



U.S. FRIENDS OF THE SOVIET PEOPLE

CONTINUING THE WORK OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
AMERICAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP

FOUNDED IN 1941

BULLETIN

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Credo of US Friends of the Soviet People

US Friends of the Soviet People is dedicated to **supporting the struggles to restore socialism** in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

We carry on the tradition of the **"Hands off Russia" Committees** that were established internationally in **1918** to help protect the young Soviet Republic from foreign intervention.

The aim of all Friends of the Soviet People is international cooperation in building socialism and **solidarity with the anti-imperialist forces of the world** who are struggling against US Imperialism - the main enemy of humanity.

USFSP acts as a **unifying force** to help consolidate and coordinate the anti-imperialist forces of the world with the ongoing movement to restore the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe as socialist states.

We act as a unifying front but are not a forum for ideological debates. **The people of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe will choose their own paths towards socialism.**



US Friends of the Soviet People Holds Second National Congress

On Friday, April 5th, 2024, the US Friends of the Soviet People (USFSP) held its second Congress in Monroe, New York.

The USFSP Congress began with the singing of L'Internationale and Paul Robeson's version of the anthem of the Soviet Union.

Against the backdrop of the flags of the former Peoples Republics in Europe, such as the German Democratic Republic and others, the guests of the second USFSP Congress gave welcoming speeches. USFSP Chair Michael Iverson gave the opening remarks.

USFSP continues the work of the **National Council of American-Soviet Friendship** founded in 1941.

In the 1990s, USFSP began working with the pro-Soviet Canadian magazine, **Northstar Compass** in continuing the heritage and memory of the Soviet Union in the English-speaking world.

(Continued on page 2)

<https://usfriendsofthesovietpeople.info>



USFSP 2024 Second Congress Report

(Continued from page 1)

The Second Congress was held in AROW Park, the historic home of the **American Russian Organization of Workers**, the Russian-American section of the International Workers Order (IWO) of the 1930s.

The IWO represented **language and cultural federations** within the United States which provided dental and life insurance policies for workers' families at a time when there was no Social Security benefits.

In the 1950s, because of the repressive anti-Communist atmosphere, the spelling of AROW Park's name was changed to "Arrow Park" evoking ideas of Native American history. The 50s was a time when the government brutally attacked any organization that had been associated with the Communist Party USA in which people were arrested and lost their jobs.

Chairman Iverson recalled the importance of **remembering the legacy of the Soviet Union and its socialist economic system**. He noted that the relevance of the Soviet Union in world affairs is more applicable today than ever before. The USFSP has collaborated with Jeff Monson, an American Communist living in Russia, and the *Essence of Time* movement.

USFSP has contacts in all former Soviet Republics, from the Baltics to Central Asia, and especially in the Ukraine and parts of Russia such as Luhansk, Donetsk and Crimea.



USFSP Delegates and observers laying wreaths at the foot of statues honoring Slavic poets, which was donated by the Soviet Union in the 1970's

Since 2014, USFSP has supported the Communist Party of Ukraine and held events **opposing the Fascist uprising in the Ukraine**, which overthrew the legally elected government.

USFSP also worked with heroic **anti-fascists**, such as **Russell "Texas" Bentley**, an American who fought for the **Donetsk Peoples Republic** from 2014 to 2024, ran the Donbass Human Aid Organization, and author of the book "Donbass Cowboy" (New Outlook Publishers).

Grover Furr, the American professor who leads studies into unbiased Soviet history, gave a speech detailing the **importance of the study of the Soviet experience**. Grover has participated with USFSP since the 1990s, the *Northstar Compass* era.

Grover spoke of the manipulation of the image of the Soviet Union and purposeful demonization of the **world's first Socialist country**.

The legacy of the Great October Socialist Revolution of 1917 was explained to the participants and affirmed their commitment to carry on the **torch of the ideology of Marxism-Leninism**.



Attending the Congress, was former USFSP Chair Dr. Angelo D'Angelo studying the IWO banner awarded to its Russian Section

(Continued from page 2)

Grover explained how US capitalist force distort the Soviet experience, and why the bourgeoisie (everywhere, in every country, including America) seeks to historically attack the achievements of the Soviet Union.



Grover Furr discussing Soviet achievements at USFSP Second Congress AROW Park, NY

Other speakers stressed the importance of upholding the **legacy of Comrade Joseph Stalin**, the second leader of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics after the great Comrade Lenin.

The bourgeoisie in their zeal to destroy the legacy of Comrades Lenin and Stalin constantly attack the validity of the science of Marxism-Leninism and its application in constructing Socialism in the Soviet Union.

We have seen that the attacks on Soviet-style Socialism have come from not just the bourgeoisie but also right opportunist elements, as well as the ultra-left petty bourgeoisie who masquerade as “leftists”, often calling themselves Socialists or Communists.

Stalin was the creator of modern Marxism-Leninism, and the leader who led the USSR to victory against fascism during the **Great Patriotic War**. Stalin’s work was also felt in the United States during the time of a once powerful domestic Communist movement, which reached the peak of its popularity between the 1930s and 1940s, during the **Popular Front** period before McCarthyism in the 1950s.

Dan Kovalik, a peace activist and professor at the University of Pittsburgh, spoke about his experiences in Russia and the Communist movement in the late twentieth century.

Dan Kovalik tied the Communists’ struggle against fascism in the Ukraine to the resurgence of a new international Communist movement. Kovalik spoke of a future world where the unipolar hegemony of the United States will cease to exist and a defeat for the imperialist NATO warmongers will give rise to a new era in history.

Communists are at the forefront of the anti-fascist struggle in the Ukraine and against the jingoism of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

In the closing ceremony, delegates to the Congress elected a new Board of Directors that will serve until the next Congress.

The Congress concluded with the singing of the Paul Robeson song, “The House I Live In.”



Statue of Afro-Russian poet Alexander Pushkin donated by the Soviet Union

New Application

Membership Renewals

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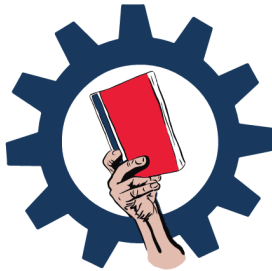
Please send me information on how I can get involved with USFSP

Please make checks payable to U.S. Friends of the Soviet People,
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