

Twin Cities DSA - Annual Meeting Agenda

September 30, 2018 1:00 pm (check-in opens)

JBD Lecture Hall, Macalester College

Saint Paul, MN

1:00 pm	Check in begins.
1:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Call to order and welcome, donation reminder● Introductory business<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Land acknowledgementb. Community Agreements (<i>see page 3</i>)c. Adopting meeting rules (<i>see pages 4-5</i>)d. Adopting the agendae. Volunteers: timekeeper, tellers (2 - 6), stack keeperf. Quorum checkg. Accept minutes of last Annual Meeting (<i>see pages 6-9</i>)
1:40 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Election of Officers for 2018-2020 term<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Co-chair 2 (<i>see pages 11-12</i>)<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Nominations from pre-select & from floorii. Q&A sessioniii. Voteb. Social Secretary (<i>see page 12</i>)<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Nominations from pre-select & from floorii. Q&A sessioniii. Votec. Political Activism Coordinator (<i>see page 13</i>)<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Nominations from pre-select & from floorii. Q&A sessioniii. Vote
2:20 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Resolutions - brief intro., debate if requested, vote<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Resolution to support creation of a statewide DSA organization (<i>see page 14</i>)b. Resolution to adopt a proposed endorsement process (<i>see pages 14-15</i>)c. Resolution to begin process of creating a chapter political platform (<i>see page 15</i>)
2:35 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Proposed By-law Amendments - brief intro., debate if requested, vote

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Amend Item I Section 2 Notice Requirement to conform to Item I Section 4 Notice Requirement (<i>see page 16</i>) b. Amend Item 2 to split the current Social Secretary position into two positions (<i>see pages 16-17</i>)
2:40 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bylaws group presentation on future Bylaw amendment proposals (<i>see page 18</i>)
2:45 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reports from Selected Officers (3 min. each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Outgoing co-chair b. Treasurer (plus Pitch for donations) (<i>see page 19</i>) c. Political Education Coordinator d. Social Secretary e. Organizer of Grievance Process (non-elected) (<i>see pages 20-21</i>)
3:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ballots to elect officers must be submitted
3:00-3:20 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Break ● Tellers count ballots for officer elections
3:20 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Announce vote results for new officers
3:25 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Address to members
3:40 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brad McGarr campaign for Shakopee City Council update
3:50 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Branch and Working Group Updates and Pitches (<i>see pages 21-22</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Labor Branch b. Housing Justice Branch c. Electoral Branch d. Socialist Feminists Branch e. Racial Justice Branch f. Minnesota Valley Branch g. Ramsey County Branch h. Health Justice (Medicare-for-all) Working Group i. Mutual Aid Working Group j. Inreach Working Group
4:35 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Macalester YDSA organizing update
4:40 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Song: Solidarity Forever (<i>see page 23</i>) ● Motion to Adjourn

Community Agreements

- 1. Progressive Stack** – *The Facilitator keeps a list of names from people who raise their hand*
Progressive Stack is a form of leading discussions which involves a facilitator keeping a list of names of people who wish to speak. The facilitator scans the group during discussion and if someone wishes to speak, they raise their hand and catch the facilitator's eye. The facilitator nods and makes eye contact to indicate the person is now put on the list to speak, and then the person can put their hand down so it does not distract other discussion participants. However, the facilitator does not simply write a list of names in the order that people raise their hand. Rather, if someone who has not spoken raises their hand, they go to the top of the list. If someone who is of an oppressed group raises their hand, they go to the top of the list unless they have already contributed significantly to the discussion.
- 2. Why Am I Talking** – *When in discussion, please ask yourself "Why am I talking (WAIT)?"*
We have a limited amount of time for discussion and to accomplish the tasks before us. When in discussion, please ask yourself "Why am I talking (WAIT)?" Consider whether or not what you want to say has already been said, whether what you want to say is on topic or if there's a better time and place to say it, and other methods for showing how you feel about the conversation (nodding your head, etc.)
- 3. Step Up, Step Back** – *When you speak, after you make your point, let others speak*
Help create a safe and inclusive space for everybody. Please respect others by recognizing how often, much, and loud you're speaking and whether or not you're dominating conversation. Step back to leave space for others to voice their opinions and feelings. If the facilitator of the meeting asks you to wrap up, recognize that you should step back. This especially applies to participants who have privileged backgrounds. On the other hand, if you don't often speak up, we encourage you to do so now!
- 4. Use "I" Statements** – *Speak from your perspective, rather than assuming that of other people*
Speak for yourself and from your own experience
- 5. One Diva, One Mic** – *One person speaks at a time*
Many of us will have different opinions on matters. However, speaking while others are talking or adding comments when they cannot respond appropriately does not build community. If you have a disagreement, wait for your turn to address it. This is basic politeness.
- 6. Listen (Don't Wait to Talk)** – *Genuinely pay attention to what others say*
Actively listen to others. When someone makes a point, repeat what you heard, and summarize.
- 7. Assume Best Intentions, But Challenge** – *Give people the benefit of the doubt, but don't be afraid to challenge others when they say something you disagree with*
Assume good faith in each other. Ask clarifying questions like "did you mean X" or "what makes you say that" to get more information. Encourage yourself and others to maintain a positive attitude, honor the work of others, avoid defensiveness, be open to legitimate critique and challenge oppressive behaviors in ways that help people grow. We want to "call each other in" rather than calling each other out — in other words, if you are challenging someone's ideas or behavior, do it respectfully, and if you are being challenged, receive it respectfully.
- 8. Oops, Ouch** – *Acknowledge when you make a mistake*
Remember, mistakes will be made, nobody is perfect.

