

X Maine DSA 2023 Convention Packet



Introduction

Maine DSA's bylaws specify that the chapter will hold semi-annual meetings in January and July. January's meeting we treat as the chapter's major convention at which the organization will determine its priorities for the coming year and elect its officers.

This year's convention will be held over the weekend of January 21st and 22nd. This packet will serve as the source-of-truth for all business going before the

membership - as members deliver suggested amendments to resolutions and candidate statements, we will add them here.

In order to vote at convention, you must be a Maine DSA chapter member in good standing with the national organization. If you have questions about your eligibility status, please email steering@smdsa.org or DM Leo H. in Slack.

Register here:

Saturday Business: [here](#)

Sunday Business: [here](#)

Schedule of Events

Friday

8pm - [Statewide Membership Engagement Workshop](#)

Saturday

9am - [Breakfast Social](#)

10am - [Opening Plenary](#)

11am - [Emergency Tenant Organizing Committee Info Session](#)

11am (in-person) - [Stop the Bleed Skill-Share \(RSVP HERE\)](#)

12pm - [Lunch](#)

1pm (in-person) - Art & Capitalism

1pm (in-person) - Membership Engagement Workshop

2:15pm (in-person) - Future Tripping: Speculative Fiction for Fun
and Organizing

3:30pm (in-person) - Tent Heater Build

3:30pm - [Abolition, Abortion, and Housing: Maine State
Legislative Outlooks for 2023](#)

4:30pm - [Dinner](#)

6:00pm - [Chapter Business](#)

Sunday

9am - [Breakfast Social](#)

10am - [Morning Plenary](#)

11am - [Study Group: Party as Articulator](#)

11am - [Maine Cooperative Development Partners Presentation](#)

12pm - [Lunch](#)

1pm - [How will Maine DSA Engage with the UPS Strike?](#)

1pm - [Steps for Community Action: The Child Tax Credit \(CTC\)](#)

2pm - [Lunch Break](#)

2:30pm - [Chapter Business](#)

7pm - Beer Caucus Social***

***Time subject to Change based on end of business

Workshops in orange are in person at the Friends Meeting House at 1837 Forest Ave in Portland.

Not sure where to be? If in doubt, join the Welcome Room here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83920551277?pwd=WFB6YIVpWTQ3NzBBMm5vUzlobEJqZz09>

Meeting ID: 839 2055 1277

Passcode: 891054

One tap mobile

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+13017158592,,83920551277#,,, *891054# US (Washington DC)

Chapter Elections

The chapter will be electing candidates to several positions:

- 5 Steering Committee seats:
 - Agenda Co-Chair
 - Communications Co-Chair
 - Finance Co-Chair
 - 2 Membership Co-Chairs
- 3 Members of the Political Education Committee
- 5 Members of the Portland Local Campaign Committee
- 2 Maine Public Power Co-Chairs
- 2 Harassment and Grievance Officer

Candidates for these positions and their bios can be found [here](#).

MDSA Winter Semi-Annual Meeting,

January 2022 Agenda Day 1

Date: Saturday, January 21st, 2022

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Location: Zoom Conference Call

Chair: Leo H.

6:00 - 6:05 (5m) Welcome

6:05 - 6:30 (25m) Robert's Rules Basics/Refresher

6:30 - 6:40 (10m) Norms, Rules of Debate, and Agenda

- Review of Community Norms & Agreements
- Approve the Agenda
- Adopt rules of debate
 - Proposed Rules for Debate:
Speaking time of three minutes
Alternate speakers for/against, unless there are none
opposed/none in favor, in which case speakers continue
back-to-back.
 - No Amendments from the floor
- Approve [December GM minutes](#)

6:40 - 6:55 (15m)

[Resolution 1: Digital Voting Results Policy](#)

Sponsored by Wes P.

6:55 - 7:05 (10m)

Bylaw Amend 1:

[Steering Committee Quorum](#)

Sponsored by Rose D.

7:05 - 7:10 (5m)

 Break 

7:10 - 7:30 (20m)

Bylaw Amend 2:

[Steering Committee Role Titles](#)

Sponsored by Rose D.

7:30-8:00 (30m)

[Charter 1: Abortion Rights Working Group](#)

Sponsored by the Abortion Rights Working Group

The Steering Committee voted to make no recommendation

(10m)

[Amend A: GRR Coalition](#)

Sponsored by Aaron B, Spencer B, Zuni, Rowan, Paige and Jeanne L

(10m)

[Amend B: BLC Coalition](#)

Sponsored by Aaron B, Spencer B, Zuni, Rowan, and Jeanne L

8:00 - 8:05 (5m)

 Break 

8:05-8:25 (20m)

[Resolution 2: Electoral Strategy](#)

Sponsored by Rose D. & Sarah L

(10m)

[Amend C: Class Struggle Elections](#)

Sponsored by Aaron B, Todd B, Leo H

8:25 - 8:45 (20m)

[Resolution 3: Chapter Coalition](#)

[Approach](#)

Sponsored by Rose D.

(10m)

[Amend D: Portland Focus](#)

Sponsored by Aaron B, Todd B

8:45 - 8:55 (10 m)

[Resolution 4: Convention Delegation
Support and Accountability](#)

Sponsored by Aaron B.

9:00 PM Adjourn

MDSA Winter Semi-Annual Meeting,

January 2022 Agenda Day 2

Date: Sunday, January 22nd, 2022

Time: 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Location: Zoom Conference Call

Chair: Rose D.

2:30 - 2:40 (10m) Welcome/Review of Agenda, Norms, and Rules of Debate

2:40 - 3:00 (20m) [Resolution 5: 2023 Budget](#)

Sponsored by Finance WG

3:00 - 3:30 (30m) [Resolution 6: The Most Radical Socialist Face Mask Proposal In America](#)

Sponsored by Cyr O, Wil T, Chris C, Joe D, Anna E, Hawo M

(10m) [Amend E](#)

Sponsored by Rose D. and Wes P.

(10m) [Amend I](#)

Sponsored by Marianne M.-W.

3:30 - 3:35 (5m)  Break 

3:35 - 3:55 (20m) [Resolution 7: No Portland Electoral](#)

[Campaign 2023](#)

Sponsored by Leo H.

(10m)

[Amend F](#)

Sponsored by Ethan S

3:55 - 4:10 (10m)

[Charter 2: Pine and Roses](#)

Sponsored by Pine and Roses Working Group

The Steering Committee recommends adopting this charter.

4:10 - 4:25 (15m)

[Charter 3: Labor Solidarity](#)

Sponsored by Labor Solidarity Working Group

The Steering Committee recommends adopting this charter.

(10m)

[Amend G: Pine Tree Power](#)

Sponsored by Aaron B, Jo O, Todd B, and Leo H

4:25 - 4:30 (5m)

 Break 

4:30 - 4:45 (15m)

Bylaw Amend 3:

[Proposal for Committee Chairs](#)

Sponsored by Todd B., Aaron B, Jake G.

4:45 - 5:05 (20m)

Bylaw Amend 4:

[Diversity Requirement](#)

Sponsored by Todd B., Aaron B.

5:05 - 5:25 (20m)

Bylaw Amend 5:

[Disability Diversity Requirement](#)

Sponsored by Wil T, Tim D, Spencer B, Jeanne L, Cyr O

(10m)

[Amend H: Roll Back Diversity to Gender](#)

[Only](#)

Sponsored by Aaron B, Sarah L, Marianne M-W, and Rose D

5:30 PM Adjourn

Our Community Agreements

- Sign-in** Please sign in and grab a nametag if in person.
- Name & Pronouns** Include your name (& pronouns if comfortable) on your nametag or Zoom account, and before speaking during discussions. If you don't know someone's pronouns, ask them or use they/them.
- Robert's Rules** We use a relaxed version of Robert's Rules to guide running our meetings. If you don't understand a term, stop us and ask!
- Recording & Security** There is no recording in our spaces without consent, and our code of conduct disallows all forms of harassment.
- Progressive Stack** To join a discussion, raise a hand to get "on stack" (*a list*). We prioritize those with marginalizations, though many don't present. We try our best!
- Good Faith** We encourage disagreement and discussion, but don't attack; Start with an assumption others are offering thoughts in kind.
- W.A.I.T.** Before speaking, ask yourself "Why Am I Talking?": If your thoughts have already been said, refrain from repeating them.
- Plusses** We ask that putting a plus in the chat replaces clapping or snapping altogether; it's less likely to interrupt speakers, has less impact on sensory issues, and is compatible with our remote meeting format.
- Step Up, Step Back** If you have opportunities in society to regularly express your thoughts, try to step back. If you don't get to speak up often, we want you to feel comfortable stepping up to make your voice heard here.

