2025 MADSA Convention Compendium

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Agenda

8:30-9:30 am: **Prep**

9:30-10:00 am: **Check-In**

10:00-10:15 am: **Welcome**

10:15-10:20 am: **Approval of the Agenda**

10:20-10:35 am: **Community Building Activities**

10:35-11:00 am: **Executive Committee Report**

11:00-11:45 am: **Plenary Discussion**
The State of the Class Struggle
(2 minute limit per speaker)

11:45-11:55 am: **Introduction to Debate**

11:55 am-1:00 pm: **Debate Period 1**
(2 minute limit per speaker)

Proposals will be deliberated in the order listed in this compendium.

1:00-1:40 pm: **Lunch!**

1:40-3:00 pm: **Debate Period 2**
(2 minute limit per speaker)

3:00-3:30 pm: **Officer Elections**
(1 minute limit per speaker)

Elections will be held in the order listed in this compendium.

3:30-3:45 pm: **Brainstorming/Breakout Activities**

3:45-4:00 pm: **Closing Activities**

4:00-7:00 pm: **Social @ Labor Temple Bar**

About Convention

Madison DSA's annual chapter convention helps set the overall direction of our chapter and work for the coming year. It's our largest meeting of the year where members submit changes to our bylaws, propose resolutions guiding our internal and external work (including potential new projects and campaigns), review and vote on rechartering our working groups, and elect members to the executive committee for the next year.

Resolutions

In general, a resolution is a proposal to take some action. The action could be as simple as adopting a policy to guide some aspect of how the chapter functions (for example a social media policy or a financial policy). Or it could be something fairly complex, like undertaking a campaign or other project that combines public-facing work, internal member engagement, behind-the-scenes planning, and so on. Resolutions require a simple majority vote to pass.

Bylaw Changes

Bylaws are democratically decided and help set a mission and values of the organization, along with how elected leadership should ensure that the organization is run fairly. Bylaws should be straightforward and explicit but also not prohibitive to the organization, while laying a foundation to what the minimum standard should be within the organization. **Madison DSA's bylaws** were democratically decided at the beginning of the charter and have been updated periodically since then to meet the current needs of the chapter. Changes to chapter bylaws require a ⅔ majority vote to pass. ***Note***: Amendments to bylaw changes only require a simple majority to pass.

Working Groups

Working groups in our chapter are bodies that can be formed to address operational needs, run campaigns, or organize work around a particular issue over a period of time. They have their own charters and bylaws specifying how they operate and select leadership. These charters last for up to 12 months; traditionally we vote on rechartering working groups at our annual chapter conventions. This year two working groups (Abolition and Labor) have submitted recharter proposals, two others (Electoral and Tenant Organizing) have not. No new working group charters have been submitted this year. Charters require a simple majority vote to pass.

Convention Rules

- All decisions (resolutions, bylaws, working group charters, officer elections and amendments) will be made via floor votes at Convention. All Madison Area DSA members in good standing will receive a voting card when checking in. The Chair will take votes by show of card.
- As with regular chapter meetings, the convention must meet quorum (meaning at least 5% of all chapter members in good standing, or 80% of the average attendance of the last 5 general meetings) in order to transact business. As of 3/12/25, the required quorum is 23 members.
- Except as provided in our Bylaws and these Rules, the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the proceedings of the Convention. Where they disagree, Our Bylaws shall have precedence, followed by these Rules and then Robert's Rules of Order.
- Chairs will set speaking time limits for each section, and cut speakers off at time if needed.

Debate

- After an agenda has been adopted by the assembly, no change can be made in it except by a two-thirds majority vote of the present members.
- Deliberation on each agenda item will be held in the order of business listed in this compendium. Prior to debate, each proposal (including amendments) will have up to 5 minutes for an initial motivation (no longer than 2 minutes) and questions.
- The default debate time for proposals will have two speakers for and two speakers against (limited to two minutes each), with the chair alternating between for and against speakers. If the resolution has a motivation, the chair will first hear from a speaker against, if one is present. Motions can be made to extend time on any debate topic to allow for more debate to be heard, or to call the question and move immediately to a vote.
- For proposals with submitted amendments, the chair will allow for motivation and questions for the initial proposal, followed by motivation, questions, and debate on the amendment. After voting on the amendment, debate will be heard on the original proposal (as or as not amended). Floor amendments (not already on the agenda) will not be permitted.
- The Chair presiding over debate has authority to interpret the Convention Rules and issue decisions. Any member in good standing may appeal any ruling of the Chair to the Convention. In such instances, the person making the appeal may speak for up to two minutes to advocate the appeal and the Chair may speak for up to two minutes to defend the ruling. No other debate shall be permitted. The ruling of the Chair may be overturned by a vote in favor of the appeal by a majority of members present and voting. Challenges to a ruling by the chair shall be decided by majority vote of members present and voting.
- In the event we run out of time before deliberating all items on the agenda, any remaining business will be referred to either OpaVote (online vote) or the next chapter meeting, and the incumbent Executive Committee will be tasked with determining which to refer each item to.

Elections

- Executive Officer elections will take place in order of listing in the chapter bylaws, as reflected in this compendium. Elections for Community Accountability Committee (CAC) and any other positions will take place after Executive Committee elections.
- Candidates will be given time to make statements, followed by time for members to ask questions or discuss candidates. The Chair will set speaking time limits and close discussion as needed to make sure all candidates are heard.
- If there are vacant positions without enough candidates running to fill all seats (e.g. Administrator or Solidarity Captain), the Chair will make a call for any interested members to nominate themselves from the floor. Members running for another seat can withdraw and nominate themselves for a different vacant position.
- In the event of a contested election, the losing candidate will be permitted to drop down and run again for another position that has yet to be elected. For example, if two nominees run for treasurer, the one who receives more votes from members will win. The losing candidate will be allowed to reclassify and run again for comms, membership, at-large, or CAC.
- Any changes to the chapter bylaws regarding elected leadership positions will not take effect until after the Chapter Convention.

Proposals

Order of Business

- R1: Budget 2025-2026
- R2: School Meals Campaign Resolution
- B1: Working Group Functions and Accountability to the Local Chapter
    - Amendment to B1: SUBSTITUTE to Bylaw Change 1
- WG1: Abolitionist Working Group Charter
- WG2: Labor Working Group Charter
- R3: MADSA Mutual Aid Campaign
- R4: Doing Politics in Public: Power Mapping, Popular Democracy, and a Plan for a People's Platform
    - Amendment to R4
- R5: Building Tenant Organizing Capacity Through Education and Training
- B2: Expand and Democratize Chapter Leadership
    - Amendment to B2
- R6: Towards a Local Political Program
- R7: State-Wide Virtual Political Education Campaign
- R8: Homelessness Crisis Campaign
- R9: Comms Committee PAINT THE TOWN RED
- R10: Resolution for Consistent Endorsed Candidate and Chapter Expectations
- R11: Continued Funding of the FindMyLandlord Website

R1: Budget 2025-2026

by Nathan J, cosigned by Adithya P, Bonnie W, Alex P, Jason M, Halsey H

Whereas, Bylaws Article IV Section 1 states "The Chapter Convention will elect Local Chapter officers and may adopt an annual budget."

Whereas, adopting a budget is important for the financial stability of our chapter, allowing us to make informed decisions regarding revenue and expenses, plan ahead, and have a clear picture of our financial situation.

Be it resolved that Madison Area Democratic Socialists of America will adopt the following budget:

April 2025 - March 2026	Monthly	Annual Budget
Period-Start Balance		**15500.00**
Revenue		
Dues Share	$ 625.00	$ 7,500.00
Voluntary Chapter Dues	$ 416.67	$ 5,000.00
Miscellaneous (events, sales, interest, etc.)	$ 20.83	$ 250.00
Total Revenues	$ 1,062.50	$ 12,750.00
Expenses		
Operating Expenses	$ 300.00	$ 3,600.00
Rent (Social Justice Center)	$ 137.50	$ 1,650.00
Transaction Fees	$ 26.25	$ 315.00
Administration, Software, and IT Services	$ 136.25	$ 1,635.00
Annual Report Filing with WI Department of Financial Institutions	$ 4.17	$ 50.00
Incorp (to renew incorporated status with state)	$ 10.42	$ 125.00
DigitalOcean (website cloud computing)	$ 18.75	$ 225.00
Wordpress (web content management)	$ 10.42	$ 125.00
Namecheap (for domain name)	$ 1.67	$ 20.00
Google Data Storage	$ 3.33	$ 40.00
Airtable (membership committee tools)	$ 20.00	$ 240.00
Zoom (video conferencing)	$ 31.67	$ 380.00
OpaVote (online voting software)	$ 17.50	$ 210.00
Spoke (texting software)	$ 8.33	$ 100.00

Canva Pro (graphic design)	$ 10.00	$ 120.00
Dedicated Budgets	$ 541.67	$ 6,500.00
Working Groups, Committees, YDSA	$ 291.67	$ 3,500.00
Community Accountability Committee	$ 41.67	$ 500.00
Working Groups, Committees, Campaigns	$ 166.67	$ 2,000.00
YDSA	$ 83.33	$ 1,000.00
Conferences & Events	$ 250.00	$ 3,000.00
National DSA Convention	$ 166.67	$ 2,000.00
Socialism 2025 Conference	$ 83.33	$ 1,000.00
Other Expenses	$ 450.00	$ 5,400.00
DSA Meetings, Socials, and Outreach	$ 166.67	$ 2,000.00
Convention 2026	$ 145.83	$ 1,750.00
Merchandise	$ 20.83	$ 250.00
Donations and Dues Payments to Organizations	$ 33.33	$ 400.00
Miscellaneous (Discretionary Expenses)	$ 83.33	$ 1,000.00
Total Expenses	$ 1,291.67	$ 15,500.00
Gain/(Loss)	**$ (229.17)**	**$ (2,750.00)**
Period-End Balance		**$ 12,750.00**

Note: The draft budget was approved to move forward as a resolution at the March 4, 2025 Executive Committee meeting. Additional background information is available in this presentation.

R2: School Meals Campaign Resolution

Cosigned by Athnie M-C, Jenn B, Liz B, Jackson F, Mason P, Astrid H L

Whereas,

The original proposal for the "Abolish School Meal Debt + Healthy School Meals for All" campaign was accepted at the 2024 MADSA convention and chartered on 05/24/2024 with an end date of 03/31/2025.

The original demand of the campaign was "That every child should be guaranteed access to free and healthy breakfast and lunch in the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD)", and that this demand engendered two complementary goals: abolish school meal debt and free healthy school meals for all.

The school meal debt within MMSD has increased from over $196,000 in October of 2024 to $324,491.01 as of March 3, 2025.

The campaign was founded on the socialist legacy of the Black Panther Party and that organization's "Free Breakfast for School Children Program" (the People's Free Food Program), and would emphasize building relationships with teachers and parents, and especially empowering working-class parents to take action towards our demand.

The campaign was founded and has been managed in coalition with several organizations, primarily Freedom Inc., Madison Teachers Inc. (MTI), Wisconsin Poor People's Campaign, and Families for Justice.

The campaign initiated a petition at its inception, which has since garnered 1,213 signatures, as well as a mutual aid campaign to pay off school meal debt, raising $5,774.00 to cover lunch debt.

The campaign has conducted or participated in numerous community outreach events since its inception, including tabling at the Dane County Farmers Market in May and June 2024; canvassing neighborhoods with high levels of school meal debt in June of 2024; collaborating with Working Families Party to canvass for the campaign and the MMSD Operating Referendum in October of 2024; and tabling with MADSA at numerous community events throughout summer and fall of 2024, including Outreach Magic Pride Festival, YDSA's Org Fair, and the Big Gay Holiday Market.

The campaign mobilized supporters to the June and November 2024 MMSD Board of Education Meetings, and most recently garnered a total of 27 comments in favor of universal free school meals at the November school board meeting. At this meeting, we also delivered a petition to the school board with 1,213 signatures in support of the campaign.

The campaign is planning a public dinner and discussion event to promote the campaign on April 22nd, shortly before the April school board meeting.

The campaign has required a significant commitment on the part of MADSA membership. However, by leading this campaign, MADSA has been able to bring awareness of this issue to our community and demand the Madison Metro School Board bring universal free and healthy school meals. Equally important, through this campaign MADSA has been able to start building strong relationships with our coalition partners. These relationships have been and can continue to be useful in helping MADSA grow as a chapter and continue pushing positive socialist change in our communities.

The MADSA members involved in this campaign recognize that our chapter does not have the resources, well-developed membership base, or depth of knowledge needed to move this campaign forward in its next iteration properly. However, both MTI and Freedom Inc. *do* have resources and paid staff who are willing to fold this coalition work into their job duties.

Both MTI and Freedom Inc have expressed willingness to take on a larger role in managing the campaign and coalition. MADSA members involved in the campaign believe the work will continue progressing under the stewardship of other organizations.

Coalition partners have built strong working relationships, but the exact structure of the coalition requires further definition to ensure its continuing sustainability.

Proposal

In order to successfully develop the campaign in the directions we would like, MADSA will step back from our leadership role - and into a support role - so that our coalition partners can take the reins of this campaign. This is the best course of action to bring free and healthy school meals to all students in Madison - leveraging the strong relationships that have been built with coalition partners and allowing MADSA to remain engaged in this important and popular issue in our community and win this campaign.

The campaign will continue beyond its initial petition and mutual aid strategy, ramping up community outreach and events to organize more of our neighbors in Madison to further pressure the school board.

MADSA will select 2 liaisons who will continue to attend coalition meetings and participate in the coalition but not instigate actions or organize meetings.

Liaisons to the coalition are empowered to represent MADSA, and will bring important information, decisions made, or decisions requiring input to the chapter membership.

Liaisons will be empowered to endorse public statements made by the campaign on behalf of MADSA, subject to the consent of at least 1 member of the executive committee.

The first two liaisons will be appointed by the Executive Committee with input from members who have been active in the campaign and will serve until the April general membership meeting, at which

point new liaisons will be elected to serve a full four-month term ending at the August general membership meeting.

Going forward, liaisons will be elected during MADSA general membership meetings and will serve for 4 months from appointment.

These liaisons will be responsible for:

1. Monitoring available funds for the campaign.
2. Recruiting and mobilizing chapter members for specific actions to support the coalition.
3. Reporting back at general membership meetings on the campaign.
4. Developing and training replacement liaisons to ensure continuity of MADSA engagement in the coalition. Each liaison should nominate at least one chapter member to replace them when their term is up.

MADSA's participation in the coalition is based on the condition that the coalition continue to agitate in favor of guaranteed access to free and healthy breakfast and lunch in the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD).

