning to work on April 6, 2009. The 106 loyal union members will not all be able to return to work immediately, since the plant has been affected by economic conditions and the absence of the skills of the striking workers. They are and will continue to be returning to work in stages, by seniority (which was one of the issues in the strike.)

Community support for the union strikers began in early August, spearheaded by Triangle WILPF members and spreading to churches, civic groups, and eventually the Board of County Commissioners in Chatham. Mobilizing the International structure of the Union was also key. The supporters visited the 24/7 strike lines, bringing food and drink and good cheer – the occasional song was also heard – and money. The typical Union strike fund payments were sadly inadequate for a strike lasting this long, so fundraising among the constituency of the supporters was an ongoing effort.

Meanwhile, the community support group was raising funds and soliciting the support of the County Commissioners. (see **STRIKE**, pg. 2)

**A CALL TO CONSCIENCE:
PEOPLE'S INJUNCTION TO STOP CLIFFSIDE**

April 20, 2009

We, The Responsible Residents Of North Carolina and The United States Of America, and the inhabitants of our endangered planet Earth, do hereby issue this People's Injunction to Duke Energy's CEO Jim Rogers, his staff and Duke's Board Of Directors, requiring them to immediately cease all construction on the Unit 6 coal-burning power plant at Cliffside, in Rutherford County and to direct all efforts toward clean energy.

This Injunction Is Hereby Issued For The Following Causes:

Unit 6 is not and will never be necessary to meet energy demand in North Carolina.

The science-based consensus on the accelerating climate crisis requires that world-wide coal-burning for the purpose of generating electricity be phased out. Cliffside Unit 6 would produce 6 million tons of CO₂ annually for the next 50 years.

The 2.4 billion dollars of rate payers' money being spent on Cliffside must immediately be re-directed toward independent efficiency and conservation programs, as well as the mass deployment of renewable energy technologies.

Mountaintop removal coal mining has leveled more than 470 Appalachian mountains as it has buried or polluted 1,200 miles of pristine headwater streams.

Duke energy is endangering the health of all citizens by refusing to use the best technologies to control hazardous air pollutants including mercury, dioxins, hydrogen chlorides and fluorides, cadmium and others.

FOR THESE REASONS, IN WITNESS OF THIS AND FUTURE GENERATIONS, THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY AGREES TO CANCEL CONSTRUCTION AT CLIFFSIDE AND HELP NORTH CAROLINA MEET ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

(Signed) Jim Rogers, CEO of Duke Energy

(CLIFFSIDE, from pg. 1)

Join truth-tellers in Charlotte on Thursday, May 7, 2009, to greet the stockholders of Duke Energy, offer leaflets, and words of encouragement to stop Cliffside. The meeting begins at 9:15 on Church St., headquarters of Duke Energy. If you would like to carpool, please contact Lib at libhutchby@earthlink.net.

WEEKLY ONGOING VIGILS

Corner of Franklin and Elliot, Chapel Hill, by Whole Foods, Fridays 5:00-6:00. Stop the Iraq War, Impeachment, Stop Torture, No Iran War.

Corner of Gregson and Main, Durham, by Brightleaf Square. Noon-1 P.M., Saturdays. Impeachment and Peace in Iraq (GRIM and others.)

(**STRIKE**, from pg. 1)

A resolution drawn up by one of the support group for the Chatham County Commissioners was passed, and the commissioners agreed to ask the county DSS head to assist the workers in getting assistance, and that the Commission Chair and Vice-Chair meet with the plant management. But the settlement was reached before that meeting could take place.

The final benefit event, scheduled for April 1 at the General Store Cafe in Pittsboro (Many thanks, Vance and Jorjie) actually turned into a victory celebration as well as a fundraiser, since the strike was settled on March 30!

The settlement of the strike was not totally victorious in some ways, but unexpectedly good in others.

1. Seniority was maintained, always a key concern, and in fact is governing the order of return to work.
2. Hours of work per week has been returned to 50 as a standard, but increases required by delivery schedules may be given according to seniority.
3. Health care charges to workers have been increased, but nowhere near the original company demand.

Unexpected provisions:

1. A joint company-worker safety committee, to bring the rising injuries back into line with prior records.
2. A joint company-worker productivity committee, to improve product quality and marketing to improve the position of the company.

The agreement was in place and accepted by the membership before the April 1 benefit at GSC, and so the benefit, while still raising a good bit of much-needed money, turned into a celebration. The Grannies sang, a neighborhood group of adults and children sang, good food was eaten, and a very fun auction, run by former Commissioner Gary Phillips, was held.

Since the settlement, several of the union members have returned to work. There are disturbing reports of the members having difficulties with the management, which is expected since they are practiced union-busters who were temporarily beaten by the worker-community solidarity. Continuation of that solidarity is needed, and we in the support group are watching and listening, and putting on community education events such as will occur Saturday, May 9 (see calendar.)

Vigilance!

Membership Time

It's always a good time to become a member, so join now!

