

March 14, 2023 - DSA Steering Committee

Present: Sandy Burch, Sarah McClain, Mark Anderlik, Robbie Liben, Jackie Reimers, Tony Davis, Arthur Endsley

Recorded by: Arthur Endsley

- Motion to approve Steering Committee's agenda (*Motion:* Jackie, *Seconded:* Robbie): Passes
- Motion to approve General Meeting minutes (Sarah, Robbie): Passes
- **Thoughts on March 4 General Meeting?**
 - Sandy: Elections took more time than we thought, might take even more if we had a competitive slate
 - Mark: Potluck meal afterwards was appreciated
 - Sandy: Deep sense of relief to have campaign plans from Working Groups
 - Arthur: We could do a better job making sure everyone can see the projector screen, sit closer if they need to
 - Jackie: And we could make sure that people who speak softly sit closer to the microphone
 - Robbie: Our meeting with the DSA National Field Rep. is next Tuesday
 - Mark: We've had trouble securing the Blackfoot Room at the Library; it would be good to think of another venue.
 - Jackie: Good Works Ventures is an option, but requires no less than 90 days notice
- **Working Group Member Recruitment Phone Calls**
 - Mark: I like this idea; a survey form would be useful when calling members, to facilitate a more in-depth conversation; this could lead to a database that can help to identify member interests.
 - Jackie: If our list is small, I don't think we need an auto-dialer
 - Arthur: A phone-banking event can help motivate people but the trade-off is less flexibility
 - Jackie: Not cold-calling them to sell a vacuum cleaner, you're calling them because they're interested in DSA
 - Mark: With us reaching out to just a few people a month it wouldn't take very long to get through the list
 - Sandy: We could ask the Working Groups to have that longer conversation with members that are interested
 - Tony: Calling shortly before the "Socialize with Socialists" event would create an opportunity to invite members to have that longer conversation in a casual setting
 - Sandy: The next thing to do is present this at our next Business Meeting

- **Motion to present the Working Group Member Recruitment plan to the Working Groups at the next Business Meeting**
(Sandy, Robbie): Passes
- Jackie: Could the Secretary compile a list of the motions that is separate from the minutes?
- **New business: May Day Event**
 - Jackie: Intent was to have it on a weekend in the park, could combine it with the General Meeting
 - Sarah: Could we have it in the evening? A dinner picnic?
 - Sandy: We should have a big party, get a band, make it a fundraiser for the Teamsters effort
 - Mark: We could probably have it at the Union Club, inside; if it was in the evening
 - *Mark offers to discuss the proposal with John at the Union Club, Steering Committee agrees*
 - Mark: Union Club doesn't require a cover for bands, but we could ask for a donation for the Teamsters at the door, then pass the hat inside
 - Sarah: What happens to the money collected if they don't strike?
 - Sandy: Could we just give the money to the Teamsters anyway?
 - Jackie: Do we need to talk to the Teamsters?
 - Mark: Let's discuss when discussing the Strike Ready Resolution
- *Committee agreed to move Organizing in the Flathead to next Steering Committee meeting.*
- **Old business: Ukraine War Resolution**
 - Mark: One idea is to have an Education meeting on this subject; and after debate and consideration to have a vote on this at a Business Meeting; there's been no resolution from DSA National since February 26, 2022. The intent is to start an informed conversation and move us to action. We can only influence our own government.
 - Robbie: I disagree that we have no influence on Russia; look at the global protests around Iraq War
 - Mark: I think we're losing our anti-imperialist credentials by not having a statement since February 26, 2022. Scheduling an Education group to discuss... Mark would prepare for that and invites others to do so as well.
 - Sandy: This is really important, but we can barely handle what we have on our plates right now. Perhaps this could be an issue area we invite new members to take on when we make calls for the Working Group Member Recruitment.
 - Robbie: Talking about starting a new Working Group or a single event?

- Mark: Thinking it would be a single event; if there’s a call to action we can move forward as a group.
 - Sarah: Would you ask again for member authorization to present this to National?
 - Mark: All I’m proposing here is to have an Education meeting to discuss this draft resolution. The action could be sending a letter to National, could be an Op-Ed, could be a march. . . Not saying what we’re going to do but this would put us in a place where we could move ahead.
 - Arthur: Not a huge time commitment if we pitch this as an invitation for those who are interested to debate the issue and the resolution. We should identify what Business Meeting we want to introduce a potential resolution at.
 - Jackie: Are they going to discuss this at the National Convention?
 - Mark: More than likely; I would suggest we try to get a resolution ready for the May Business Meeting. If it doesn’t feel ready by then we can still push it back.
 - *Committee agrees that we will plan to introduce a resolution at our May meeting and hold an Education meeting in the interim*
 - *Mark will put out a call for the Education meeting*
- **Old business: Strike Ready Resolution**
 - Mark: We have the option to revise this resolution; can take it the Labor Working Group and vote on the modified plan later. Labor Working Group is meeting on March 16.
 - *Agreed that Mark will present the results at the next Steering Committee Meeting*
- **Old business: Native Land Acknowledgement**
 - Tony: I have a ballot we could present to the membership or we could take a straw poll.
 - **Motion to put the ballot in front of the membership** (Tony, Arthur): Passes
- **Old business: Josh Slotick, Sales Tax**
 - Mark: Left a message for him, not heard back yet
- **Old business: Comms Question**
 - Robbie: Who wants to receive e-mail queries to the Western Montana DSA address (info@westernmtdsa.org)? We sometimes get important e-mails from National. . .
- **Motion to adjourn** (Jackie, Robbie): Passes