MADSA should regularly reevaluate participation in the coalition; that reevaluation should align with the periodic election of liaisons to the coalition.

MADSA will continue to contribute to strategic analysis and decision-making with the coalition and share our political lens.

Proposed Initial Liaisons:
Jenn B, Mason P, Astrid H-L

B1: Working Group Functions and Accountability to the Local Chapter

by Leo N, cosigned by Halsey H, Kevin M, Mason P, Aaron L, Athnie M-C, Alex P, Hannah E, Robert L

Whereas:

Democracy, accountability, and transparency all go hand in hand. We, the chapter membership, are all working together and all deserve to have a say in the work that the chapter and its representing bodies carry out.

As it stands, Working Groups and the rest of the General Membership do not have consistent and open communication. Having more open channels of communication will help coordinate the work that we do, help create buy-in for various projects, and work to solve problems of capacity that working groups without clear mandates tend to face. These changes would create opportunities for regular discussion of ongoing political work and help create clearer mandates for groups wishing to charter.

Therefore:

1. The following changes will be made to the bylaws
2. The changes will go into effect immediately upon their adoption

ARTICLE VIII. Working Groups.

Section 1. Working Groups.

1. **Definition**
   The Local Chapter ~~will~~ may have Working Groups, which will consist of a group of Local Chapter members in good standing. Working Groups ~~can be formed to address operational needs, run campaigns, or organize work around a particular issue over a period of time~~ may be formed to run a campaign, carry out a project with a particular goal or goals, or complete a specific task. Working Groups that are formally chartered will have access to chapter resources, such as membership lists, chapter calendars, promotional resources, and meeting spaces, as needed for the scope of their work.
2. **Formation**
   To establish a Working Group, a group of no less than five Local Chapter members in good standing must submit a charter that includes a group name, a mission statement or objectives using the SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, timebound) Goals outline, specific requests for chapter resources if necessary, and any limitations on Working Group membership. ~~and an acting chair until leadership can be decided upon democratically. The charter will specify how working group leadership is chosen using a democratic method that deals with vacancies and allows specifying two (2) communication contacts. If not specified, working groups shall default to two (2) elected co-chairs serving six (6) month terms with elected replacements. If the charter does specify working group leadership, it must also specify how at least one of the working group leadership will not self-identify as cis-male where possible~~ The charter must also provide the names of two (2) co-chairs, who will provide candidate statements along with their charters. In the event of a vacancy, the Executive Committee may appoint a replacement or call for a Special Election at the following Chapter Membership Meeting. The members must make their charter available to Local Chapter members at least one week (7 days) prior to a General, Membership, or Emergency Meeting before the Working Group's charter may be voted on. A majority vote will establish the charter and creation of a Working Group. Chartered Working Groups shall have the authority to create events and release communications in MADSA's name. Endorsements must proceed through the process outlined in Article X. No Working Group may be chartered for more than one (1) year. Successive charters may be granted upon expiration by motion to the Membership Meeting.
3. **Operation of Working Groups**
   Membership in a Working Group shall be open to all Local Chapter members in good standing unless the committee's charter limits membership, in which case the terms of the charter shall control. Working Groups shall maintain an official membership list.
   ~~After the Working Group is created, but by no later than the Working Group's second meeting, the committee shall use the method specified in the charter to choose leadership.~~
4. **Duties**
   The members of a Working Group are responsible for executing their respective body's strategy in fulfillment of its objectives. Leadership of the Working Group are responsible for organizing their respective body's members, running meetings, acting as liaisons to the Executive Committee, and serving as the ~~committee's~~ Working Group's points of contact to the membership. ~~Committees~~ Working Groups must keep official records of meeting dates, attendance, and meeting notes, which must be made available to the membership through all available channels.

When a Working Group's proposed activities relate to the mission of another Working Group, the leadership of that Working Group shall be notified. Should a dispute arise between two or more Working Groups that cannot be resolved between them, it shall be resolved at a Meeting. The nature of this meeting shall be decided on between the Executive Committee and the Community Accountability Committee.

A Working Group's activities shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee at ~~its~~ Executive Committee meetings~~;~~. ~~and m~~Meeting minutes and other ~~committee~~ Working Group documentation, as well as all financial receipts and statements, shall be kept up to date with the Local Chapter's Administrator and Treasurer respectively. At least one Working Group co-chair must attend one Executive Committee meeting per month. If neither co-chair is able to attend, they may designate another Working Group member as a representative.

Working Groups shall report on their activities to the membership at ~~the Annual Meeting or more frequently at Regular or Special Meetings as necessary~~ each monthly Chapter Membership meeting, and should bring any decisions that fall outside the initial scope of their charter to a vote at a Chapter Meeting. Co-chairs are strongly encouraged to be present at all Chapter Membership Meetings, but the report may be given by a representative of the group. Within one month of a charter's expiration, the Working Group is expected to provide a detailed report on their work that includes an assessment of their success at achieving their goals.

5. **Dissolution**
   A Working Group can dissolve itself by majority vote by the members of that Working Group, or by charter if the Working Group is temporary in nature. Dissolution of a Working Group can also be proposed by either a vote of the Executive Committee or a proposal of dissolution presented by no fewer than five Local Chapter members in good standing. The notice of vote for dissolution must be presented at least one week (7 days) prior to a General, Membership, or Emergency Meeting to be eligible for voting. A majority vote will dissolve the Working Group.
6. **Suspension of charter**
   The Executive Committee shall have the authority to suspend a Working Group's charter for good cause. A suspended charter must be brought to the next Membership meeting for consideration, including a vote to either continue or lift the suspension, or dissolve the charter.

Amendment to B1: SUBSTITUTE to Bylaw Change 1

by Dan F, cosigned by Ally B and Emerson M

[Author's note: the whereas portion is partly the same as in the original amendment and I've highlighted my additions in red, but **the bylaw changes are a complete substitute of Leo's amendment**, including many of its intended ideas in a slightly different implementation that won't cause extant working groups to fail to charter if this amendment passes. Also, at some point in the past, edits to the bylaws made the distinction between working groups and "temporary" committees very confusing. This amendment is an attempt to clarify that.]

Whereas:

Democracy, accountability, and transparency all go hand in hand. We, the chapter membership, are all working together and all deserve to have a say in the work that the chapter and its representing bodies carry out.

As it stands, Working Groups and the rest of the General Membership do not have consistent and open communication. Having more open channels of communication will help coordinate the work that we do, help create buy-in for various projects, and work to solve problems of capacity that working groups without clear mandates tend to face.

The chapter also needs a mechanism for short-term, effective organizing that the Executive Committee can spin up as required by whatever political moment arises. The bylaws already specified this mechanism, calling the result simply "Committees". But that is a confusing term as we have started using that term for more permanent committees like Communications. Additionally, for bonus confusion, there were typos calling "working groups" "committees" in Article VIII, Section I, Working Groups.

These changes ~~would~~ are needed to clarify Article VIII. This amendment will still allow for long-term organizing in working groups as the chapter has already been doing, and also create opportunities for regular discussion of ongoing political work and help create clearer mandates for groups wishing to charter either on a short term or longer term basis.

Therefore:

1. We will fix the confusing mistakes in Article VIII and rename Section 2. Committees to Temporary Committees
2. We will require monthly summary reports to the Executive Committee from both Working Groups and Temporary Committees and see if that improves transparency
3. The following changes will be made to the bylaws (replacing the originally proposed bylaw changes).
4. The changes will go into effect immediately upon their adoption

ARTICLE VIII. Working Groups and Temporary Committees.

Section 1. Working Groups.

…

Subsection 3. Operation of Working Groups.

Membership in a working group shall be open to all Local Chapter members in good standing unless the ~~committee~~ working group's charter limits membership, in which case the terms of the charter shall control. Working groups shall maintain an official membership list.

After the working group is created, but by no later than the working group's second meeting, they ~~committee~~ shall use the method specified in the charter to choose leadership.

Subsection 4. Duties.

The members of a working group are responsible for executing their respective body's strategy in fulfillment of its objectives. Leadership of the working group are responsible for organizing their respective body's members, running meetings, acting as liaisons to the Executive Committee, and serving as ~~the committee's~~ points of contact to the membership. ~~Committees~~ Working groups must keep official records of meeting dates, attendance, and meeting notes, which must be made available to the membership.

When a working group's proposed activities relate to the mission of another working group or temporary committee, the leadership of that working group or temporary committee shall be notified. Should a dispute arise between two or more working groups or temporary committees that cannot be resolved between them, it shall be resolved at a Meeting organized by the Executive Committee and the Community Accountability Committee.

A working group~~'s activities~~ must submit a monthly summary report of its activity which shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee at its meetings.~~, and m~~ Meeting minutes and other ~~committee~~ working group documentation, as well as all financial receipts and statements, shall be kept up to date with the Local Chapter's Administrator and Treasurer respectively. Working groups shall report on their activities to the membership at the Annual Meeting or more frequently at Regular or Special Meetings as necessary.

Section 2. Temporary Committees.

Subsection 1. Definition.

Temporary Committees are created by the chapter Executive Committee to execute administrative, organizational, or limited political activities as needed. Unlike Working Groups, Temporary Committees are not self-governed and work at the direction of the Executive Committee. Temporary Committees are considered an extension of the Executive Committee, and the Executive bears responsibility for them.

Subsection 2. Formation & Participation.

Temporary Committees are established by a vote of the chapter Executive Committee, with a charter document detailing the duties of the temporary committee, approved committee members, and length of charter. Objectives in the charter shall use the SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, timebound) Goals outline, and the charter shall contain any specific requests for chapter resources as necessary. Additional committee members must be approved by the Executive Committee. All temporary committee charters are to be announced and made available to Chapter members.

Subsection 3. Limitations.

Temporary Committees will be established to fulfill political objectives (e.g. preparing an action, responding to a crisis, participating in a coalition). They are understood to be temporary and are not to circumvent membership-chartered Working Groups. Charters for ~~"political"~~ temporary committees may not exceed ~~one month~~ three months, but may be renewed by the Executive Committee.

Subsection 4. Duties.

Temporary Committees must submit monthly summary reports of their activity which shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee at its meetings. Meeting minutes and other committee documentation, as well as all financial receipts and statements, shall be kept up to date with the Local Chapter's Administrator and Treasurer respectively. Working groups shall report on their activities to the membership at the Annual Meeting or more frequently at Regular or Special Meetings as necessary.

WG1: Abolitionist Working Group Charter

Cosigned by Dan F, Ally B, Emerson M, AB B, Ryan C, MK Z, Chase G, Henry G

Article I: Name

The name of this group shall be Abolitionist Working Group, hereafter AWG.

Article II: Scope

The purpose of the AWG shall be to fulfill the following objectives:

1. Work towards prison abolition, mainly decarceration in Wisconsin.
2. Work towards police abolition through defunding the police, refunding the community in Madison/Dane county.
3. Work in partnership with other organizations to these ends.
4. Work to educate the general public on abolition.
5. The AWG shall report to MADSA and its Executive Committee.

Article III: Membership and Voting

1. AWG meetings shall be open to all DSA members and community members. Any membership-related issues are to be brought to the MADSA Executive Committee. As a body of MADSA, AWG is subject to the Harassment-Grievance process.
2. Only DSA members who have attended at least two (2) AWG meetings in the past six months are to be considered voting members of AWG.
3. Non-DSA members are invited to participate in meetings but are not voting members of AWG.
4. AWG will make decisions in a democratic manner, voting on what actions they take. Any working group member may call for a vote on any decision. A simple majority will suffice for any decision.

Article IV: Leadership

1. AWG shall elect two (2) co-chairs from its membership. The co-chairs shall be responsible for coordinating the work of the group, including ensuring regular meetings of the steering committee and of the working group, and communicating with the MADSA Executive Committee.
2. Chairs are limited to two (2) consecutive one-year terms, but may run for as many terms total as they like
3. Elections shall be held annually after the adoption or extension of the charter.
4. If there is a co-chair vacancy before the end of the term, an election will be held to fill that vacancy for the remainder of the term.
5. Recall of co-chairs shall be conducted through the Executive Committee of MADSA

Article V: Finances

1. For the 2025-2026 Chapter Year, AWG will have a budget of $1000 to use towards working group efforts, including production costs of the podcast we are collaborating with Tone to produce. AWG will request any further funds for room rental, printing, or other purposes as we deem appropriate.

2. AWG finances are to be handled through MADSA's Treasurer and should not be independently managed. Any funds raised by AWG shall be submitted to MADSA's Treasurer; funds submitted are not for MADSA general purposes and are to be added to AWG's ledger. MADSA's Treasurer must disperse allocated funds as directed by AWG.

Article VII: Terms of Charter

1. To last for 12 months after the adoption of this charter, or until the next MADSA Convention Meeting, whichever is shorter.
2. AWG will be governed by the bylaws of DSA Madison, which describe in detail the operation and leadership selection of Working Groups.
3. For the duration of this charter, AWG shall be empowered to represent itself as MADSA for issues relating to prison and police abolition and may create events and promotional materials to achieve its ends. Written statements shall be brought to the MADSA Executive Committee for approval.

WG2: Labor Working Group Charter

Cosigned by Joey D, Aaron L, Blair G, Colin G, Simon R-L

Edits to the previous charter are highlighted. Major edits include Article III, section 5; Article IV, section 1; Article V, section 3; Article VI, section 1.

Article I: Name

The name of this group shall be the Madison-Area Democratic Socialists of America Labor Working Group, hereafter Labor Working Group (LWG).

Article II: Scope

The purpose of the LWG shall be to fulfill the following objectives:

1. Serve as a meeting place for labor activists in our area, to discuss and workshop issues and create connections between and among workers and unionists
2. Support and promote workplace activism in whatever form it takes; coordinate solidarity efforts with workers' struggles
3. Reconnect the Labor and Socialist movements. Train and develop labor activists, helping to guide socialists into labor work and develop worker activists into socialists.
4. Promote a militant, democratic, socialist perspective on unions, workers' struggles and labor issues.
5. Educate the MADSA membership about the labor movement, collective action and unions
6. Publish outward-facing perspectives in the local community
7. The LWG shall report to MADSA and its Executive Committee.

Article III: Membership and Voting

1. LWG meetings shall be open to all DSA members in good standing; LWG may not prevent a DSA member from attending LWG meetings. Any membership-related issues are to be brought

to the MADSA Executive Committee. As a body of MADSA, LWG is subject to the Harassment-Grievance process.

