

# 2017 Democratic Socialists of America Convention: Results of Resolutions

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To read the full text of any resolution, [please click here](#).

### FAQs

*Why are some of the resolution numbers missing?*

Resolutions numbers appear to be missing for a variety of reasons. The enumeration is based on the order in which they were received in the Google form "Resolutions for DSA's 2017 National Convention." Therefore, there was no resolution #1 since that was the header row. Others: #5 could only work as a constitutional amendment, #18 was referred to the priorities resolution, #37 was a duplicate and #44 was withdrawn.

*Where is the full text?*

For space concerns, we have only included the submitted rationales of the resolutions. You can read the full text of the [resolutions here](#).

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## 1) Resolutions in the Consent Agenda

### #3 Prison Abolition

By Collin Pucher, Seattle DSA

While reforming prisons to improve the conditions of those currently incarcerated is a worthwhile goal, we must keep in mind our eventual goal is the abolition of prisons. This would be a symbolic resolution supporting prison abolition.

### #12 Support J20 Protesters

By Several New York City DSAers

Therefore be it resolved, that the DSA demands prosecutors drop all charges against J20 defendants

Be it resolved that the DSA encourages its members to contact Washington, D.C. prosecutors to convey this demand

Be it resolved that the DSA encourages its members to contribute to J20 defendants' legal defense and commissary funds

Be it resolved that the DSA encourages local chapters, at their own discretion, to cosponsor and promote fundraisers for J20 defendants with allied organizations.

Be it resolved that DSA national will donate \$500 to DC Legal Posse, to be used for legal and logistical expenses for J20 defendants, and \$200 to be used for commissary expenses for incarcerated defendants.

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**#13** A national boycott of Pilot/Flying J, supports Tennessee workers and unions in the service, manufacturing and education sectors who have been or may be adversely affected by Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam's policies. Haslam is former president and current co-owner of Pilot/Flying J.

By Travis Donoho and Michael Kaplan

Local chapters would present the action to their members in whatever form they deemed appropriate, such as agenda item at meeting, inclusion in local newsletter, inclusion on Facebook page, email notification, etc.

**#14** Bail Fund for DSA Members

Andrej Markovic, Seattle DSA

The NPC will implement a bail fund system for DSA members within the next year. A investigative committee will formed in order to determine the size and best method of implementing a fund and making those funds available in a timely manner for members arrested while participating in DSA direct actions.

**#15** Women and Children's Welfare

By Suzanne Arms

I propose DSA take the following 11 issues head-on and campaign for them in one over-arching program that is of special import to American workers and American families:

- 1) the right to reproductive freedom
- 2) the right of children to receive sex education
- 3) access to safe, affordable birth control and to safe abortion
- 4) the right of women, transgender men, and nonbinary people to birth where, how & with whom they choose –and to receive skilled care... and for their babies to be skin-to-skin with their birthing parent in the 1<sup>st</sup> critical 24 hours after birth, to breastfeed, and to have their genital integrity protected
- 5) the elimination of all barriers to the practice of midwifery, because midwives are the experts in protecting normal birth. Dramatically increasing the number of midwives trained and giving insurance coverage for midwifery services. The right of midwives to practice free of harassment in any setting - hospital, home or birth center
- 6) providing incarcerated pregnant individuals with birth and parenting education, skilled care and support, and the freedom to birth without handcuffs ... and to breastfeed and keep their baby with them for 3 months (to benefit the newborn baby and prevent further trauma to these children)
- 7) the right of any person to breastfeed in public and on the job. To have space available for breastfeeding/pumping other than a bathroom
- 8) guaranteed paid parental leave for anyone pregnant who requests it, from the 6<sup>th</sup> month of pregnancy through 6 months after birth. 3 months of paid leave for partners, new adoptive & foster parents
- 9) job protection for pregnant persons & new parents; with the ability to take leave and return with options for part-time work or job-sharing
- 10) providing financial support and tax-benefits for small businesses with pregnant workers, to make #8 feasible
- 11) insurance reimbursement for childbirth education & parenting classes, and the services of doulas. Doulas give one-to-one support to the birthing and postpartum parent, as well as those having abortion or adopting

**#16** Reproductive Justice Work

By Teresa Pratt, San Francisco DSA

As socialists, we believe that the right to shape the conditions of your labor-- including reproductive labor-- and the right to bodily freedom are fundamental human rights. As long as we live in a society that drastically restricts these

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rights, we will continue to fight for reproductive justice and bodily liberation alongside all other forms of social liberation.

## **#25 Solidarity Economy Work**

**By Solidarity Economy Working Group**

This resolution calls for locals do integrate solidarity economy issues into their regular educational activities and encourages them to support any locally based initiatives in their communities.

The Democratic Socialists of America recognize that building the solidarity economy is a critical part of the struggle for socialism. Worker-owned and worker-managed companies, land trusts, and other organizations can showcase what parts of a future socialist economy could look like, and they are feasible even under the present capitalist system.

