

St. Louis Georgists host booth at NCSL

The St. Louis chapter of Common Ground-USA members repeated their success of last year when they hosted a booth at the National Conference of State Legislatures meeting this year in Philadelphia.

"Many legislators and staff persons remembered us from having visited our booth last year," said Al Katzenberger, one of the hosts of the booth at the Philadelphia meeting of the NCSL held August 6-9, 1997. Besides about 1400 copies of Common Ground-USA's updated "Revenue Source" legislative outreach

brochure, another CG-USA hand-out piece was developed for distribution this year. Last year many persons asked about the Internet, so a postcard was developed with Georgist web pages addresses (See insert bottom of page 2). The front side of the postcard was the Henry George image and text developed by Jim Busey (see the May-June 1997 issue of GroundSwell).

Another addition to the Georgist handouts this year from the booth were

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materials in Spanish. This was brought about by persons from the Organization of American States who visited the booth last year expressing there should be material available in Spanish. Hand-outs this year included "Progreso & Miseria," por Enrique George, abreviado por James L. Busey. Some reprints were also distributed from Centre d'Estudis d'Economia Politica Natural (Georgistes de Catalunya, Barcelona)

Again this year, Dr. Robert V. Andelson's speech, "Henry George and the Reconstruction of Capitalism", printed in pamphlet form by Public Revenue Education Council of St. Louis, was a major hand-out piece.

Al Lubin, immediate past president of PREC, and Al Katzenberger, V.P. of Common Ground-USA, were the prime organizers of the booth effort again this year, which coincided with the August 6-10 Council of Georgist Organizations meeting in South Plainfield, N.J. It had been Katzenberger's anticipation that the proximity of the two conferences would allow some of the highly credentialed

Georgists to avail themselves of the short drive and serve as speakers or panelists during the NCSL convention. That did not happen. Katzenberger is still hoping for Georgists to get themselves in speaking or panelists positions when NCSL meets July 20-24, 1998 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Al Lubin and Al Katzenberger acknowledge gratefully the help of Pat Lubin and Sandra Cothran with the Philadelphia booth. NCSL has very strict regulations about procedures. Unloading the boxes of distribution material had to be done by the men carrying the six boxes to the booth; no wheeled carts were allowed. Cars were not allowed to be left unattended in the unloading zone during the unloading process. The Lubins had driven up in their car with one load of material; Katzenberger and Cothran had driven up in their car with another load of material.

When Al Lubin took ill the second day, August 7, of the convention and had to return to St. Louis, Sandra Cothran

made an emergency call to CG-USA President Nadine Stoner at the CGO conference in New Jersey. An announcement to

the CGO conferees caused Mike Curtis, who is director of the Henry George School in Philadelphia, to volunteer to spend August 8 at the NCSL convention to help Katzenberger. This help is gratefully acknowledged. (Curtis, a resident of Arden, Del., is also a member of Common Ground-USA—Delaware Valley chapter, and a third generation Georgist.)

Katzenberger comments, "If Georgists are in the business of reaching state legislators, they should be at the NCSL annual meeting. If Georgists are not there, we lose a great opportunity to interact with many legislators, about 1,100 this year. This is a training conference where legislators are interested in discussing issues. It's an excellent forum to get as much time with

legislators as possible without the distractions of their routine businesses in the state-houses.

"If we had three or four booths on the NCSL exhibition floor, we could swamp that place," notes Katzenberger. "Other groups do that; the medical groups spread out booths across the exhibition floor and get good representation. If we had three or four booths we could get them at discount prices, as long as the group's annual budget is below a half million dollars." The St. Louis sponsored booth cost \$750 plus another \$150 for incidentals—chairs and table, etc. Other groups interested in exhibition space at NCSL can get more information by phoning Al Katzenberger at 314/727-8661.