

Twin Cities DSA - July 2019 Meeting Agenda

July 22, 2018 6:30 pm (check-in opens at 6:00pm)

Brookdale Library

6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

6:00 pm	Check in begins.
6:30 pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Call to order and welcome, donation reminder2. Introductory business<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Land acknowledgementb. Community Agreements (<i>see page 2</i>)c. Adopt the agendad. Volunteers: timekeeper, tellers (2 - 6), stack keepere. Quorum checkf. Accept minutes of last Meeting (<i>see pages 3-???</i>)3. Officer reports: Ops, Political Education Coordinator, Political Action Coordinator, Treasurer, Tech Coordinator, Recording Secretary
6:50 pm	Chair election
7:05 pm	Political Education: World Cafe
7:50 pm	Break
8:00 pm	Fundraising pitch
8:05 pm	Immigrant justice action pitch
8:10 pm	Branch updates
8:35 pm	Upcoming Events, Song
8:45 pm	Motion to Adjourn

Community Agreements

1. **We ground ourselves in the fact that anti-capitalism demands anti-racism.** We seek to eliminate and remedy racist oppression created and maintained by white settlers that undermines working class and community solidarity. In this space, we prioritize and believe the voices of people of color and indigenous people, while also acknowledging our own complicities in white supremacy and U.S. imperialism.
2. **We keep progressive stack.** An assigned individual will keep list of names from people who wish to speak, and prioritize folks who are people of color, women, or who have not spoken at the meeting.
3. **(WAIT) Why am I talking?** When in discussion, consider what you want to say, and if it has already been said. Is there a better time or place to speak? Are there other methods
4. for you to show how you feel about the conversation, such as nodding your head?
5. **Make space, Take Space.** When finished making your point, let others speak. Respect others by recognizing how much, often, and loud you're speaking and if you might be dominating conversation. We also encourage quieter individuals to contribute to the conversation.
6. **Speak from personal experience.** Use "I statement." Speak from your perspective and experience, rather than assuming those of other peoples.
7. **One diva, one mic.** One person should be speaking at any given time. Please refrain from commenting until after they have finished.
8. **Listen (don't wait to talk).** Genuinely pay attention to what others say. Active listening is important in any discussion.
9. **Assume full humanity.** Recognize we were all raised in the same society with the same biases and prejudices, and approach each other with this in mind.
10. **Oops, ouch.** Acknowledge when you've made a mistake. Nobody is perfect and mistakes will be made.
11. **Jargon Giraffe.** Raise your hand (press your thumb against your middle & ring fingers for the shape of a giraffe head!) if you do not understand a term or phrase, and someone will explain the definition to you.

Land acknowledgement

I would like to acknowledge that we are gathered here on the traditional ancestral land of the Santee Dakhóta people, and pay our respects to the elders, past and present. We recognize and honor the Dakhóta as the past, present, and future caretakers of this land.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

1. Call to order and welcome.

Meeting called to order at 1:10pm

2. Introductory business

a. Land acknowledgement

b. Community Agreements

c. Adopt the agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda. None opposed. Motion passes. Agenda is adopted.

d. Volunteers: timekeeper, tellers, stack keeper

Deb-stack

Ian-Timekeeper

John & Brit-tellers

e. Quorum check

-We are 7 people short of quorum

f. Accept minutes of last meeting

-Motion to accept minutes. Second. All in favor. Motion passes.

3. Officer reports

-Ops: Ops Coordinator, Deanna stepped down from the position; Ops Committee is taking a look at Ops position description and will be working with SC to decide on what to do with that position; Ops Committee and Tech Committee are taking on the responsibilities of the position at this time; 682 active members and 300+ additional people have expired dues

-Political Education Coordinator: Socialism 101 Course, another will be on the calendar soon; trainings with labor branch coming up soon; if you're interested in being the next Pol Ed Coordinator, get in touch with Anders for more information;

-Political Action Coordinator: MN Nurses are in Contract Negotiations, so there will be informational pickets coming up; 7:30am-5pm May 22nd at Children's Minneapolis; more locations on May 23rd; show up in support

-Treasurer: we should have received a disbursement of dues from National and that will show up in the next report; Budget & Fundraising Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 28th at MPLS Central at 8pm; Treasurer position is coming up for vote in September, get in touch with Rob T for more information

-Tech Coordinator: absent; visit the website, it's awesome!

