

June 3, 2023 - DSA Business Meeting

Present: Jackie Reimers, Sarah McClain, David Quattrocchi, Tony Davis, Arthur Endsley, John Wolverton, Mark Anderlik, Pamela Voekel, Bethany Moreton, Chester Seitz, Catherine Parke, Rachel Calderon-Navarro, David Jones, Sandy Burch

Roles:

- **Facilitator:** Sandy
- **Time-keeper:** Sarah
- **Progressive stack:** Mark
- **Note-taker:** Arthur

Introductions

- *Motion to shorten Working Group Reports to 10 minutes (Sandy, Arthur), approved*
 - John: Would like to add Housing as a working group report
- *Motion to approve the agenda (Arthur, Jackie), approved*
- *Motion to approve last meeting's minutes (Jackie, Sarah), approved*

Treasurer's Report (Sarah McClain) - \$6,909.54 total in bank account - \$5,455.53 is reserved for the Legislative Working Group - \$1,454.01 left over - *John submitted a reimbursement request for the WMTDSA Retreat*

Ecosocialist Working Group Report (Dave Jones)

- Need volunteers for tabling at 350.org event, Thursday, June 8, 12:00-2:00p
- Working to get City to approve the Fossil Fuel Non-Prof

Common Good Missoula (Arthur)

- Concerns over pedestrian, cyclist, wheelchair safety have led to a citizen initiative to develop "Gardenwalk Neighborways" along the City's (in name only) "greenways"
 - Look for an action to take place on June 28, walking part of the proposed Gardenwalk network from Reserve and Central Ave to Montana Rail Link Park
- Chester: Any focus on bus users?
- Arthur: To my knowledge, no Mountain Line buses use the proposed Gardenwalk Neighborway routes

Editorial Working Group Report (Sarah)

- Lots of good editorials coming out this month

Statewide Legislative Action (Mark)

- Tomorrow (Sunday) at noon at Northside Park to discuss the possibilities, what it would take to run state-wide ballot initiatives in response to the 2023 Montana Legislative Session

Labor Working Group (Rachel)

- Next meeting is on the third Thursday of June; that will be the regular business meeting where there will be updates on all work with Missoula workplaces
- Last workshop was this past Thursday, on Montana state law
- Next workshop will be viewing a film, “Made in L.A.” on first Thursday of July
- Need to get ready as a chapter to support Teamsters if they do strike in August
 - *Jackie passed out Strike Ready resolution cards to members*
 - Rachel and Mark were nominated as Strike Ready Solidarity Captains
- *Motion to approve Rachel and Mark as Strike Captains (Sandy, John), approved*

Housing Working Group (John)

- Housing Justice Action Research Team has recently broken away from Common Good Missoula
 - Now re-organized as part of the nation-wide group Welcoming Neighbors Network
 - 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at Burns Street Bistro
- Bethany: Koch-brothers funded initiative to eliminate zoning in the name of affordable housing, Montana is a prime target of theirs
- David: Anyone know about this “small town summit”?
 - John: Maggie Bornstein (sp?) is organizing that
 - David: Lots of private property-rights types organizing around this; flying people in from out of state. “Rural West Project” and “New Venture Fund”
 - Bethany: Annual “Zoning Atlas” for Montana is funded by Koch Foundation, etc. with intent to heavily de-regulate municipal codes

Missoula Pride Parade

- Jackie: We talked about tabling at Pride on Saturday, June 17; Bethany and Pamela signed us up to participate
 - How many people are interested in walking in the Parade?
 - Pamela: We were wondering if we could do red and black balloons, handing out balloons to everybody
 - Bethany: Our banner will say: “Democratic Socialists, Fighting Homophobia since 1869”
 - Sarah: Hard to get a hold of helium, it can be expensive
 - Rachel: You could possibly get a small tank at Wal-Mart
- Arthur: Who is the point-person on this? *Bethany*

DSA National Convention

- Arthur: Mark Anderlik is our only current nominee; any nominations for the alternate?
- *David Q. volunteers*
- *Chester volunteers as a back-up* (in case someone gets hit by a bus)
- *Motion to approve Mark as our delegate, David as our alternate, and Chester as a backup* (Sandy, Arthur), *approved*
 - Sandy: Just a note, as a Chapter we will review the proposals that you will be asked to vote on at National

