



# Western Montana Democratic Socialists of America

In person attendance: Daniel Carlino, Steven Clark, Briana Young, Erin White, Mark Anderlik, Sean Regan, Charlie Keith, Tony Davis, Graeme Pletscher, Dan Brooks, Peter Jonson, Jackie Reimers, Robbie Liben, Aiden Judge, Alex Riffey, Wren Greaney, Becca Poliquin, Sarah McClain, Liam Seymour, Brendan Work, CJ Pawlitschek, Brian Myers, Devin Jacaruso, Autumn Harris, Rachel Navarro, Lucas Moody

On Zoom – Dave Jones, Justis York, Samantha, Chris Kerkhof, Chester Seitz

**Monthly Business Meeting**

**February 8th, 2025. 10am**

**Location: Goodworks & via Zoom**

## o Openings (10 min)

- **Native Land Acknowledgement:** *We recognize that capitalism, land exploitation, and settler-colonialism are closely intertwined, as American capitalism was built on stolen indigenous land. We also recognize the clear role of indigenous oppression in serving the interests of fossil capitalism, as demonstrated time and time again. Finally, we believe that indigenous land rights and self determination are a crucial aspect of environmental justice and the fight against capitalist extractivism. For these reasons, we are committed to standing with the Salish and Kootenai people and pledge to support their struggle as best as we can.*

- o Introductions: Name, Pronouns, and Question: “What would you like to see the chapter accomplish in 2025, and how would you like to be involved?”
- o Community Agreements for Respectful Discussion (brief)
- o Rotating Roles:
  - Facilitator – Brendan
  - Timekeeper – Rachel
  - Progressive stack – Brian
  - Notetaker – Steven
- o Agenda: additions and approval – **motioned and approved**
- o Meeting Minutes: correction and approval – **motioned and approved**
- o Interim Treasurer’s Report - **\$2000 in bank and \$5000 statewide? New treasurer to confirm**

## o Working Group Reports (30 min)

- Montanans for Palestine (Brendan) – Potluck today (2/8) from 1-5pm, Palestine’s Day on 2/15, 1-5 at UCC
- Social & Outreach (Rachel)
  - Speaker Series – next is 3/6
  - Book club for “Palestine’s Children” is 2-23
  - Socialist Art Party 3/29
  - Board game night in April
  - Secret screening of [redacted] February 18th, 5:30 at MCT – screening number 1
  - Shelby Copeland, of the UM National Lawyers Guild
- Editorial & Comms (Robbie) – had two fantastic editorials “Thoughts and Prayers: Health Insurance in America” by Robbie and “Of Sacrifice and Suffering” by Brian
- Labor (Steven) – Starbucks phonebank after meeting, asking for list of Montana union members as part of May Day ramp up, presented Strategic Plan and Budget, budget was approved by chapter but didn’t have time for Strategic Plan
- Eco (Alessandro) – got names of volunteers, sent to Dave Jones to head up working group
- Electoral - filing dates are April 17th-June 16th, primary election is September 9th, general is November 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Sent names of volunteers to head up working group
- **Montana Statewide DSA Constitution Ratification (15 min)**
  - [Montana Democratic Socialists of America Constitution DRAFT 2.docx](#) – **Constitution motioned for ratification, seconded and approved**
    - 3 MT DSA chapter reps – vote – Mark, Lucas, and Sean were nominated and voted in as reps. Robbie and Liam (?) were nominated and declined
- **Steering Committee Elections (20 min)**
  - Position duties:
    - Co-chair - preside over meetings, public spokespersons, coordinate day to day operations and political work, **one of the co-chairs must not identify as male**
      - Rachel and Brendan were nominated and voted in, Wren and Liam were nominated and declined

- Secretary - answers all correspondences, maintains membership list, notifies members when dues need to be assumed, takes notes/minutes – **Steven was nominated and voted in, Charlie and Liam were nominated and declined**
  - Treasurer - custody of all funds and financial records, deposits funds in bank account under Western Montana DSA name, ensures dues are paid in a timely manner, prepares annual budget and delivers progress reports – **Jacqueline Reimers and Sarah McClain were nominated as Co-Treasurers and elected by unanimous vote. Alessandro Mitchell will be removed from the bank account at Clearwater Credit Union and Sarah McClain will be added. Alessandro's debit card will be returned and Sarah McClain will be issued a debit card.**
  - Comms director - maintains communication with working groups, manages social media profiles/interactions – **Brian was nominated and voted in**
  - Harassment and Grievance officer election – **Becca was nominated and voted in, Wren was nominated but declined**
- **New Chapter Projects (30 min)**
  - 2025 Social Calendar
  - May Day 2025 chapter project
    - Saturday February 22nd at MCT 7:30 pm - showing of “Union”, \$15 admission, seniors/students \$12
    - Starbucks picket/phone bank
  - **Ideas: City council – could use help for voting on pesticide bill and parking mandate bill**
- **Announcements - (10 Min)**
  - Newsletter submissions – by Friday February 21st
  - “Voice of the People: Radio by & for the 99%” radio show, Tuesdays 12-2 pm, KFGM 101.5 FM, 1015kfgm.org, or podcast on <https://anchor.fm/vop-montana>
  - Montana DSA has a podcast! <https://anchor.fm/montana-dsa>
  - “On **March 7, 2025, at 7:00 PM at Freecycles**, we—an alliance of leftist organizations—are calling on other leftist groups to join us in coalition building, information exchange, and collective resistance. In the face of ongoing right-wing attacks, we must strengthen our networks, strategize together, and build power. This event is a space for activists, grassroots groups, and organizers to connect, discuss ongoing struggles,

and find ways to support each other in advancing social and economic justice. Whether you're part of an established group or looking to get involved, join us in building a stronger, united movement. No pasará!"

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#### Upcoming Meetings & Dates:

- **Saturday, February 15, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - MT4P Palestine's Day Fundraiser** at 405 University Congregational Church.
- **Sunday, February 16, 2:00 p.m. Western MT DSA Steering/Charting Committee** meeting [via Zoom](#). All are welcome!
- **Wednesday, February 19, 6:00 p.m. Labor Working Group** meeting via Zoom, [contact Mark Anderlik](#) for link.
- **Friday, February 21, 6:00 p.m. at the Union Club - Socialize with Socialists.** Come hang out with your comrades and grow your cell/strengthen your chapter. Curious about socialism but didn't know who to ask? This is one place to start. (Reading *Das Kapital* is another.)
- **Sunday, February 23, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. DSA Book Club** will meet at Fact and Fiction bookstore, back room. Copies of "Palestine's Children" sold out!
- **Monday, February 24, 4:00 p.m. - Social and Outreach** meeting at Flipper's
- **Tuesday, February 25, 6:00 p.m. – Editorial Working Group** meeting, [via Zoom](#). All welcome.
- **Sunday, March 2, 2:00 p.m. – Western Montana DSA Steering/Charting Committee** meeting [via Zoom](#). All are Welcome!
- **Thursday, March 6, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Socialism and Worker Politics in MT History Lecture**, Elks Club.
- **Saturday, March 8, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 p.m. – Western Montana DSA Chapter Meeting**, Goodworks Place, 129 West Alder St., Missoula and [via Zoom](#).