MEETING RULES

1. General rules for business

- 1.1. The convention will be called to order at 1:30 pm.
- 1.2. Quorum, both the number required and whether that number or more are present, will be determined by the Social Secretary.
- 1.3. Admittance will be monitored by duly appointed marshals. Anyone found to be violating the community agreements will be subject to ejection from the convention.
- 1.4. Only members of the Twin Cities DSA who are current on their dues are allowed to vote on issues before the body.
- 1.5. Business will be conducted before the non-business parts of the meeting. Any business not completed by the break will be completed as quickly as possible after the break.
- 1.6. There will be a break of no less than twenty minutes, no later than 3:30pm. The timing will be at the discretion of the chairs.
- 1.7. Election of officers will be the first order of business, to commence no earlier than 1:40 pm.
- 1.8. Eligible TCDSA members will receive a balloting card. During hand votes, only hands holding a balloting card will be valid.
- 1.9. All press will be required to check in upon arrival. While on the floor of the meeting, press will be required to wear and display their press badges at all times.
- 1.10. As per TCDSA bylaws, amendments to bylaws or constitution on the agenda require a $\frac{2}{3}$ supermajority if those voting to pass. All other votes require a simple majority of those voting.
- 1.11. Due to time restriction, if members wish to propose any other new business, whether amendments, resolutions, or other, it must be referred to the Steering Committee for inclusion in a future general meeting.

2. Special rules for election of officers

- 2.1. At check-in of members, each member will receive a written ballot for each officer election (ie three.) It will be the responsibility of the check-in volunteers to ensure no multiple or unauthorized ballots are given out.
- 2.2. Each office will be addressed in turn except for balloting which will be open as specified below. Once the agenda has moved past an office, only points of information on that office will be in order.
- 2.3. Pre-nominated candidates will be printed on a ballot, and space will be allowed for additional nominations from the floor. A "NOTA" option (none of the above) will be added to each ballot.
 - 2.3.1. The chairs will open the nomination period and ask for nominations. After they have asked three times with no further answer, nominations will be closed.
 - 2.3.2. Only DSA members current on their dues and present at the convention are eligible for nomination. Additionally, cisgender males are not eligible for the co-chair nomination. Eligible members may self-nominate.
- 2.4. Candidate speeches will be allowed after nominations close. Candidate speeches will be no more than one minute in length.
- 2.5. Question and Answer period
 - 2.5.1. Question blanks for each office will be available at the member check-in table. Only members may submit questions.

- 2.5.2. The chairs will select questions at random, if there are more than three per office, to ask the candidates during the question and answer period.
- 2.5.3. Answers will be no more than one minute in length.
- 2.6. If there are no nominations from the floor, a motion to elect by acclamation will be in order after the Q&A period.
 - 2.6.1. If acclamation is moved but fails, the convention will proceed to balloting, with only the single candidate and None of the Above as available options.
- 2.7. All ballots will be collected as soon as possible and held in a secure place until the break for counting. Ballots will be counted by tellers volunteering from the floor. There will be at least two tellers.
- 2.8. Election of officers requires the candidate to get 50% + one votes or more of those casting a ballot.
- 2.9. If there is more than one candidate for a given office, a ranked choice voting (RCV) system will be used to avoid multiple ballots.
 - 2.9.1. The chair will instruct the members how to fill in a RCV ballot if this becomes necessary.
 - 2.9.2. It is possible for no candidate to gain 50% + one due to voters only voting for #one. If this occurs, the position remains vacant and will be filled temporarily as specified in the bylaws.
- 2.10. The following will constitute a spoiled ballot:
 - 2.10.1. Voting for NOTA plus any candidate
 - 2.10.2. Write-ins (ie candidates not nominated)
 - 2.10.3. If RCV is used, not ranking candidates, unless only one is voted for (ie voting Y or 1 for more than one candidate.)
- 2.11. Balloting for officer positions will be open at 1:40 pm and close at 3:00 pm.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Twin Cities DSA - Annual Meeting Agenda Sunday, September 17, 2017

1:30 pm

Call to order [Meeting called to order at 1:31PM.](#)

Facilitators: Nic Raymond, co-chair; Deb Ramage, co-chair; Ian Ringgenberg, chair of Labor and Economic Justice Branch Minute-taker: [Bridget Helwig](#)

1:30–1:35 pm

Introductions - [Honored guests: Dan Frankot, a founding member of the chapter. Barb Tilsen, songmeister.](#)

Icebreaker - [“Raise your hand” icebreaker, updated membership count - chapter has quadrupled in size since November 2016.](#)

taking volunteers - [Timekeeper: Andy Guthrie. Ballot counters: Ian and ??.](#) Stack-taker: to be determined.

approving the agenda - [Motion made to approve the agenda; seconded; all approved; motion passed.](#)

1:35–2:45 pm

Educational part of the meeting

1:35–1:40 pm

Report-backs from Chicago - [Andrea Palumbo \(2016 delegate\) gave update. Attended two seminars - Medicare for All with Tim Faust \(of Chapo fame\) presenting will be visiting the Twin Cities in October; Legislation California spoke about their ballot issue in California. National DSA member introduced the national effort.](#)

[Other seminar was on the Religious Left. Will be looking to revitalize this tendency in this chapter. Andrea, Deb Ramage, and Brad McGarr are points of contact.](#)

1:40–1:48 pm

Community Agreements

[Bree Richardson reviewed the DSA community agreements. Laura Hundt volunteered to take stack. Aye agreement to the community agreements.](#)

1:48-1:55 pm

[Presentation by Zac Echola, Red River DSA and National Political Committee member.](#)

[Arcane rules - came to speak about the seldom practiced part of the national constitution, including:](#)

- [National Activist Convention \(socialist summer camp\) - summer 2018.](#)
- [Creation of a statewide organization - two or more chapters. Would serve DSA members who live outside of the geographic area of existing chapters. Important not only to those people but to chapter members as well solidarity as an organization.](#)

[Spoke about the post-hurricane Mutual Aid efforts of Houston DSA and chapters in Florida, who are forming a statewide organization to address such efforts.](#)

1:55–2:33 pm

World Cafe on Socialism 101 highlights

[Breakout session - groups of four to five people discuss organizations, campaigns, and movements, as well as how attendees see DSA functioning as an organization as it relates to campaigns and movements.](#)

2:33–2:35 pm

Pitches for Branches, Caucuses, Committees and Working Groups

Due to time constraints won't have time to present all the chapter sub-organizations. Directed attendees to the packet and "Get Connected" handout for more information.

