

Western Montana Democratic Socialists of America
Minutes of Steering Committee meeting of February 28, 2023

Present: Sandy, Mark, Tony, Sarah

Approval of minutes of steering committee meeting of February 7, 2023 tabled until next steering committee meeting to be held on March 14, 2023.

Additions to agenda for tonight's meeting: Tony would like to discuss the Land Acknowledgement.

Motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting is made by Mark, Sandy seconds, agenda is approved.

Planning for general meeting on March 4: Going through the agenda for Saturday's meeting:

Robbie will be asked by Sandy to be the zoom host. Robbie may want to be at the meeting in person, but could operate zoom from the Blackfoot room. Ice breaker: In brief, what quality would you like to see grow in this chapter in the coming year? Tony will do the Rules for respectful discussion. Mark and Sandy will facilitate the meeting. Sarah will take notes. Tony will be the timekeeper. Jackie will be asked to do stack.

Mark will have the Opa-vote process ready in case it is needed, though if there is only one candidate for each position, we could vote them in by acclamation. No one is running for Mark's position as co-chair. Mark says each candidate needs to give a brief introduction to themselves and/or their goals for the coming year should they be elected.

Robbie should send, in his announcement of the meeting, a request for members to bring their own cups and plates etc. A motion is made by Sandy to vote \$50 for sandwiches, Mark seconds, so voted. Sarah will buy the food.

Campaign plans: We need to extend the projected time to 50 minutes. Each campaign plan will be given an oral summary by a member of the respective working group, there will follow a discussion of the plan and then a vote whether to approve each plan. Jackie will be asked by Sandy to print some of the plans for the meeting. Robbie should send these plans, which are all due to be sent to the co-chairs by March 1, out to the membership with the announcement of the meeting, purpose of the meeting, the pot-luck aspect, and cups etc. He should do this by Thursday March 2.

Tony's Land Acknowledgement discussion is postponed until the next steering committee meeting on March 14. Tony will send to the steering committee, by email, an example of the ballot for the vote he envisions on the Land Acknowledgement questions and projections. He will meet with Amber Sherrill to get her take on Land Acknowledgements.

Mark wants to announce, at the general meeting, that there will be a state-wide meeting on March 5 in Helena. He has arranged for the deadline for registration to be extended to March 4 so he will be able to register people at the general meeting and organize car-pools. He expects our chapter to be able to give a brief presentation at the meeting in Helena.

Mark and Sandy will sketch out the steering committee's goals for the coming year. Tony wants a greater role for an education program, as does Sarah. Sandy says that is her goal also, but we must be

able to attract more participation than the previous, recently discontinued, education/reading/discussion monthly meeting typically did.

Mark and Sarah are concerned that the war I Ukraine should be getting the attention of our chapter and that we need to start a movement for negotiations, not escalation, as is the present US policy. Perhaps we could organize a teach-in. Mark will draw up a short list of positions to be voted on at the general meeting so we can see where people may stand. We will spend 10 minutes at the general meeting on this subject and voting on the positions.

The meeting is adjourned. These are the minutes, submitted in solidarity, Sarah, Treasurer/acting secretary.