2. Only DSA members who have attended at least two (2) LWG meetings in the past six months or are members of a labor organization (union, workers' center, organizing drive, etc.) are to be considered voting members of LWG.
3. A list shall be kept by the LWG Steering Committee (SC) of voting-eligible members of the working group. Non-DSA members are invited to participate in meetings, but are not voting members of LWG.
4. LWG will make decisions in a democratic manner, voting on what actions they take. Any member may call for a vote on any decision. A simple majority will suffice for any decision. In the event of a tie, the co-chairs will make the final decision. If they cannot reach consensus the measure shall fail, or continue discussion and revote.
5. LWG will strive to have ~~one Steering and~~ one member meeting per month.

Article IV: Leadership

1. LWG shall elect a Steering Committee (SC) from its membership consisting of two co-chairs and two Solidarity Captains. The co-chairs shall be responsible for coordinating the work of the group, including ensuring regular meetings of the steering committee and of the working group, and communicating with the MADSA Executive Committee.
    a. Co-chairs are limited to two (2) consecutive one-year terms, but may run for as many terms total as they like
    b. At least one co-chair should be a non-cis male
    c. MADSA will vote for two Solidarity Captains from the Madison Area general body at yearly chapter conventions. Solidarity Captains are tasked to coordinate with local union leaders, LWG, and DSA National Labor Commission to develop a local program and resolution for any national strike readiness campaigns called for by labor leaders.
        i. Solidarity Captains who must step down from this role can be replaced by appointment from the Labor Working Group Co-chairs.
        ii. Solidarity Captains are tasked with managing strike readiness pledges and contact lists for rapid outreach when needed.
2. Elections shall be held annually, ideally after the adoption or extension of LWG charter.
3. Voting in leadership elections shall be open to all LWG members, as established in Article III.
4. Vacancies on the SC shall be filled by the steering committee or a process they determine.
5. Recall of steering committee members shall be conducted through the Executive Committee of MADSA

Article V: Finances

1. A budget for LWG shall be submitted at the time of charter and upon successive rechartering.
2. LWG finances are to be handled through MADSA's Treasurer and should not be independently managed. Any funds raised by LWG shall be submitted to MADSA's Treasurer; funds submitted are not for MADSA general purposes and are to be added to LWG's ledger. MADSA's Treasurer must disperse allocated funds as directed by LWG.
3. LWG's SC may spend up to $150 at a time on working group activities as they deem fit. Larger expenditures must be voted on by LWG membership.

Article VI: Amendments

1. Amendments to these bylaws are to be considered at a meeting preceding a rechartering application to the MADSA membership. A two-thirds vote of the LWG meeting will be needed to amend these bylaws. Amendments shall not take effect until after LWG has been rechartered by the MADSA membership.

Article VII: Terms of Charter

1. To last for one year after the adoption of this charter, or until the 2026 MADSA Convention Meeting, whichever is longer.
2. LWG will be governed by the bylaws of DSA Madison, which describe in detail the operation and leadership selection of Working Groups.
3. For the duration of this charter, LWG shall be empowered to represent itself as MADSA in creating events and materials. Written statements shall be brought to the MADSA Executive Committee for approval.

R3: MADSA Mutual Aid Campaign

by Xavier D, cosigned by Tim M, Nick P, Chase G, Eric W

Whereas, 34,020 people in Dane County are experiencing food insecurity,

Whereas, affordable housing is in short supply in the Madison area,

Whereas, many members of our community are coming under threat with the new Trump presidency,

Whereas, a socialist movement requires its members to be familiar with the struggles of those who suffer the most under capitalism,

Whereas, the tangible impact of a local socialist movement should be felt by disenfranchised members of our community,

Be it resolved that The Madison Area Democratic Socialists of America will form a mutual aid committee. We task this committee with locating and developing opportunities for MADSA members to get involved in mutual aid networks to help support disenfranchised and threatened members of our community.

- MADSA will establish a leadership team to locate, research, and develop initiatives that allow for MADSA members, their friends, and their families to get involved in mutual aid.
- Mutual aid could take multiple forms such as but not limited to, food drives, volunteering at existing organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and food banks, establishing or helping with free tutoring projects, trans care packages, ecological initiatives and so forth.
- The committee will prioritize building and working with socialist and working class oriented organizations and projects to ensure solidarity.
- The mutual aid committee will encourage MADSA members participating in these initiatives to represent and promote DSA in order to connect with those who otherwise might not have heard of us, and to build our reputation as a helpful organization that is connected with the community.

- The purpose of this committee is to build solidarity between MADSA and members of the Dane county community and to take direct action that aids our local community and ecosystem.
- At the 2026 Chapter Convention and general meetings as needed the committee will report the initiatives that MADSA members participated in, successes in committee operation, and potential faults that should be resolved going forward. At that time the committee may be endorsed for a second year of operation.

R4: Doing Politics in Public: Power Mapping, Popular Democracy, and a Plan for a People's Platform

by Halsey H, cosigned by Leo N, Kevin M, Mason P, Katrina G, Athnie M-C, Alex P, Aaron L

Whereas, MADSA previously adopted the Priority Proposal for a People's March & People's Platform, which committed Madison DSA to "see its primary priorities in the coming months to be the unabashed promotion of socialist politics, growing our organization, deepening our work within the labor movement, and explicitly laying the groundwork for a socialist/workers party. We do this by leading in a coalition of left and labor movement organizations fighting for left-wing policies and against an emboldened far-right," and called for the chapter to prioritize power mapping, recruitment, coalition-building, and public-facing events, with the explicit goal of running an independent Common Council campaign on a People's Platform as part of a long-term strategy for independent party-building. This resolution attempts to build on the framework adopted in that resolution and offer a unifying project of internal capacity building and information gathering, and external political education and agitation.

Whereas, DSA can meet the moment and lead in the development of working class organization by committing to

- Strengthen our internal knowledge of memberships' skills and connections, especially within the labor movement
- Take stock of and build upon our relationships with democratic working class organizations that can form the basis of a new independent working class political party
- Create spaces for mass democratic participation in the political process, inside and outside of DSA
- Create and share informational resources that empower working-class self-organization by casting light on the structures of economic and political power in Madison
- Identify opportunities for future campaigns and organizing projects
- Build the external base and internal infrastructure needed to run and win a slate of independent Common Council candidates in 2026 and 2027

Be it resolved that the Madison Area Democratic Socialists of America will

... adopt the project outlined in this resolution as a priority until the 2026 MADSA Chapter Convention, to be overseen by the MADSA Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may empower existing

chapter bodies or charter ad hoc committees to carry out discrete tasks within this project; however, any strategic decisions or new sub-projects falling outside of the scope of this proposal must be referred to the next Chapter General Meeting when possible, or the executive committee when circumstances require a decision to be made more quickly.

... The Membership Committee will design and carry out a survey/census to assist with internal chapter mapping. Information gathered could include:

A. Demographic information
B. District/ward information
C. Workplace/union information
D. Membership in other democratic/membership organizations
E. Relationships to different NGOs, churches, community organizations, parent/student groups, etc
F. Additional areas of interest or expertise

After five months or when a supermajority of membership has filled out the survey, the membership committee will prepare a report on findings to be delivered at a Chapter General Meeting, identifying any information that may be useful for chapter strategy. Due to the potentially sensitive nature of some of this information, results will be aggregated and anonymized before being shared beyond the Membership and Executive Committee.

... MADSA will charter a temporary Power Mapping Materials Committee, tasked with collecting information and creating a public-facing document about how power works in Madison/Wisconsin. This document is intended to be engaging, useful to a broad working-class readership, and focused on the information people need to know to organize and build working-class power.

Topics may include but are not limited to: Major employers (private and public sector), real estate groups/developers, powerful lobbying groups, City Council and city agencies, school board, influential NGOs, unions, co-ops, workers centers, community organizations, churches, media institutions. For each organization, information could include what they do, how they're funded, who's in charge, how or if working people can influence them, etc. Information may come from relevant MADSA bodies, allied organizations, independent research done by the committee, or the People's Town Halls described below.

The PMMC will report to the executive committee, be open to any member in good standing, and be responsible for liaising and coordinating between existing chapter bodies. It will be expected to give regular reports to the executive committee and to Chapter General Meetings about its progress and elevate any decisions that arise beyond the scope of its charter to the Executive Committee and/or Chapter General Meetings. Upon completion, the PMMC will submit the draft Document two weeks in advance of the subsequent Chapter General Meeting for revision, at which point members may propose changes.

... MADSA will identify key allies (especially unions and other democratic, membership-based, working class organizations), encourage them to discuss the idea of a People's Platform and People's Town Halls with their membership, and invite them to vote to join the Coalition for a People's Platform. The

Coalition will be organized democratically and in a way that encourages relationship-building between members, not just staff and elected leadership. The Coalition will plan the following series of People's Town Halls, using them to identify widely felt issues, strategic districts to run in, and potential candidates for office, and devise a process to democratically draft and adopt a People's Platform in time for the 2026 city elections.

... MADSA, with coalition partners and DSA-endorsed electeds where possible, will hold a series of town halls throughout the Spring and Summer, beginning with an introduction to how city council works/the Madison municipal budget process (ideally with outgoing DSA city council members).

- Before each town hall
    - Work with allied organizations to plan and promote
    - Flyer in high-traffic areas
    - Place press release in Madison publications
    - Promote at community events
- At each town hall
    - Social time
    - Political Education Panel/Open Mic Discussion
    - Democratic Deliberation/Delegation
        - Decide collectively on the next topic(s), possible other projects
        - Empower some people to join planning process for next town hall
- After each town hall
    - Follow up with emerging leaders
    - Invite people to the next town hall
    - Gather notes/resources for Power Mapping Document
    - Coalition/DSA Internal debrief - what worked, what didn't? What have we learned? What issues are coming up a lot?
- Future town hall topics could include...
    - How does the State government work/relate to the city?
    - Role of Cities in an era of federal collapse?
    - Who runs real estate in Madison?
    - [When the city budget proposal comes out] What's in the budget, what do we want in the budget, and how do we organize to change it?

... The Goals of the Town Halls will be as follows:

- Organizational
    - Testing our ability to turn out non-members to events
    - Building on our relationships with other organizations & electeds' offices
    - Building internal capacity to plan and run major events
    - Strengthening relationships with organic community leaders
- Political
    - Mass public education about how the city works
    - Gathering information about what issues are deeply felt
    - Democratically deciding what issues to dig into and learn more about, and creating teams of people to do that work

    - Democratically deciding the priorities included in a People's Platform/Budget, and a strategy for organizing around it
        - Which districts are we strong in?
        - Which incumbents can we target?

... MADSA and Coalition allies should use the town halls and other outreach efforts to develop and promote a People's Platform, and to identify at least one Independent candidate by fall 2025 to run on that platform for Madison Common Council in 2026.

... After one year, the MADSA Executive Committee will prepare a report assessing the success of the project and present its findings for discussion at a Chapter General Meeting.

Amendment to R4

by Athnie M-C, cosigned by Dan F, Aaron L, Katrina G, Leo N, Kevin M, Mason P

See complete amendment in context here. Summary of changes reprinted below for space.

ADD AFTER FIRST WHEREAS CLAUSE:

Whereas, a comprehensive and accurate analysis of power must underlie any effective organizing project, and a comprehensive analysis of power in Madison should include all major wielders of political and economic power in our city. In the political sphere, the major entities who hold most of the power and who we should strive to understand are the Madison municipal government (Common Council and relevant City agencies), the Dane County government (County Board of Supervisors and relevant County agencies), the Madison Metropolitan School District Board of Education, and the Wisconsin State government. It is vital to understand all of these entities, how and where they wield power, and how they interact with one another, so that we can have an accurate understanding of power in Madison, because all of these entities have been and could again be the targets of campaigns MADSA is involved in, and so we can seek to gain power in the places where it can be most effectively wielded.

AMENDED TO RESOLVED CLAUSES:

...

Topics may include but are not limited to: Major employers (private and public sector), real estate groups/developers, powerful lobbying groups, City Council and city agencies, County Board of Supervisors and relevant County agencies, school board, influential NGOs, unions, co-ops, workers centers, community organizations, churches, media institutions...

...

...

- Future town hall topics could include...
    - How do~~es~~ the State and County government~~s~~ work/relate to the city?

...

R5: Building Tenant Organizing Capacity Through Education and Training

by Madeline D, cosigned by Dan F, Phil W, Calvin M, Jackson F, Mason P, Ev E

Whereas, the Madison Democratic Socialists of America (MADSA) recognizes the critical importance of tenant rights and housing justice in building working-class power and class consciousness, and acknowledges that empowering individuals across income levels and identities through tenant organizing is essential; and

Whereas, the Democratic Socialists of America's Housing Justice Commission is actively promoting and supporting tenant organizing nationwide, providing resources and coordination to local chapters, and highlighting successful collaborations between DSA chapters and tenant unions, as evidenced by the strong relationships established by chapters in the North Carolina, the Bay Area, and Boston; and

Whereas, Madison faces a severe housing crisis, with median rent climbing by a staggering 30.4% between 2020 and 2023, far outpacing median household income growth of only 12.5%, and with Madison consistently ranking among the top cities in the nation for year-over-year rent increases, exacerbating gentrification and displacement; and

Whereas, the current housing crisis is driven by the increasing dominance of corporate landlords, who exploit unregulated market conditions to maximize profits through price-fixing and rent gouging, further limiting affordable housing options and exacerbating housing instability for working-class Madisonians; and

Whereas, the Tenant Organizing Working Group has faced challenges in maintaining engagement and momentum, indicating a need for a renewed approach that prioritizes education, skill-building, and the development of a strong foundation for tenant organizing within MADSA; and

Whereas, many MADSA members, while willing to engage in activities like canvassing for signatures, express a need for additional education and training to build the confidence and skills necessary for effective tenant organizing, including conducting organizing conversations and developing practical strategies for addressing tenant issues; and

Whereas, the complexity and scale of tenant issues can be overwhelming, leading to fear and uncertainty among members regarding how to effectively initiate and sustain organizing efforts, highlighting the need for structured education and support to overcome these barriers; and

Whereas, there is a recognition that building real tenant power requires deep connections and long-term commitment, and that MADSA must foster a culture of sustained engagement and collective action to achieve meaningful change in the realm of housing justice

Be it resolved that the Madison Area Democratic Socialists of America will provide education designed to equip members with the knowledge and practical skills necessary for effective tenant organizing and housing justice advocacy.