2:35–2:37 pm

Announcement of Campus Labor Institute, invitation

Ian Ringgenberg and Harrison Frisk presenting. CLI is a lovechild of the Labor and Economic Justice and YDSA branches. Done in the 80s and 90s to connect the youth and labor organizers. Ratcliffe and Teamster Organizers will be leading workshops. Free and open to all. Facebook event is on the TCDSA page, October 21st

2:37–2:39 pm

Sheigh Freeberg presents. Spoke about Bernie's Medicare for All campaign and postcard reach out to Amy Klobuchar.

2:39–2:52 pm

Anticapitalista chant, break, social time. [Get a cup of coffee on TCDSA!](#)

2:53 pm

Deadline to submit political policy resolutions for chapter consideration

2:53–3:55 pm

Business part of meeting

2:53–2:54 pm

Announcement of Quorum - [Teller Ian announces that quorum has been reached.](#)

2:54–2:58 pm

Brief reports from outgoing Treasurer, Social Secretary, Political Education Coordinator and Political Activism Coordinator

- Treasurer (John Heppen): \$589.10 in the general fund (collections at meetings, sales of t-shirts, buttons, Twin tickets). \$602 (\$321 from the party and \$281 from tshirts) from the Chicago Convention travel fund.
- Social Secretary: Absent. Ian Ringgenberg standing in. As of August 31st TCDSA had 383 members. Given the amount of members at the meeting who raised their hands as having joined in the last few weeks we are likely over 400. Please renew your lapsed memberships.
- Political Education Coordinator: TCDSA 101 and 102 will be continued. A chapter-sourced recommended reading list is now available and is a work in progress. Basic structure of a chapter library exists and will be getting added to soon.
- Political Activism Coordinator: Absent.

2:58–3:31 pm

- Proposed constitution or bylaw amendments - move, debate ([time for 1 minute speech for and against](#)), and vote:
 - Amendment to process for Nominations and Voting - [Amendment passes.](#)
 - Amendment to add At-large Member Reps to SC, to be elected at next meeting - [Amendment fails.](#)
 - Amendment to Term Limits for Officers and At-large SC Members - [Amendment withdrawn as contingent on the passing of the second amendment.](#)
 - Amendment to change gender requirements for Co-chairs - [Motion to extend debate passed. Motion to table the amendment for a later date fails. Amendment passes.](#)
 - Amendment to clarify how members create a Branch/Section/Caucus - [Amendment passes.](#)
 - Amendment to clarify internal governance of Branch/Section/Caucus - [Motion to table the amendment for a later date fails. The amendment fails.](#)

3:31–3:50 pm

Election of Officers and Constitutional Officers for 2017–2018. Motion to allow 30 second speeches from candidates in contested positions passes.

- Co-chair Candidate(s): No nominations from the floor. Nic Raymond is the only candidate. Movement for acclamation passes.
- Treasurer Candidate(s): No nominations from the floor. Rob Trump is the only candidate. Movement for acclamation passes.
- Political Activism Coordinator Candidate(s): No nominations from the floor. Sheigh Freeburg is the only candidate. Movement for acclamation passes.
- Social Secretary Candidate(s): No nominations from the floor. Candidates are Bradley McGarr and Deanna Galus. To be voted on via paper ballot.
- Recording Secretary Candidate(s): No nominations from the floor. Lauren Nielsen is the only candidate. Movement for acclamation for passes.
- Political Education Coordinator Candidate(s): No nominations from the floor. Point of information for clarification of the position's roles and responsibilities. Candidates are Anders Bloomquist, Jed Hovey, Dave Kamper, and Lawrence Winans. To be voted on via paper ballot.

3:45–3:52 pm

Voting, Ballot Counting, and Short Break

3:52–3:57 pm

Item: Allocation of convention funds - Motion to merge allocation of convention funds with the general fund passes.

Resolutions taken up (must be submitted to a co-chair before the break) -

- Amendment for a Priority Resolution for the SC to instate committees in charge of creating and implementing chapter-wide standard operating practices for the remainder of 2017 - Motion to table resolution passes.

3:57–4:00 pm

Announcement of election results for Officers and Constitutional Officers; 50%+1 reached to elect:

- Political Education Coordinator: Anders Bloomquist
- Social Secretary: Deanna Galus

Motion to retain ballot for thirty (30) days passes.

4:00–4:07 pm

Announcements of other upcoming events and actions

- Socialist Feminism Branch - Contact Bree Richardson. Wedge Table 5:45-6:45 pm on Monday, September 25th. Clarification of intent and three month plan for group.
- Ramsey County Interest Group - Contact Anders Bloomquist.
- Ecosocialism Interest Group - Contact Mac McCormick. Next meeting is October 10th, location pending.
- Election Guide Working Group - Contact Mac McCormick. Questionnaire is pending SC approval, members are asked to contact their representatives to fill it out once released.
- Housing Working Group - Contact Chris Knutson. Next meeting is Thursday, September 28th at the Downtown Minneapolis Library.
- YDSA at UMN - Contact Harrison Frisk. Regular meetings will be starting up.
- Labor and Economic Justice Branch - Contact Ian Ringgenberg. Next meeting held this Thursday 6:00-7:00 pm at the Teamster's Union Hall on University Avenue.
- Elder's Interest Group and Religious Socialist Caucus - Contact Deb Ramage.
- Medicare for All Interest Group - Contact Kim Jones Tuesday, September 26th 7:00 pm N-402 at the Minneapolis Central Library.

- Criminal Justice Interest Group - Contact Snowden Stieber or Andrea Palumbo. Will have a legal and law enforcement purview. Brake light repair planning session is being held this Tuesday, September 19th, at Boneshaker Books.
- National Research Service - Presented by Lucas Harder. National working group currently being formed.