DSA calls for the enactment of the WORK Act (federal funding for state employee-ownership centers) and the U.S. Employee Ownership Bank Act (establishing a bank to finance employee ownership), which Bernie Sanders and others have just introduced. See

<https://www.sanders.senate.gov/newsroom/recent-business/legislative-package-introduced-to-encourage-employee-owned-companies>

DSA locals should include material on the solidarity economy in their educational programs. The Solidarity Economy Working Group will assist them with suggestions.

DSA locals are encouraged to support state and municipal efforts to build the solidarity economy in their areas.

## **#35 Budget Reports to Membership**

**By Connor Lewis, Centre County DSA**

The resolution would require unaudited budget reports in the August of years during which a National Convention does not occur, beginning in 2018, and an unaudited financial report in January (inclusive of expenditures and revenue since the August report), beginning in 2019, to be distributed to all dues-paying members.

It would further require that the NPC (or their designees) review DSA's internal financial controls, to be reported upon to the membership no later than one year after the close of the 2017 Convention.

## **#42 Commitment to Disability Rights**

**By Patrick Earns, Buffalo DSA, Nora Zimmerman, Boulder DSA. Rachel Ochs-Meija, Central Florida DSA. Mark Alper, Central New Jersey DSA**

For the purposes of this resolution, we define disability as the social, economic, and political limitations imposed on people with impairments - which may be physical or mental.

(i) DSA will make necessary efforts in order to ensure accessibility for all members, with special care taken to provide for the needs of disabled members. We recognize that DSA is not covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and that the ADA is a flawed law that, even under full enforcement, would never win disabled people our liberation. As such, we resolve that ADA standards be considered a floor for accessibility and assert that DSA should go beyond what the ADA requires of covered institutions by fostering the full participation and development of our disabled members. This

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includes exploring the option of virtual attendance at events both national and local, providing accessible meeting locations when possible (e.g. elevators, wheelchair ramps, nearby quiet spaces), providing priority seating near the front of meetings, and hiring interpreters when needed.

(ii) DSA will include a commitment to disability rights and liberation in any further writings on the organization's purpose, along with commitments to feminism, anti-racism and LGBTQ rights. DSA will provide internal education on disablement as part of its work to educate new members on the tenets of anti-capitalist thought.

(iii) DSA will also be accountable to concerns not encompassed in the above text, with a transparent and accessible process for disabled members to discuss their needs with their chapter leaders to find a workable solution to the problem. This process can be coordinated by local chapters to account for factors unique to said chapter, but disabled members must be able to contact national if their material needs are not being met, at which point a transparent discussion will occur about how the organization - national and local - can ensure the full participation and contribution of said members.

## **2) Resolutions Passed at the Convention Without Change**

### **#20 Withdrawing from the Socialist International**

By Neal Meyer, Sean Monahan, Ella Mahoney, and Chris Maisano

DSA will fully withdraw its membership in the Socialist International (SI) effective immediately. The National Office will then convey the convention's decision to the appropriate representatives at the SI.

Further, the National Political Committee will initiate the formation of a committee tasked with building direct relationships with socialist and left parties and social movements around the world that we can learn from and which share our values.

### **#21 Move Towards Monthly Dues**

By Sean Monahan

We resolve that the National Political Committee, in consultation with staff, chapter leaders and members, shall re-design the system of monthly dues and devise and implement a plan to promote the payment of monthly dues.

We offer the following guidelines for such a plan:

- 1) That the members choose their own level of monthly dues, with the only firm requirement that they be above a certain minimum necessary to make such dues worthwhile for the organization;
- 2) That there be a system of determining a suggested amount for monthly dues, based on the member's income level, whether based on a percentage of that income or a fixed set of categories for different levels of income (low, middle, upper, etc.);
- 3) That such guidelines be put forward in order to inform the member of shared expectations, but that it be made clear that members choose their own levels of monthly dues, and no one shall be reprimanded or censured for their choice;
- 4) That there be no expectation that those with low or no disposable income pay monthly dues, though they retain the option;
- 5) That, instead of requiring yearly renewals, dues shall automatically renew until members cancel their membership or alter their dues levels;

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- 6) That, to reduce costs associated with credit cards and updating information with expired credit cards, we will encourage the use of electronic funds transfers (EFTs) directly from bank accounts, or payment systems with similar benefits;
- 7) That, to promote retention of members, this plan will be phased in over an extended period in which members may renew using the existing yearly dues system;
- 8) That, as soon as financially and logistically viable, a system will be implemented whereby local chapters receive back from the national organization 20% of the amount the members in their jurisdiction contribute in the form of monthly dues, at regular intervals;
- 9) That, in the use of the additional funds raised in monthly dues, priority be given to direct assistance in the form of trainings and resources, to local chapters and organizing committees, including hiring a number of regional organizers as soon as financially possible.

The NPC, in consultation with staff, local chapter leaders and members, shall design a system based on these guidelines. The guidelines may be adjusted as necessary to better promote the goals of: minimizing non-renewal of existing members; maximizing new membership; maximizing total dues revenue; maximizing chapter growth; and expanding our capacity to do deep organizing and pursue our priorities. The system may be substantially revised if, during implementation, it results in outcomes contrary to these stated goals.

We resolve, further, to contribute to implementing the promotion of monthly dues. Chapters will take an active role in encouraging their members to renew on the basis of the new monthly system.