Triangle WILPF:
Sliding scale-\$12 to \$30 depending on ability
Student—\$5

c/o Ann Powers
250-100 S. Estes Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
www.trianglewilpf.org

U.S. WILPF:
Family \$40.
Individual \$35

U.S. WILPF
565 Boylston Street 2nd Floor
Boston MA 02116
www.wilpf.org

Triangle WILPF Calendar of Events

May is a month of educating, mobilizing, organizing, and celebrating for WILPF! **Below is a list of WILPF events for May and June** (our regular monthly 2nd Saturday meeting is being replaced by a teach-in celebrating the Moncure Workers struggle and organizing for workers rights). These activities will be listed soon at our website www.trianglewilpf.org with additional details. Invite friends to join one of the most vibrant and active peace and freedom groups in the Triangle, and the **oldest women's peace organization in the world**. Our national office just sent Lucy Lewis beautiful new membership brochures - you can see them on May 9 at the Teach-In. And don't forget to listen to *WILPF's Wake-up Call* on WCOM 103.5, Carrboro's listener-supported radio station, Friday from 7:30-8:00 am, to hear some of the most interesting, thought-provoking people in our community on issues of social justice – <http://carrbororadio.com/programs.shtml> – *Lucy, for the steering committee*

Fridays, 7:30 a.m.-8:00 a.m.: WILPF's RADIO SHOW on 103.5 FM-WCOM in Carrboro and Chapel Hill. Also available on the internet by going to <http://www.communityradio.coop> / and clicking on the box in the upper right hand corner. Contribute! This is your community radio station!

Friday, May 8, Art After Dark, WILPF's Raging Grannies 5:00-6:45 pm, Ackland Art Museum, S. Columbia Street, Chapel Hill. May 8's Art after Dark will feature a New Currents in Contemporary Art gallery talk with exhibition artists and music from WILPF's Raging Grannies as part of the Ackland's special exhibition. <http://www.ackland.org/visit/calendar.php?q=2009-05-08>

Saturday, May 9, 3:30-5:30 Chapel Hill Public Library, 100 Library Drive (off Estes Drive)
CORPORATE RULE, BAILOUTS & GREED: Why We Need Unions. Teach-in on today's struggle for workers' rights featuring

- NC State Prof. David Zonderman, noted labor historian
- Chris Chafe, Exec. Dir., Change to Win Labor Federation
- Moncure Plywood workers, back from 8-month strike & settlement
- N.C. public employees, in a fight for collective bargaining rights

More information: Miriam Thompson at 370-4114.

Friday, May 15, 6:00 pm, 119 Oak Street, Carrboro.
A special WILPF gathering and pizza party to hear from our WILPF sisters Lib Hutchby and Ruth Zalph, who were arrested on April 20 at the CALL TO CONSCIENCE rally in Charlotte (See article, p. 1)

Saturday, May 23, Women of WILPF and Women of NAACP Brunch, 10:00 am-12:00 noon, 250-100 S. Estes Drive, Chapel Hill We've been talking about this for months – an informal brunch to share what each of our organizations is doing, what our individual passions are, and how we can strengthen our work. Ann Powers is providing eggs, coffee, and tea. *WILPF members are asked to bring fruits, breads, breakfast meats or other brunch items.* For directions, call Ann at 942-2919.

Friday May 22, WILPF Social Justice Book Club, 7:00 pm, 119 Fidelity Street, Carrboro. A video showing of "Creating a World Without Poverty," a wonderful talk by Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus. For the last two months we have been reading Yunus' latest book, *Creating a World Without Poverty: Social Business and the Future of Capitalism*. Join us, even if you haven't read the book, for an inspiring video and lively discussion. This is the last WILPF book club until September. Directions: Lori Hoyt at 968-1888.

Monday, May 25, Memorial Day Commemoration, 2:00-3:30 pm, Carrboro Town Commons, West Main and Laurel Streets, Carrboro. WILPF joins our sister organizations in the Orange County Peace Coalition in sponsoring the annual Memorial Day Commemoration. The program will include speakers, music, and readings.

JUNE ANNUAL RETREAT Mark your calendars now for WILPF's annual retreat, Saturday, June 13, 1:00-5:00 pm, location to be announced. Each year, we gather to review our previous year's goals and make plans for the coming year. All members and friends welcome!



Be Radical, Celebrate Mother's Day

This year, WILPF will be co-sponsoring a Mother's Day Vigil with Code Pink in Washington, D.C. (<http://codepinkalert.org/article.php?list=type&type=401>)

We urge you to join us if you can, as we camp out in front of the White House for 24-hours and together, raise our voices for peace. We'll call for troops to come home from Afghanistan and Iraq, so that no more mothers will suffer the unbearable grief of losing a child to these wars.

WILPF in Action

As part of the vigil, WILPF board member Carol Urner will host a session on Building for a Nuclear Free Future Today (http://www.wilpf.org/issues_disarm). Members Tzili Mor and Elisa Gahng will facilitate a learning circle on Ending Abusive Military Recruitment in our Schools (http://www.wilpf.org/counter_recruitment_strategies). Both workshops are scheduled for 5 - 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 9. These learning circles are based on the work of our DISARM! and Advancing Human Rights issue committees.

Co-presidents Nancy Munger and Laura Roskos will be in D.C. for the vigil and will meet with WILPF members of the Cantonsville (MD), Baltimore (MD) and Washington D.C. branches, as well as visiting their congressional representatives in support of WILPF's agenda.

Wear pink - and your WILPF T-shirts and buttons - and let Nancy and Laura know if you are coming: email dialogue@wilpf.org, and send us your cell phone numbers so we can coordinate.

Support a Nuclear Free Future

[Click here to view supporting documents and send a sample letter.](http://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/5372/t/4278/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=1422) (http://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/5372/t/4278/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=1422) Modifying the letter to express your voice is the most effective way to get the message across. You can also spread the word by passing this information along to your friends and social networks.