If you feel unsafe, don't know a term or acronym, or are lost by the process:

PLEASE INTERRUPT THIS MEETING

We want everyone included and we will try our best.

Find us online:

Facebook: facebook.com/medemsoc
Twitter: twitter.com/DSA_Maine
Web: southernmainedsa.org
Email: comms@southernmainedsa.org

Become a member:

Join DSA: dsausa.org/join

Help fund the movement:

Donate on Venmo: venmo.com/SMDSA

Resolution 1: Digital Voting Results Policy

Sponsored by Wes P.

Purpose

Maine DSA's general membership holds votes on motions and chapter business almost exclusively on digital tools, such as Zoom's polling functionality. Voting records are stored in Zoom, meaning that only those who have access to the Zoom accounts are able to view how individual members voted. As said access is provided as needed, this creates a situation in which only a fairly arbitrary group of members have access to voting records. This policy seeks to codify and normalize the sharing of member voting records, using in person votes by show of hands as precedent.

Policy Statement

For all votes made during general membership business by show of hands, the overseeing body must collect into a document and make available to members a voting record. This document should be shared on the Chapter slack in the steercom-agenda channel as soon as is feasible, and no later than 7 days after the vote is held.

Voting records should be stored alongside minutes and are available upon request to the Agenda Working Group. In the interest of security, these records should not be linked to in other documents or shared widely.

If the overseeing body is unable to provide the voting record within the given timeline, a report containing an explanation must be provided at the next general business meeting by the Agenda Working Group.

Definitions

Overseeing body - A group tasked with overseeing and conducting votes by the Steering Committee or Agenda Working Group.

Show of Hands - Votes done through a digital poll. This does not include roll call or ballot votes (Robert's Rules calls it Viva voce).

Voting record - a document containing the first name and last initial of members who cast ballots in a vote or votes alongside the direction of their vote or votes.

Bylaw Amendment 1: Steering Committee Quorum

Sponsored by Rose D.

Whereas the current steering committee quorum is set at 4 in the bylaws based on the assumption that the steering committee has 8 members.

Whereas if the steering committee has vacancies, quorum becomes an increasingly large portion of the committee, something which occurred this year and caused major difficulties for the committee.

Resolved that Article V Section 6 subsection E is changed from:

“A quorum shall consist of four (4) voting members”

to

“A quorum shall consist of a majority of voting members”

Bylaw Amendment 2: Steering Committee Role Titles

Sponsored by Rose D.

Whereas the term “Agenda Co-Chair” is not used in any other DSA chapter and is a piece of jargon that is opaque to new members.

Whereas the Agenda Co-Chairs have the exact same functions and duties as the position most chapters call the “Chapter Co-Chairs.”

Whereas “Chapter Co-Chairs” is a clearer term that is more recognizable to a wider number of DSA members, non-DSA individuals, and other organizations.

Whereas we want to convey the amount of responsibility the position has for members considering running for it as it is not simply another position on the steering committee.

Resolved that Article V, Section 1 be changed as follows:

Section 1. Membership

1. The leadership body for the chapter shall be called the Steering Committee (SC). Voting members shall consist of four (4) Winter Co-Chairs, and four (4) Summer Co-Chairs for four working groups:
 - Agenda
 - Communications
 - Finance
 - Membership
2. **The Co-Chairs of the Agenda Working Group shall be called the Chapter Co-Chairs.**
3. Voting at-large seats may be created to fulfill Diversity Requirements
4. Non-voting members shall consist of the chairs of any standing committee.

Resolved that Article VI, Section 4 be changed as follows:

Section 4. Agenda Working Group

1. **The Working Group shall be responsible for coordinating the various bodies of the chapter.**
2. The Working Group shall lead all membership and SC meetings.
3. The Working Group shall create the agendas for membership and SC meetings.
4. The Working Group shall fix the time and location of membership and SC meetings.
5. The Working Group may change the date of membership and SC meetings as needed.

Charter 1: Abortion Rights Working Group

Sponsored by the Abortion Rights Working Group

The Steering Committee voted to make no recommendation on this charter.

Coordinators: Jeanne L, Spencer B

Endorsers: Jason A, Rowan H, Beverly Ann Settle, Zuni, Abigail D, Cait S

Statement

We will work to ensure safe access to abortions for Mainers. We will build a campaign against Maine crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs) in collaboration with other groups and community members, with the goal of a broader popular and legislative movement against CPCs and toward securing safe and informed abortion access in the state.

Objectives

- We will recruit at least 5 new members from our public-facing events
- We will hold at least 3 Public actions educating the public about CPCs
- We will maintain a website about fake clinics (CPCs), and real resources for people in need of care
- We will put pressure on municipalities to implement ordinances banning CPCs, similar to the Somerville MA ordinance, where possible we will collaborate with other groups and legislators on similar restrictions and bans on CPCs.

Strategy & Support

We will work to rid the state of Crisis Pregnancy Centers through legislative policy and community action. We will use a variety of means to educate Mainers about the deceptive and manipulative practices of local fake abortion clinics.

Our methods will include public distribution of informational flyers, pressuring advertisers to remove CPC advertisements, joint actions with other groups working to expose and ban CPCs, and maintaining and advertising our website, (mainedsa.org/abortion), a resource designed to help Mainers to receive accurate information on what these fake clinics “provide,” how they operate, and where Mainers can go to get real care and resources free from judgment and coercion.

We will raise awareness of fake clinics and our website by holding public-facing events at suitable locations, including outside of Crisis Pregnancy Centers.

Recruitment will come from our previous sign-up sheets and ongoing public-facing events. We will continue to speak to city council members in townships that are affected by CPCs and pressure them to implement an ordinance similar to Somerville MA. This will begin in Portland, but can expand to other municipalities based on favorable conditions. Legislation regulating or banning CPCs will most likely be proposed to the state legislature in the coming year. This legislation, if passed, will change our group’s mission in positive but unforeseeable ways.

Timeline

The proposed timeline is 6 months. Our current mission will be accomplished when fake clinics are no longer able to operate in our state. Conditions that will cause our objectives and strategy to change are further restrictions being placed on abortion here

in Maine, emerging regional or national abortion rights organizing which can further our goals, and the introduction of anti-CPC policies by other persons or groups, which we will organize in support of.

Char 1 Amendment A: Coalition with GRR

Sponsored by Aaron B, Spencer B, Zuni, Rowan, Paige and Jeanne L

Rationale

Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPC) are back in the [headlines](#), and there are two statute changes that will have public comment hearings in Augusta this year. In addition Portland City Councilor Victoria Pelletier outlined a desire to address CPCs at the first meeting of the Portland Health and Human Services committee this year.

While Maine DSA can't take all the credit for popularizing this demand, we have certainly been vocal that CPCs are a danger that must be addressed. What message does it send when the possibility of action is finally at hand and Maine DSA is absent from the fight?

While Abortion Rights WG has struggled to keep up momentum from the early protests, public comment hearings are some of the most traditional activist advocacy. They are low stakes actions that are very easy to recruit for and build relationships around. One of our chapter's first active organizing projects was public comment hearings for Earned Paid Sick Days in 2018, while in coalition with Southern Maine Worker Center.

Cait Vaughan has been a trusted coalition partner in the past when fundraising for abortion funds. Allowing Abortion Rights WG to rely on the resources of GRR will bring consistency to activities and maintain momentum for the working group.

With the above changes, I believe the chapter can feel confident in rechartering Abortion Rights WG.

Amendment

Strike the following language from objectives and replace it with the outlined text.