## #22 Work to Double Participation Rate

By Bill Barclay

Each chapter and O.C. will (i) obtain an up to date list of all current DSA members, as defined by the NO's data base, in their territory; (ii) compare the number of members on that list to the usual/average number of members that regularly attend meetings of the whole or are active in a working group; (iii) determine a membership participation rate of active/total members; (iv) note especially the names of members they do not know/have no contact with; and (v) develop a plan to double their membership participation rate.

## #28 National Training Strategy

By Joel Solow and Ravi Ahmad, New York City DSA

### The National Training Strategy

Since we convened in May, this national team from across DSA has developed and delivered our initial trainings at People's Summit in Chicago and at DSA's inaugural Ella Baker & Lucy Parsons Training in NYC. These trainings were built around the following series:

### Socialist Organizing

This series of modules focuses on the building blocks of the transformative reforms and relationships that we must create. Relationships are the crux of power, solidarity, and democracy. From the one on one conversation to the mobilizer network, this is a series about organizing tactics.

### Building Socialism in Your Chapter

This series of modules concerns developing and extending one of DSA's hallmarks and the source of much of our growth: our open, democratic internal culture. We cover topics such as how to build a culture of solidarity that is welcoming of newcomers and widely differing members and fights both the empty platitudes of liberal identity politics and the sectarian strain so prevalent on the American Left.

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## Social Movements & Political Education

Without socialist political ideology, we're just another 'progressive' group working on a series of individual campaigns. It's one thing to do a classic one to one organizing conversation, but what is it building towards? Socialists are uniquely positioned to build the larger strategies that allow individual campaigns to build beyond single issue wins and truly challenge capital. This series includes 'DSA Values, Structure and Strategy' and 'Social Movements 101', which uses historical examples to explore the structure and function of socialist organizations beyond momentary campaigns.

## Next Steps

Our first priority is to use the training sessions at convention to refine our existing workshops and build out our regional training capacity. As mentioned above, some 100 DSA members from across the country will become trainers on 'DSA Values, Structure and Strategy' at convention; many will also be trainers on the 'Socialist Organizing' series or 'Building Socialism in Your Chapter' at convention as well.

The trainers for the 15 concurrent sessions of 'DSA Values, Structure and Strategy' are grouped by region, based on membership strength and will hopefully form the nucleus of regional teams. Our initial plan is to consolidate these 15 teams into 5 national regions: the Northeast, the Midwest & the Mountains, the South, Texas & the Southwest and the West Coast. With a built-in practice of recruiting apprentice trainers at every single training we offer, we have been able to rapidly expand our training team in just a few short but very intense months.

Under the aegis of the newly elected NPC and with extensive support from an expanded national organizing staff, we would conduct a needs assessment of how to prioritize regions for development and roll out of one and two day trainings. Our goal is to reach as close to the entirety of our core and activist members as possible and make these trainings a recurring feature in all regions by the end of 2018.

Our second priority is to begin building the next set of modules on organizational dynamics, conflict resolution and socialist political theory and practice. This will necessarily involve a larger group of curriculum designers from across our membership and political landscape. We look forward to piggybacking on the conversations on priorities & resolutions at convention, as well as our trainings, in ascertaining priorities in this area.

Our third priority is to institute an annual organizing school along the lines of many unions. This could take the form of the Activist Conference suggested by our comrades from Spring Platform.

In summary, in order to meet our goal, this team will commit to training some 300 DSA members every month for 15 months. The approximate new cost of this program will be \$190,000 and the outcome will be a core of 200 highly experienced trainers and 5000 well trained leaders and organizers to carry forward DSA's work in 2018 and beyond.

## Addendum: Two potential sample training schedules

### Sample #1 : One Day Training

DSA Values Structure and Strategy (2 hrs)

Building Socialism in Your Chapter 101: Community & Culture (1.5 hrs)

Socialist Organizing 101: Building through Relationships (2 hrs)

Socialist Organizing 104: Socialist Campaigns & Coalition Building (1.5 hrs)

Socialist Organizing 103: The Mobilizer Network (1 hr)



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Sample #2 : Two Day Training (Each day is 6.5 hours of instruction)

Identifying Chapter Needs & Personal Goals (1 hr)

DSA Values Structure and Strategy (2 hrs)

Building Socialism in Your Chapter 101: Community & Culture (1.5 hrs)

Socialist Organizing 101: Building through Relationships (2 hrs)

Socialist Organizing 104: Socialist Campaigns & Coalition Building (1.5 hrs)

Building Socialism in Your Chapter 102: Racial Justice & Socialist Feminism (2 hrs)

Socialist Organizing 102: Identifying & Developing Leaders (1 hr)

Socialist Organizing 103: The Mobilizer Network (1 hr)

Capstone: Make Your Organizing Commitments (1 hr)