Any new business

Freelance Journalist Brett has been writing about the chapter, whether you are new or not feel free to talk to him about your experiences with the DSA.

4:07–4:14 pm

Closing activities Barb Tilsen will teach and lead “We’ve Got the Right” and “Bread and Roses”

(For those who want to stick around a little longer, we have other songs too: “Step by Step”, “Solidarity Forever”, “The Internationale”, and also other chants)

4:14 pm

Motion to adjourn meeting passes.

After the meeting, members are invited to gather at Old Chicago near the HarMar Mall (2100 Snelling Ave, Roseville, MN 55113) for a social meetup/gathering

Basics Behind Robert's Rules of Order

MAIN MOTION

You want to propose a new idea or action for the group.

- After recognition, make a main motion.
- Member: "I move that_____."
- All motions must be seconded or they expire.
- Unless not debatable, motions are debated until ready for a vote (see below)
- A new motion is *not in order* when another motion is "on the floor" ie being considered, *except* a motion to amend the motion *or* moving the previous question.

PREVIOUS QUESTION

You think discussion has gone on for too long and you want to stop discussion and vote.

- After recognition, "I move the previous question."
- Must be seconded.
- Not debatable. Immediate vote on call of previous question, and if successful, immediate vote on the present motion.

EXTEND DEBATE

Rules say the debate is over, but you need more time.

- After recognition, "I move to suspend the rules to extend debate by _____."
- Must be seconded.
- Not debatable. Immediate vote, and if successful, debate continues on the present motion.
- Not in order if the previous question has been called (above.)

ADJOURNMENT

You want the meeting to end.

- After recognition, "I move to adjourn."
- Always in order.
- Must be seconded.
- Not debatable. Immediate vote and if successful, the meeting is over.

The following are Points of Order rather than Motions and are always in order.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

The noise outside the meeting has become so great that you are having trouble hearing.

- Without recognition, "Point of personal privilege."
- Chair: "State your point."
- Members: "There is too much noise, I can't hear." (Example)

POINT OF ORDER

It is obvious that the meeting is not following proper rules.

- Without recognition, "Point of order."

POINT OF INFORMATION

You are wondering about some of the facts under discussion, such as the balance in the treasury when expenditures are being discussed.

- Without recognition, "Point of information."

Election of Steering Committee Members

<p>Co-Chair 2: The Co-chairs shall be the chief executives of the TCDSA and shall serve as spokespersons when one is required.</p>	
<p>Andrea Palumbo:</p>	<p>Within DSA, I am a member of the Operations Committee, Political Education Committee, Housing Branch and Mutual Aid Working Group. I organized the chapter's first brake lights clinic, which grew into the Mutual Aid working group. I am a co-coordinator of the monthly reading group that meets at Boneshaker. I have been part of the planning and implementation of Political Education Committee programs.</p> <p>Outside of the DSA, I am the past Mass Defense Coordinator for the Twin Cities chapter of the National Lawyers Guild and have organized legal defense for several local protests including the Black Lives Matter action at the Mall of America. As part of the Second Chance Coalition, I successfully lobbied the Minnesota Legislature to pass a criminal record expungement ("sealing") law. I am currently the chair of the parish council for St. Joan of Arc Catholic Community. I am also a Volunteer Coordinator for a legal aid organization where I recruit, train, and organize the efforts of volunteer attorneys to provide assistance to people living in poverty under our capitalist system.</p> <p>My starting point in my politics is a core belief in the dignity and worth of each person, and the need to meet everyone where they are. This is the backbone of my political beliefs.</p> <p>My work and educational experience brought me to where I am today as a socialist. My journey to democratic socialism began with my opposition to America's oppression of Central Americans' struggle for freedom and justice while in college. I worked for the Minnesota AIDS Project and the American Red Cross, which exposed me to the injustice of the American health care system. After going to law school, I worked for the Council on Crime and Justice, supporting convicted persons. This gave me knowledge of the difficulties faced by those our system calls "criminals". My current work for legal aid gives me some knowledge of those our system calls "poor".</p> <p>All of these things--imperialism, health injustice, criminal injustice, poverty--are all connected. As Dorothy Day reportedly said, "Our problems stem from our acceptance of this filthy, rotten system."</p> <p>I hope to see TCDSA move from being an agenda follower to being an agenda setter in the local political scene.</p> <p>With the huge increase in membership both locally and nationally, DSA and TCDSA must face the challenge of becoming an organization that drives political change instead of just responding to events. To face this challenge, I want to help us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organize internally, which includes activating our "paper members," creating a system that helps us accomplish our goals, and making all

	<p>our members feel like real organizers and participants in the movement for democratic socialism.</p> <p>2. Organize externally by creating and strengthening our connections with the activist community to help make a true mass movement for democratic socialism.</p> <p>3. Work to create and implement an agenda of achievable steps to a more just society.</p>
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Social Secretary: The Social Secretary is responsible for the membership lists, MN DSA member at-large lists, contact lists, and all social media and email accounts owned by TCDSA. The social secretary, with volunteer help if desired, sends required notice for membership meetings, calculates the quorum number, registers attendees, and determines if there is a quorum. The social secretary will always have membership materials, including means of payment, available at membership meetings so that non-members may join. If a division or paper ballot is needed, the social secretary will assist the recording secretary by determining eligibility of all who vote.