- MADSA will create and provide education that covers:
    - Organizing conversations: Techniques for initiating and facilitating productive conversations with tenants about housing issues.
    - Practical skills: Training in essential organizing skills, such as canvassing, door-knocking, public speaking, and strategic planning.
    - Applying labor to housing: Strategies for direct action and leveraging collective power to address tenant concerns.
    - Housing issue related agitational/inspirational education: Education on the root causes of the housing crisis, the role of corporate landlords, and the potential for transformative change.
- The curriculum will incorporate relevant data on Madison's housing market and the experiences of local tenants.
- A designated working group or individual(s) will be assigned to coordinate workshop logistics, curriculum development, and evaluation.

See also supplemental info here; if this is a paper copy, please go to the About the Convention google doc and check out the Supplemental Material tab under Resolutions.

B2: Expand and Democratize Chapter Leadership

by Halsey H, cosigned by Leo N, Athnie M-C, Kevin M, Alex P, Mason P, Bonnie W

Whereas, the term "Steering Committee" more accurately reflects the role of a leadership body in a socialist organization as carrying out the democratic decisions of rank-and-file chapter membership, rather than a body that makes decisions in the name of the chapter.

Whereas, as our membership grows rapidly in the wake of the Democratic Party's disastrous defeat and the Trump Administration's bulldozing victory lap through essential government functions, membership work – recruitment, onboarding, retention, leadership development, and cultural work – is increasingly urgent, and in need of additional capacity.

Whereas, the current Executive Committee has begun to establish ad-hoc committees to assist in carrying out key Chapter functions. In addition to their crucial role in scaling up operations for a rapidly growing organization, these committees have already created many opportunities for member engagement and leadership development.

This amendment would codify and create guidelines for these committees as a permanent, but flexible part of MADSA's structure. It removes the obligation to re-charter from bodies that can be reasonably understood as foundational to our organization's work, and creates an expectation that chapter bodies be accountable to and directed by Chapter Membership through its elected leadership.

Whereas, Labor organizing and elections should be understood not as issues or interest groups, but the terrains on which our class struggle is carried out. Political education is a primary task of a socialist organization, but currently no chapter body is empowered to carry it out. These changes recognize the centrality of economic and political struggle as well as political education to socialist organizing, and put their political direction in the hands of the membership.

Therefore,

1. These changes to Madison Area DSA's bylaws will go into effect immediately upon approval. Any positions created by this resolution that are not filled at the Chapter Convention will be filled by special election at an upcoming Chapter General Meeting.
2. All instances of the term "Executive Committee" throughout the Chapter Bylaws will be replaced by "Steering Committee"
3. The following changes will be made to Articles V, VI, and Article VIII, Section 2.

ARTICLE V. Local Chapter Officers: Powers and Duties.

Section 1. Officers and Terms.
The officers of the Local Chapter will be two Co-Chairs, Administrator, Treasurer, Communications Coordinator, two Membership Coordinators, a Labor Coordinator, an Elections Coordinator, and a Political Education Coordinator ~~and At-Large Executive Committee member(s).~~ Additional At-Large members may be added to the Steering ~~Executive~~ Committee by motion at a General Membership Meeting with a majority vote to approve. The term of office will be one year, and shall run from April 1st to March 31st of the following year or until their successors are elected. To be eligible to run for an office, a member must have attended two Chapter Membership meetings prior to the opening of nominations.

…

Section 6. Membership Coordinators
The Membership Coordinators will be responsible for coordinating the outreach, recruitment, and engagement of the Chapter membership. The Membership Coordinators will **oversee the planning of** ~~coordinate activities with working group leadership, coordinate~~ social events, lead internal organizing and mobilization, and work to maintain new member on-boarding.

Section 7. Labor Coordinator
The Labor Coordinator will coordinate the chapter's work in and alongside the labor movement, maintain records of chapter member workplace and union affiliation, coordinate with DSA National Labor Commission, and carry out labor-related work on behalf of the chapter. The Labor Coordinator will liaise between the Executive Committee and any existing Labor Working Group.

Section 8. Elections Coordinator
The Electoral Coordinator will field requests for electoral endorsement and present them to the chapter, coordinate with the DSA National Electoral Commission, and lead the building of technical and organizational infrastructure to support the chapter's democratically-decided strategies to prepare for,

contest, and win class struggle elections. The Elections Coordinator will liaise between the Steering Committee and any existing Electoral Working Group or campaign.

Section 9. Political Education Coordinator
The Political Education coordinator will be responsible for overseeing regular official Political Education events on behalf of the chapter, liaising with DSA's National Political Education Committee, and supporting member-led reading groups and other educational events. The Political Education Coordinator will liaise with any existing Political education working group or committee.

Section 10~~7~~. At-Large Steering ~~Executive~~ Committee Members
At-Large Steering ~~Executive~~ Committee members participate in Steering ~~Executive~~ Committee decision-making and are responsible for attending all relevant meetings, reading relevant documents and participating in committees as assigned. At-Large Steering ~~Executive~~ Committee members are also tasked with representing the views of the membership that elected them as well as helping to advance the goals of the chapter generally.

ARTICLE VI. Steering ~~Executive~~ Committee

[Section 1. No Changes]

Section 2. Duties.

1. The Steering ~~Executive~~ Committee administers the affairs of the Local Chapter and oversees the implementation of the decisions of the General and Regular Meetings; it may also propose policy to the General and Regular Meetings. It shall have the power to receive reports of any committee or branch, and advise thereon, to call emergency meetings of the Local Chapter, and to act on any matter that requires immediate and urgent action. The Steering ~~Executive~~ Committee is the regular executive body of the Local Chapter, and thus subordinate to its Legislative bodies, the General and Regular Meetings.
2. The Local Chapter Steering ~~Executive~~ Committee will be responsible ~~for establishing program activities for the Local Chapter, for proposing guidelines and policies that will subsequently be voted on by members in good standing of DSA, and~~ for acting on the organization's behalf between Local Chapter meetings and carrying out the democratic will of the Chapter Membership, but may also propose guidelines, policies, and political activities to be voted on by the Chapter.

…

ARTICLE VIII. Working Groups and Committees.

…

Section 2. Committees.

Subsection 1. Definition.
Committees are created by the chapter Steering ~~Executive~~ Committee to execute administrative, operational, organizational, or limited political activities as needed. ~~Unlike Working Groups,~~

Committees ~~are not self-governed and~~ work at the direction of the Steering ~~Executive~~ Committee to carry out the democratic will of Chapter Membership. Committees are considered an extension of the Steering ~~Executive~~ Committee, and the Steering ~~Executive~~ Committee bears responsibility for them.

Subsection 2. Standing Committees

~~There are two types of committees, Standing Committees and Temporary Committees.~~ Standing Committees will exist on a permanent basis and organize around a distinct set of tasks that are permanently important to the functioning of the Chapter. The Steering Committee may provide a Standing Committee with requisite membership contact data as needed, which will be managed in accordance with necessary privacy and security precautions. Unless otherwise noted, Standing Committee chairs are to be elected at the Local Convention or a Chapter Membership Meeting, or appointed by the Steering Committee. If not seated on the Steering Committee, committee chairs will be expected to attend at least one Steering Committee Meeting per month, and to prepare quarterly reports to be shared with Chapter Membership. Standing Committees include:

The Communications Committee will be chaired by the chapter's Communications Coordinator, and will be responsible for maintaining the Local's website content and social media presence, managing internal communications platforms, assisting the Steering Committee in crafting official statements of the Local, and submitting external communications, on all platforms, for the approval of at least one chapter co-chair prior to publication.

The Membership Committee will be chaired by the co-Membership Coordinators and is responsible for contacting new or inactive members and delivering information about the chapter, preparing informational literature for members, and mobilizing members for organizing and social activities.

The Tech Committee will maintain Chapter tech resources, including the Chapter Website, password managers, software licenses and accounts, and A/V and other equipment.

Amendment to B2: SUBSTITUTE to Bylaw Change 2

by Dan F, cosigned by Ally B and Emerson M

[Author's note: This amendment keeps the same whereas clauses and the same modifications with some minor clarity changes, but moves the newly created "standing" committees into an article of their own, after the Community Accountability Committee article. Why??? I did this so that **this** amendment no longer conflicts directly with the **other** bylaw change, or its substitute amendment, in case that passes before this is brought to the floor. To be clear: I do not know if expanding the steering committee is a good idea or will bring more democracy to the chapter leadership, I'm just trying to smooth out our options on the day of convention.]

AMENDED TO THEREFORE CLAUSES

2. All instances of the term "Executive Committee" throughout the Chapter Bylaws will be replaced by "Steering Committee".
3. The following changes will be made to Articles V, VI, and ~~Article VIII, Section 2~~ Article XIV:

AMENDED TO BYLAW CHANGES

- Retain all changes to Article V from Bylaw Change 2
- Retain all changes to Article VI from Bylaw Change 2
- Strike all changes to Article VIII, Section 2 from Bylaw Change 2
    - With the exception of changing instances of “Executive Committee” to “Steering Committee”.
- Add Article XIV to Bylaw Change 2 as written below.

ARTICLE XIV. Standing Committees.

Section 1. Duties.
Standing Committees will exist on a permanent basis, and organize around a distinct set of tasks that are important to the ongoing functioning of the Chapter. The Steering Committee may provide a Standing Committee with requisite membership contact data as needed, which will be managed in accordance with necessary privacy and security precautions. Unless otherwise noted, Standing Committee chairs are to be elected at the Chapter Convention or a Chapter Membership Meeting, or appointed by the Steering Committee. Committee chairs will be expected to attend at least one Steering Committee Meeting per month, and to prepare quarterly reports to be shared with Chapter Membership.

Section 2. Communications Committee.
The Communications Committee will be chaired by the chapter’s Communications Coordinator, and will be responsible for maintaining the Local’s website content and social media presence, managing internal communications platforms, assisting the Steering Committee in crafting official statements of the Local, and submitting external communications, on all platforms, for the approval of at least one chapter co-chair prior to publication.

Section 3. Membership Committee.
The Membership Committee will be chaired by the co-Membership Coordinators and is responsible for contacting new or inactive members and delivering information about the chapter, preparing informational literature for members, and mobilizing members for organizing and social activities.

Section 4. Tech Committee.
The Tech Committee will maintain Chapter tech resources, including the Chapter Website, password managers, software licenses and accounts, and A/V and other equipment.

R6: Towards a Local Political Program

by Aaron L, cosigned by Katrina G, Halsey H, Leo N, Athnie M-C, Xavier D, Sean F

Whereas, the national "Workers Deserve More" has shortcomings with regards to local material conditions and political economy, and specific plans of action for local chapters and individual organizers.

Whereas, a local program tailored to the needs and conditions of the workers of Madison and Wisconsin is an important tool for the chapter.

Therefore be it resolved,

1. That MADSA shall create a political program for the local chapter consisting of demands relevant to the needs of the Wisconsin working class and based upon local conditions;
2. That this political program shall be based on interviews in our communities. This shall include our workplaces, neighborhoods, and other organizations;
3. That a "program committee" for the purposes of training members to conduct these interviews and to analyze the interview data shall be created and consist of member-volunteers;
4. That the committee shall reach out to other Wisconsin DSA chapters to encourage and train their members to participate as interviewers and interviewees;
5. That the chapter shall host at least two (2) town halls to receive feedback from members and the community on the content and form of the program;
6. That a draft program shall be completed in advance of the 2026 MADSA chapter convention.

R7: State-Wide Virtual Political Education Campaign

by Joey D, cosigned by Leo N, James S, Ally B, Paulo D

Whereas, a need has been identified to develop a rank-and-file membership understanding of labor history and socialism,

Whereas, smaller DSA chapters across Wisconsin do not have the capacity to maintain their own political education projects,

Whereas, a socialist movement requires a shared intellectual project to challenge capitalism,

Be it resolved that the Madison Area Democratic Socialists of America will form a political education committee. We task this committee with developing a twelve month pilot project for monthly virtual political education meetings intended for statewide attendance. If successful, this committee can consider transforming into a working group in 2026.

- MADSA will empower an ad hoc leadership team to plan, organize, and host a reading group using the chapter's zoom account and action network resources to manage these events.
- A model structure for each political education session will include a text that will be read out loud during the meeting followed by dedicated discussion over an estimated one to one and a half hours.
- The purpose of this model is to level the playing field for attendees and reduce the workload on working-class attendees who may not have time to study socialism outside of organizing events. It is based on a political education model established by rural communist organizers cited in Robin D.G. Kelley's *Hammer and Hoe*.
    - The committee will set a minimum goal of six political education meetings over the following year.
    - Record of attendance numbers and represented chapters will be kept after each meeting to track the success of the program.
    - The leadership team will maintain a contact sheet of prior attendees to easily text them reminders about upcoming events.
- The leadership team will prioritize reading texts that explore key theories and concepts of socialism without jargon or exclusionary knowledge requirements. Priority will also be given to articles that build a shared understanding of multi-racial radical struggle across North America and in the Midwest rather than relying on canonical European texts.
- The leadership team is empowered to explore outreach techniques including forming partnerships with Indigenous and rural activist networks that may not usually work with the DSA.
- The leadership team is also empowered to explore non-English language sessions as well as other structures for communal learning including panel or speaker discussions as capacity allows.
- As the project grows, the leadership team will welcome co-leaders from other chapters who wish to aid with piece selection and outreach. Specific organizational structure will be decided by political education committee leadership at that time.
- At the 2026 Chapter Convention, a project report will be presented including attendance numbers, a review of the curriculum, and discoveries made. The project may then be endorsed for a second year of operation at that time.

R8: Homelessness Crisis Campaign

by Madeline D, cosigned by Katrina G, Barbara S, Jackson F, Ev E

Whereas, Dane County Homeless Justice is running a campaign that addresses the escalating homelessness crisis in Dane County, Wisconsin. We aim to move beyond band-aid solutions and address the systemic failures that perpetuate homelessness, particularly the lack of coordinated, adequately funded, and accessible services, alongside a severe shortage of truly affordable housing. This is a fundamentally socialist issue: access to housing, healthcare, and basic human needs should be considered human rights, not commodities subject to market forces. The current system prioritizes profit over people, leaving the most vulnerable members of the working class without basic necessities.