## **#41 Support Immigrant Rights & Anti-Racism Work Via Sanctuary Cities**

**Immigrants' Rights Committee, Anti-Racism Working Group, submitted by Duane Campbell & Jack Linares**

Progressive immigration reform at the federal level seems like a fairly remote possibility in the current period. But on a local level the situation is different. We believe that fighting for sanctuaries for undocumented immigrants is the best way to oppose the current wave of anti-immigrant repression. At virtually every level of society – from school campus, to neighborhood, to city, to state –we can push policies that will blunt the ability of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and other federal agencies from targeting, harassing, kidnapping, detaining, and deporting the undocumented members of our communities. Concrete examples of such policies include:

- 1) Shutting off all information sharing between ICE and local authorities;
- 2) Forbidding local authorities from questioning people about their immigration status, and from acting as enforcers of immigration laws; much like HIPAA protects medical personal information;
- 3) Halting any cooperation between ICE and local law enforcement;
- 4) Demanding that undocumented immigrants have legal representation and financial support in deportation proceedings, with priority given to those currently inside detention;
- 5) Demanding due process for all, regardless of citizenship status;
- 6) Fighting back against every policy that criminalizes undocumented immigrants.
- 7) Direct Actions including civil disobedience;
- 8) Political Education Campaign to eliminate Employer Sanctions ie. Immigration and Reform and Control Act.

## **#45 Recognition of Afro-Socialist and People of Color Caucus; Prioritization of Teaching the Black Radical Tradition; Endorsement of BYP 100's agenda to Build Black Futures; and Statement in Support of Reparations (including Colonial Reparations)**

**By Andrew Burke (North New Jersey DSA), Kara Clark, Bianca Cunningham, Shadley Hobour, Jazz Hooks, Yasmina Price, Kenneth Shelton, and Jawanza Williams (New York City DSA)**

The creation of a national caucus by and for People of Color, a DSA endorsement of Black Youth Project's Agenda to Build Black Futures, a national training for people of color, and a DSA endorsement of generational and colonial reparations. The proposal can be read in full here : <https://goo.gl/B6NqeB>

## **#46 DSA Will Organize a Series of Discussions Based on the Slates and Semi-Slates**

**By Gay Semel and Dave Hancock, New York City DSA**

The new NPC shall organize a discussion in the organization of the issues raised by documents produced by slates and semi-slates for the NPC (e.g., Momentum, Praxis, and Unity through diversity).

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Unnumbered: Proposal for a Democratic Socialist Labor Commission

By Julia Symborski and Max Belasco

[\(Full text here\)](#)

Labor must be acknowledged as an intrinsic and crucial part of the identity of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA). If DSA is to become an effective agent of a renewed class consciousness that champions the liberation of the working class, it must by definition be a movement of the workers. We should not aim merely to build stronger relationships with laborers; we must plan for DSA to boldly and unapologetically become an inextricable part of the labor movement.

To this end, and because there is no existing national forum for explicitly socialist labor conversation, we call for immediate development and deployment of a Democratic Socialist Labor Commission (DSLCL). As a critical component to a sustainable long-term rank and file strategy, the DSLCL will be a formal structure through which to provide informational resources and support to developing DSA labor groups and socialist industry alliances, current union members, individuals aiming to salt or democratize workplaces, and all DSA members, especially new ones. Directed by labor activists and supported by DSA staff, the DSLCL will serve as the central node for DSA labor activists, foster the development of new groups through which new members may be recruited from the labor movement, encourage alt-labor organizing in states stricken by “right-to-work” legislation, and provide guidance in developing the workers’ consciousness of all DSA and YDSA members.

### 3) Resolutions Passed at the Convention with Amendments

#### #7&8 Full Support of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions

##### Merged Resolutions

1. Democratic Socialists of America declares itself in solidarity with Palestinian civil society’s nonviolent struggle against apartheid, colonialism, military occupation and for equality, human rights, and self-determination.
2. Democratic Socialists of America responds to Palestinian Civil Society’s call by fully supporting BDS.
3. Democratic Socialists of America affirms that any political solution to the ongoing crisis must be premised on the realization of basic human rights, including all rights outlined in the BDS call.
4. Democratic Socialists of America condemns all efforts to deny the right of Palestinians in the United States and their allies to free speech, assembly, and academic freedom. DSA condemns all efforts to deny the right of Palestinians in the US and their allies to free speech, assembly and academic freedom. Specifically DSA strongly opposes the Israel Anti-Boycott Act. which would make it a felony to advocate or support boycotts targeting Israel, as well as all similar legislation at the state and local levels;
5. Within 30 days after passing, a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the BNC.

#### #33: Harassment Policy and Grievance Process

By Harassment Working Group

This resolution outlines [prohibited behavior and establishes a process](#) for local chapters and national to address harassing, discriminatory, or abusive behavior clearly and efficiently.

### 4) Resolutions Referred to the National Political Committee

#### #2 Writing and Theory

By Benjamin Arriaga & Sacramento DSA

Given the difficulty of ensuring that what is communicated from any voice, individual or collective of any size, is in fact communicated as intended to the intended audience however large, this resolution would set forward an

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organizational and functional priority for establishing standards for internal social-movement-organizational communication.

