

Militant Fighting Fund

Financial Statement August 15, 2006

The Militant Fighting Fund was launched to raise funds and organize a publicity campaign for the *Militant* newspaper in its fight to defeat the harassment lawsuit launched by the C.W. Mining company, owner of the Co-Op Mine in Huntington, Utah. The Fund also helped publicize the fight of all those targeted by the company—the courageous miners carrying out a union-organizing drive at Co-Op and supporters of their efforts, including the United Mine Workers of America, the Socialist Workers Party, and scores more unions and individuals. The dismissal of the case in July 2006 was a victory in the battle to defend labor rights, free speech, and freedom of the press.

The mine bosses filed their retaliatory lawsuit in September 2004. One of their central goals was to punish and silence the miners and their allies, including the *Militant*, by forcing them to divert time and resources from the picket line into responding to this attack in the courts. As the stakes in the fight escalated over the next few months, the *Militant* asked Paul Mailhot—a coal miner at the Andalex GenWal mine in Huntington, Utah, and a former labor editor of the paper—to organize the Militant Fighting Fund from Salt Lake City, where the case was being argued in Federal District Court.

The *Militant* responded gratefully to the offer of the Political Rights Defense Fund to receipt contributions to the Fighting Fund and make disbursements, on request of the paper's editor, to cover legal fees and publicity costs. PRDF is a nonpartisan foundation with long experience supporting the defense of workers and socialists harassed for union and political activities.

The Militant Fighting Fund won widespread support in the labor movement, among defenders of freedom of the press, and from supporters of political rights. It helped publicize the fight and raise funds from March 2005 until the successful conclusion. After the final legal bills were received in August 2006, all outstanding financial obligations for the publicity effort, attorneys and court costs were paid, and the Fund was concluded.

The *Militant*, which began raising money to fight C.W. Mining's attack when the lawsuit was filed in the fall of 2004, transferred

\$23,070 to help get the Militant Fighting Fund off the ground. Over the next year and a half, the Fund raised \$115,830 from individuals, unionists, and collections at public meetings to defray the substantial legal costs and publicity expenses. Union locals and other labor organizations donated an additional \$6,161.

The largest expense (\$61,301) paid for the team of attorneys who countered the mine owners' assault in court. Serving as lead counsel for the *Militant* and the SWP was Randy Dryer, one of Utah's most prominent First Amendment and freedom of the press attorneys, with the able assistance of his colleague Michael Petrogeorge. Michael Krinsky, general counsel for the Socialist Workers Party, collaborated with the Utah attorneys throughout the court fight.

The second largest expense (\$18,550) was for travel. Most of these trips were for miners and others speaking for the Fighting Fund to address unions and public meetings about the stakes in the battle. The travel expense also included trips to and from Utah for legal consultation and hearings.

In all, \$2,226 was expended to produce literature. Supporters of the campaign outside Utah printed substantially more material at their own expense from mockups provided by the Fighting Fund. Volunteers translated literature into Spanish, French, and Swedish to aid in spreading news of the fight internationally. Another \$1,881 was spent on postage and shipping to get materials to supporters across the country and around the world.

The Fund spent \$16,757 for volunteer expenses and \$7,226 for computer equipment, office supplies, and phone calls.

With the successful conclusion of the fight, the political and legal archives of the Militant Fighting Fund have been given to the Anchor Foundation for placement with the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in Madison, where they will be available for anyone who wants to study and learn from them. Electronic copies of key defense literature and court filings are available from the archives on the web site of the *Militant* newspaper.

The balance remaining after all bills were paid and computer equipment bought for the effort sold, \$37,925, was turned over to the *Militant* newspaper in partial repayment of the substantial resources it expended to fight the mine owners' attack. This includes repayment

of the money transferred to the Militant Fighting Fund to help initiate the publicity and legal campaign.

Paul Mailhot
Organizer,
Militant Fighting Fund

John Studer
Executive Director,
Political Rights Defense Fund

Militant Fighting Fund

Financial Statement

March 26, 2005 – August 15, 2006

INCOME

Donations	\$115,830.73
Union contributions	6,161.00
Transfer from Militant	<u>23,070.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$145,061.73

EXPENSES

Legal	\$61,301.91
Travel	18,550.46
Printing	2,226.29
Computer equipment	4,444.10
Supplies	1,616.63
Phone	1,165.71
Postage and shipping	1,881.29
Volunteer expenses	16,757.25
Bank fees	<u>292.98</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$108,236.62

Returned to the Militant \$36,825.11

Funds from sale of
computer equipment \$1,100.00¹

Total returned to the Militant \$37,925.11

¹ After the closing of the Militant Fighting Fund account, the computer equipment purchased for the fight was sold and the funds from the sale sent to the *Militant*