-Rec Sec: no report

4. Announcement RE: delegate elections meeting

-August 1-4 in Atlanta, GA; if you're interested in running as a delegate, TCDSA has 19 delegate spots; fill out a form on the website to run for the delegate; we will elect the delegates on June 8th at Heart of the Beast Theater from 11am-4pm; get your names in by June 1st; June 8th Q&A; we will accept nominations from the floor

Elizabeth Wrigley-Field: Socialism 2019 Conference & People's Prom

- Socialism 2019 Conference is an annual conference over the July 4th weekend to talk about political issues in a way we don't normally get to
- People's Prom: June 15, 2019

Announcement: We have just reached Quorum

5. Political Education: Stomp Out Slumlords

- First canvass event for the campaign June 8, 2019 from 11am-2pm

6. Branch updates and info

- Racial Justice Branch, Wednesday, Merriam Park Library 6:30pm
- Socialist Feminist, Tuesday, May 28th 6:30pm at Boneshaker
- Ramsey County, meeting announced shortly
- Ops Committee & Newsletter
- LSD Caucus, Meeting Thursday May 23rd at Barnes & Noble at HarMar
- Electoral Branch, working on a Bernie 2020 WG, ways to apply electoral tools to other things, working with #Housing is Health Campaign
- Health Justice, big Health Justice week, Friday with Twin Ports and go outside DFL Dinner 4:30-6pm; MNA doing picketing on Weds & Thurs 7:30 am-5pm; Banner and sign making craft social on Monday night
- Labor Branch-Strike Solidarity, Labor Solidarity, Teamsters Local 120 are on Strike; meeting regularly with people in Labor and MN Can't Wait and planning a listening tour across the state; organizing your workplace table and developing a training with a leftist approach to unionism; IWW training June 1st & 2nd led by Macks
- Housing Branch, Stomp Out Slumlords Campaign; #HousingIsHealth-putting Housing Court on Safe & Sick Leave for the City
- Eco-Socialism-working on defeating Line 3 Expansion; direct actions throughout the summer
- MASE-building the world we want to see; Solidarity Fund; Brake Light Clinics-one coming up on June 15th in the afternoon Location TBD; next meeting at North Regional Library June 4th; lots of other projects in the works including Pinko Bingo to raise funds for various causes; Book Swap in the Chapter; @TCDSAMASE
- Reconvene at 2:31pm

7. Break

8. Reconvene & Reminders

- meeting brought back to order at 2:43 pm

9. Voting: Adopting Grievance Process

- Josh moves the Grievance Process: advocates a committee based model; emulates the world we want to live in; a world where people who experience harm are listened to and believed; rejects carceral state;
- Speaker against: Andrea speaks against process; asking for membership not to approve it at this time; believes areas in the policy need to be revised; believe revoking membership should be kept with the SC; asks that you don't vote for it until you've read it

-Amy speaks for the policy: concerns come from a good place; imagine a world that is welcoming, more responsive; SC members not properly trained in handling grievances and shouldn't be in charge of all the power to revoke membership

-Steve speaks against policy: believes you need to read the whole policy before voting on it; taking away power from members by giving it to Grievance Advocate

Motion to approve the Grievance Process. Seconded. Requires 2/3 majority. The chair sees a 2/3rds majority and the Grievance Process is adopted.

10. Voting: Resolution on Reproductive Justice

-Will be read out loud

-Mandy presents the Resolution on Reproductive Rights

-Reproductive justice goes beyond abortion access, but we need to defend these basic human rights

-Mandy reads the resolution as our projector screen is not working

-The speaker asks if there is any debate. There is no debate.

-Vote is in order. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes unanimously. The Resolution on Reproductive Justice is adopted.

11. Upcoming Events, Song

12. Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 3:30 pm

Steering Committee Meetings Recaps

June 6, 2019 Steering Committee Meeting

- The SC talked about some successes and struggles each member has had lately in TCDSA in an effort to connect with each other and the rest of the chapter better.
- The SC discussed the vacancy of the Co-Chair position and Rita was nominated to be interim co-chair until the July General meeting. The motion was seconded and voted upon. The motion passes with 1 abstention and all remaining in favor.
- The SC discussed the next General Meeting business items and threw some ideas out there about different education options.
- Discussion of the timeline for Delegates and fundraising
- Tabled the discussion of the Ops vacancy until Ops was ready to discuss it more
- Scheduled a supplementary meeting for June 20, 2019 on Zoom.

