

July 8, 2023 - DSA Business Meeting

Present: Sandy Burch, Jackie Reimers, Robbie Liben, Tony Davis, Arthur Endsley, Catherine Park, Sarah McClain, Mark Anderlik, Rachel Calderon-Navarro, Carla Abrams, Steven Clark, Bob Rosen, John Wolverton

Roles:

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

Introductions

- *Motion to approve the agenda* (Arthur, Mark), *approved*
- *Motion to approve last meeting's minutes* (Jackie, Sarah), *approved*

Treasurer's Report (Sarah McClain)

- We have \$6,707.90 in the bank account
 - \$1,385 belongs to the chapter; \$5,322 to the state-wide legislative working group
- Jackie: Will be submitting a request for reimbursement for printing costs

Native Land Acknowledgement (Tony)

- Arthur: Friendly amendment, could we transpose the words "indigenous" and "stolen" in the first sentence so it reads "built on stolen indigenous lands"?
- Mark: Instead of "pledge to amplify their struggle" change to "pledge to support their struggle"
 - Tony: What's the difference?
 - Mark: To me, "support" means actions and words whereas "amplify" just means audio, means words
- Tony: We have talked about whether the acknowledgement could change in the future. We've also discussed the possibility of having educational material or sessions on settler colonialism, indigenous rights, etc.
- Rachel: Could we evaluate that every election? That's when we have the largest member turnout.
- Jackie: If someone has an idea for education, bring it to the Steering Committee and we'll put it on the agenda.
- *Motion to approve and adopt* (Jackie, Robbie), *accepted*
- Rachel: Should we formally commit to re-evaluating during elections?
 - Sarah: It just takes so much time

- *Motion to approve Arthur and Mark's suggested changes (Tony, Arthur), approved*

DSA National Convention (Mark)

- Convention is coming up, August 4-5 in Chicago; Mark is the Delegate and David Quattrocchi is the Alternate
 - Sarah will need to pay the registration fee by Friday next week.
- Travel donations are needed, donation letter will be e-mailed to members
- On Wednesday, July 26 at Good Works Place (129 W. Alder St.), we'll have a discussion of the resolutions; of particular interest is the re-structuring of National regarding rural chapters...
- Sandy: Should we have a "GoFundMe" campaign for our delegates?
 - Mark: Hadn't considered it but it sounds good.
 - Sandy: Does anyone have experience running this kind of campaign?
 - Robbie: I do; also, we have the ability to set up a fund-raising campaign through Action Network but that could take some time...

Strike Ready Campaign (Mark and Rachel)

- We have a need for volunteers...
 - Phone-banking and text-banking on Mondays at 6:00p in July (July 10, 17, 24, 31)
 - Tabling at Farmer's Markets (July 15, 22, 29) at Caras Market and Hamilton Markets
- Robbie: Also having a fund-raiser event at Imagine Nation on Sunday, July 30, 5:00-8:00p, featuring live music by "Basses Covered"
- Tony: I seem to recall the statistic that 97% of the members who voted did approve the strike?
 - Mark: 97% of the members who voted, but we don't know how many of the bargaining group did vote. I was on the phone with other Solidarity Captains; there are 4 others in Montana. One of them is a Teamsters driver; he said the leadership of Local 2 (Western Montana) aren't interested in DSA's help and that he thinks that's "stupid." So, we're going to continue to help support them. Other Teamsters chapters across the country are embracing the DSA's support. We think they are "almost certain" to go on strike.
 - Sarah: "Stupid" to decline DSA's help?
 - Mark: Yes; in my opinion, the Teamsters leadership is afraid of DSA
- Rachel: Calling on volunteers for these events...
 - July 10 event will be on Zoom, all others will be at Good Works Place
 - Tabling will be at 9:00a on Saturdays in July
- Rachel: Also need volunteers to reach out to any "coalition partners:" Tenants Union, Food Bank, etc. Do you have any connections with other groups?
 - Arthur: I can reach out to Common Good Missoula.

- Sandy: Are we reaching out to the Tenants' Union?
 - Steven: Yes
- Jackie: Anyone have any connection with the UM Grad Student Union?
 - Steven: I can try
- Mark: Maybe we can reach out to Har Shalom...
 - Robbie: I can try
 - Carla: I can get you updated contact information
- Arthur: I can reach out to Free Cycles; what is the ask?
 - Mark: Essentially, 2 basic things: First, to be named as part of this coalition. Second, can they get their members to sign the strike-ready pledge. There will be window posters. If a group has capacity to make food donations or anything like that, to support a strike... That is also part of the question. When people are on strike they're not making any money, so whatever support they could provide is appreciated.
- Robbie: We also want to include information about the July 30 event. And do we want to put out a media advisory?
 - Rachel: Yes, can we put that on MissoulaEvents.net?
 - Robbie: It's already there. I'm looking for other calendars to put it on as well.
- Rachel: Labor Solidarity Fund-raiser at Imagine Nation... Need raffle items donated.
 - Arthur: I can ask Bob G. if they want to donate a nice bike?
 - Jackie: I have some home-made bandannas I can donate.
 - Carla: I can ask at Ten Spoon Winery...
- Mark: Just a note: Never, ever say this event is a fund-raiser "for the Teamsters;" it is a fund-raiser for the Labor Solidarity Fund, which could be used to support the Teamsters or any other labor-activities in general.
 - Jackie: "UPS Workers" might be more palatable...
- Carla: If someone does make a donation, what do we give them?
 - Mark: It's not tax-deductible, but we could send a nice note and thank them on our website.
- Jackie: We need some help making fliers...
 - Rachel: I will take that on