## #4 Municipal Banking

By Molly Niedbala, Central Brooklyn DSA

To strip major private banks of significant funding, disabling investment in unjust projects like private prisons and fossil fuel infrastructure; to make the spending of public funds more transparent; and to make public funds significantly more available for investment in local projects that would benefit marginalized communities, such as community land trusts and infrastructure that would mitigate the effects of sea level rise

## #6 35-Hour Work Week

By Mike Mitchell, Twin Cities DSA

Build a national mass campaign for a 35 hour work week without loss of income by the year 2025 to address the displacement of people caused by technical advances in the capitalist system. Grassroots organizing by state chapters to include outreach to unions, community groups and legislators to raise awareness. Build support in coordination with all groups including employers and state agencies as needed. Build evidence and data base to support campaign goals.

## #9 Jobs for All

By Brad Voracek, At-Large

Support H.R. 1000 Rep. Conyers "Jobs for All" bill. Minimum organization is a vote and endorsement of support. Further organization could include lobbying representatives.

## #10 Building an Independent Socialist Party

By Ben Johnson, Jarib Rahman, Eliza Mulcahy, Paul Weisle, Stephanie Reis, Peter Morency, Annie Dellafera; Boston DSA

The Democratic Socialists of America shall issue a statement affirming our goal to build a fully independent, mass democratic socialist party that aims to give voice to all the oppressed and exploited of the 99%.

In its electoral work, the Democratic Socialists of America will aim to work with and help unite all forces and organizations of the progressives and socialist left in this common struggle for social justice and economic democracy. That together we can overcome the old sectarianism of the far left around the common project of ending the rule by the two-party system and capitalism as a whole.

The Democratic Socialists of America will establish a prioritization to the different electoral strategies on offer nationally and locally as follows:

- 1) Firstly, wherever the on the ground situation allows, priority will be given to running DSA or other socialist candidates as independents in local races. Cases of uncontested races with Republican or centrist Democrat incumbent candidates will be targeted in particular.
- 2) Secondly, wherever such an approach proves impossible or otherwise non-advantageous, the Democratic Socialists of America will allow for running its members under the Democratic Party ticket. Special emphasis during the campaign will be given to those candidates' membership to the DSA, their socialist politics, and their opposition to the Democratic Party's neoliberal leadership. Whenever and wherever difficulty is met from the the Democratic Party machine that cannot be overcome, either during the election or once a candidate comes into office, the DSA will shift that candidate's present or future campaign to running as an independent.
- 3) Thirdly, wherever situation or organizational capacity does not allow for running DSA as candidates, the DSA will

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maintain its current criteria for endorsements for candidates are open socialists, are running to win, and are nominated by a local DSA chapter under strict criteria. Endorsed candidates by locals will be held to high standards relative to intersectional working class demands.

The Democratic Socialists of America will make all necessary administrative, organizational, and tax related legal changes to facilitate this electoral strategy, including but not limited to reevaluating the organization's non-profit status.

## #17 Assist Chapters to Have Labor Working Groups

By Michael Russell, New Orleans DSA

RESOLVED: The Democratic Socialists of America will actively assist local chapters if they seek to establish labor-based working groups; and be it further

RESOLVED: The Democratic Socialists of America will provide support to democratic socialist networking on local, regional, and national scales to provide all socialist trade unionist with guidance in their efforts to strengthen their union's work-rules, agreements, and efforts to forge fraternal bonds with community friends of labor; and be it further

RESOLVED: The Democratic Socialists of America will consider hosting a Democratic Socialist Labor Conference to network and build relationships; and be it finally

RESOLVED: The Democratic Socialists of America will produce labor education material and training activities geared towards building working-class power through organized labor.

## #24 Revive *Socialist Forum* Online

By Marshall Mayer, Dan DiMaggio, and Ethan Young

A "discussion bulletin" is mandated in DSA's Constitution (Article XII, Section 1 of the Bylaws). We propose reviving Socialist Forum, DSA's print publication for internal organizational discussions, which ceased publication in 2003 (before email was very broadly available) for financial reasons. This iteration of Socialist Forum would be published online, and appropriately edited and moderated.

## #27 Mentors and Stipends for Chapters

By Ravi Ahmad and Charna Albert

The National Organization will institutionalize a process for assisting locals with base-building activities.

-Locals will be able to apply to have an experienced organizer from another chapter act as a mentor to help devise and implement the local's base-building strategy. Mentors will be tasked with helping mentees identify a specific strategy for implementing a base-building program, and support the local through the process.

-Mentor positions will also be application-based. Chapters will choose mentors based on compatibility between the locals' ambitions and the mentors' experience. This will enable the process of establishing mentor/mentee relationships to be intentional, deliberate, and democratic, with the locals empowered to decide what best suits toward their goals and needs with regards to base-building as a chapter.

-Locals and mentors that pair up and devise an organizing plan will have the option to apply for a small stipend from National to get a base-building program off the ground. This stipend could be used for anything from purchasing VAN software for a canvassing program to purchasing food for an event to printing costs. The stipend will be earmarked specifically for the local's base-building project. Locals will submit a progress report to the

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National Political Committee after a year.