June 20, 2019 Supplementary Steering Committee Meeting

- Discussed a chapter-wide facilitation training
- Talked more about the Ops Coordinator vacancy; Ops is discussing the possibility of changing the position to more of a committee instead; Conversation tabled until Ops could talk more in-depth about their needs.
- General meeting planning discussion
- Request for endorsement from Teamsters for a Democratic Union for a fundraiser in late July; discussed and motion to table the vote until a later time when we can figure out the complex nature of the request
- Request for endorsement from member Elizabeth for the MIRAC & allies action to keep families together; Discussion; Motion to endorse, second, all in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.
- Fundraising check-in and help with organizing the fundraiser party

July 18, 2019 Steering Committee Meeting

- Ops has requested that any available SC members attend a meeting on July 29th to discuss the Ops Coordinator vacancy
- Recap of visit from Regional Coordinator Amy
- Finalized agenda and Pol Ed for General Meeting
- Discussed tentative plans for the September Convention
- Checked in with the Political Platform Committee; they requested the SC appoint a point person for the political platform Committee to have someone held accountable for the work on it
- Motion to appoint Deb as coordinator for the Political Platform; seconded; no debate; all in favor, none opposed; motion passed.
- Fundraising report: fundraising has been going incredibly well!
- Will be checking in with the Grievance WG to talk about assigning Grievance Officers

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."

TWIN CITIES DSA Balance Sheet as of 7/16/2019

PREVIOUS BALANCE

TOTAL EQUITY (4/7/2018)	\$5,715.08
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CHANGES

DUES SHARING (2 quarters)	\$1,812.40
DONATIONS (including focused fundraisers)	\$8,987.55
TECH COSTS (Airtable, Zoom, hosting)	-\$70.81
EVENT COSTS (ATL convention, delegate panel, insurance)	-\$2,394.79
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS (including new Boneshaker space)	-\$1,296.77
MEETING COSTS (including space and labor)	-\$247.48
FUNDRAISING COSTS	-\$26.64
SOLIDARITY FUND DISBURSEMENTS	-\$200.00

CURRENT ASSETS

CASH	\$11,653.97
Held in account at Trustone Financial & attached Paypal balance	
SOLIDARITY FUND	\$624.57
Also held in account at Trustone Financial	

CURRENT LIABILITIES

None	\$0.00
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CURRENT BALANCE

TOTAL EQUITY	\$12,278.54
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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@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@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@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@twincitiesdsa.org

Racial Justice Branch: The racial justice branch seeks to de-center whiteness and center racial equity, communities of color, womxn, poor & the working class, 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@twincitiesdsa.org

Ramsey County Branch: Focusing on local issues affecting the densest county in the country. ramseycounty@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@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@twincitiesdsa.org

Libertarian Socialist Caucus: twincitiesdsa.org/contact

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@gmail.com

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@twincitiesdsa.org

No Cages MN Coalition: No Cages MN is a coalition of socialist organizations - comprised of members from TCDSA, General Defense Committee (GDC) and International Socialist Organization (ISO) -

dedicated to preventing ICE expansion into Minnesota. The group plans actions that 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, follow us on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NoCagesMN/>

Grievance Process Working Group: A volunteer task force to create a proposed grievance and harassment process to implement transformative justice within the chapter. chairs@twincitiesdsa.org

Membership Stewards (Inreach) Working Group: Inreach seeks to build connections between new members and experienced comrades, while also deepening the capacity for leadership with members who are just starting to get more involved. chairs@twincitiesdsa.org

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@twincitiesdsa.org

Political Platform Working Group: Ad-hoc group to facilitate the process of creating a TCDSA Political Platform as voted for by the membership. Use *electoral branch contact*

TCDSA for Bernie 2020: Working group for 2019-2020 to conduct the local independent-expenditure DSA campaign to elect Bernie Sanders for President in 2020. bernie@twincitiesdsa.org

Tech Action Working Group: Working group for those interested in tech - tech workers and luddites alike. Currently meeting monthly as a reading group. techaction@twincitiesdsa.org

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@gmail.com

Fundraising & Budget Committee: Come help set TCDSA's 2019 budget! We plan fixed and variable expenses, manage chapter assets and income, and set fundraising priorities for the coming year. All members welcomed and encouraged to participate in this vital democratic process. treasurer@twincitiesdsa.org

Operations Committee: Works on keeping the chapter running smoothly. Helps to organize member meetings, logistics, communications, and other chapter business. operations@twincitiesdsa.org

Political Education Committee: Brainstorm and organize political education events, the Chapter Library, and more. anders.bloomquist@gmail.com

Steering Committee: Consists of elected chapter officers and elected representatives from branches. chairs@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 **higher** 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.