Electoral Campaign Endorsements (Arthur)

- *Motion to endorse Gwen Nicholson for City Council, Ward 1 (Mark, Jackie), passes*
 - Jackie: I remember when Gwen was a member of this chapter in 2018; was very impressed with her, she's a smart person who always had good feedback.
 - Robbie: I did get together with Eric Melson for coffee.
 - Carla: What does she do for a living?
 - Catherine: She's the Budget Director for the Montana Budget & Policy Center.
 - Robbie: I will put up all these candidate questionnaires on our website.
 - Sandy: I don't think we should make these publicly available. Mark?

- Mark: I think we should publish it. Another reason for doing this is to hold the candidates accountable. I think the candidates know that what they're writing down is going to be public.
- Mark: At Steering, we decided we would just do Ward 1.
 - Arthur: We should let the candidates in other races know if we've received a questionnaire from someone in their race. I'll follow up with them.
 - Robbie: Did we send anything to mayoral candidates?
 - Mark: We can send this current one with slight changes.
- Catherine: Gwen left the answer to Question 17, about endorsement, blank...
 - Sarah: During the interview at Steering, she made it clear she would like the endorsement.

Working Group Reports

- **Ecosocialist Working Group** (John)
 - We decided to focus on getting City Council to approve the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty; we tabled at the 350.org event last month.
 - Because of pre-emptions at the State level, we're not going to pursue the SAFE Cities initiative; not going to try to get the City to prohibit fossil-fuel infrastructure, as this doesn't seem likely to be successful.
 - Dave Jones has been communicating with Dave Harmon.
 - We'll be meeting with Amber Sherrill about the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- **Common Good Missoula** (Arthur)
 - June 28 event was a success; Mayor Jordan Hess and Public Works and Mobility staff (Aaron Wilson, Ben Weiss) were there and made public commitments to support the Gardenwalk Neighborways project. They made a public commitment of support and to direct City resources to get the project started before this winter.
 - Western MT DSA was very visible at this event, alongside coalition partners; Mark, Robbie, John, Dave, Daniel Carlino, Kristen Jordan were present.
- **Housing Working Group** (John)
 - The Housing Justice Action Research Term broke away from Common Good Missoula, we're now called "Pro-Housing Missoula;"
 - There are members from DSA (Danny Tannenbaum, David Quattrocchi), from the Northside...
 - Governor is extending the Housing Task Force through 2025; Danny Tannenbaum is deciding whether he will continue in that capacity
 - We're meeting twice a month on Tuesdays at 6:00p
 - Sandy: Would be great if we could interview Danny on the podcast...
 - John: We need a pro-bono graphic designer to do our logo...
 - Mark: Arthur, David Q., Josh Decker, myself and others are organizing around the City's inept response to the houselessness crisis; Daniel Carlino and Kristen Jordan are also involved. We want to figure out an immediate strategy to

prevent the City's clearances of unhoused campers. If you're interested, get a hold of one of us. We're going to meet with leaders of the unhoused community. One of the aspects of this is not only a legal challenge but to help the unhoused organize themselves so they can advocate for themselves.

- **Editorial Working Group** (Robbie)
 - Roughly 2 editorials published per month; "Keep Truth Alive" by Sarah and one by Robbie
 - We should do an editorial about Strike Ready
 - And about Pro-Housing Missoula?
- **Statewide Legislative Working Group** (Mark)
 - Met earlier in June to talk about potential ballot initiatives, training for how to organize ballot initiatives.
 - How to think strategically about these things...
 - Tony: Thanks to our wonderful legislature, isn't there a cost added to ballot initiatives? Can we change that?
 - Mark: A lawsuit has been filed challenging that law.
 - Sarah: That particular bill... Aren't its impacts suspended while the lawsuit proceeds?
 - Mark: I haven't heard that a judge issued an injunction... It might have happened.
 - Sarah: When are you meeting next as a group?
 - Mark: No planned meeting
- **Labor Working Group** (Steven)
 - Starbucks on Brooks won its Union election, 11 votes to 6
 - Had a movie night where we watched "Made in L.A."
 - Our next meeting is July 20 at 6:00p; e-mail labor@westernmtdsa.org for location and Zoom information
- **Steering/Recruitment** (Sandy)
 - We're working on it!

Regional and National DSA Meeting - Next is July 25 at 6:00p on Zoom

Announcements - Chapter Instagram account, help us become more visible! - Newsletter submissions due to Bob Rosen by Wednesday, July 26

Motion to adjourn (Arthur, Jackie), *passes*