A national committee made up of experienced organizers from across the country will develop a definitive toolkit for assisting locals with base-building activities. The toolkit will act as a complement to the mentorship program, giving locals that are unable to participate in the mentorship program in its first year educational materials to begin their own base-building projects. This toolkit will include instructions to help locals:

- Complete an organizational connections assessment, to help demonstrate how current organizational connections can act as a starting point to help develop base-building activities.
- Complete an area needs assessment, for locals interested in base-building through mutual aid activities.
- Complete a power-mapping analysis that will help locals develop an understanding of the strategic considerations necessary to choosing a campaign or particular base-building program.
- Identify specific goals, which committees or individuals will take on specific responsibilities, and a timeframe for initiating and implementing a specific base-building project.

## #29: Dues Splitting

By David Lundeen, West Suburban Illinois DSA

There are existing proposals for dues splitting between chapters and national and increasing dues based on a percentage of a member's income as well as collecting those dues on a monthly basis. This resolution is an attempt to tie those two proposals together in a way that acknowledges different chapters are at different levels of organizational ability and that a drastic change in how dues are collected across the DSA at this critical time should be transitioned to on a more voluntary basis that incentivizes chapters to engage with their individual members to rationalize the increase and give them a bigger ownership stake in their local chapter.

We are proposing three levels of dues splitting arrangements contingent on the chapter meeting certain organizational milestones described below. We are also proposing that monthly dues under this arrangement be set at a \$15 per month minimum with a suggested (and entirely voluntary) monthly amount of 1% monthly income.

Level 1: 20/80 Dues splitting between chapters and national for chapters that:

Incorporate as a non-profit legal entity in their state.

Establishes a bank account associated with that non-profit legal entity into which funds can be deposited.

Submits a request for dues splitting accompanied by an annual budget describing how the funds will be used.

Transitions 25% of chapter members or (5 people minimum) to the monthly dues model.

Level 2: 35/65 Dues splitting between chapters and national for a chapter that:

Are already a Level 1 Chapter

Submits a new request for increase dues splitting accompanied by a revised budget describing how the additional funds will be used.

Transition 50% of chapter members or (15 people minimum) to the monthly dues model.

Level 3: 50/50 dues splitting for chapters that:

Are already a Level 2 Chapter

Submit a new request for increase dues splitting accompanied by a revised budget describing how the additional funds will be used.

Transition 75% of chapter members or (30 people minimum) to the monthly dues model.

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The dollar amounts of member dues being sent back to the chapters will be set at a flat monthly rate based on the dues revenue from the chapter at the time the request is submitted to National with a budget proposal for the amount in question. This amount will be revisited every year with the submission of a new annual budget from the chapter.

## **#30 Shifting Work from Staff to Chapters**

By David Lundeen, West Suburban Illinois DSA

Identify areas of DSA national activity current performed by paid staff to be devolved to local chapters who have capacity to take on the work.

Some examples:

The bulk of National Convention Planning could be devolved to the host chapter in that metropolitan area.

Data entry and New Member Packets could be devolved to larger chapters in a specified geographic region.

## **#31 Ten Percent of Dues as Grants to Locals**

By David Lundeen, West Suburban Illinois DSA

Allocate 10% of DSA revenues to direct cash transfers to local chapters in the form of a grant process.

Areas not currently served by large chapters will be given preference but all chapters that meet these criteria will be eligible for these grants.

- Establish as a non-profit legal entity in their state
- Open a bank account associated with that non-profit legal entity in which to receive funds
- Submit a proposal that outlines the goals of project, the costs, and how success will be measured.

An existing DSA National committee or newly created committee will need to review these requests and approve, reject, or make suggested revisions.

Also, DSA should allow donations be collected and earmarked specifically for this purpose with consideration given to making individual requests for grants from chapters publicly available to members nationally so that they can fund specific projects of interest through direct donations.

## **#34: Ban on DSA Staff Holding Offices in the Organization**

By Ramsin Canon & Kenzo Shibata, Chicago

Therefore, be it resolved that, salaried National or Local staff, except those whose duties are solely administrative, or staff paid on an hourly basis in excess of twenty-five hours per week for more than sixteen weeks in any year, except those whose duties are solely administrative, shall be prohibited for that calendar year, and in the subsequent calendar year, from the following activities:

- (1) Holding elected positions in any DSA body, including the National, Chapters, branches, or organizing committees; and
- (2) Engaging in electioneering for any elected positions in any DSA body, including the National, Chapters, branches, or organizing committees; and
- (3) Serving as delegates to the DSA national convention; and
- (4) Serving on the boards of, or as officers or paid staff of, political or labor organizations; and
- (5) Voting on Local policies and resolutions, where such votes are not subject to secret-ballot procedures; and

Further be it resolved, that any person holding an elected position in any DSA body, including the National, Chapters, branches or organizing committees, shall be prohibited from holding any salaried or hourly staff position,

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or receive any payment in an independent contractor or consultancy capacity, other than for reimbursements, for two years from the date of the last day of their service in office.

## **#36 Create a Democratic Socialist “University” and Cultural Hegemony Working Group By Matt Hancock & Mark Alper, Central NJ DSA**

Create Democratic Socialism U., a learning community for democratic socialists. This would be an online, seminar type “curriculum” that would allow DSA members to deepen their understanding of democratic socialism through a combination of reading, lecture and discussion. Courses could be made available online. Over time, more focused or specialized courses could be developed, driven by members’ desire to further deepen their understanding of particular issues, thinkers, etc. This learning community would not be a top-down approach, but would rather seek to engage members in a learning dialogue, and should represent the open, pluralistic range of voices in democratic socialism.