<p>Deanna Galus:</p>	<p>I am the current Social Secretary and have served in this role for one year. During this time, I have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - worked to turn membership lists received from the National into useful, usable data. Our member data is now more secure and we can now quickly find answers to questions like "how many members attended their first meeting in July?" or "how many members will have their dues expire before the end of the year?" - worked to improve the membership meeting experience by creating meeting packets and streamlining the check-in process - started distributing the chapter newsletter, The Little Red Letter - created a TCDSA Operations guide to help answer and clarify common chapter questions <p>If I am re-elected to this position, I want to continue working to improve the operational functions of the chapter. I am lucky to be able to work with the great Operations Committee, and know that together we can achieve some wonderful things! I would also like to begin using the data that we have and collect to answer questions like "What percent of new people at meetings come back to a second meeting?" or "What percent of members are active in branches, but never attend general membership events?" which in turn, can help the chapter with outreach efforts or learn about things we can improve upon.</p>
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Political Activism Coordinator: The Political Activism Coordinator shall be responsible for prioritizing, planning, and follow-through on all chosen programs of political advocacy for TCDSA. The Political Activism Coordinator will be, along with the Co-chairs, the liaison with any external groups that TCDSA shall choose to affiliate with, assist or collaborate with.

Isuru Herath:

Formally, even as a non-member of DSA, I was an active participant developing relationships with DSA member(s) and connecting TC DSA to the greater left community in the Twin Cities. In my official capacity as a DSA member, I have met with prospective members and also have been the primary relationships with new members. It's also important to note that, some of these new members do not fit the traditional membership base of DSA. In the past few months, I have also guided our labor branch and brought forth analysis that's been instrumental in changing TC DSA institutional dynamics and mission.

I currently have about ten years of organizing experience in formal professional and community settings. My organizing started in one of the most conservative regions in the country in Minnesota's 6th Congressional District. Saint Cloud is a heavily white-working class city embedded with generations of class and race resentment. The experience and exposure of living in St. Cloud shaped much of my language around liberation theology and the words around the class struggle. Known for its deep racial resentment, I started much of my work in St. Cloud organizing around issues about race, and also began my professional career as an Organizer through the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party (DFL) and Student's United (student union for all four-year institution in Minnesota). During this time, I also organized with the support of Black Lives Matter Minneapolis Chapter and led some of our work in St. Cloud. The past few years, I have also been an organizer with SEIU 284 and with Saint Paul Federation of Teachers (SPFT) and have developed a broader coalition of relationships and networks not only in the Twin Cities but globally. Currently, I serve as the Organizing Director Congressional District 4 in Minnesota for the DFL and have a good grasp in the field of operations, relationship buildings, 1-1, issue-based and worker organizing.

We are starting to experience the detrimental effects of capitalism and as a large population of people is seeing the failures of the two capitalist party, it is a crucial moment to create a socialist infrastructure that will and can advocate for the working class. With over ten years of experience organizing in Minnesota, the coalitions and networks I have built in the community, I have the knowledge and the support base to make this a reality in Minnesota and nationally. Also, my background provides a way to create a socialist infrastructure that's rooted in a global analysis that can counter and bring-in working class folk of color that's been traditionally left out of the political sphere.

Proposed Resolutions

Resolution: Supporting a Statewide DSA Network

Submitted by: Nic R

Co-sponsors:

WHEREAS, collaboration and coordination with other Minnesota chapters is key to building our power,

WHEREAS, as a large metropolitan chapter, Twin Cities DSA should be providing resources and labor to help Chapters and Organizing Committees in rural and suburban areas,

WHEREAS, article IV section 3 of the DSA National Constitution reads:

Upon petition of two or more Locals, the NPC shall consider the application for State organizations. Such charters shall be granted if they meet the criteria set forth in the Bylaws and standing rules and if a majority of the Locals within the proposed boundaries approve the establishment of the State organization. Members-at-large residing within the state shall be members of the State organization unless they request otherwise.

WHEREAS, our state's tradition of economic populism and prairie radicalism in the Farmer-Labor Party and the Non-Partisan League is ripe for a revival,

BE IT RESOLVED, that Twin Cities DSA supports the formation of a Minnesota DSA network for the purposes of inter-chapter coordination and statewide organizing, to be facilitated by democratically elected delegates from Minnesota chapters and Organizing Committees, having no power over the programs or actions or decisions of Chapters and Organizing Committees, towards the eventual convening of a Minnesota DSA convention.

Resolution: Resolution on Endorsement Process

Submitted by: Electoral Branch

Co-sponsors:

Be it resolved that: In order to facilitate the endorsement of candidates for the Twin Cities Democratic Socialists of America, the Twin Cities DSA shall adopt to the following procedure:

1. There will be an endorsement cycle twice a year - one ending in January and one ending in July. An endorsement cycle begins with the deadline for candidates qualifying to be considered for endorsement, and ends with an endorsement general meeting of Twin Cities DSA.
 - 1.1 The Electoral Branch (EB) will announce, at least a month prior to the cycle, a deadline for candidates to enter the process and qualify. The EB will also organize the endorsement general meeting(s) approximately one month after that deadline, to conclude the cycle.

- 1.2 For special elections or other special events, an additional endorsement cycle may be added, if the EB is able.
2. In order to be eligible for endorsement:
 - 2.1 Each candidate will answer the same short, high-level questionnaire.
 - 2.2 Each candidate will submit a petition with signatures from at least 1% of then current members of Twin Cities DSA.
3. During the endorsement cycle –
 - 3.1 Candidates will be encouraged to speak with Twin Cities DSA members via “meet & greets,” house parties, Working Group, Branch and Caucus visits, Q&As set up by members, or other appropriate means.
 - 3.2 Candidates will submit, prior to a deadline before the endorsing meeting set by the EB, a statement of purpose and principles of between 150 and 400 words.
 - 3.3 Twin Cities DSA members will be solicited by the EB for issue-related questions to be used in the endorsing meeting. Candidates will be provided with a list of questions prior to the meeting so they can consider their answers.
4. The endorsement cycle will culminate with one or more endorsing meetings, depending on the number of candidates who qualified. In order to win endorsement, the candidate must receive positive votes from at least 60% of those voting.
5. A copy of this resolution will be shared with candidates for endorsement, before they decide to enter the process.

Resolution: Resolution on Twin Cities DSA Political Platform

Submitted by: Electoral Branch

Co-sponsors:

Be it resolved that: The Twin Cities DSA in the coming year shall adopt a political platform for the purposes of creating a unified statement of democratic socialist electoral positions within the Twin Cities, in order to have a standard with which to judge prospective candidates for endorsement and to make a clear and unified statement of socialist goals.