Whereas, Dane County is facing a growing homelessness crisis, marked by:

- Overburdened Shelters: The Beacon, Dane County's primary day shelter, serves an average of 243 guests daily, frequently exceeding its capacity of 287. Nearly 1600 new individuals entered the homeless services system at The Beacon this year alone—each person representing a neighbor facing a housing crisis for the first time.
- Lack of Case Management: Critically, The Beacon lacks dedicated on-site caseworkers during daytime hours when most services are available. This contrasts sharply with overnight shelters (run by Salvation Army and Porchlight) that do have caseworkers, but only during hours when most services are closed. This creates a massive service gap.
- Absence of Essential Screenings: There are no on-site screenings for crucial county programs like the Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC), Behavioral Health Resource Center (BHRC), Comprehensive Community Services (CCS), Community Support Programs (CSP), Targeted Case Management (TCM), or Journey Mental Health Emergency Services. This prevents access to vital support for aging, disability, mental health, and addiction.
- Unsafe Conditions: Understaffing at The Beacon leads to dangerous guest-to-staff ratios, neglected health hazards, and staff burnout. Essential services like mail, phone access, and computer labs are often unavailable.
- Misallocated Resources: The city and county have prioritized funding for projects like a new jail and a public market while neglecting comprehensive solutions to homelessness. This demonstrates a prioritization of incarceration and commerce over basic human needs.

Whereas, the root cause of this crisis is the systematic defunding of social services and the prioritization of profit over human needs. Decades of neoliberal policies have eroded the social safety net, leaving vulnerable populations without adequate support. State-level preemption laws, favoring developers and landlords, further restrict local governments' ability to implement truly affordable housing solutions.

Whereas, this work presents an opportunity to build a broad-based coalition demanding systemic change. By uniting unhoused individuals, homeless service workers, concerned community members, and allied organizations, we can create a powerful force for social justice. This is not just about

providing charity; it's about building working-class power to challenge the systems that create and perpetuate homelessness.

Whereas, The Dane County Homeless Justice Initiative has already made significant strides in raising awareness, building community support, and laying the groundwork for systemic change. We've taken a multi-pronged approach, focusing on direct communication with officials, public outreach, media engagement, and coalition building.

Direct Communication with Officials:

- A powerful open letter, demanding urgent action to address the homelessness crisis, was sent to city and county officials, and shared widely with media outlets and stakeholders. This letter highlighted critical service gaps and inefficiencies, particularly at The Beacon.
- A separate letter was sent to homeless services workers, encouraging their participation and providing them with resources and information.
- We have requested and received crucial documents, including yearly contracts and RFP documents between the County and Catholic Charities, and the County's contract with The Salvation Army. This demonstrates our commitment to transparency and accountability.
- Letters were respectfully sent to current and prospective alders, asking for their support

Public Outreach and Media Engagement:

- Established a strong online presence through Instagram and Facebook accounts, reaching nearly 500 followers with high engagement. This demonstrates growing public interest and support.
- Secured significant media coverage through multiple interviews, including features in Badger Herald, The Center Square, Washington Examiner, MSN, The Cap Times, Madison Minutes, and WORT.
- Gained prominent visibility through a two-day feature on Channel 15 News highlighting conditions at The Beacon.
- Published a letter to the editor in The Cap Times, directly challenging the city's missed opportunity to address homelessness in the recent funding referendum.
- Launched "DISBANDED," a podcast dedicated to exploring homelessness in Dane County, with the first three episodes already released and a fourth on the way. This provides an in-depth platform for analysis and storytelling.

Community Engagement and Coalition Building:

- Engaged in numerous community conversations to educate, recruit, and build support for the Initiative.
- Presented the Initiative to local community meetings focused on justice and advocacy.
- Connected a local alder with patrons of The Salvation Army shelter to address urgent concerns.
- Supported a petition organized by women at The Salvation Army shelter, demanding improved conditions and treatment. This demonstrates our commitment to amplifying the voices of those directly impacted.
- Began securing endorsements for the initiative, building a broad base of support.

Whereas, homelessness is related to several issues facing the working class:

- Unaffordable Housing: This is the primary driver. Wages have not kept pace with rapidly rising housing costs, making it impossible for many working-class individuals and families to afford even basic housing. This is a direct result of a housing market driven by profit, not need.
- Precarious Employment: Many working-class jobs are low-wage, part-time, or lack benefits (like healthcare and paid leave). This instability makes it difficult to maintain housing, even with employment. Job loss, even temporary, can quickly lead to homelessness.
- Lack of Access to Healthcare (including Mental Health and Addiction Treatment): Many working-class individuals lack adequate health insurance or access to affordable healthcare. Untreated physical and mental health issues, as well as substance use disorders, can both result from and contribute to homelessness, creating a vicious cycle. Many unhoused individuals have experienced significant trauma (domestic violence, childhood abuse, etc.), which can make it difficult to maintain stable housing and employment. The lack of affordable, trauma-informed mental health services exacerbates this issue.
- Insufficient Social Safety Net: Decades of cuts to social programs (welfare, food assistance, disability benefits) have left a gaping hole in the safety net. This means that a single crisis (job loss, medical emergency, family issue) can push working-class families into homelessness.
- Stagnant Wages: Real wages for many working-class jobs have stagnated or declined for decades, while the cost of living (especially housing) has skyrocketed. This creates a fundamental imbalance.
- Systemic Discrimination: People of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, and people with disabilities face systemic discrimination in housing, employment, and access to services, making them disproportionately vulnerable to homelessness.
- Criminalization of Poverty: Laws and policies that criminalize homelessness (e.g., ordinances against sleeping in public, panhandling) further marginalize and punish individuals for their circumstances, making it even harder to escape homelessness. This reinforces homelessness as a tool of the ruling class to oppress working class people.
- Inadequate Public Transportation: Lack of reliable and affordable public transportation limits access to employment, services, and affordable housing options, particularly for those living outside the city center.
- Competition for Limited Resources: The scarcity of affordable housing and social services creates intense competition among the working class, pitting individuals against each other rather than addressing the systemic issues creating the scarcity.
- Eviction: Eviction directly leads to housing instability for working class people, which is a primary driver of homelessness.
- Low Credit: Many working class individuals and families are burdened by low credit scores. This can make it hard to rent or buy a home.
- Criminal Record: A criminal record can present a barrier to housing. Landlords can legally discriminate on this basis.

Be it resolved that the Madison Area Democratic Socialists of America will support Dane County Homeless Justice in their efforts to address the homelessness crisis in Madison.

- We will demand that Dane County and the City of Madison must immediately increase funding and coordination of homeless services, specifically by establishing a dedicated team of

caseworkers and screening specialists at The Beacon during all operating hours, and must commit to long-term investments in truly affordable, income-based housing.

1. **Develop a Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan:**
   Within 12 months, create an actionable plan for adequate City and County investment in income-based affordable housing. Present this plan to the community as a referendum at the next opportunity and run a campaign to educate the public on its importance. *A year is sufficient time to assess needs, identify funding sources, and engage stakeholders for a robust plan addressing our community's most pressing housing crisis.*

   Context: Affordable housing is the foundation for addressing homelessness and must be prioritized for those making $0-$1,200/monthly.

2. **Staff Community Shelters Adequately:**
   Within six months, ensure The Beacon, Safe Haven, and other day shelters are staffed with county screening specialists for Long-Term Care (LTC) and County behavioral health case management programs at least five days per week. *This timeframe is achievable, as these programs and staff already exist and need only allocation to high-need locations.*

   Context: Existing programs and staff can be redeployed to meet this need. It's a realistic and impactful step to connect people with critical resources.

3. **Revise The Beacon's Contract or Transition Management:**
   Within six months, place an addendum in The Beacon's contract that mandates daily case management services, with adequate funding. If Catholic Charities cannot meet this requirement, transition The Beacon into a publicly operated program within 12 months. *This action can begin immediately, as it involves reallocating existing resources or initiating new contracts to ensure comprehensive support for those who need it most.*

   Context: This ensures comprehensive support for guests who rely on The Beacon for stability and resources.

4. **Deploy Crisis Workers to All Shelters:**
   Within six months, ensure all shelters have trained crisis workers onsite every day. *This is a critical safety measure, as shelters serve individuals in crisis daily. Six months allows time for recruitment, training, and redeployment of existing staff to cover these gaps.*

   Context: Shelters regularly handle crises, and having trained professionals present is essential for the well-being of guests and staff alike.

- Activities DSA members can help the Dane County Homeless Justice group with:
  - **For new members specifically:**
    - Outreach and Recruitment: New members can assist with outreach efforts to expand the chapter's reach and recruit more volunteers and supporters for the campaign. This could involve distributing flyers, sharing campaign updates on

social media, or reaching out to their personal networks to encourage involvement.
        - Event Support: New members can help with logistical tasks and event coordination for campaign events, such as setting up and tearing down event spaces, greeting attendees, managing registration, or providing technical support during virtual events.
        - Research Assistance: New members can support research efforts by gathering data, compiling resources, or conducting literature reviews on topics related to homelessness, housing policy, and social justice. This research can inform the campaign's advocacy efforts and help develop evidence-based policy recommendations.
        - Administrative Support: New members can assist with administrative tasks to help keep the campaign running smoothly. This could include managing email inquiries, maintaining membership databases, scheduling meetings, or taking meeting minutes.
        - Content Creation: New members with writing, graphic design, or multimedia skills can contribute by creating content for the campaign, such as social media posts, blog articles, infographics, or promotional materials. They can help amplify the campaign's message and engage with the community through compelling content.
        - Volunteer Coordination: New members can support volunteer coordination efforts by helping to recruit, onboard, and coordinate volunteers for various campaign activities. This could involve communicating with volunteers, assigning tasks, and ensuring that volunteer efforts are effectively organized and utilized.
        - Community Engagement: New members can engage with the community by attending local events, participating in community forums, or reaching out to community organizations to build partnerships and gather input on the campaign's objectives.
        - Training and Skill Development: New members can participate in training sessions and skill-building workshops offered by the chapter to develop their organizing skills, deepen their understanding of social justice issues, and prepare for more advanced roles within the campaign.
    - **High Time Commitment:**
        - Organize and lead mutual aid initiatives, including coordinating volunteer efforts, donation drives, and distribution of essential supplies.
        - Take on leadership roles in outreach efforts, building relationships with unhoused individuals, and identifying their needs and preferences.
        - Participate in regular volunteer activities such as serving meals, providing hygiene products, and offering support to the homeless community.
        - Assist in policy advocacy efforts by conducting research, attending meetings, and contributing to campaign strategies.
    - **Medium Time Commitment:**
        - Assist in coordinating volunteer activities and logistics for mutual aid initiatives, including outreach efforts and distribution of aid.

        - Participate in donation drives, fundraising activities, and community workshops on a regular or semi-regular basis.
        - Contribute to policy research and advocacy efforts by attending meetings, analyzing data, and helping to develop campaign strategies.
        - Serve as a point of contact for members and volunteers, providing support and guidance as needed.
    - **Low Time Commitment:**
        - Participate in occasional volunteer activities, such as donation drives, outreach events, or distribution of aid, based on availability.
        - Engage in online advocacy efforts by signing petitions, sharing information on social media, and contacting elected officials.
        - Stay informed about issues related to homelessness and housing justice by reading relevant articles, attending virtual events, and following advocacy organizations.
        - Provide support to the chapter in areas where expertise or skills are available, such as graphic design, writing, or event planning, on an as-needed basis.
    - **One-Time or Occasional Involvement:**
        - Participate in one-off events such as fundraising activities, community workshops, or direct actions as schedule permits.
        - Offer support in specific areas of expertise, such as graphic design, writing, or event planning, for short-term or project-based needs.
        - Share personal experiences or insights related to homelessness and housing justice during chapter meetings or community events.
        - Help promote chapter initiatives and events by spreading the word to friends, family, and social networks through word-of-mouth or social media sharing.

See also supplemental material here; if this is a paper copy, please go to the About the Convention google doc and check out the Supplemental Material tab under Resolutions.

R9: Comms Committee PAINT THE TOWN RED

by Robert L, cosigned by Halsey H, Katrina G, Emerson M, Leo N

Whereas: Madison DSA commits to building our movement through recruiting Workers throughout Madison.

Whereas*:* A diversity of strategies for outreach will achieve the best results

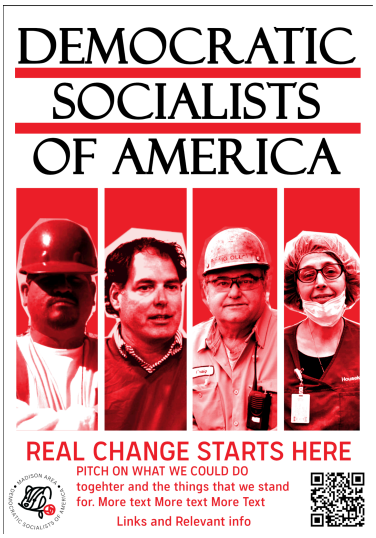
Whereas: Outreach to broad demographics and communities around Madison will require physical presence in the community…

Therefore be it resolved: that Madison DSA Chapter will take the following steps to increase our visibility in Dane County:

Poster Designs:

- Agreement on the Printing of 2 poster designs as seen here: (These will be updated before convention with the "final" versions). *[please look online for colors]*





- These designs have had community feedback through slack.
- For each design we'll be printing 5 different labeled QR code versions, these will correspond to each region of the city where we'll put up posters, and will help us track which ones are being scanned the most.
- Final Feedback and requests for Adjustments Will be Taken During the Resolution process

Printing Posters

- The Chapter will Allocate $126.37 for the printing of these poster designs through *Wells Print and Digital Services*, a Unionized Printing shop which is best equipped for meeting our printing needs.
- Currently the Quote we have is that 100 18x12 one sided prints on matte text will cost $126.37

- Noted that printing in bulk will reduce the cost per poster, and in the future we could print 500 posters for $286.62

Postering in Madison

- Two Postering Captains will be selected to facilitate posters being put up, and empowering MADSA members to participate in Painting our town red.
- The Posters will be stored in MADSA's storage area in the social justice Center
- At the April general MADSA Meeting we will provide Posters for our Members to take to their workplaces and neighborhoods, giving appropriate the labeled qr code posters for the region that the posters will go up in.

Postering Best Practices Guide

- On Street Lamp Poles:
    - Wheatpaste is made by mixing 1 part flour, 4 parts water, and bringing it to a boil. After it cools down, transfer it to containers you can carry.
    - Apply a layer of paste to your surface of choice using a Wide brush, press the poster to the surface, and apply another layer of paste over it.
    - For a video demonstration take a look at this link: https://youtu.be/CDNEWdB1n2o
    - Place the posters on poles around the city with foot traffic, but avoid downtown because they get taken down quickly there.
    - Alternatively you can apply posters to the sides of buildings if you get permission from the owners first.
- Bulletin boards:
    - State St and a few other places around town have dedicated bulletin boards that we could take advantage of, but they get cleared once a month.
    - Campus has an approval process for their bulletin boards, students should take advantage of those.
- Workplaces:
    - Feel Free to take posters into your workplace and hang them up as you see fit.