Objectives

- We will recruit at least 5 new members from our public-facing events
- We will hold at least 3 Public actions educating the public about CPCs

- We will maintain a website about fake clinics (CPCs), and real resources for people in need of care
- We will put pressure on municipalities to implement ordinances banning CPCs, similar to the Somerville MA ordinance, where possible we will collaborate with other groups and legislators on similar restrictions and bans on CPCs.
 - We will work in coalition with Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights.
 - We will organize in support of bills proposed by state representatives Lookner and Gramlich in Augusta
 - Portland City Councilor Victoria Pelletier may introduce ordinance change on the Health and Human Services committee

Add the following section confirming a coalition with Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights.

Coalition: Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights (GRR)

<https://grandmothersforreproductiverights.org/>

Goal

To pass legislative measures to restrict CPCs within the state of Maine.

What does DSA add

We can involve more young people with GRR actions, and also have a website that we can use to update folks about the legislation.

What are other benefits

GRR has access to a staffer, Cait Vaughn, who Maine DSA has worked with in the past. They have been fine with being in open coalition with us. By working with GRR we can bring more consistency to Abortion Rights WG activities.

Redlines

If GRR were to hide their association with us.

Char 1 Amendment B: Coalition with Bates Leftist Coalition

Sponsored by Aaron B, Spencer B, Zuni, Rowan, and Jeanne L

Rationale

Lewiston is uniquely vulnerable to the misinformation provided by Crisis Pregnancy Centers. Organizing. Working with Bates gives us a base of operations.

Amendment

Strike the following language from objectives and replace it with the outlined text.

Objectives

- We will recruit at least 5 new members from our public-facing events
- We will hold at least 3 Public actions educating the public about CPCs, **including a protest in Lewiston**
- We will maintain a website about fake clinics (CPCs), and real resources for people in need of care
- We will put pressure on municipalities to implement ordinances banning CPCs, similar to the Somerville MA ordinance, where possible we will collaborate with other groups and legislators on similar restrictions and bans on CPCs.

Add the following section confirming a coalition with Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights.

Coalition: Bates Leftist Coalition

https://www.instagram.com/bates_blc/

Goal

To bring attention to the harmful practices of the CPC in Lewiston

What does DSA add

Maine DSA has done protests of these types before

What are other benefits

BLC is an officially recognized club of Bates College, which means they have access to facilities on campus.

Redlines

If BLC hid their association with us

Resolution 2: Electoral Strategy

Sponsored by Rose D. and Sarah L.

Whereas, over the past two years the chapter has won significant victories through ballot questions, but has thus far had little success with candidate races.

Whereas, the chapter is running into walls due to its lack of hard influence on legislative bodies.

Whereas, in order to be prepared for the 2024 election cycle, we need to lay significant groundwork if we hope to win any seats.

Resolved, that the chapter is committed to advancing the power of the socialist cause and will endeavor to build an effective party surrogate¹ toward that end.

Resolved, that the chapter will only endorse candidates who self-identify as socialists.

Resolved, the chapter will only endorse candidates that it plans on actively campaigning for, and devote significant chapter time and resources towards. In other words, the chapter will not make paper endorsements.

Resolved, that the chapter will only make a limited number of endorsements per cycle in order to prioritize its efforts on those races in which it will have the maximum impact, and will only do so if a race is winnable.

Resolved, that the chapter will not intervene in races unless it is clear to prospective candidates seeking endorsement that the chapter will maintain strategic and operational control over its own members' efforts.

Resolved, that the chapter will create a rigorous endorsement process prior to the 2024 election cycle.

1. An organization that functions as a political party in the Marxist sense, without seeking legal third party status or a ballot line.

Res 2 Amendment C: Class Struggle Elections

Sponsored by Aaron B, Leo H, and Todd B

Rationale

While we have proven socialism is capable of winning elections in Maine, we have had less success managing expectations for what it means for socialists to govern. This additional resolve will hopefully set the beginning of a framework that we can build upon throughout the rest of 2023.

Amendment

Add the following resolve to Resolution 2: Electoral Strategy

Resolved, that the chapter will only endorse candidates that through their election campaigns, and once in office, see mobilizing and fighting alongside working people as one of their primary responsibilities. They will use their public profile to popularize a class struggle perspective, one that sees the working class as the agents of change and the system of capitalism as the main barrier to change.

Resolution 3: Coalition Approach

Sponsored by Rose D.

Whereas, the chapter has a [coalition policy](#) that was approved by the membership at the 2021 chapter convention.

Whereas, this policy has largely gone unenforced, reducing the democratic accountability of the chapter over its political work.

Whereas, the structure of the chapter has undergone significant changes since 2021.

Whereas, campaigning as DSA and as socialists is a critical part of our political work and we should not hide it.

Resolved, that the chapter will enforce its coalition policy moving forward.

Resolved, that the chapter coalition policy will be amended as follows:

Joining or Forming a Coalition

To join a coalition a motion must be brought to a general meeting. This motion must be sponsored by a committee, **or working group**, or include in the motion the creation of a new committee. The coalition is approved with a simple majority vote. **Under time sensitive circumstances that require it, a coalition can be approved by the steering committee or campaign committee, but must be later affirmed at the next general meeting.**

The chapter will not enter into a coalition unless it is clear to all parties that DSA will participate openly as DSA, as as open socialists, and that the chapter will not join any coalition otherwise.

The committee or working group that sponsored the motion must appoint at least one (1), or up to two (2) Coalition Liaisons, who is responsible for:

- i. Taking responsibility for communication between chapter and coalition**
- ii. Attending coalition leadership meetings.**
- iii. Keeping the rest of the committee or working group up to date.**

Coalition Committees

~~The committee that sponsors the motion for a coalition, or was created with said motion will be called a Coalition Committee (CC). In addition to the normal committee responsibilities, a CC must also:~~

- ~~b. Select however they wish at least one (1), and up to two (2) Coalition Liaisons (CL). CL's will:~~
 - ~~i. Take responsibility for communication between chapter and coalition~~
 - ~~ii. Attend coalition leadership meetings.~~
 - ~~iii. Keep the rest of the committee up to date.~~
- ~~c. The chair of the CC can be a CL, but does not need to be.~~
- ~~d. Meet at least quarterly to discuss the state of the coalition. Whether the original mission statement still fits, and how our chapter's involvement can be improved.~~

~~e. Give at least quarterly reports about the coalition to the General Membership~~

Res 3 Amendment D: Portland Focus

Sponsored by Aaron B and Todd B

Rationale

When building out chapter organizing capacity it is often necessary to rely on coalitions as a scaffolding. As member activity becomes more consistent it becomes easier to stand alone. It is likely that starting any new campaign committee for the chapter will require relying on coalitions. Oftentimes, DSA's direct member control convinces people to organize with us rather than other non-profits.

Maine DSA has used front groups twice in the past with 'People First Portland' and 'Maine Public Power'. While the branding of PFP did cause conflict within the chapter, we have also taken steps to adjust the chapter structure to address such conflict. While inconclusive, it could be said that PFP's non-partisan appearance enabled some of its success. DSA chapters elsewhere have picked up the 'people first' branding and found success elsewhere even within deep blue cities such as DSA San Francisco.

Subsequently with the Livable Portland campaign we have proven that even when being attacked directly with red baiting, DSA can campaign openly and still pass reforms at the ballot box. For this reason, I do not think Maine DSA should ever try to hide itself within Portland again.

It does feel unfair to have allowed members in Portland to use the tactic of front groups to build up our capacity, and turn around to tell members outside of Portland in more hostile territory that they are not allowed to use this tactic.

The coalition policy as written already allows for such red lines to be drawn if the chapter wishes it. Since coalitions are always considered on a case by case basis it seems unnecessary to bar a tactic from even being considered.

Amendment

Add the following highlighted words:

Joining or Forming a Coalition

The chapter will not enter into a coalition **within Portland** unless it is clear to all parties that DSA will participate openly as DSA, as open socialists, and that the chapter will not join any coalition otherwise.

Resolution 4: Convention Delegation Support and Accountability

Sponsored by Aaron B.

Whereas...

