

## May 9, 2023 - DSA Steering Committee

**Present:** Sarah McClain, Robbie Liben, Jackie Reimers, Tony Davis, Arthur Endsley

*Recorded by:* Arthur Endsley

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

### Regarding today's Agenda

- Max asked if we would consider endorsing a candidate for City Council
  - Get questionnaire from Mark and send it to the candidate, present the results at the next Business Meeting
    - \* Robbie: Should we review the questionnaire first?
    - \* Sandy: Yes
    - \* *Robbie will get the questionnaire from Mark and make it available to Steering.*
    - \* Robbie: And let's get the results added as an item to next Business Meeting agenda
    - \* Next Business Meeting includes voting on Land Acknowledgment, National Delegates

### Member Recruitment Plan

- Sandy: We want to increase active membership by a certain amount. Right now we have about 20-25 probably; if we want to increase that by 10, that would be reasonable. That's the most straightforward goal.
  - Beyond that, we could use charting and structure tests in practice.
  - Need a demand to get people excited; could recruit people into specific campaigns
- Robbie: We need an ask, this can lead to a structure test: Who can we count on?
- Jackie: We should find out what new members' interests are. "We have multiple working groups: What is your interest?"
  - Robbie: Some people are mad about things going; they want to do something. But just telling them about the working groups may not be effective. A specific demand might be more impactful. Housing is a big concern.
- Sandy: When talking to potential members, we have to be ready to respond to their concerns. "Oh, you're concerned about housing? You should hear about our plan to..." For each issue area we work in...
- Robbie: The global goal is replacing capitalism, but what are the local actions we're going to take along the way?
  - Sandy: We may need to make those connections for people.
- *Intended outcomes*
  - Increase active membership from 20-25(?) active members...
  - Arthur: We've had 15-18 members present at the last two General Meetings...

- Sandy: Have the attended a Business Meeting recently? Are they a member of a Working Group? Did they attend one of the last two retreats? These would all be part of a structure test.
- Tony: Another thing might be a resource for getting involved as a first-time member.
  - Sarah: We have a welcoming packet that we give to people. We have physical copies as well as electronic copies.
  - *Robbie volunteers to make this document available on our website*
- Jackie: Sandy, your plan was to go over the chart at the next meeting. . . And recruit people to call people?
- *Rough timeline*
  - Mid-June: Recruitment training?
  - July Business Meeting for charting?
  - Late July: Big fun event for the Teamsters, where *Basses Covered* might play?
    - \* Jackie: Do you [Robbie] have a venue picked out?
    - \* *Sarah will contact Imagine Nation Brewing*

#### **Location of Next Business Meeting**

- Both JRPC and the Library are an option for the next meeting
- Robbie: Tony how was your experience over Zoom when we were at JRPC?
  - Tony: It was fine. Couldn't hear people well at all.
  - Robbie: Audio issues are the same at both venues; need to figure out something with the microphone. One downside with JRPC is that the microphone is farther away. . . But when the weather is nice out, JRPC gives us an outdoor seating option.
- Jackie: We'll need to be back at the JRPC in July, anyway.
  - Sarah: I vote for consistency.
  - Robbie: According to Conor, we'll have no problem reserving JRPC for Saturday mornings.
- *Decided to hold June and July meetings at JRPC*

#### **National Delegates**

- Jackie: Need any alternates?
- Arthur: We have three nominations already (Jackie, Mark, John Wolverton), so no new ones needed.

#### **Robbie is going to be out of town. . .**

- *Arthur volunteered to help, will meet with Robbie to discuss*

#### **Necessary to get someone to do social media for our chapter?**

- Instagram has helped get a couple of people to General Meetings in the past. . .
- Tony: I could help with Facebook. . . I know nothing of Instagram.
- Sarah: I don't think we need a separate Working Group for Communications. . .

- Jackie: This is something we could recruit someone new to help with...

### **New Business**

- Robbie: We had a good Ukraine discussion at the end of April... Should we have a May discussion group?
  - Sarah: I was concerned about how many abstentions there were...
    - \* Arthur: Number of abstentions were a reflection of how controversial the topic was...
    - \* Sarah: But we could have included statements condemning Russia...
    - \* Robbie: Sarah, you could write a new draft and see if there is support for it
    - \* Sarah: We were determined to send it to DSA National, but then Hayley told us they had a National statement...
  - Robbie: We were talking at our May Day event about “identity politics...”
  - Arthur: What if we had a discussion group relevant to a campaign we want to get started?
  - Jackie: I do see a need for the kinds of conversations at our May Day event... It’s political education, it’s something we should be talking about...
    - \* Sarah: I agree with you, Jackie, and I think it’s important that we know each, trade ideas with each other.
    - \* Robbie: We could informally inject a topic into “Socialize with Socialists”
  - *No discussion group on the 17th of May*
    - \* Jackie: It might be kind of bad having the Discussion Group and “Socialize with Socialists” in the same week
    - \* Robbie: We should stagger them
- Sandy: Okay with the recruitment timeline?
  - Arthur: Might be hard to get turn-out for Saturday General Meetings in July...
  - Robbie: “The revolution will not be televised” meets Western MT DSA’s, “The revolution will not be in July”

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