



## WESTERN MONTANA DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA

### General Meeting Agenda

February 5, 2022 10:00 am Missoula Public Library (Blackfoot Rm) & Zoom

#### ○ Openings (15 min)

▪ Native Land opening - Jackie

▪ Introductions: Name, Pronouns, and Question:

“What would you like to see Western MT DSA accomplish in the next year?”

Mark, Josh, Jackie, Elizabeth, Will, Robbie, Jim, Smay, Sandy, Mark, Sarah, Dave, Rachel, John, Bob, Andi, Carol, Chester, Kristen Jordan

▪ Community Agreements for Respectful Discussion (brief) - Jackie

▪ Rotating Roles: Facilitator – Mark; Time – Josh;

Stack –; Notetaker – Will; Zoom Operator – Josh ▪ Today’s Agenda: additions and approval; Sarah moves, Robbie seconds, motion passes

Past Meeting Minutes (Dec 4, 2021 & Jan 8, 2022):

Dec 4th correction and approval: Will moves, Elizabeth seconds motion passes

Jan 8th Robbie moves, Elizabeth seconds Motion passes 14-0-4 ▪ Treasurer’s Report (Jackie) We began the year with \$652.21. We purchased a website for \$116.15 for one year of a domain name, 3 years of web hosting, and 1 year ID protection. We purchased our zoom service for the year for \$155.5. Our ending balance was **\$380.54**.

We gained two new members: Carol Wald and Brian Myers.

120 members total on our list. 71 in good standing, 26 members with lapsed dues and 23 with expired dues with over one year since expiration date. Quorum is 10% of members, so currently 7.1 members. So we easily have quorum today at 18 attendees.

#### ○ Election of Officers (30 min)

▪ **Nominations** - Two Co-chairs: Mark nominated and accepts. Will nominated and declines. Sandy nominated and accepts.

Secretary - Robbie nominates David Jones and guarantees he wants to do it. Josh seconds.,

Treasurer - Robbie nominates Sarah Rachel declines nomination,

Communications Coordinator - Sarah nominates Robbie who accepts, Josh nominates Rachel, who declines

▪ **Election** - Online using **Opavote – via email for in-person and zoom**, bring your electronic device if voting in-person Jackie motions to elect candidates by acclamation, Robbie seconds. The “white ballot” motion passes 18-0.

#### ○ Working Groups (35 min)

▪ EcoSocialist (Dave/John) report - Dave Jones has been on vacation and as de facto chairperson we have not met recently. We have been primarily focused on climate change

and engaged with local climate change related groups. Winona Bateman and Climate Smart just hosted an online viewing of the documentary "Don't Look Up". This Wednesday February 9th there is an in-person gathering from 5:00-6:30pm to discuss the film let people from the different groups engage. The next meeting is currently being scheduled for a Monday. We will return to a meeting schedule when Dave Jones returns.

- Editorial (Robbie) report - We just published our first editorial on Thursday. It was a group project that the Missoulian put Robbie's name on. The Missoulian wants to stay away from having groups publish regular editorials, but are open to individuals submitting whatever they want. They will meet on Tuesday to discuss another article. Sandy Carol Mark Rachel and others have all been meeting. Next Zoom meetings will be February 8th from 5:00 to 6:00 and then February 22nd. Jackie saw the article online and made a clipping. Perhaps future communications directors might take a task like that on. Good work Robbie with condensing a ton of different group perspectives into a coherent writing. Send Robbie your email to get invites to Zoom meetings. He will also send an invitation to the whole group.

- Electoral (Mark) report - Before the start of the year the electoral group met with Kristen and Daniel, who are both getting their political bearings on City Council. We have remained committed to learning how to organize to change how local politics occur. We want to coordinate with Daniel and Kristen to make some substantive campaigns succeed. Denise Joy is one of the statewide socialists in Billings we are working with and statewide organizing plans are unfolding nicely with several other left democrats. Danny Tenenbaum, is not running again for house district 95. Zoey Zephyr just mentioned she identifies herself most closely as a Democratic Socialist and that in the Missoulian she is begging for a nomination. What about Maggie Bornstein? We should also pursue her nomination. Chester reached out to Maggie and she said she would want to do a candidate interview. We have been sending out requests for lots of state legislature campaigners and getting a lot of good responses. Howell who is running for Danny's seat and should be interviewed. Our support for candidates was in the form of door knocking, phone calling, canvassing, and public nominations. We did not donate money to any campaigns, but people did as individuals. We sent letters to the editor in support as well.