Establish a Working Group on Cultural Hegemony, focused on developing and advancing a democratic socialist culture (economics, politics, music and art) rooted in, and advanced by, the working class and other oppressed groups. The working group’s explicit mandate would be to link with, and elevate, the voices of leaders, artists, and thinkers from the working class and other oppressed groups (what Antonio Gramsci called “organic intellectuals”) in a collective project to develop (again ala Gramsci) a counter-hegemonic culture.

## **#38 Endorse "Inclusive Prosperity Act" for FTT By Bill Barclay and Peg Strobel, Chicago DSA**

DSA endorses Rep Keith Ellison's "Inclusive Prosperity Act (H.R. 1144/S. 434)" that seeks to levy a tax on the trading of financial assets. Revenues from the tax are allocated for supporting state and federal investments that improve our health, rebuild our crumbling physical infrastructure, and create good paying jobs. DSA chapters and O.C.s should (i) publicize the key features of this legislation; (ii) meet with elected federal representatives to urge them to sign on to and support this legislation; and (iii) where feasible, work with allies such as NNU in organizing actions to support this legislation.

## **5) Incorporated into the Priorities Resolution**

### **#9 Jobs for All**

By Brad Voracek, At-Large

Support H.R. 1000 Rep. Conyers "Jobs for All" bill. Minimum organization is a vote and endorsement of support. Further organization could include lobbying representatives.

### **#43 Encourage Chapters to Work with Fight for \$15**

By Kenzo Shibata & Abby Agriesti, Chicago DSA

This Labor Day, September 4, 2017, workers in the Fight for \$15 movement and people across the fast-growing service and care job sectors are organizing nationwide actions and demonstrations to call for better wages and expanded rights to form unions.

Although our main goal is socialism, in the meantime, the working class needs a raise to survive under the current capitalist system. DSA chapters should encourage our comrades to participate in these actions wherever possible and work with local Fight for \$15 advocates to organize for action.

### **#47 Support Candidates Inside and Outside the Democratic Party**

By Amelia Dornbush, NYC DSA; Danny Fetonte, Austin DSA; Gabe Kramer, Pittsburgh DSA; Connor Lewis, Centre County DSA; Daniel Moraff, Pittsburg DSA; Renee Paradis, NYC DSA;

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Chris Riddiough, Metro DC DSA; Tascha Van Auken, NYC DSA; and Abdullah Younus, NYC DSA

The up to ten candidates that will be endorsed by the National Political Committee for the remainder of the 2017 election cycle

([http://www.dsausa.org/dsa\\_chapters\\_propose\\_national\\_candidate\\_endorsements\\_by\\_june\\_1\\_here\\_s\\_why\\_dl](http://www.dsausa.org/dsa_chapters_propose_national_candidate_endorsements_by_june_1_here_s_why_dl)) shall receive coordination and support from national staff and infrastructure, including coordinated volunteer phonebanks and exposure on DSA social media, along the lines of our engagement in the khalid kamau campaign.

Over the next two years, the national organization shall continue to provide substantive technical support and exposure for local chapters seeking to engage in electoral politics, and will continue to promote and support a subset of candidates endorsed by local chapters, and shall allocate the necessary resources to do so effectively. This subset in each year should include candidates running both inside and outside the Democratic party.

## **6) Resolutions that Failed or were Withdrawn at the Convention**

### **#11 Draft Bernie for a new People's Party**

By William Bianchi, DSA Chicago Northside

The DSA convention endorses the Draft Bernie campaign for a new People's Party.

The campaign seeks to recruit Sanders to start a new progressive political party that builds on the massive base he developed during and after his primary campaign.

The goal of the resolution is to gain a statement of support from the DSA convention delegates. Follow up to that action, if positive and the delegates desire, is simply to inform DSA members nationally of the Draft Bernie online petition campaign and that the convention supports this effort, much as Rose DeMoro did at the People's Summit. This resolution does not ask for any separate action from DSA.

### **#19 Build Working Class Organization and Resist Corporate Democrats**

By Dan LaBotz and Zelig Stern, New York City DSA

Therefore be it resolved that throughout the next two years, as the Democratic Socialists of America engage in struggles on the national and local levels that put us into coalition with progressive Democrats, we will formulate our strategy with the below points in mind.

Specifically, we will:

1. Work to build the resistance movement alongside both radical and progressive organizations
2. Focus on building working class organization with a political and structural identity independent from the Democratic Party and drawing progressives toward that strategy
3. Carry out an educational campaign to point out the importance of independent working class organizations and the difference between the methods and goals of the progressive Democratic Party organizations and those of DSA.
4. Be prepared to criticize progressive organizations when their strategies prioritize intra-Democratic Party battles and lobbying over social movements and mass disruption. Be prepared to put forward in anti-Trump coalitions our own socialist point of view.
5. Refrain from working for the election of corporate Democrats in general elections whose campaigns are dependent upon the wealthy, corporations, and/or corporate PACs. While we will pursue electoral strategies that include running candidates on the Democratic Party line or supporting existing progressive Democratic Party candidates in the primaries, we will not follow these candidates in endorsing any corporate Democrat.