Maine DSA spent \$3,014.64 supporting delegates going to the 2019 National DSA Convention. Combined with National DSA reimbursements and the \$2,267.03 raised from a sticker gofundme campaign, the chapter was able to net \$920 for the chapter general fund.

Whereas...

Maine DSA covered the following expenses; registration fees, travel, and lodging. As well as providing solidarity pay for delegates who had to take unpaid leave from work.

Whereas...

Covering the full expenses of nine (9) delegates to the 2023 National Convention in Chicago the weekend of August 4th has an estimated maximum liability of \$4,500

Whereas...

The peer to peer fundraising of the Livable Portland Campaign was effective at raising funds, as well as teaching valuable skills to DSA members.

Whereas...

Democratic Socialists of America strives to be a mass organization of the working class, it is imperative that members from all economic backgrounds are able to participate in the democracy and governance of the organization.

Whereas...

Delegates to the National Convention are representatives of the chapter. This relationship should be one of support as well as accountability and trust.

Resolution

Section I: Delegate Support and Accountability

Therefore be it resolved that Maine DSA will cover the following expenses that elected delegates to the National DSA 2023 Convention are unable to afford:

- Convention Registration Fees
- Travel
- Lodgings

Be it further resolved, that elected delegates will be asked to pay what they are able to afford to the chapter for convention expenses, but also elected delegates can opt out of chapter support and arrange their own travel and lodgings if they so wish.

Be it further resolved, that elected delegates who must take unpaid leave from work in order to attend the three day convention will receive solidarity pay from Maine DSA in the form of \$145 for each day of work missed.

Be it further resolved, delegates will report how they voted on National DSA Convention resolutions that were considered for endorsement by Maine DSA.

Be it further resolved, that the delegation chair, elected by the delegates, will be the finance liaison who is responsible for coordinating with the Finance Working Group to ask what delegates can afford, whether they wish to opt out of chapter support, to ensure smooth reimbursements, and to collect copies of receipts of required transactions.

Be it further resolved, the delegate chair is responsible for keeping the delegation informed about convention updates, as well as accurate reporting of required votes.

Section II: Fundraising

Be it further resolved, that the chapter will strive to raise \$5,000 that will go towards covering the following expenses in this order:

1. Expenses incurred while fundraising
2. Covering the costs of chapter support for convention delegates
3. Fundraiser for an office in Portland

Be it further resolved, that each fundraising effort towards supporting convention delegate support has a line of credit up to \$1,000 with Maine DSA. This must be paid back before funds can be applied to delegate support.

Be it further resolved, Maine DSA will strive to run an online merchandise store operating on pre-orders. Profits will go towards fundraising. It is recommended the store open in May and run till after convention, and that this responsibility be delegated to a new working group charter.

Be it further resolved, Maine DSA will strive to run a peer to peer fundraising program. It is recommended the program begin in May, and that this responsibility be delegated to a new working group charter.

Be it finally resolved, Maine DSA will strive to host a fundraising gala around May Day, International Workers' Day. It is recommended that this responsibility be delegated to a new working group charter.

Resolution 5: 2023 Budget

Sponsored by Joe D. and the Finance Working Group

Rationale

Whereas...

Maine DSA approved its [first budget](#) in May 2022 after being introduced in March 2022. No alterations were made to the budget between introduction and approval. Maine DSA was able to raise an additional \$2,274 in revenue than was budgeted. About \$1,800 of that seems to be recurring revenue expecting to continue into the next year, including an increase of 43 new monthly dues payers. Instead of appropriating the surplus, the budget has been left relatively unchanged.

Whereas...

Members are invited to submit amendments to the budget for how to spend the surplus. Members are reminded that too many amendments can lead to budget deficit, and that 2023 is a National Convention year where we expect to send 9 delegates to Chicago in August.

Whereas...

The \$2,000 appropriated to the Portland Local Campaign Committee is intended to support whatever campaign proposal is approved of in July.

Whereas...

The office fundraiser is separate from this proposed budget. Progress is shown in the chart down below. If members wish to use general funds on the office fundraiser it should be submitted as a budget amendment.

	Currently	Goal	Stretch Goal
Upfront Cash	\$440	\$1,200	\$2,400
Progress	12 individual donors	36%	18%
Monthly Revenue	\$180	\$450	\$750
Progress	6 monthly donors	40%	24%

Resolved

Therefore shall it be resolved that Maine DSA will adopt the [attached budget](#) for the fiscal year of 2023 - 2024.

Proposed Budget

Annual Estimate Revenue

Dues Share - \$7,200 (228 monthly due payers)

Local Pass the Hat - \$2,625 (16 monthly donors)

Total - \$9,820

Proposed Expenses

Cost of Tech - \$800

Semi-Annual Meetings- \$1,000

Maine Public Power - \$2,000
Local Portland Campaign - \$2,000
Solidarity Fund - \$1,000
Steering Committee Discretionary Fund - \$800
Total - \$7,600

Cash Balance

Cash on hand - \$7,461
Budget Surplus +\$2,220
End of Year - \$9,681

Resolution 6: The Most Radical Socialist Face Mask Proposal in America

Sponsored by Cyr O, Wil T, Peach C, Joe D, Anne E, Hawo M

Summary

This policy states all Indoor Chapter-Run Events will require the wearing of face masks by all attendees. Chapter-Run Events held exclusively outdoors do not require mask wearing, but masks should still be recommended as long as this policy is in effect. All In-Person Events published on the Maine DSA calendar, mailing lists, or social media posts must also include a reminder of the mask policy. As with all Maine DSA policies, this policy could be reviewed, amended, or repealed at any Maine DSA voting General Meeting or at an emergency meeting called by the Steering Committee or by petition of at least ten members.

Introduction

Maine DSA should strive to create a safer space to be in and prevent the spread of COVID-19, especially amongst vulnerable members of our chapter and the community.

While our chapter's general meetings and most working group meetings happen online in a digital space, 2022 has continued the trend of a return to dense, in-person activities with more risk of transmission than the outdoor canvassing that was such a large part of our in-person events in 2021-2022. While there is little doubt that in-person events have many advantages, COVID-19 is still a problem and it continues to spread at

significant levels within our communities. While Maine's state of civil emergency ended on [June 30, 2021](#), community transmission is still a problem despite little coverage in the news. Many have chosen to 'move on' from COVID-19, this leaves many especially-vulnerable people excluded and at risk.

Not taking preventative measures sends the wrong message to working-class people: Get hurt or Go Home.

Along with the strong scientific evidence for their effectiveness, wearing face masks is a visible show of solidarity and those who look for that support can read it on our faces when we do not wear them. By collectively deciding to wear face masks indoors again, we can again open the doors to all and find a balance between in-person enrichment and inclusivity. While a number of people have made the individual choice to stop wearing face coverings when policies statewide began to drop, as a chapter we don't have to follow the status quo, and can choose to make conscious decisions again to better protect our comrades and our community.

Under this policy, all chapter members and other participants of indoor Chapter-Run Events, must wear face masks. Taking into consideration that being outdoors reduces the spread of COVID-19, outdoor events will have a mask recommendation rather than a requirement. Please note that if an event moves from outdoors to indoors, the mask recommendation turns into a mask requirement as the Chapter-Run Event is now an indoor event.