- Housing (Josh) Missoula Tenants Union update, report - Josh is reprioritizing and going through a job change. He is excited Sandy is taking over as Co-Chair so he can focus on housing. He went to an event and meeting hosted by organizer Nolan Frye. Josh was sick and did not attend, but Robbie, Chester, Mark, and Simon all attended. They picked the name the Missoula Tenant's Union, as opposed to Missoula Renter's Union (...for various reasons... including that ) They discussed pushing for rent control as their primary campaign and how they would need to focus on state legislatures. Hannah Cosell and MSLA were in attendance and are working on the emergency food assistance program at the food bank. The Renter's Union would like to help this program. Tuesday March 1st is the next meeting. A Facebook page and website are both available for the Tenant's Union.

The Housing Working Group usually meets the third Tuesday of each month. The 15th at 6:00 pm will be the next meeting and if Tuesdays don't work Josh is open to totally revamping the schedule. Lots of our WG meetings are on Tuesdays and we should broadly fix this as an organization.

- Labor (Jackie, Mark) organizing report, meet Weds. 9 am - One organizing campaign is going but is on the backburner moving slowly. They are trying to participate in the national campaign to organize Starbucks. When you get your membership card it says “DSA Organizer” on it. Mark likes that and wants it to be true. Reach out to him to attend a new organizer training campaign based on Jane McAlevey’s method. It will be four classes long and will be happening this month. Each class will offer a key skill and how to practice it. It will focus on organizing at the workplace and ward level, but could be equally focused on a tenant’s union. Mark intends to do this type of training a couple times of year and loves McAlevey’s Congress of Industrial Organizations organizing method. The scheduled rhythm of the class will be Thursday, Sunday, Thursday, Sunday at 6:00 pm this Thursday onward.

- **Current Chapter Projects (2 min)**

- Chapter Instagram Account - Robbie’s on it

- **New Chapter Projects**

- We need Sarah McClain to have access to the pertinent bank accounts and keep Jackie as the secondary account access. Josh motions, Jackie amends to remove Andi from the account, and Robbie seconds the motion. Motion passes 15-0-3 Jackie and Sarah will meet to get Sarah trained up by Jackie.

- **Montana DSA**

- **Regional and National DSA**

- Regional leadership meeting with Beni Batiste – Thursday, February 17, 8:30pm ZOOM.

We have been put in the group called the Pacific Northwest

**Announcements (3 min)**

- “Voice of the People: Radio by & for the 99%” radio show, Sat 1-3 pm, KFGM 105.5, 1055kfgm.org, or podcast on <https://anchor.fm/vop-montana>

- This next Tuesday, February 8th we'll be putting together a delegation to go visit the bonds keeper who is keeping Brandon Bryant’s Mom Lynn Anne’s life savings as a result of his being jailed and bail being posted before he was quickly found innocent. Meet 4:30 at The Ranch Club at their club house to group up before we go knock on her door. Will this be an official DSA event? Not yet, without being voted as such. Is she solely responsible for not releasing these funds? Yes. That is how bail bonds work. 10% of this bail was cash and the other 90% went to her company (The Bond Squad) as collateral. If Brandon had not shown up for his trial, she would have been able to keep Lynn Anne’s retirement savings that made up the other 90% of the bail. There was no regulation of these bail bonds until April of last year. If she is doing this to such a high profile client such as Brandon Bryant in an almost completely unregulated part of our culture, then how might she be treating lower profile citizens?

- **Next Chapter Meetings and Deadline for Agenda items and Motions (2 min)**

- Steering/Charting – Tuesday February 15, 6:00 pm, ZOOM

- Discussion Group – *The Socialist Manifesto*, chapter 2 - Thursday Feb 17, 6:00 pm ZOOM
- Deadline: Business Meeting Agenda items/motions – Wed Feb 23, 5:00 pm
- Business Meeting – Sat Mar 5, 10:00 am, Missoula Library & ZOOM

Robbie motions to adjourn. Josh seconds. We are adjourned.