### **#23 Grievance Procedure**



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By Natalie Midiri, Adam Goldman, and Jeremy Gong

The National Political Committee, in consultation with DSA members and locals, shall develop guidelines for handling grievances at the local and national levels.

The National Political Committee shall hire a staff person to assist locals and members in handling grievances and who will provide regular reports to a grievance body created by the National Political Committee.

## #26 National Labor Working Group

By Joel Solow, New York City DSA

The national labor working group will be the primary DSA body to support chapters in building out their labor work

--National labor working group will put together monthly calls to highlight good work that local chapters are doing, and serve as a space for conversation, relationship building across chapters, and a resource for local labor working groups

--National labor working group will facilitate other spaces and forum for conversation in order to share best practices and wins, develop socialist labor strategy, and connect local chapters that can learn from or support one another

--National labor working group will produce a series of guides to be available for all chapters with curriculum around

--Establishing chapter labor working groups

--Organizing training

--Establishing study groups

--Establishing sectoral working groups

--Running for union office / organizing slates

--Doing a power map of the local labor market to determine strategic sectors for salting/support of local organizing

--Building relationships with local labor unions, Jobs with Justice chapters, and worker centers

The national labor working group will work with chapters to set goals around labor work, make an assessment on workplace organizing progress after 6 months, and present recommendations for any changes in the program to the NPC

--All chapters with a membership above 100 (and any others that are interested) will be encouraged/supported to develop a labor working group (described below), or otherwise build the infrastructure to implement the following three programs

--Regular organizing training + strategic workplace organizing. This training would focus on the key skills of organizing in the workplace and in the community: organizing conversations, workplace/community mapping, leader identification, committee building and more. This training would also empower members of DSA to either organize their current workplace or to work together with other members in a strategic salting project (salting is the deliberate entrance into a workplace with the intent of organizing new unions or promoting militancy in existing ones). Salting projects would be determined by a number of factors including a serious power analysis of the local area, an assessment of potential partners among unions or worker centers (non-labor union organizations that organize workers), an analysis of local union politics and a real commitment by a critical mass of members. The national labor working group should develop a series of guidelines and support mechanisms for salting and caucus building.

--Left labor study groups. These study groups would help develop a shared understanding and analysis of strategy and direction among DSA workplace organizers. Study groups have played a key role in building worker organization and militancy in unorganized and already organized but dormant workplaces alike. Beyond just the day to day work of person by person, leader by leader organizing through relationships, it is crucial that those dedicated to workplace organizing have a shared vocabulary and vision around the history of workers' movements in the US, the role of workers in the movement for socialism, the role of socialists in the labor movement, the role of direct action in organizing, the key features and trends in the economy and capitalism, and the structures of

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radical rank and file democracy.

--Sectoral sub-committees. To exercise worker power we need militancy, an orientation toward building a majority, density, and concentration of our power. Chapters engaged in workplace organizing should assess both their membership and the key economic sectors in their local area, and work toward building sectoral sub-committees based on industry or occupation (for example: teaching, the food service sector, transportation, healthcare, etc.) These sub-committees would provide an entypoint for new members, would focus on community building, socializing, and relationship building, and would direct members into organizing, salting, and study group projects.

Chapter labor working groups will have (as a baseline)

--Membership made up of union members, worker center members/volunteers, and non-union individuals that support the labor movement, or want to organize

--Mission to build relationships with local progressive unions / Jobs with Justice / militant worker centers

--A sub-committee on strike and organizing solidarity

--Sectoral sub-committees (described above) that focus on building relationships and training in organizing/study groups among people within the same sector

Committees dedicated to organizing training and study groups (both described above)

**#32: National Organization to Support Chapters in 1) Single-Payer, 2) Opposing State Violence, 3) Supporting Worker Organizations, and 4) Environmental Justice**

By Michael Kaufman, East Bay DSA

Focus the national organization's support of Locals on these four issue areas.

1. Support for single payer healthcare.
2. Opposition to state violence in all its forms.
3. Support for worker organizations.
4. Engage with the environmental justice, climate change, and renewable energy movement.

**#39 Code of Conduct & Conflict Resolution**

By Rosie Busiakiewicz, Vaughn Allen Goodwin, Elizabeth Henderson, Beth Huang (Boston DSA Resolutions Working Group)

Therefore, it is resolved that:

1. All DSA chapters shall adopt a Code of Conduct and a procedure for conflict resolution, and that,
2. The National Political Committee shall provide model forms of these documents, which may be adopted, with such amendments as may be deemed necessary to suit local conditions, by DSA chapters, and further that,
3. The model documents shall be completed and distributed to chapters by December 31, 2017, and a Code of Conduct and Conflict Resolution Procedure shall be adopted by each DSA local by June 30, 2018.

**#40 Vote on BDS Only After Substantive Debate**

By Itzhak Epstein, New York City DSA

DSA should not endorse BDS without a substantive, structured and transparent debate within the organization.