R10: Resolution for Consistent Endorsed Candidate and Chapter Expectations

by Adithya P, cosigned by David O, Ryan C, Marsha R, Bonnie W, Dan F

WHEREAS:

1. At the 2023 DSA National Convention, the "Consensus Resolution Amendment I: Act Like an Independent Party" was passed that sets "expectations for our candidates to cross-endorse each other, caucus separately from the Democratic Party in legislatures, and bloc vote" and "building and emphasizing the collective identity of our candidates and expecting our candidates to identify publicly and proudly as "democratic socialists."

a. The National Electoral Commission's passed Consensus Resolution also had multiple Resolved clauses including "expecting our candidates to endorse other DSA candidates" and "developing our own 'party identity' and common messaging".

2. Electoral candidates supported by Madison Area DSA (MADSA) can explicitly center the issues we fight for, implement policy to address them, tie material issues to the broader class conflict, and improve the lives of people locally.

3. Since 2019, MADSA has engaged in a variety of electoral tactics and endorsement strategies, including at times endorsing candidates the chapter was not able to provide meaningful support to or maintain a relationship with once in office. Due to leadership turnover, the cyclical nature of elections, and the lack of a democratically decided chapter-wide electoral strategy, the Electoral Working Group's skills, capacity, attendance, and action has varied greatly over recent years and election cycles.

4. Since 2023, MADSA has only endorsed candidates who are chapter members – including two outgoing alders (Marsha Rummel and Juliana Bennett) on Madison Common Council, one member of the Dane County Board of Supervisors (Heidi Wegleitner), and one state representative currently in office (Francesca Hong). MADSA also endorsed another member running for state assembly last year (Maia Pearson).

5. MADSA has not set clear expectations for how elected officials should relate to the chapter or other DSA-endorsed electeds. This has caused friction with candidates previously endorsed by the chapter in the past.

6. The lack of documented expectations for endorsed candidates does not allow for our chapter to properly inform candidates seeking our endorsement, nor does it allow the chapter to successfully recruit or develop aligned candidates.

7. MADSA has not set clear expectations for how the chapter will relate to endorsed members during their electoral campaigns or while in office, nor does MADSA have systems to coordinate and support chapter-elected relationships. This has limited the ability of the chapter and elected officials to maximize our power and platform to push for socialist politics. The lack of structured support for endorsed members in office also limits the capacity of electeds, especially those holding city and county offices, which do not pay full-time salaries or support paid staffers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. All current MADSA endorsed elected officials and future endorsement applicants are informed by the MADSA Executive Committee that endorsed members and candidates are held to follow the expectations outlined below:
    a. Obtain and/or retain membership in DSA.
    b. Meet at least 3 times per year with the Executive Committee (or another body appointed by general membership to liaise with elected members).

c. Make a best effort to attend monthly General Meetings (at minimum an average of one per quarter).
d. Attend and participate in at least one chapter political education event per year.
e. Not publicly disparage DSA or its principles.
f. Vote in accordance with any future platforms or resolutions passed by general membership outlining political redlines for the chapter. This does not apply to any chapter positions or platforms passed before the 2025 Chapter Convention, unless these are brought back to a future general meeting and membership votes to reaffirm those positions.

2. All endorsed members holding elected office are held to follow the expectations outlined below regarding caucusing and endorsements with other endorsed DSA members:
    a. Work to build a socialist caucus in the relevant body they are elected to, if multiple endorsed DSA members are elected to the same body. This does not preclude participation in other caucuses in the same body.
    b. Bloc vote with other endorsed DSA members in whatever body they are elected to as a socialist caucus. This applies for votes where the socialist caucus has agreed to vote as a bloc, and for votes which MADSA or National have made part of their platform.
    c. An endorsed DSA member is expected to endorse other members running for office endorsed by Madison Area DSA.
    d. An endorsed DSA member is expected to not endorse against a DSA member endorsed by Madison Area DSA or another DSA chapter.

3. MADSA commits to the following expectations for supporting electoral campaigns for candidates endorsed by the chapter.
    a. MADSA will host or encourage general membership to turn out to at least three phonebanks or canvasses for a candidate endorsed by the chapter, unless both the candidate and the chapter agree on adjusting this expectation.

4. MADSA commits to the following for developing the chapter's relationship with endorsed members currently in office.
    a. The Executive Committee or its assigned liaisons shall maintain regular communication with endorsed elected officials. Communications should include resolutions passed by the chapter or national DSA that should inform votes, as well as updates on other campaign endorsements when those are being considered.
    b. The Executive Committee and any other bodies appointed by the chapter will work with endorsed members in office to investigate and develop strategies for providing chapter support for endorsed members.
        i. This group should consider strategies including but not limited to:
            1. Socialist-in-office (SIO) committees
            2. Political education briefings from chapter members with relevant expertise as requested by elected members.
            3. MADSA member(s) providing support as part-time volunteer staffers or a kitchen cabinet for electeds.

ii. This group should prepare one or more proposals based on the above discussions to bring to chapter membership at a general meeting before the end of 2025.

5. Endorsed members and the MADSA Executive Committee, in coordination with any other relevant bodies empowered by the chapter, shall report to membership quarterly on the activity of endorsed members (including but not limited to participation in chapter activities and key votes taken in office).

6. The chapter shall intervene either by a resolution passed by membership or a motion passed by the Executive Committee to inform an endorsed member of the violation of any of these expectations and ask for correction. The endorsed member shall be notified of the purpose ahead of time and invited to join the debate regarding a resolution or motion.

7. Endorsed members who continue to not commit to the aforementioned expectations after chapter intervention may be subject to the revocation of their chapter endorsement, following the process defined in the chapter bylaws.

8. These expectations, and any other steps around the local endorsement process, will be listed on the chapter's website for reference.

Resources:

- Madison Area DSA Chapter Bylaws
- Madison DSA Electoral Endorsement History (incomplete; 2019-2024)
- 2023 DSA Convention Results
    - Consensus Resolution #6: National Electoral Committee 2023 Consensus Resolution
    - Consensus Resolution Amendment I: Act Like an Independent Party
- 2024 MADSA Electoral Working Group Charter
- New Orleans DSA: Resolution for Consistent Endorsed Candidate Expectations

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R11: Continued Funding of the FindMyLandlord Website

by Madeline D, cosigned by Dan F, Phil W, Barbara S, Jason M, Ev E, Mason P

Whereas, the FindMyLandlord website, accessible at https://findmylandlord.madisontenantpower.org/ serves as a crucial informational resource for tenants within the Madison area;

Whereas, Madison Tenant Power (MTP) was established in Spring 2019 as an initiative stemming from the Madison Area Democratic Socialists of America (MADSA) Tenant Organizing Working Group, with the explicit objective of fostering a city-wide tenant union, open to all tenants regardless of MADSA membership;

Whereas, the FindMyLandlord website aggregates and presents publicly available data to facilitate communication and collaboration among tenants residing in disparate buildings under common

landlord ownership, thereby enabling collective action to address grievances such as inequitable lease agreements, unwarranted rent escalations, deferred maintenance, and other forms of landlord malfeasance;

Whereas, the ability of tenants to identify and connect with fellow tenants sharing common landlords constitutes a fundamental prerequisite for the effective organization of tenant advocacy and the cultivation of working-class tenant power within the City of Madison, thereby facilitating the mobilization of building-level organizing, the provision of support for existing tenant campaigns, and the strategic identification of canvassing targets for the initiation of new tenant campaigns;

Whereas, the FindMyLandlord website has historically received financial support from MADSA through the Tenant Organizing Working Group, demonstrating a commitment to the advancement of tenant rights and empowerment;

Whereas, the continued operation and maintenance of the FindMyLandlord website represents a modest expenditure of approximately $400, yet yields significant returns in terms of tenant empowerment and community organizing efficacy;

Be it resolved that the Madison Area Democratic Socialists of America authorizes the allocation of funds necessary for the continued maintenance and operation of the FindMyLandlord website, ensuring its sustained availability as an indispensable tool for tenant advocacy and empowerment within the Madison community.

- That MADSA hereby allocates a sum of $400 for the purpose of maintaining the web hosting services associated with the FindMyLandlord website for the forthcoming fiscal year.
- That the MADSA Treasurer shall administer the disbursement of these funds in accordance with established financial procedures, mirroring the historical handling of such expenditures.

See also supplemental material here; if this is a paper copy, please go to the About the Convention google doc and check out the Supplemental Material tab under Resolutions.
Note: the main MTP website madisontenantpower.org is hosted for free through Google Sites. Also, there currently does not exist tracking for number of page visits, so we're unable to understand website usage without further development of the site.

Executive Committee Candidates and Statements

Co-Chairs (2 positions)

Athnie M-C (they/them)

- **How would you use this position to serve the chapter?**

Our chapter has seen significant membership growth in the past several months, and if elected co-chair, my top priority will be to work to channel this influx of energy into building real working-class power in Dane County. I hope to build on the incredible work already being done by our outgoing executive committee and our membership to bring to life the robust, militant, strategic, and nimble socialist movement we will need in the years to come. We are in an era of constant crisis, and as everyday people and good socialists, we feel the very real and urgent need to immediately respond to whatever crisis (or crises, let's be real) we are currently faced with. Building our capacity and developing our membership will allow us to respond to the crises to come intentionally and with a coherent analysis and strategy that brings us closer to the socialist future we all strive to bring about.

To that end, as co-chair I will focus on:

- Developing our membership through political education, skills development, and deeper organizing within our membership base so that we can build the infrastructure necessary to effectively and nimbly build and demonstrate real power
- Empowering new members to become active in the chapter, participate in democratic decision-making, and develop into new leaders
- Helping members to develop organizing projects that emerge organically from membership and encompass material demands that are widely and deeply felt, and to carry out these organizing projects in a way that fosters class consciousness in our community.
- Building community in our chapter (which can hopefully lay the foundation to build broader working-class community in Dane County) via socials and other just-for-fun activities that are so crucial to maintaining chapter morale, strengthening our relationships with our comrades, and reminding us what we are fighting for.
- Encouraging methodical, structure-based deep organizing as we build our capacity to identify organic, working-class leaders, who we will need to build majority support if we want to pursue real power in Dane County.

Practically, I bring a background of organizing experience that I think makes me well-suited to co-chair this chapter. I joined MADSA shortly after moving to Madison in 2021, and was previously a member of Columbus (Ohio) DSA. I have about 5 years of organizing experience, mostly labor and some mutual aid, housing, and prison/jail support projects. Most recently, I have served as co-manager of the Free School Meals for Madison campaign since September 2024.

- **What else should members know about you?**

I'm originally from Ypsilanti, Michigan and moved to Madison in 2021. I'm a library worker at UW-Madison and a member of AFSCME Local 2412. I'm into fiber arts (mostly knitting, embroidery, and visible mending these days), tabletop games, cozy video games, and the occasional sci-fi novel.

Halsey H (she/her)

- **How would you use this position to serve the chapter?**

I am so proud to have played a part in supporting MADSA's growth and development as an executive committee member for the last year, and beyond excited for the future of our chapter. As the threat of American fascism grows every day, it's heartening to know that rather than despair, tens of thousands of people across this country are turning to democratic socialism. DSA has a responsibility to meet those people, to bring them in, and to give them the skills, the analysis, and the confidence they need to organize for socialism and for democracy in their workplaces and neighborhoods. I take my role as a leader in this movement very seriously, and I would be honored to use the skills that I have honed through seven years of leadership in Y/DSA to help MADSA meet the moment by serving as its co-chair.

Since I was elected as Communications Coordinator last year, I have worked tirelessly to re-establish our chapter's communications committee. While that work is still in progress, I'm proud to say that we've created more opportunities for members to lead, begun the process of refining and documenting our processes, and are creating print and digital materials to bring a clear socialist message to working class Madisonians. Thanks to this work, I am familiar with our chapter's strengths and weaknesses and have built working relationships with organizers around the chapter that I am eager to build on in another term on the executive committee.

If elected co-chair, I will commit to carrying out the chapter's democratically-determined political and organizational priorities, but my personal priorities as co-chair will include supporting the development of a member-led political education program, contributing to a healthy and vibrant chapter culture (more socials!!), increasing the collaboration and coordination between chapter bodies, and deepening our practice of democracy. I also hope to lead the executive committee in committing to a rigorous program of leadership development. We have so many incredible new people joining us, and I look forward to helping each and every one of them find a place in the socialist movement that makes sense for them and makes the most of their talents, skills, and connections. Ultimately, I believe leaders should be judged by their success in making more leaders, and I hope that part of my legacy as co-chair will be inspiring many more executive committee candidates to run for the next term.

- **What else should members know about you?**

I am a library assistant at UW Madison, and a rank-and-file member of AFSCME local 2412. I grew up half an hour south of Madison in a town called Edgerton, but before moving home in 2022, I lived in New York City for seven years. There, I adopted a cat, worked a billion part time jobs (including at Jacobin, a unionized Starbucks, and a LiUNA local), and met my lovely partner, who decided to make Madison their home last year. That's also where I got involved in DSA. After a couple of years of leadership in YDSA (NYU-YDSA co-chair, National Political Education Committee, and editor-in-chief of YDSA's magazine, The Activist), I served as co-chair of NYC-DSA's North Brooklyn branch and

learned so much about leadership in a socialist organization (and the trials and thrills of socialist state assembly races).

I also want to mention that I am a member of DSA's Bread and Roses caucus (breadandrosesdsa.org), a formation of Marxist organizers committed to fighting for democracy in DSA, a militant and member-led labor movement, and for a class-struggle party-building socialist electoral strategy. This informs my organizing practice, but I am firmly committed to working with and learning from comrades from all different socialist tendencies in DSA's big tent.

Administrator

Emerson M (he/him)

- **How would you use this position to serve the chapter?**

As a member of exec, I would be excited to care for MADSA's administrative work or communications work. As our chapter continues to grow and thrive like it has the last two years that I have been a member, administrative work like maintaining our calendar, coordinating voting, and overseeing chapter meeting agendas and minutes will keep us organized, and maintaining our communications structures will keep our entire chapter informed and presents our work to our neighbors, allies, and other DSA and YDSA chapters. External communication is especially pressing in a moment where more of our neighbors notice they are left behind by the political system and look for a place to turn that works for their—and all working-class people's—interests. A critical part of the work in either position will be building organizing relationships with other members and staying informed of chapter work/fostering chapter communication.