1. The political platform ought to contain no less than five planks for each of the major levels of government (municipal, county, state, federal) in the Twin Cities area. In addition, it may also contain no more than five planks on general socialist policy that do not fit within a major level of government.
2. The platform will be reapproved and modified annually by the general membership.
3. When possible, the planks should consist of concrete proposals that are actionable by elected officials.
4. All branches, working groups, caucuses, and individual members shall be invited to participate in the creation of the political platform.

Proposed Amendments to Bylaws

Amend Item I Section 2 Notice Requirement to conform to Item I Section 4 Notice Requirement

Item 1 Sec 2 of TCDSA Constitution and Bylaws currently reads:

Notice of the meeting and a draft agenda shall be delivered either by mail or electronically or both to all members no more than seventeen (17) and no fewer than ten (10) days before the meeting. All members for whom a mailing address is available shall receive the mailed notice, and members who “opt in” for email will receive email notice. The Social Secretary is responsible for this notice, and also for posting notice on Social Media as described in Item V below.

The section is amended to read:

Notice of the meeting and a draft agenda shall be delivered either by mail or electronically or both to all members no more than seventeen (17) and no fewer than ten (10) days before the meeting. ~~All members for whom a mailing address is available shall receive the mailed notice, and members who “opt in” for email will receive email notice.~~ All members shall receive a notice through email, with postal notice going to members do not have an associated email address in the membership list. The Social Secretary is responsible for this notice, and also for posting notice on Social Media as described in Item V below.

Rationale: The existing language charges the chapter with a mailed notice to all members once a year, which presents an increasing financial burden as membership grows. Similarly, an amendment passed by the membership last year addressed similar language elsewhere in the bylaws but not the above section.

Amend Item 2 to split the current Social Secretary position into two positions

The description of the Social Secretary in the current bylaws of the TCDSA now reads:

Item II OFFICERS OF TCDSA

Section 4 Social Secretary

a. The Social Secretary is responsible for the membership lists, lists, MN DSA member at-large lists, contact lists, and all social media and email accounts owned by TCDSA. (NB: Except for matters of public record, these lists are confidential.) The social secretary, with volunteer help if desired, sends required notice for membership meetings, calculates the quorum number, registers attendees, and determines if there is a quorum. The social secretary will always have membership materials, including means of payment, available at membership meetings so that non-members may join. If a division or paper ballot is needed, the social secretary will assist the recording secretary by determining eligibility of all who vote.

b. The Social Secretary will be re-elected in even years.

Item II section 4 shall be amended as follows:

Item II OFFICERS OF TCDSA

Section 4 Operations Coordinator

- a. The Operations Coordinator shall maintain membership lists and contact lists, send notice of membership meetings and other communications on behalf of the chapter. At membership meetings, the Operations Coordinator shall register attendees, calculate and determine if there is a quorum, and provide ways for non-members to join. If a division or paper ballot is needed, the Operations Coordinator will assist the recording secretary by determining eligibility of all who vote.
- b. The Operations Coordinator will be the chair of the Operations Committee, and will schedule meetings of that committee as required.
- c. The Operations Coordinator will be elected in even years.

Section 5 Technology Coordinator

- a. The Technology Coordinator shall maintain the chapter's technology, including the chapter website, databases, and chapter email addresses. The Technology Coordinator shall implement the chapter's social media and technology policies. The Technology Coordinator shall assist with research into new software, systems, or hardware before adoption by the chapter.
- b. The Technology Coordinator will be the chair of the Technology Committee, and will schedule meetings of that committee as required.
- c. The Technology Coordinator will be elected in even years.

RATIONALE

The position title "Social Secretary" does accurately describe the responsibilities of the position. "Operations Coordinator" better describes the position's tasks as well as the position's connection to the Operations Committee.

The job requirements and tasks as they now stand in the bylaws are too much for one person to do effectively. We have more members, more branches, more working groups, and more chapter activity. Splitting membership related tasks from technology responsibilities will make the Operations Coordinator workload more manageable.

The technology needs of the chapter are rapidly evolving as we grow and it will be more efficient to have one person with the expertise to manage this area solely focused on the tasks connected to technology.

Bylaws Working Group Proposal

OVERVIEW OF THE REVISED BYLAWS

The Twin Cities Chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America has undergone explosive growth over the past two years. The Bylaws Working Group undertook a year long project to review the current bylaws and suggest updates that would help the TCDSA predict and address potential issues connected with its sudden expansion.

The changes proposed by the working group fall into the following categories:

A. Clarifying Language:

- Definition of quorum
- Clarification of officers' duties
- Definition of branches, working groups and caucuses
- Impact of partial terms for elected officers
- Definitional changes to reflect the chapter's current status as a Minnesota non-profit organization
- Correction of grammatical and typographical errors

B. Additions:

- Procedure for recall elections
- Leave of absence procedure for elected officers
- Procedure for override of Steering Committee decisions

C. Deletions:

- Program meeting requirement
- Language that "others" the working class

It is the Working Group's intention that these revised bylaws will allow TCDSA to continue its commitment to radical democracy while increasing transparency and accessibility.

The Bylaws Working Group submits the proposed Revised Bylaws for consideration for adoption by the TCDSA membership at the November 2018 member meeting.

The complete set of proposed Bylaws can be viewed here:

<https://twincitiesdsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/FINAL-revised-bylaws.pdf>

TWIN CITIES DSA BALANCE SHEET

as of 9/5/2018

PREVIOUS BALANCE

TOTAL EQUITY (7/6/2018)	\$2,133.51
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CHANGES

DONATIONS (including Solidarity Fund donations)	\$2,313.33
TECH COSTS (Zoom & AirTable accts)	-\$452.24
MEETING COSTS	-\$100.00
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	-\$8.75
SOLIDARITY FUND DISBURSEMENTS	-\$225.00

CURRENT ASSETS

CASH	\$3,147.56
Held in account at Trustone Financial & attached Paypal balance	
SOLIDARITY FUND	\$513.29
Also held in account at Trustone Financial	

CURRENT LIABILITIES

None	\$0.00
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CURRENT BALANCE

TOTAL EQUITY	\$3,660.85
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GRIEVANCE PROCESS INFORMATION

View a working draft of the Grievance Process at www.tcdsa.org/grievance-process

To provide feedback on the policy, members are invited to join the #grievanceprocess Slack channel or reach out to someone who has been involved in the process to schedule a 1:1.