Resolution

WHEREAS, We are striving to be a worker-led movement, with comrades who are immunocompromised and/or may not have health insurance, paid sick leave, or the savings to cover a prolonged illness,

WHEREAS, We – as a chapter built on compassion for the health and safety of our comrades, their families, and their communities – need the understanding that we should do our part to reduce the spread of airborne illnesses such as COVID-19, RSV, and Influenza,

WHEREAS, Exposure to airborne illnesses is a risk everywhere, but especially indoors and in crowded spaces,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Maine DSA's Indoor Chapter-Run Events will have a face mask requirement. Maine DSA's Chapter-Run Events held completely outdoors will have

at least a face mask recommendation. All event attendees are required to follow this policy, regardless of position or membership status.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Chapter-Run Events are defined as any event being run by members of the chapter within the context of chapter business. Some examples of Chapter-Run events include working group meetings, chapter social events, rallies, and community outreach.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Indoor Chapter-Run Events are defined as an in-person event that is open to general chapter membership or the public and is held in a space with a roof and at least three walls. If the only people attending in person are elected members running an event with the general membership or public joining only virtually, masks are recommended but not required.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Indoor Chapter-Run Events should refrain from serving food and/or encouraging eating at the event and post-event socials should strongly consider spaces that reduce risk of transmission (i.e. outdoor venues and/or well ventilated venues).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, If, during the course of an Indoor Chapter-Run Event, an attendee refuses to abide by this policy even after a comradely reminder, the chapter organizer or their appointed mask enforcement representative shall ask the attendee to leave.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, All Chapter-Run Events that are listed on our Maine DSA Calendar, Social Media posts, or sent through our mailing lists must include a written notice of this face mask policy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the chapter will obtain and provide medical-grade face masks for attendees of Indoor Chapter-Run Events. Masks will be stored in a chapter-controlled space or with willing members who will ensure they are available at Indoor Chapter-Run Events.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the chapter shall propose a policy workshop to revisit this policy every April and September to address the ever-changing nature of illness from respiratory disease in order to make the least restrictive masking policy that allows for the most participation by chapter members and members of the public who would, during times of high risk, otherwise be excluded without this policy. The timing of these workshops is intended to allow a month of discussion ahead of voting meetings in May and October. If no members are willing to run the workshop, it can be skipped.

Additional Information

Types of Masks to Wear

It is encouraged to wear high quality medical masks – such as those rated N95, KN95 or KF94 – as they offer much greater protection for the wearer and those around them. You can read more about different levels of protection on [the CDC website](#). Maine DSA will provide high-quality masks whenever possible for chapter events, although members are welcome to use their own.

What prompted this?

At our Little Dog By The Met Workers United Solidarity Sip-In that was held November 30th, 2022, attendees were asked by the workers to wear masks inside the coffee shop, despite the business owner having no requirement. By complying with this request, we visibly displayed support for not only their organizing efforts, but for the health and safety of all workers who continue to get sick with, amass medical debt from, and even die of respiratory illnesses.

Mask Etiquette

Proper Mask Usage

- Masks should be worn by covering both the mouth and nose.
- The filter material should not have any holes in it.
- The mask should not contain a one-way valve which expels unfiltered air.
- If a reusable cloth mask is to be worn, the filter medium should not be made of materials such as mesh, elastic, fishnet, cheesecloth, or any other material that does not filter out respiratory droplets. Masks should not be chosen in an attempt to evade the requirements of this policy.

Exceptions

While attendees should strive to wear masks whenever possible during Indoor Chapter-Run Events, it is impossible to be masked while eating or drinking (in areas designated by the event organizers), receiving first aid, or other common sense situations; during these situations, masks can be removed. As soon as is practical, masks should again be worn by all attendees.

✨Workshop✨

This section is just the thoughts of what I think should probably be the structure of expectation of each event. But if we feel it can be nicely included in the resolution itself, we could delete this section, or keep it as an expanded explainer of the policy. Either way I think hashing this out is important either way to make sure we are all on the same page.

Enforcement

Indoor events

If you arrive at an event without a face mask, you will be given a face mask provided from the chapter supply. The chapter will provide masks for free to all attendees.

You may be asked to leave the space if you fail to comply with the policy after explanation of the requirement and being provided a mask to wear. Questions are always welcome, retaliation against the policy is not.

Outdoor events

Chapter events held outdoors have a mask recommendation, not a requirement. The chapter will provide masks for free to all attendees who want to wear them. You will not be asked to leave for not wearing a mask.

Events with both indoor and outdoor spaces

The chapter will provide masks for free to all attendees to wear.

Masks are to be worn at all times Indoors and follow the same Mask Etiquette guide.

Masks are optional to wear when back outside and may be worn or removed when In the outdoor space.

Hybrid Events (In-Person and Online)

No masks required.

Online Only Events

No masks required or recommended as participation in-person is not an option to begin with.

There is no enforcement of a mask policy on individual members hanging out for the virtual meeting together, as it does not affect involvement of the event for other participants.

History

Original Policy Written 12/04/2022 ([view original here](#))

Original Policy was presented on 12/11/2022 at December General Meeting

Policy was referred to 2023 Chapter Convention

New version started 12/11/2022 to add more information and make edits

Res 6 Amendment E

Sponsored by Rose D. and Wes P.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Maine DSA's Chapter-Run Events will have a face mask requirement for all indoor events and activities of 8 or more people. Maine DSA Chapter-Run Events held completely outdoors will have a face mask recommendation.

Res 6 Amendment I

Sponsored by Marianne M.-W.

Rationale: As the face mask policy is an emergency measure intended to respond to high levels of Covid transmission, its duration should not be indefinite. Rather, the need for such a policy should be regularly reviewed by the chapter taking into account covid spread conditions.

Therefore, be it resolved, Maine DSA's face mask policy will have a duration of three months. At the conclusion of this period, the chapter will decide by simple majority vote at the next general body meeting if the policy will be renewed. If the three month period

ends before the next general business meeting, the policy will remain in effect until the chapter has voted.

Resolution 7: No Portland Electoral Campaign 2023

Sponsored by Leo H.

Whereas, Maine DSA has successfully run ballot initiative campaigns in 2020 and 2022 and endorsed winning candidates for local office in 2020 and 2021;

Whereas, it is imperative for long-term success of our wins in workers and tenants rights that we focus on defending and implementing our ordinances;

Whereas, the Local Campaign Committee may plan to engage in a large-scale candidate campaign for the 2024 general election;

Whereas, we must build capacity and engagement with Portlanders outside of the realm of electoral campaigns to develop our relationships with other working class Portlanders and credibility as fighters for the working class;

Therefore be it so resolved, the Portland Local Campaign Committee will not engage in a candidate campaign or ballot initiative campaign for the November 2023 election;

Resolved, that the Portland Local Campaign Committee will not endorse or campaign for any candidates or ballot initiatives for the November 2023 election;

Res 7 Amendment F

Sponsored by Ethan S.

No Limitations on Portland Electoral Campaign 2023

Whereas, Maine DSA has successfully run ballot initiative campaigns in 2020 and 2022 and endorsed winning candidates for local office in 2020 and 2021;

Whereas, it is imperative for long-term success of our wins in workers and tenants rights that we focus on defending and implementing our ordinances;

Whereas, our opposition may initiate their own referenda in 2023 attempting to repeal our wins and/or proposing regressive anti-worker/anti-democratic policies;

Whereas, the Local Campaign Committee may plan to engage in a large-scale candidate campaign for the 2024 general election;

Whereas, we must build capacity and engagement with Portlanders outside of the realm of electoral campaigns to develop our relationships with other working class Portlanders and credibility as fighters for the working class;

Therefore be it so resolved, the Portland Local Campaign Committee will not proactively engage in a candidate campaign or ballot initiative campaign for the November 2023 election;

Resolved, that the Portland Local Campaign Committee will not recruit or endorse ~~or campaign for~~ any non-DSA member candidates or seek to place on the ballot any of our own initiatives for the November 2023 election;

Resolved, that should our opposition initiate referenda in 2023 attempting to repeal our wins and/or referenda pushing regressive anti-worker/anti-democratic policies, the Portland Local Campaign Committee will prepare a plan for Member consideration to defeat those initiatives which may include, but is not limited to, competing measures, forming a formal Ballot Question Committee, joining coalitions in opposition, etc ;

Charter 2: Pine and Roses

Sponsored by the Pine and Roses Working Group

The Steering Committee recommends a yes vote on this charter.

Coordinators: Todd B

Endorsers: Todd B, Wil T, Marianne M-W, Dylan C, Tzara K

Mission Statement and Objectives

Pine & Roses is a journalistic and editorial project aimed at bringing together our membership by allowing another avenue for engagement and skills learning; grow our organization's reach with regular articles and podcast episodes that address working

class issues; and root Maine DSA more firmly in our state's social and class reality from Kittery to Calais, from Madawaska to Rumford.