I feel prepared to serve as the MADSA Comms Officer or Administrator because of my previous experience with event planning and communication within and related to MADSA, including our 2024 and 2025 conventions and the 2023 Madison Tenant Power Open Assembly, as well as a decade of experience in a wide variety of workplaces that has taught me good coordination and communication practices. I have been involved in the Comms Committee on the long term and am familiar with structures that keep our efforts sustainable, with chapter communications needs, and with areas communications could continue to grow as the chapter grows. My main goal in either position would be to build practices and resources that make the role even easier for the next person.

- **What else should members know about you?**

I am a first-year grad student in the MA and PhD program in German at UW (I love to talk about my research interests and think about creative and non-hierarchical teaching styles), and I have a greyhound named Frank—both are very fun but can sometimes make in-person attendance challenging for evening meetings. I speak German, a fair bit of French, and I'm trying to learn Russian on the side. I have a deep and boundless love for cringy Eurodance music.

It is very likely that I will be in Québec City in Canada from late June to mid-late August this summer and would only be present remotely for about two months.

Treasurer

Dan F (it/any)

- **How would you use this position to serve the chapter?**

I just want make money moving smooth and well-documented, get everything standardized and as automated as possible, and hopefully make it even easier for the next person down the road to take over in the next cycle.

I've chatted with Nathan a bit about how exactly the treasurer's work goes, and while I won't be the most vocal treasurer you've ever heard, I basically just want to help get the financial stuff done that makes the chapter go.

I'm mostly just doing this because I don't know if anyone else will run. If a candidate with more vim and vigor to serve runs, you should probably vote for them.

- **What else should members know about you?**

I have been active in the chapter since joining in 2020; mostly helping out with the abolitionist working group and attempting [and mostly failing] to keep Red Madison afloat.

Always trying to remind myself and others to put the FUN into liberation work. I don't know how exactly I'll make treasurer-ing fun, but I'll try.

I am somewhat disabled by migraines that slide between vestibular and visual, which makes meetings and organizing a little tricky sometimes. Have been getting slowly better lately.

Communications Coordinator

Hannah E (any)

- **How would you use this position to serve the chapter?**

My involvement in MADSA's Communications and Membership committees has demonstrated to me how heavily each relies on the other and how foundational both are to the work of our chapter as a whole. I think our chapter falls short when it comes to developing internal capacity and confidence, and despite the recent spike in recruitment, we are failing to leverage the full potential of our members - especially new ones - in the ways necessary for sustained mass mobilization. As Comms Coordinator, I would advertise the Comms Committee as a place where new and less experienced members can begin getting involved immediately while learning skills necessary for organizing. This would build capacity within the chapter in general and within the Comms Committee especially. I would seek to reinvest that increased organizing potential into revitalizing Red Madison, as well as working with the Membership Committee on events and messaging initiatives designed to promote political education and class consciousness in our chapter and broader community. My ultimate goal is to give every MADSA member the opportunity to feel skilled and confident enough to advocate for their ideas and priorities within the chapter and to have often difficult conversations with those outside the chapter regarding our political vision and future.

- **What else should members know about you?**

I grew up in Tennessee, I watch way too many reality dating shows, and I have a very lovely cat named Eve.

Membership Coordinator

Leo N (they/them)

- **How would you use this position to serve the chapter?**

Being the Membership Coordinator is a very important role for chapters. It's more than just having a list and hosting socials. If I were to be voted in to the Executive Committee, I would use this role to streamline onboarding new members and make it easy and accessible for new members to get involved in work right away. I have many ideas such as standardizing the cadence of New Member Orientations, putting together a refreshed New Member Handbook, and having an onboarding team in order to delegate backend work, which would expand the committee's capacity. I would make sure to spend time talking to both new and active members to try to get as many people as possible to take on roles, especially having 1:1s with other new members and direct them to the right people and channels that best serve their interests. Essentially, my goal is to build an expansive and solid Membership Committee that is excited about doing this essential work. I also have ideas for recruitment and outside-of-DSA engagement like doing more tabling and having members carry around business cards that I am working on a design for.

- **What else should members know about you?**

I'm an NYC transplant, have been vegan for almost 9 years, and I love to make collages.

Alex P (he/him)

- **How would you use this position to serve the chapter?**

As of today, I have served as the Membership Coordinator of our chapter for the last year, learning about building a lasting roster of political organizers, learning the ins-and-outs of recruitment, creating infrastructure to many of the other responsibilities of chapter leadership. I would like the opportunity to build on that experience, and hopefully expand my involvement in steering the political vision of our chapter going forward.

- **What else should members know about you?**

Firstly, an apology to those in attendance at our convention this year; last-minute work obligations will cause me to miss most of the day's discussion and activities.

On to the original question: I've considered myself to be a socialist for my entire adult life, and for all that time I had hope for an opportunity to make good on working towards a socialist project. Prior to moving to Madison, that was not an option outside of sparse, individual actions, as no existing organization was within reach. Here though, I have found a home among comrades like I had always

hoped for. Regardless of the outcomes of this election, I fully intend to commit myself to the project of humanity's liberation through class struggle on behalf of the international working class, with DSA being my vehicle. The hope for a better world has always served as my core driving force, which can often be a challenge in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. In such times where the brunt of capitalism's exploitation is being faced head-on, it can be difficult to feel anything but despair. However, despair is not a feeling we can afford to have; it is augury that reads only ill omens, presuming to know the immutable fate of the world that precludes any form of human action or intervention. We must not give into passivity, no matter what odds lie before us, for hope and struggle are the core of what keeps us human when shackled to a fundamentally inhuman system. Struggle does not just make us free in the future, it makes us free today.

At-Large

- No declared candidates

Community Accountability Committee Candidates and Statements

Community Accountability Advocates (4 positions)

Omar B (he/him)

- **How would you use this position to serve the chapter?**

As a member of the Community Accountability Committee, I intend to work with comrades to fulfill the purpose of the CAC outline in the By-Laws of the Madison Area DSA. I will listen patiently and empathetically to claims made by any member and advocate and work towards just resolutions to any conflicts and do my best to reduce harm within the organization. I believe that everyone who wishes to work towards the DSA's goals belongs in the DSA, and that it is on all of us to foster a welcoming and vibrant democratic socialist culture. I hope I can contribute more to that welcoming culture as a member of the Community Accountability Committee.

- **What else should members know about you?**

This would be my first elected position. I'm not sure what I really bring to the table other than a desire to contribute more to MADSA and help out my comrades where I can.

On a personal note, I'm a software developer by profession but my real passion is learning languages and have recently been putting more of my effort into Portuguese and Malay, but mostly Portuguese. I live a pretty uneventful life cooking, language learning, and hanging out with friends or the cats I adopt.

Brenda S (she/her)

- **How would you use this position to serve the chapter?**

I care a lot about navigating conflict with honestly, gentleness and fearlessness. I'd hope to be able to help folks in our chapter face hard things (about ourselves and one another). I work to be healing-centered and abolitionist in my approach when one of us fucks up.

I'd really love to find ways to collectively explore what healing, accountability and healthy tension can look like, and to build some conflict-navigation skills throughout the chapter.

- **What else should members know about you?**

I'm a grad student in Education and split time between here and with my partner out East. Best ways to get to know me are to tell me about something you love, recommend fiction books, or share stand up comedy clips. I'm currently training to be an abortion doula and planning a hike coast to coast across Ireland.

David O (he/they)

- **How would you use this position to serve the chapter?**

I break down the responsibilities of the Community Accountability Committee into two main areas, (1) reacting to chapter situations and (2) proactive work that builds an inclusive chapter culture.

(1) Reacting to chapter situations includes being a resource for any member who has questions or concerns (including specific instances) regarding chapter culture, member behavior, etc. As a chapter leader I have experience discussing these topics with members. Reacting to chapter situations can also include mediating conflict within the chapter or between members - I have conflict management experience from my personal and professional life which I believe will help me if these situations arise.

(2) proactive work that builds an inclusive chapter. I don't have a lot of time this year to commit to any large CAC projects. I would be willing to facilitate conversations about our chapter culture in general or at standalone meetings. I also look forward to bringing this perspective to the Membership committee, which I believe has a great opportunity to continue to develop our culture to be inclusive, especially for new members.

- **What else should members know about you?**

Chapter member since 2020. Chapter leader since 2023, in that time I've co-chaired the Membership committee (4 months), School Meals Campaign (5 months), and Electoral Working Group (12 months).

Aparna P (she)

- **How would you use this position to serve the chapter?**

I'd use this position to hopefully aid in mediating conflict with an eye towards improving our communication practices over time.

- **What else should members know about you?**

I'm very new to this so please let me know if there are improvements I can make along the way!

Other Elected Positions

Solidarity Captain (2 positions)

Simon R-L (he/him)

Annual Chapter Report

Executive Committee

- **Bonnie W**, co-chair (she/her)
- **Adithya P**, co-chair (he/they)
- **Jason M**, administrator (he/him)
- **Nathan J**, treasurer (he/him)
- **Halsey H**, communications coordinator (she/her)
- **Alex P**, membership coordinator (he/him)

Introduction

The re-election of Donald Trump and the chaos of the first 100 days of his return to office have dominated the headlines and occupied the minds of our members lately. But as our annual convention meets in this uncertain and uneasy environment, our chapter should take time to reflect on all that we have accomplished since our convention last March.

This report is not intended to be an exhaustive account of everything our chapter and members have done in the past year. Rather, we intend to highlight critical achievements, pressing challenges, and new opportunities that will help guide future decision making. If your work is not mentioned by name here, please do not be discouraged. Every contribution made by our members, no matter how large or small, is crucial in building the organization and world that we need and deserve: one ordered on the flourishing of human potential, and not endless exploitation and accumulation.

What We Did This Year

Madison Area DSA is a membership organization, funded entirely by dues, optionally paid by our members directly to the chapter on a monthly basis, and from national DSA on a quarterly basis. Our numbers, our time, and our money are the resources we have to fight back against a rising fascist tide. Growing and maintaining our membership, therefore, is an organizational imperative. We are pleased to report that in this moment of national crisis, our chapter has attracted many new members, and reactivated lapsed members, who are motivated and ready to work in socialist organizing.

- Just this month, Madison Area DSA reached 440 members in good standing (MIGS). This set a new all-time high for the chapter and surpassed the previous membership peak in 2021. Since the November 2024 Presidential Election, we have added over 100 new members.
- Our chapter's average meeting attendance over the last year was about 44 people, or 38 if only members are included. From April through October attendance was mostly in the 30-40 range, while post-presidential election there has been a large increase–about 80 in November, dipping to the 50s for December and January, and then over 90 in February. **The February meeting is the largest known MADSA meeting ever!**
- After moving from two chapter meetings each month to one in late 2023, this year the executive committee (Exec) decided to lengthen the monthly chapter meetings from 90

minutes to 2 hours. This was in response to both an increase in business (from regular chapter-wide deliberation over the School Meals priority campaign to political education to the fall election and DSA's response), and a sense that discussions were not being allowed enough time to build collective political analysis and understanding.

- In early March 2024, we endorsed the Wisconsin **Uninstructed campaign** to urge then-president Biden to stop the genocide in Gaza. In close collaboration with UW-Madison YDSA, we hosted four neighborhood canvasses and two campus tabling days, contributing to the 47,800 Uninstructed votes in the April primary election. This was a very fast moving, highly intensive campaign for organizers and volunteers.
- A number of YDSA and MADSA members attended or otherwise contributed to the **UW-Madison Palestine encampment** protest (aka Popular University for Gaza) that started at the end of April and lasted for almost two weeks. MADSA also endorsed and had different levels of organized involvement with several other solidarity actions over the course of the year: the **War Profiteers Out of Madison rally** in June (protesting a weapons manufacturing conference), the **Not Another Bomb rally** in August, and **All Out for Lebanon** in September.
- At the December chapter meeting following the election, members voted to organize within the local **People's March** as well as develop a People's Platform on which local elected officials could run. MADSA members played a large role in planning the local People's March which occurred on January 18th, and the chapter had a well-organized contingent present.
- One goal that Exec identified this year was providing more political education opportunities to members. While there is still work to do in this area (for example re-forming a political education committee/working group or similar), there has been fairly regular inclusion of political education programming in chapter meetings, and a **reading group around Marx's Capital** (Volume 1) started up in the fall. Other notable political education events for the year included hosting a talk by **Professor August Nimtz** in April, "Beyond Lesser Evils: Rethinking the Importance of Elections"; and the annual **Socialism Conference** in Chicago, which the chapter provided financial support for members to attend.
- This year, our chapter made the following **electoral endorsements**: DSA member Heidi Wegleitner for Dane County Board of Supervisors (uncontested, won), DSA member Francesca Hong for State Assembly (uncontested, won), DSA member Maia Pearson for state assembly (contested, did not win), and the 2024 Madison City and School November Budget Referendums (won). Out of all of these campaigns, we meaningly contributed volunteer time and energy to Maia Pearson's campaign. Maia was running a slim campaign with only a few volunteers, and our chapter significantly expanded the communications and canvassing her campaign was able to do. Despite this, Maia did not win her race.
- We have a suite of **Working Groups, Committees, and Campaigns**, and this year they accomplished a lot, from helping new folks **unionize** their workplace to **abolitionist political education** to pressuring the school board for **free school meals for all**. For more information on what our chapter working groups and committees did this year, please see the other reports further down in this document.