Grievance Process Workshop

Saturday, October 27th, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Rondo Community Library (461 Dale St N, St Paul, MN 55104)

Members are invited to come and participate in activities and discussions designed to help develop our internal grievance process.

An excerpt from the Grievance Process Proposal is below. To read the rest, please visit www.tcdsa.org/grievance-process

TCDSA Grievance Process Proposal

Introduction

At the time of the writing of this document, there is a prison strike taking place across the nation. Coordinated by Jailhouse Lawyers Speak and the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC), the strike is calling attention to abysmal conditions in prisons, and laying out ten concrete demands including an end to prison slavery, a change to racist policies and practices within the criminal justice system, and “[immediate] improvements to the conditions of prisons and prison policies that recognize the humanity of imprisoned men and women.”¹

As democratic socialists, we know that the carceral state is both an instigator and a benefactor of the capitalist, racist, colonialist, patriarchal, xenophobic, transphobic, and homophobic systems designed to benefit the ruling class at an incredible cost to the rest of us: the cost of our lives and our humanity. While other political organizations offer reform as the solution, we understand that the only true solution to the carceral state is its abolition. We call for an end to the prison system, and the disbanding of the police.

But if we are to dream of abolition, we must take on the important task of building alternatives to the carceral state. In place of police, we must have community networks trained in de-escalation and intervention. In place of prisons, we must have processes to demand accountability from people who cause harm, and to provide support to people who experience harm. Every 98 seconds another person is sexually assaulted in what we refer to post-colonization as the United States.² On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner.³ People will continue to cause serious harm as we work to dismantle systems of oppression, particularly in a nation without universal access to

¹ “Strike Statement to the Press; August 28, 2018”:

<https://incarceratedworkers.org/news/strike-statement-press-august-28-2018>

² “Scope of the Problem: Statistics,” RAINN: <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/scope-problem>

³ “Statistics,” National Coalition Against Domestic Violence: <https://ncadv.org/statistics>

health care, widely accessible mental health services, or comprehensive sexual health and other forms of relational education.

We must pair our activism with careful self-criticism. We know these acts of violence are occurring in our communities, and still the targets of abuse tend to be Black, Indigenous, and people of color; women; and working class people. Kyra, a survivor and harmed party who engaged in restorative justice practices when she was sexually assaulted by a leader in her organizing community, wrote this in a statement on Facebook:

When I came forward this week, there were activists who messaged my friends saying that sharing my story was damaging to the community, and that I needed to be quiet until Malcolm was released because it was inconvenient timing. But liberation isn't convenient, or easy. We don't get to say "Hold up while we free these people real quick and then we'll come back for the rest of you," which is in essence what Black women have been told throughout history. Solidarity is for Black men and white women, not us.

As a Black woman, the idea of a "safe space" is currently a fallacy for me. I am not safe out in the world, I am not safe in my own community, and I am not even safe in activist spaces around people who claim to be working towards my liberation. You can't fight for me while I'm awake then rape me while I'm asleep.⁴

It was with Kyra's words that TCDSA began a grievance process workshop on Saturday, September 1st, 2018. Seeking to create something collaborative, comprehensive, and meaningful to all members of our organization, workshop participants invested time, energy, and love into a process that would reflect our values and meet the needs of survivors like Kyra. We started by asking ourselves, "If we could abolish the carceral state and replace it with something better, what would that look like?" We sat in Circle to have hard conversations, reviewed a chapter-wide survey about what members wanted to see in a grievance process, and studied Kyra's experience with BYP100. Seven hours later, this is where we arrived.

We present this grievance process as a beginning. We recognize and embrace that there will be a need for ongoing evaluation and changes in the policy. In the spirit of the Combahee River Collective, "[we] are committed to a continual examination of our politics as they develop through criticism and self-criticism as an essential aspect of our practice."⁵ That said, we think this is a pretty good place to start.

A better world is possible. Let's build it together.

*Written September 1st, 2018, by Julia Tindell,
the grievance process workshop facilitator*

⁴ "Black Youth Project (BYP 100) Community Accountability Process (Chicago, 2015-2016)": <https://transformativejusticeinitiative.files.wordpress.com/2016/02/byp100-survivor-statement.pdf>

⁵ "The Combahee River Collective Statement": <http://circuitous.org/scraps/combahee.html>

TCDSA Branches, Caucuses, Working Groups, Interest Groups, and Committees

Ecosocialism Branch: The ecosocialism branch is organized around this idea: current ecological crises facing the planet can only be addressed through anticapitalist means. Discussion of policies, depressing climate change news, and inspiring local actions through a socialist lens. *ecosocialism [at] twincitiesdsa.org*

Electoral Branch: Working on utilizing electoral activities (election campaigns and outreach, pressure campaigns on elected officials) to push forward a socialist agenda. *electionguide [at] twincitiesdsa.org*

Housing Justice Branch: We believe housing is a human right, but right now there are over 130,000 low-income renter families in the Twin Cities Metro who struggle to pay for housing. The Housing Justice Branch seeks to better understand the housing crisis and address housing instability through direct action and by influencing local public policy and planning. *housing [at] twincitiesdsa.org*

Labor and Economic Justice Branch: Discussion of the labor movement and workers' fights against injustice – no union experience expected. Join us to discuss organizing in your workplace, show solidarity with struggles in our community, and plan events for the broader chapter. *labor [at] twincitiesdsa.org*