Strategy & Support

Our strategy is to offer socialist viewpoints on issues and news that affect Maine's working class and marginalized populations. We aim to have at least $\frac{2}{3}$ of our pieces Maine-focused, with room to discuss broader issues outside of Maine. Our 2023 strategy includes increasing our email list subscribers, ensuring that articles are put out regularly every other week and podcast episodes once per month, continuing to record articles into audio format, and getting our Editorial Collective (EC) back to full strength with no fewer than three members. The EC is responsible for engaging with contributors and volunteers, coordinating work flow and publishing dates, scheduling regular planning meetings, and administering communications (website, email, and social media).

Support that the Steering Committee can provide includes open communication around chapter priorities and any endorsed campaigns or candidates, boosting relevant articles and podcast episodes via the Chapter's social media platforms and weekly flier, and funding if/when we feel prepared to attempt our stretch goal of publishing a print compilation.

Goals

We are requesting a term of one full year, with expectations to revisit and request another charter at the end of this term. In 2023, we have the following goals:

1. Ensure $\frac{1}{3}$ of all new articles are recorded into audio format.
2. Onboard and maintain at least three individuals as members of the editorial collective.
3. Get more participation from membership by actively recruiting contributors to submit pieces of writing or art or to help with behind the scenes labor.
4. Re-establish regular release dates for both written pieces and podcast episodes.
5. Take steps toward creating a one-off print publication, understanding this is a stretch goal.

Charter 3: Labor Solidarity

Sponsored by the Labor Solidarity Working Group

The Steering Committee recommends a yes vote on this charter.

Coordinators: Jake G, Leo H, Jo O,

Endorsers: Jake G, Leo H, Wil T, Tzara K, Jo O, Spencer B, Jeanne L,

Mission Statement and Objectives:

To bring proactive labor organization to Maine DSA, to build community through class struggle, and to put member-organizers on the frontlines of labor actions with the working class.

Objectives:

1. Formalize our meeting schedule and structure as well as doing outreach with members and encouraging them to attend meetings and contribute;
2. Create a "Solidarity Fund" policy and how-to document to submit to Steering Committee for approval;
3. Develop a strategy for how our chapter should relate to and maintain contact with local unions and organized labor institutions (e.g. Southern Maine Labor Council, Southern Maine Workers' Center, Maine AFL-CIO, Maine Labor Climate Council);
4. Create a "Strike Calendar" that tracks when local union contracts expire so that we can know when to expect labor action;
5. Facilitate member attendance of trainings from other labor organizations and organize cohorts of members to attend those trainings;
6. Strategize and organize for a potential strike at UPS, including:
 - a. Creating a chapter strategy for engagement with the strike;
 - b. equipping our members with the skills to engage with Teamsters on the picket line and introduce the workers to socialist ideas;
7. Organize spaces for workers to discuss ongoing issues in their field across jobsites, especially public school workers;
8. Continued support of labor actions generally through turnout, social media, etc.

Strategy & Support:

Through better meeting structure, planning, outreach we hope to promote better meeting attendance, adherence to our goals, and more interest in our chapter's labor work. Our new strategy prioritizes integrating our members into the existing labor movement and giving them the skills they need to elevate the class consciousness of workers rather than tailing labor by simply showing up to labor actions.

Support from the Steering Committee should remain limited to tech tools, social media, access to member info, and occasionally limited funding. Should UPS workers go on

strike within the timeframe of this charter this may be subject to change.

Timeline:

6 Months, January 2023 to July 2023

Char 3 Amendment G: Pine Tree Power

Sponsored by Aaron B, Jo O, Todd B, and Leo H

Rationale

Labor organizing is one of the most exciting prospects for organizing on the left right now. The labor solidarity charter seems set to be doing a good amount of outreach. Meanwhile, the Maine Public Power has struggled to keep its meetings going, and has lost its sense of direction now that petitioning is done.

Maine AFL-CIO endorsement against Pine Tree Power came only from an executive board decision, and circumnavigated the state federation's annual convention. There is a possibility that we may find individual unions willing to support Pine Tree Power with direct outreach. This can also give us a task which helps us make sense of how to hold these relationships with institutions.

Focusing on this will also help us manage the contradiction of having organized labor in Maine working against one of our priority campaigns. Hopefully leading to the revitalization of the Maine Public Power campaign.

Amendment

Add the following text to the objectives section

Objectives:

1. Formalize our meeting schedule and structure as well as doing outreach with members and encouraging them to attend meetings and contribute;
2. Create a "Solidarity Fund" policy and how-to document to submit to Steering Committee for approval;
3. Develop a strategy for how our chapter should relate to and maintain contact with local unions and organized labor institutions (e.g. Southern Maine Labor

Council, Southern Maine Workers' Center, Maine AFL-CIO, Maine Labor Climate Council);

- a. Explore the possibility of getting individual unions to come out in support for the Pine Tree Power ballot question.
4. Create a "Strike Calendar" that tracks when local union contracts expire so that we can know when to expect labor action;
5. Facilitate member attendance of trainings from other labor organizations and organize cohorts of members to attend those trainings;
6. Strategize and organize for a potential strike at UPS, including:
 - a. Creating a chapter strategy for engagement with the strike;
 - b. equipping our members with the skills to engage with Teamsters on the picket line and introduce the workers to socialist ideas;
7. Organize spaces for workers to discuss ongoing issues in their field across jobsites, especially public school workers;
8. Continued support of labor actions generally through turnout, social media, etc.

Bylaw Amendment 3: Proposal for Committee Chairs

Sponsored by Todd B, Aaron B and Jake G.

WHEREAS, the current phrasing of committee leaders as "members" has led to some confusion regarding the status of other active committee participants.

WHEREAS, committee leaders have voting powers while other active committee participants do not.

WHEREAS, we should clearly demarcate roles possessing different powers with easily identifiable titles.

WHEREAS, the current number of required public-facing committee meetings is only four (4) per year, potentially limiting new and/or potential members from learning organizational skills and buy-in.

WHEREAS, as a socialist organization we should strive to foster buy-in and organizational experience by offering points of entry and activity as often as is safely possible for new and/or potential members, while still allowing for sensitive and secure closed meetings.

Amendment

RESOLVED, that Article VIII, Sections 2, 3 and 4 of Maine DSA's bylaws be modified as follows:

Section 2. Formation

1. Committees may be formed by motion at any membership meeting.
2. Motions shall define a mission statement.
3. Motions may adjust the length of committee Chairs' terms.
4. Motions require endorsement from at least ten (10) DSA members in good standing for approval.

Section 3. Membership

- A. Committees shall consist of three (3) ~~members~~ Chairs.
- B. Committee ~~members~~ Chairs will be elected by the general membership to terms of six (6) months at the Chapter Meeting in January and July.
- C. Committee ~~members~~ Chairs may resign at any time.
- D. Vacancies shall be filled by electronic vote 30 days after notice is delivered to the membership, following the rules of Article VI for the remainder of the six (6) month term.
- E. Committees may appoint other chapter members as non-voting committee members to assist in fulfilling its duties or complete the necessary work of the committee. This must be reported to the general membership.
- F. Committees may also create sub-committees which are open to all chapter members.

Section 4. Meetings

- A. Committees must meet at least once per month.
- B. Meetings shall be confirmed by minutes or quarterly reports.
- C. While Committee meetings ~~are themselves~~ can be closed, they must hold at least one (1) public-facing meeting every two months. ~~per quarter.~~

Bylaw Amendment 4: Diversity Requirement

Sponsored by the Todd B, Aaron B

Rationale

WHEREAS, our chapter has yet to achieve its current diversity requirements for Steering.

WHEREAS, our current diversity requirements have, at times, arguably led to members being asked to run for Steering mainly because of their identity, with little thought about whether or not they felt ready, or even wanted to.

WHEREAS, we have yet to fulfill diversity requirements, and should be sober enough to recognize that calling such standards "Requirements" is misleading, given that we operate with or without them being met.

WHEREAS, we should still strive to build our chapter's diversity when it comes to leadership, because the working class is diverse and we wish to reflect that.

Amendment

RESOLVED, that Article V, Section 3 of Maine DSA's bylaws be modified as follows:

Section 3. Diversity Requirements Standards

A. The makeup of the Steering Committee shall **strive to** consist of:

1. At least three non-cisgender-men.
2. At least one minority with respect to race, sexual orientation, and/or country of origin.