Recruitment Training: Goals (Sandy)

- Suggested number of administrative members we need:
 - Steering Committee (5)
 - Communications (9-10)
 - Technology (2)
 - Coalition Coordinators (2)
 - Harassment and Grievance Officer (1)
- Field work, we need about about 90 people at various times across working groups
- Ratio: 20 administrative members to 90 field members (“We organize the masses”)
 - We currently have more administrative members than field members, which is part of our growing pains
- Roles we need to fill
 - Review of the Steering Committee
 - Communications needs:
 - Coordinator, manages communications
 - Copywriters (2), write copy for publication
 - etc.
 - Technology: Schedule and host Zoom meetings
 - Coalition Coordinators: Represent our chapter, coordinate with partner organizations
 - Work with a broad coalition on specific campaigns with a clear goal
 - *Field members:*
 - Training and recruiting new Field members using McAlevey methodology
 - Event turnout becomes part of structure testing
 - *Labor:*
 - Steering of the Labor Working Group: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary (3x)
 - Labor organizers
 - *Electoral:*
 - Steering (3x)
 - Field leads
 - *Other Field volunteers:*

- Attend events, canvass voters, table at events, raise funds, walk picket lines, increase public support
- Encouraged to become field leads
- *Sandy's recommendations:*
 - SC recruits for all Admin, except Current Editorial team recruits Communications Team
 - Suggest we keep our field volunteer pool general and do not divide folks into labor-solidarity work or electoral-type work; people will choose on their own
 - We can make political education inherent in our structure by combining the two
 - We can be prepared to education people about how labor and community (political economy) are linked
- *Structured Organizing Conversations are the special sauce*
- *Questions or comments?*
 - Bethany: Is it the case that every structure we organize into needs to have a geographic/place-based component?
 - Mark: Not necessarily; but geographic structure is too often ignored and if we're organizing for power, we have to build with specific people in specific places
 - David: Thanks for doing all this Sandy. Would be great if there was some training for new recruits.
 - Mark: I think this effort is geared toward some kind of new member training. When you join DSA, you're called an "organizer" not a "member." The more people that know how to do this sort of thing, the better.

Charting (Jackie)

- *Jackie built a chart showing each active member's engagement with different structure tests*
- David: Would be great if we had dates for each engagement with a member that could help us track member's who fall off
- Sandy: What does this look like when it's done in a workplace (for labor organization)?
 - Mark: It's shared by all workers in the workplace, so everyone has input to help make the chart as accurate as possible.
 - Rachel: For organizing nurses, they broke it down by different nursing groups so that there were natural leaders who could be identified; those leaders can track down members they know very well, e.g., "They haven't signed their labor card yet."
- Mark: These charts are very good for seeing, e.g., this person *was* an officer previously and had to drop off due to family engagements
- Sandy: One way we could move forward is to identify people who have been engaged in the past that we want to reach out to.

- *Motion to set our June Business Meeting as a structure test; each choose one comrade to invite, based on charting (Sandy, Arthur), approved*

Regional and National DSA

- Leadership training is being offered by National DSA on June 10-11, 11:00a to 4:30p, everyone is encouraged to attend;
 - Register at: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/leadership-intensive>
- Regional leadership meeting with Hayley Banyai-Becker on June 20, 2023 at 7:00p

Announcements

- Chapter Instagram account, e-mail your submissions to Jackie
- Newsletter submissions are due by Wednesday, June 21, to Bob Rosen
- Mark: Mark, David Q., and Daniel Carlino were present when the City cleared the houseless encampment near the Russell St. Bridge
 - If anyone is interested in documenting when police go to sweep out houseless encampments, talk to Mark and David
- John: Planning to meet with Kristen Jordan on City Council, about who might run for City Council seats
 - Sandy: Would love to hear a report back to the Steering Committee
- Chester: Meeting with Ward 1 and Ward 3 candidates is at Bonner Park today at 1:00p
- Sarah: Socialize with Socialists will be held at Kiwanis Park on Friday, June 16 at 6:00p

Motion to adjourn (Mark, Rachel), approved