COALITIONS

TVEC

SOCM is an active member of the Tennessee Valley Energy Coalition (TVEC) and SOCM staff person, Maureen O'Connell has been a TVEC Board Member for several years. For three years we have joined TVEC in their effort to keep down energy costs for ordinary people. TVEC has gotten the TVA to adopt reforms in the ways residential customers are charged for electricity; has sued TVA and gathered 16,000 signatures petitioning TVA to stop charging people for power plants where construction is unfinished. During this year TVEC has been the main organization pushing TVA to finally defer four plants and cancel four others planned. TVEC got the Tennessee Community Services Commission to release over one million dollars in summer fuel assistance money. As a part of TVEC, we are now working with local groups concerned about practices of local utilities - shut-offs, deposits, late billing, meter reading, and governance.

APPALACHIAN ALLIANCE

The Appalachian Alliance is a coalition of many groups like SOCM in the Appalachian area. SOCM staff person, Peggy Mathews, has served on their board for several years. This year's efforts focused on working with groups concerned about unfair taxation; expanding Alliance membership; and rewriting the "National Sacrifice Area" booklet.

decision-making structure

the chapters

1982 began a year of trying a new decision-making structure for SOCM. Any area in Tennessee that had twenty or more dues paying SOCM members was invited to form a chapter - we have four thus far - Campbell, Fentress, Roane, and Hamilton County Chapters. These chapters worked on local issues, elected officers, and one representative to the SOCM Board.

the board

The Board is formed by the four SOCM officers elected by all members; three delegates-at-large; and the four representatives from the chapters. It met every other month and dealt with matters of policy, direction, finances, and other internal matters.

the committees

The Board's Committees are the working arm of SOCM. At present we have six standing committees - the Strip Mine Committee, the Legislative Committee, the Personnel Committee, the Membership Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Fundraising Committee. Each committee works on matters of concern to it and brings decisions or recommendations to the Board.