B. If Diversity Standards are not met, the Election Committee will notify General Membership and announce a 15 day nomination window for a total of one (1) at-large seat, open to members who would help meet the diversity goals.

1. **If no one chooses to run, the Steering Committee will operate as is for the remainder of its term.**
2. **If one (1) or more member(s) who help meet diversity standards accept(s) nomination, the Electoral Committee shall set up a chapter-wide election to be held within fifteen (15) days after the nomination window ends.**
3. **An at-large term shall last until the next Semi-Annual Chapter Meeting.**

~~B. Fulfilling requirements. During the calculation of results for any election of Steering~~

~~Committee Members, the Election Committee will repeat the following process as necessary (i.e. it may be necessary to do this more than once):~~

- ~~a. The Election Committee will analyze the potential makeup of the Steering Committee as it will exist after the election.~~
- ~~b. If it is determined that the diversity requirements will not be met by the SC voting members after the election and the electorate has willing members available who, if added, would allow them to meet the requirement:~~
 - ~~i. The Election Committee will inform the existing Steering Committee of its determination that the diversity requirements have not been met.~~
 - ~~ii. An additional temporary Steering Committee position will be~~

~~created, its term to expire at the next Semi-Annual meeting and be *eliminated* at said expiration.~~

- ~~iii. The Election Committee will hold an immediate single-winner special election for this newly created position with the candidate pool restricted to only those candidates who would help to fulfill the unfulfilled diversity requirements.~~

Bylaw Amendment 5: Disability Diversity Requirement

Sponsored by the Wil T, Tim D, Spencer B, Jeanne L, Cyr O

Rationale

WHEREAS, the language “non-cisgender-men” could be misconstrued,

WHEREAS, disability is recognized in 26% of US adults,

WHEREAS, disabled workers are at great risk of discrimination by capitalists who maintain their illegitimate control over the means of production by ignoring the rights of workers in making the planning decisions of their workplace,

WHEREAS, disabled people are systematically discriminated against, invisibilized, and denied services by the state and frequently murdered by police during crises that arise from forced participation in that capitalist system,

WHEREAS, decisions that impact people with disabilities are often made without seeking their guidance and input,

Amendment

RESOLVED, that Article V, Section 3 of Maine DSA's bylaws be modified as follows:

The makeup of the Steering Committee shall consist of:

At least three ~~non-cisgender-men~~ **members who are not exclusively cisgender men.**

At least one member who is a person of color.

At least one ~~minority~~ **member with a marginalized identity** with respect to ~~race~~, sexual orientation, **disability**, and/or country of origin.

Bylaw Amend 5 Amendment H: Roll Back Diversity to Gender Only

Sponsored by Aaron B, Sarah L, Marianne M-W, and Rose D

Rationale

Maine DSA diversity requirements were expanded at the 2021 annual convention, but the at-large seats have yet to be taken advantage of.

We have seen locally in Portland how electeds from marginalized backgrounds, like Victoria Pelletier or Nasreen Sheikh-Yousef, are put through more scrutiny and pressure. Do we want to force such a situation because of a diversity requirement?

We do not have a clear tool for interpreting the bylaws, and the ad-hoc elections committee should not be assigned the task of determining the validity of a member's disability.

Amendment

Modify the amendment as such:

RESOLVED, that Article V, Section 3 of

Maine DSA's bylaws be modified as follows:

The makeup of the Steering Committee shall consist of: ~~A at least three non-cisgender men~~
members who are not exclusively cisgender men.

~~At least one member who is a person of color.~~

~~At least one minority member with a marginalized identity with respect to race, sexual orientation, disability, and/or country of origin.~~

Chapter Election Candidates

Agenda Co-Chair

Wes P.

Bio: I've served in multiple leadership positions in the chapter, including Secretary-- a position which no longer exists-- and co-chair of Finance and Communications. This year I also served as chair of the Portland Campaign Committee.

Goals: The chapter is in a position where we are beginning to get good at creating interest and excitement, but imo the internal structures need to be girded so new members are able to get a clearer sense of how to get involved. To that end, as agenda co-chair, I want to start discussing and documenting the basics of a lot of the work we do, from running a meeting and taking minutes to planning a rally. I also want to surface the work steering does and make more it more legible to the rank-and-file.

Communications Co-Chair

Amanda D.

Bio: Amanda Daly is a soil ecologist, PhD student, and lab manager at the University of New Hampshire. Like many Portlanders she is alarmed by the rapid changes to the city that threaten working class residents. Amanda joined the Maine DSA in the recent election cycle to volunteer for the Livable Portland campaign, and since then has been whipping up infographics and images for the chapter's Instagram. While new to the DSA, Amanda has a history of leadership. At UNH she co-founded a grad student affinity group for gender diversity in STEM, served on the UNH President's Commission on the Status of Women, planned events for UNH Stonewall Grads, and is now a lead organizer in a graduate worker unionization campaign. Her qualifications for the Comms position are succinctly summarized by 3 of her 5 "top themes" from the StrengthsFinder(TM) assessment: Connectedness, Communication, and Woo. The other two are Strategic and Input. She stans data and a good brainstorming sesh. And crafting. She loves crafting.

Goals: Create consistent, aesthetic, and informative content for social media
Collaborate with other working groups to amplify their messages
Craft messaging that is clear and engaging
Foster a welcoming tone in Comms meetings
Support comrades
Have fun and get things done

Finance Co-Chair

Wil T.

Bio: I was the 2022 Maine Public Power Co-Chair and have helped with a lot of various things around DSA since joining in early 2021. I am a self-employed IT worker and have years of experience tracking finances for that.

Goals: More graphs
More fundraising
Work with campaigns that need help with finance or reporting.

Membership Co-Chair

Evan B.

Bio: I have been an active member for about a year and a half. Served as Finance Co-chair for a couple of months and resigned because finance wasn't for me. I've worked on Liveable Portland campaign and MPP as a frequent canvasser. I also have attended some labor solidarity events such as picketing.

Goals:

- Establish a more regular schedule for socials in and outside of Portland
- Reestablish midcoast branch/membership events
- Continue and expand new member connections and mobilization programs
- Brainstorm how to increase attendance at labor solidarity events

Spencer B.

Bio: I'm an activist and organizer in the Portland area, I'm deeply committed to building a strong and inclusive socialist movement in Maine, and to that end I've

been attending new member orientations since May to learn the process of running orientations, and I've secured nominations from Jake G, the former membership co-chair, and Jeanne L, the current membership co-chair.

I'm experienced in developing new members into engaged activists, and contacting new and existing members.

I've helped to start and maintain the mobilizer-huddle which is meeting regularly and working to extend our chapter's reach beyond the Portland area, as well as deepen the engagement we already have. We've successfully organized a pizza party in Saco engaging members in the York county area. I've been active in abortion rights organizing, housing justice, climate action, and more, and everywhere I go, I am happy to meet potential comrades and connections who often get involved in our work.

Goals: As membership co-chair, I intend to continue and improve upon our existing new-member orientation and outreach, systematizing it in such a way that new members feel included and engaged and do not slip through the cracks.

We're currently working on asking existing members from Portland and around the state how we can help them get more engaged, this is work I am committed to continue as well, ensuring our members feel that DSA is theirs and here for them.

I'm also interested in developing a series of chapter discussions on topics with the potential to engage existing members and first-time meeting-goers, and working with political education to develop education for new members and existing members,

Political Education

Aaron B.

Bio: Art school grad, tabletop board game nerd, and now socialist. Aaron Berger joined DSA in 2018 back when the chapter still met at the Portland city hall. While initially shy, he soon found his footing, and began learning all he could about organizing. Aaron had worked at the Portland Museum of Art since 2012, but within a year of joining DSA he began to have conversations with co-workers about unionizing. He has held several officer positions throughout the chapter.

Joining the Steering Committee as an at-large officer in late 2019. He was Agenda Co-Chair for 2020 to 2021. In 2022 he stepped back from leadership to take a position as a Harassment and Grievance Officer.