Minnesota Valley Branch: Working Families and Working Farms in the Southwest Metro, from 494 Southwest, including Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, and all of Carver, Scott, Le Sueur, and Sibley Counties. Contact the group at *tcdsaswmb [at] gmail.com*

Racial Justice Branch: The purpose of the RJWG is to de-center whiteness and center racial equity, communities of color, womxn, poor & working class, etc, with the specific understanding that issues and identities are intersectional. We are currently active in the political education of TCDSA and involved externally in fighting ICE with a broader coalition of community organizations. All are welcome to join us. Contact us at *tcdsa.racialjustice [at] gmail.com*

Ramsey County Branch: Focusing on local issues affecting the densest county in the country. *ramseycounty [at] twincitiesdsa.org*

Socialist Feminist Branch: The Socialist Feminist Branch believes in building solidarity and power at the intersections of gender, race, and class. We meet monthly for political education and action planning, hold occasional socials and chapter events, and host a reading group open to everyone. *socfem [at] twincitiesdsa.org*.

Left Social Democrats Caucus: We believe in the inherent goodness of the American people, and that if given a choice between actually-existing capitalism and a socialism that respects their values, beliefs, and rights, they will choose socialism of their own free will. We are DSAers who are also part of the new national North Star Caucus devoted to socialism and democracy. <http://www.lsdcdsa.org> and <https://www.dsanorthstar.org> *lsd [at] twincitiesdsa.org*

Refoundation Caucus: the Refoundation Caucus is a group of Marxists who wish to see DSA grow, flourish, and become a mass, independent socialist party in the United States. Visit dsarefoundation.org for more information and contact *alexanderwross [at] gmail.com*.

Socialists of Color Caucus: A space exclusively for people of color to meet each other and discuss common interests, values and goals as they relate to the current white supremacist, patriarchal, capitalist, imperialist state of the world. Contact Nazir Khan, *nazirmkhan [at] gmail.com*

Anti-Ice Mobilization Team: The Anti-ICE Mobilization Team started because of a need to organize our local chapter's efforts to respond to and prepare for upcoming actions to resist the Trump administration's current acts of violence against immigrants (particularly families at the border), as well as the United States's long anti-immigrant, white supremacist, colonialist, imperialist history. For more information or to get plugged in, contact Julia T. at [julia \[at\] chooseradicallove.com](mailto:julia[at]chooseradicallove.com)

Anti-imperialism Working Group

DSA Outreach Working Group

Grievance Policy Working Group A volunteer task force to create a proposed grievance and harassment policy to implement transformative justice within the chapter.

Health Justice (Medicare-for-all) Working Group Through education and action, the Single-Payer/Healthcare Issues branch will work to promote a Medicare-for-All system both in Minnesota and across the nation. Only by totally and completely removing the private insurance industry from the picture can we bring fairness and justice to the provision of health care. [singlepayer \[at\] twincitiesdsa.org](mailto:singlepayer[at]twincitiesdsa.org)

Membership Stewards (Inreach) Working Group

Mutual Aid Working Group Mutual Aid involves comrades coming together to work as equals for the common good by assessing what people need and what people can provide. This working group coordinates projects such as brake light replacement clinics and the chapter solidarity fund. [mutualaid \[at\] twincitiesdsa.org](mailto:mutualaid[at]twincitiesdsa.org)

Tech Working Group

Criminal Justice Interest Group: Contact Snowden S. at [Snowdenstieber \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:Snowdenstieber[at]gmail.com)

Religious Socialism Interest Group: Not just Christian, will be part of a national DSA Religious Socialists section. For members interested in integrating faith group social justice work into the struggle against capitalism. Contact Debra Ramage at [deborama \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:deborama[at]gmail.com)

Suburban-Rural Interest Group: Bringing together Suburban and Rural Minnesota and plugging into national conversations. Contact Brad M. at [bmcgarr \[at\] twincitiesdsa.org](mailto:bmcgarr[at]twincitiesdsa.org)

Fundraising / Budget Committee Develops fundraising ideas; assists the Steering Committee in proposing an annual budget. [treasurer \[at\] twincitiesdsa.org](mailto:treasurer[at]twincitiesdsa.org)

Operations Committee: Works on keeping the chapter running smoothly. Helps to organize member meetings, logistics, communications, and other chapter business. [operations \[at\] twincitiesdsa.org](mailto:operations[at]twincitiesdsa.org)

Political Education Committee: Brainstorm and organize political education events, the Chapter Library, and more. [anders.bloomquist \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:anders.bloomquist[at]gmail.com)

Steering Committee: Consists of elected chapter officers and elected representatives from branches. [chairs \[at\] twincitiesdsa.org](mailto:chairs[at]twincitiesdsa.org)

SOLIDARITY FOREVER

When the union's inspiration through the workers' blood shall run
There can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun
Yet what force on earth is weaker than the feeble strength of one
For the Union makes us strong

Chorus
Solidarity forever, solidarity forever
Solidarity forever
For the Union makes us strong

Is there aught we hold in common with the greedy parasite
Who would lash us into serfdom and would crush us with his might?
Is there anything left to us but to organize and fight?
For the union makes us strong

It is we who ploughed the prairies, built the cities where they trade
Dug the mines and built the workshops, endless miles of railroad laid
Now we stand outcast and starving 'mid the wonders we have made
But the union makes us strong

All the world that's owned by idle drones is ours and ours alone
We have laid the wide foundations, built it skyward stone by stone
It is ours, not to slave in, but to master and to own
While the union makes us strong

They have taken untold millions that they never toiled to earn
But without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn
We can break their haughty power gain our freedom when we learn
That the Union makes us strong

In our hands is placed a power greater than their hoarded gold
Greater than the might of armies magnified a thousandfold
We can bring to birth a new world from the ashes of the old
For the Union makes us strong

**All printing labor donated.
Join DSA at dsausa.org/join
Get involved and donate locally at
twincitiesdsa.org
A better world is possible.**