Aaron has worked on several campaigns with the chapter. He was DSA's coalition lead on the Earned Paid Sick Days campaign in 2019. He bottomlined the short lived covid-19 cash assistance mutual aid program at the start of the pandemic. In late 2020 working with UAW 2110, he was able to win union recognition at the museum. He was on the independent expenditure committee of the People First Charter campaign. At the end of 2021, Aaron quit his job at the museum and went to work with coalition partner Our Power as a data manager. There he was able to assist in gathering over 80,000 signatures and help put public power on the ballot.

Aaron is passionate about DSA because he has found being a member of this organization transformative. He hopes to empower future members to effect change in their life as he has been able to in his.

Goals: 1.) Since the rebirth of the modern DSA, there have been several books and essays that act as touchstones for many of its members. "Hegemony How-To" by Jonathon Smucker, and "No Shortcuts" by Jane McAlevey being two examples. I would like to see political education put together a focus that surveys these greatest hits, and then using them to reflect on our chapter's activity.

2.) I would like to improve attendance and retention around political education. To have our readings have higher attendance than our general meetings if possible. Focusing on direct outreach, and reaching out to old participants. Public meetings should focus on welcoming in new people rather than bureaucratic fights. The hope being that there are several people who feel confident to step up into leadership in July.

3.) I would like the political education committee to coordinate more with the rest of the leadership in the chapter. I would focus on communicating with campaign committees and the steering committee about questions they are facing, and how Poli-Ed might be able to help unpack them.

Jake G.

Bio: I joined the DSA in late 2020. In 2021 I served as chair of the Electoral Committee and in 2022 I served as a chair of the Membership Working Group on

the Steering Committee. I have been involved with other parts of the organization, most extensively as a coordinator for the Labor Solidarity Working Group and in Political Education. I am currently unemployed but will probably be returning to work at a grocery store in the near future.

Goals: My goal for the Political Education Committee is to develop a regularly recurring new member education program designed to teach new members basic Marxist political economy, political theory, and practical organizing skills. I believe this will not only better equip our new members to begin organizing in their communities, but it will also get them more invested in the Chapter and will hopefully help them organize for the Chapter in their geographic region. I intend to work closely with the Membership Working Group to implement this program.

I don't have particularly strong feelings about what the reading group should read though I would like to see more Lenin, Marx, and Engels. I would also like to see some sessions dedicated to short texts (letters, speeches, essays, etc.) of theoretical importance as well for people that are pressed for time.

If you have questions about my candidacy please feel free to reach out on the Slack or at jacobgamache06@gmail.com

Bob R.

Bio: I am a current member of SMDSA. I joined in 2019. I have been a socialist since 1968, when I joined Young Socialist Alliance, the youth organization for the Socialist Workers Party. I was active with the Anti-war coalition to end the war in Vietnam and the Students for a Democratic Society. I took an active role in organizing my campus Student for a Democratic Society. (SDS did a lot of public speaking with the various antiwar groups involved in the Springfield, Amherst, and Hartford areas throughout 1967 -1972. During that same period, I worked with black students on and off campus to institute a black studies program. I engaged with welfare reform in the city, working with community groups and parties, including the Black Panthers. I have since worked in the Lewiston Auburn area for over 35 years advocating for the homeless and working with the Maines People Alliance on local housing issues; I was also actively working with immigrant organizations to include them in local housing and advocacy organizations.

My involvement with the DSA has been primarily on two committees. The Political Education Committee, and Caring Comrades. Committee. I actively

participated in both committees, regularly participating in meetings and giving input during group planning sessions.

Goals: I would like to see the Committee continue to read and discuss a variety of readings on socialism. One goal would be to create more input from the general membership on what we are reading. A second goal would be to implement the goal of establishing an introductory course on socialism for new members. I want to review the limits of Zoom as a discussion format and find a way to make it more amenable to questions between members than the current stand-alone "stack" method. Finally, I would like to find a way for the Political Education Committee to assist field organizers and DSA programming efforts in reviewing the socialist values, strategies, and outcomes through a joint review of the critical theory of these efforts. This might include inviting field organizers to ask questions or ask for assistance from the Committee in reviewing the socialist content of our program efforts, all on a voluntary democratic basis.

David S.

Bio: I have been actively attending, planning, and organizing Political Education events with Maine DSA since January of 2020. For the last 20 years, I researched and taught in a social science discipline, giving me the opportunity to study a broad collection of socialist writings on topics like alienation, class, and ideology.

Goals: Political education involves not only furthering one's understanding of socialist theory but also developing the capacity to do democracy, participate in politics, and analyze the current moment. To that end, I have collaborated with members of the Political Education Committee to foster democratic praxis and to include rank-and-file members in organizing study groups. My first goal is continuing this project by ensuring rank-and-file members have the opportunity to collectively decide on the focus proposal and to actively participate in planning events. My second goal is revitalizing our efforts to host educational events for non-voting meetings, such as the panels we organized in the spring of 2022 featuring socialists speaking on the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the Maine Public Power initiative. Finally, my third goal is increasing interest in the committee's activities by working with members to develop a curriculum of broad interest to the chapter, to reach out to inactive members, and to involve new members in our organizing.

Portland Local Campaign Committee

Rose D.

Bio: I've been a DSA member since 2017, and have been a member in four different chapters, having held a variety of positions and roles. I am currently a member of the steering committee as one of the chapter's agenda co-chairs. In other chapters, I have previously been a political education co-chair, a YDSA co-chair, and a branch interim co-chair. I have participated in a number of electoral campaigns as both a DSA volunteer (DSA for Bernie, Philly DSA campaigns for city and state offices, our own MDSA for a Livable Portland), as well as in a staff capacity (Our Power). I also helped co-author the bylaws changes that created the local campaign structure.

Goals: Some rough ideas I have:

- Lay groundwork for the 2024 electoral cycle, including creating a clear endorsement process and candidate recruitment.
- Run a local recruitment drive/dues drive to build greater chapter capacity by growing our membership, and giving us more financial resources for projects and other needs (such as an office).
- Organize against attempts to restrict the city's referendum process.
- Potential for some sort of city council pressure work, including organizing to defend and enforce recent ballot initiatives victories.
- Work with the political education committee to host educational events about city politics, the new rent control law, and other local topics.
- Coordinate with other chapter bodies more closely.

Tzara K.

Bio: Portland-area barista and labor enthusiast. Nine-year veteran of Maine's tourism industry. Proud and pugnacious transsexual.

Goals: In spite of recent legislative success, housing access and affordability remains the issue at the forefront of Portland politics. To address this, I propose:

- 1.) Heat map and pressure campaign of ongoing illegal/usurious rental practices in Portland.

- 2.) Begin work on preparing a DSA cadre candidate for the 2024 Portland City Council election

- 3.) Combat reactionary attempt to limit future citizen ballot initiatives in Portland.

Ethan S.

Bio: I have served on the DSA electoral committee for the past year, and was on People first Portland in 2020. I have worked on numerous campaigns, at the municipal and local levels. I also served as Mayor of Portland and as its state senator.

Goals: First and foremost, monitor and advocate for the implementation of the DSA originated initiatives passed in 2020 and 2022, and the DSA endorsed charter amendments passed in 2022.

Second, pressure the Portland city council to act on those initiatives that did not pass (cruise ships, airbnb, sub-minimum wages, etc).

Third, begin planning for 2024 and any possible policy initiatives we will want to recommend to membership for action.

Katie W.

Bio:

Goals:

Harassment and Grievance Officer

Hawo M.

Bio: Previously served as a chair of the membership committee for 2 years. Last year, was one of two HGOs.

Goals: My goal for being a H&G officer is to educate people about the benefits of using restorative practice to address conflict and harm within our chapter. I believe the way that we address harm and conflict in DSA is to similar to formal court proceedings. The current official grievance process feels, to me, too formal and less connected. Members are feeling like they don't have the support they need to navigate difficult conversations and work towards better solutions. I would love to introduce preventative restorative practices through education so that members can utilize the tools to address concerns on their own, as conflict is inevitable in community and especially in our chapter.
(also p.s just a reminder my new email is: mohamed.Hawo@gmail.com)