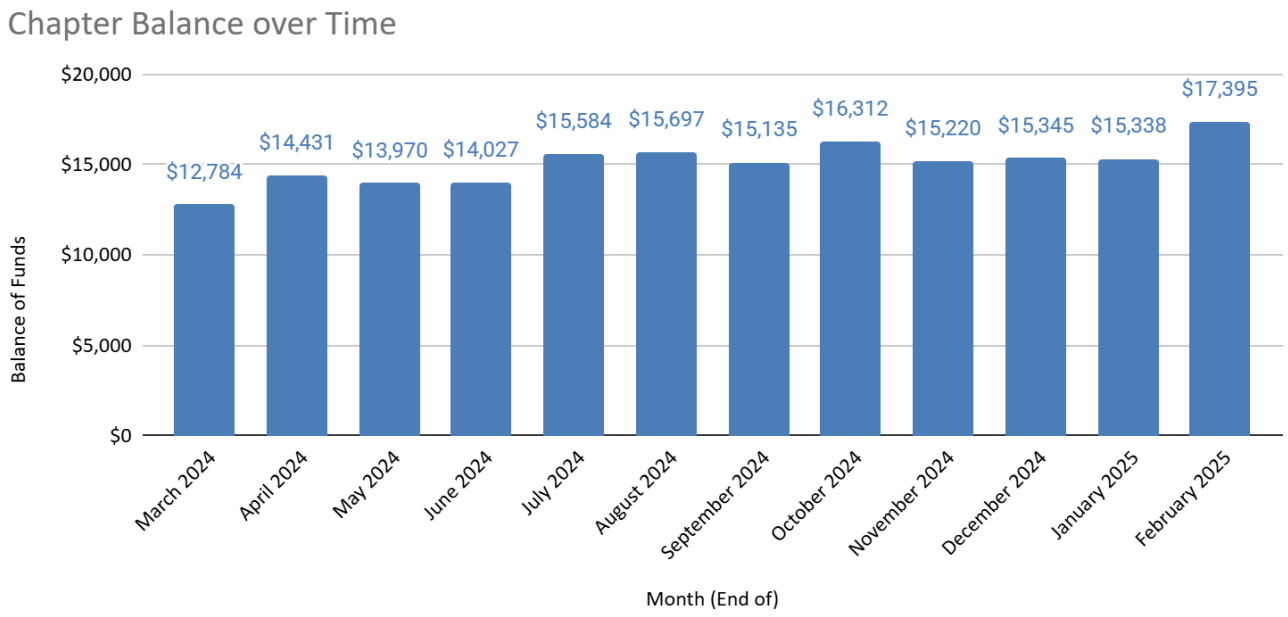
Treasury Report

Nathan J, treasurer

1. As our chapter grows, there is a greater need to accurately budget, which in turn requires

tracking transactions in a ledger. Besides getting in the habit of budgeting and maintaining a ledger, a cash handling policy was adopted and a reimbursement request form (https://madison-dsa.org/resources/) was created to improve traceability of transactions.

2. Balance: our chapter is financially stable and the balance of funds grew over the past year (April 2024 - March 2025). Budget details are included below, but here is a high level overview.



   a. Revenue: budgeted revenue = $12,420, actual revenue (as of end of February) = $13,219.
      i. Revenue has grown as membership increased throughout the year
      ii. Voluntary chapter dues have been a significant source of income, enabling us to not have to engage in fundraising, so effort can be directed to other chapter activities
   b. Expenses: budgeted expenses = $15,926, actual expenses (as of end of February) = $8,478.
      i. Working groups and the school meals campaign used less than half of their budgets, leading to a gap between budgeted expenses and actual expenses
      ii. Created a budget for food for meetings and socials, since this has been a growing expense

3. Opportunities for growth: while it is nice to have a growing chapter balance, our chapter can afford to spend more money on outreach. Of our expenses, approximately 35% is for overhead expenses (rent, software, transaction fees, etc.), approximately 50% is for internal chapter development (meetings, conferences, food, etc.), and approximately 15% is for outreach (campaigning, tabling, public events, etc.). Overhead expenses and internal chapter development are necessary but should be viewed as serving the purpose of ultimately growing the chapter through outreach and making a difference in the community.
4. YDSA: our chapter has worked closer with YDSA over the past year and this includes providing a budget for YDSA which was used for flyers, socials, and conferences.
5. Budget 2024-2025 details (as of end of February)

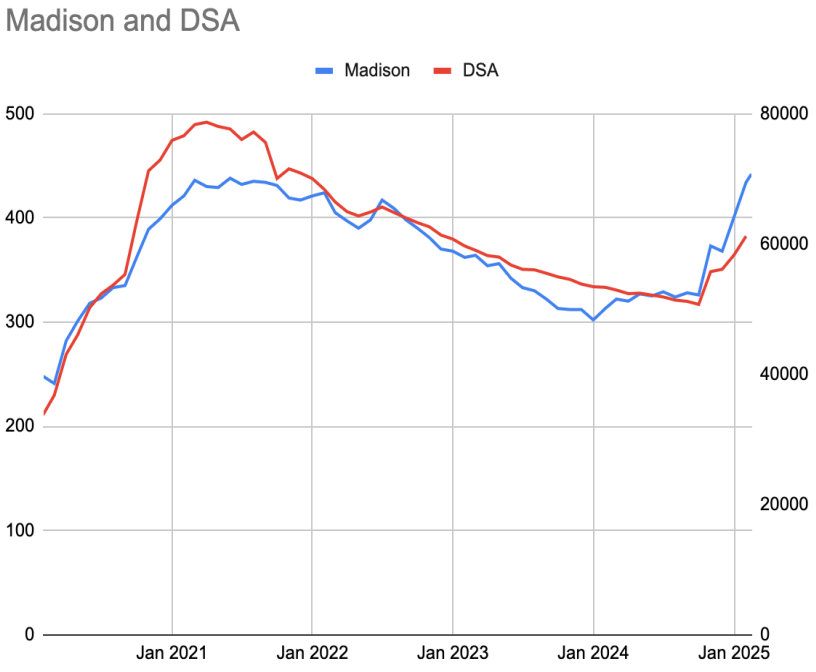
April 2024 - March 2025	Annual Budget	Actual	Actual as % of Budget
Period-Start Balance	**12654.01**		
Revenue			
Dues Share	$ 5,720.00	$7,063.00	123%
Voluntary Chapter Dues	$ 6,100.00	$5,130.00	84%
Miscellaneous (events, sales, interest, etc.)	$ 600.00	$1,026.16	171%
Total Revenues	$ 12,420.00	$13,219.16	106%
Expenses			
Operating Expenses	$ 3,276.00	$2,766.76	84%
Rent (Social Justice Center)	$ 1,500.00	$1,490.00	99%
Transaction Fees	$ 280.00	$212.23	76%
Software and IT Services	$ 1,496.00	$1,064.53	71%
Zoom (video conferencing)	$ 350.00	$337.39	96%
Airtable (membership committee tools)	$ 240.00	$100.43	42%
OpaVote (online voting software)	$ 210.00	$60.00	29%
Incorp (to renew incorporated status with state)	$ 120.00	$115.70	96%
DigitalOcean (website cloud computing)	$ 216.00	$147.39	68%
Wordpress (web content management)	$ 120.00	$115.00	96%
Canva Pro (graphic design)	$ 120.00	$119.99	100%
Spoke (texting software)	$ 100.00	$19.49	19%
Namecheap (for domain name)	$ 20.00	$49.14	246%
Dedicated Budgets	$ 7,400.00	$3,084.38	42%
Working Groups, Committees, YDSA	$ 4,600.00	$1,634.87	36%
Community Accountability Committee	$ 500.00		
Abolitionist Working Group	$ 1,000.00	$120.00	12%
Electoral Working Group	$ -		
Tenants Organizing Working Group	$ 1,100.00	$252.50	23%
Labor Working Group	$ 1,000.00	$350.00	35%
YDSA	$ 1,000.00	$912.37	91%
Campaigns	$ 1,000.00	$175.82	18%
Abolish School Meal Debt + Healthy School Meals for All	$ 1,000.00	$175.82	18%
Conferences & Events	$ 1,800.00	$1,273.69	71%
August Nimtz Public Event	$ 300.00	$300.00	100%
Socialism 2024 Conference	$ 1,500.00	$973.69	65%

Other Expenses	$ 5,250.00	$2,626.85	50%
Convention 2025	$ 1,500.00		
Merchandise	$ 500.00	$61.50	12%
T Shirts and Stickers	$ 750.00	$718.90	96%
Donations and Dues Payments to Organizations	$ 500.00	$250.00	50%
Food for meetings and socials	$ 1,250.00	$1,177.60	94%
Miscellaneous (Discretionary Expenses)	$ 750.00	$418.85	56%
Total Expenses	$ 15,926.00	$8,477.99	53%
Gain/(Loss)	**$ (3,506.00)**		
Period-End Balance	**$ 9,148.01**	Balance:	$17,395.18

Membership Report

Alex P, membership coordinator
Adithya P, co-chair

DSA Members in Good Standing		
Month	Madison	National
Jan 2024	302	53,428
Feb 2024	313	53,342
Mar 2024	322	52,920
Apr 2024	320	52,367
May 2024	327	52,435
Jun 2024	325	n/a
Jul 2024	329	51,854
Aug 2024	324	51,370
Sep 2024	328	51,179
Oct 2024	326	50,713
Nov 2024	373	55,740
Dec 2024	368	56,108
Jan 2025	401	58,317
Feb 2025	434	61,185
Mar 2025	441	n/a



- **Membership Numbers**
    - As mentioned above, Madison now has over 440 members in good standing as of 3/8/2025, our highest total ever. Members in good standing (MIGS) refer to members up to date on dues, granting them full voting and participation rights within DSA.
    - This time last year, the chapter had about 325 MIGS. Counting constitutional members (members whose dues lapsed within the last year), MADSA has over 490 members today versus around 430 last March.
    - Madison saw a net gain of 56 MIGS (from 312 to 368) over the 2024 calendar year, an 18% increase. Of the 50 largest DSA chapters, only 3 grew at a faster rate than Madison over the same time period. DSA membership nationally grew by 4% during this time.
    - Madison saw a net gain of 108 MIGS (from 326 to 434) in the 4-month period between the election and the end of February, a 33% increase in membership. Of the 50 largest DSA chapters, only 4 grew at a faster rate than Madison over that period. DSA membership nationally grew by 21% during the same time span.
- **Membership Trends**
    - We saw a MASSIVE bump in membership following both the presidential election and inauguration. This rising trend will likely subside sometime in the next few months, but has not as of yet.
    - As one might expect, interest in the chapter most often correlated with recent chapter activity in public spaces, be it tabling, protest participation while wearing/bearing DSA identifiers, or ongoing campaign actions. This has in part allowed us to maintain our numbers even in periods where National has seen slight membership declines.
    - By far most new members coming to our chapter are ones who have self-selected joining (ie they found us, we did not find them). Going forward, it should be the goal of our membership strategy to utilize campaigns to make more direct asks of people to join our organization. Every action, big or small, is an opportunity to recruit.
- **Membership Committee**
    - Following the last convention, much of the existing membership committee participants were heavily involved in other leadership roles in the chapter. The formal organization of the committee went on hiatus during this time, but has since returned in early 2025. The committee is now meeting regularly (every other Wed) and has been steadily growing in numbers.
        - Much of the infrastructure for comprehensive membership outreach is already established, but will require more hands on deck to utilize. Further growth and development of committee members should be prioritized in the coming year.
    - New Member Orientations have seen a complete re-work, moving towards a more interactive, discussion-centric model intended to allow us to learn about the myriad reasons new and returning members are seeking work in our chapter and organization.
    - Active efforts have been taken to ensure that at least one chapter social event occurs every month, utilizing a more collaborative planning process that hopefully will see a greater variety of events being sponsored. Additionally, members have been empowered to reach out to others in the chapter more informally to organize smaller social gatherings to build more direct ties of solidarity.

- **Other Work**
    - Chapter membership tracking and listwork has been significantly revamped, mostly to integrate automated member tracking and communications through ActionNetwork. Using this, we've been able to keep better tabs on what actions members are engaging in, how active they are with chapter events, and automating outreach to inactive and dues-lapsed members. Going forward we hope to see a greater degree of use and integration with ActionNetwork among other working groups and committees in the chapter.

Communications Report

Halsey H, comms coordinator

The big development in the last year is that we now have a communications committee that meets on a monthly basis. We're starting to set up some roles and recurring tasks for different platforms, and we have a solid group of people who are doing some great graphic design, for social media and print propaganda materials. We have been posting regularly on our social media, and have a team of people working on making sure we have daily engagement, but there is definitely room for more people to get involved and support that work. Comrade Emerson M. has been making weekly posts across all of our platforms with all of the events coming up each week, and this has been very helpful for making sure we have more regular content and that members and prospective members have somewhere they can always check to see what's going on. Our email newsletter has gone out roughly twice per month, and that and our other email communications have very good engagement.

Right now we're working on creating some templates and how-to guides to get more people plugged in to comms work, to diversify the type of content we're able to put out, and to make it easier for people throughout the chapter to get their events promoted. We've had a lot of success building the capacity of our comms committee, and I'm hoping we can continue to improve our ability to reach people in person and online in the coming year, and to post more photos and videos of all the cool stuff we have going on in the chapter – especially when we have members give presentations or speeches, because that content does really well.

Co-Chair Report and Reflections

Bonnie W, co-chair

Adithya P, co-chair

We have been proud to serve as your Madison Area DSA co-chairs for the past year. We have both served in multiple leadership roles in MADSA over the past several years (including as chapter admin and co-chair respectively in 2023-2024), and this informs our reflections shared below.

Background

Although Madison Area DSA existed since the 80s, its modern era (like most other DSA chapters) began in late 2016 following the first Bernie Sanders presidential run, and the chapter grew quickly but

unevenly in leaps and bounds over the next few years. From 2020 to 2021, in the context of the COVID crisis and racial justice uprisings, the chapter almost doubled in membership from around 240 to 440.

However along with the new members and radicalizing political landscape came internal challenges. All chapter activities moved to Zoom in 2020, which, over time, negatively impacted our ability to form relationships, work together, and resolve conflict. Chapter leaders also faced difficulties in trying to bridge the sometimes siloed, federated nature of our working groups. Efforts to set chapter priorities at previous conventions had mixed results, as most proposals were passed but lacked the focus and collective buy-in to be truly prioritized by the chapter.

These factors, in addition to a period of internal conflict in 2022 and the burnout and exodus of some former leaders disillusioned with DSA, initiated a slow decline in active membership and capacity in our chapter starting in 2022. This mirrored the membership trend in DSA nationally.

When we joined the executive committee for our first term in 2023, most of the chapter's active leadership core had disengaged from the chapter, and most exec positions were filled by first-time leaders facing the difficult task of assuming the mantle of both administrative and political leadership. Despite these difficulties, the reduced activity also presented an opportunity to address MADSA's long-standing issues with siloed working groups, lack of political cohesion, and leadership turnover.

Over the course of 2023, we helped make changes which helped to set the chapter on an upward growth trajectory by the end of the year. We began holding hybrid chapter meetings instead of Zoom-only and reduced meeting frequency from twice to once a month. We started hosting in-person chapter socials. We focused more on membership development at the chapter level and took advantage of support and training opportunities from DSA member-volunteers and staff.

Chapter leadership also made a substantial effort to rethink the 2024 MADSA Convention. We made the Convention a one-day in-person event instead of a two-day virtual event, as it had been for the previous 3 years. We did most voting in-person at the event, instead of virtually after the event, which was a significant shift in chapter culture and helped reestablish decision-making as a collective, participatory process rather than an individual, isolated task. Lastly, in order to refocus the chapter on a unifying strategic mission, we moved away from voting through a slate of chapter "priorities" in favor of voting through one priority campaign.

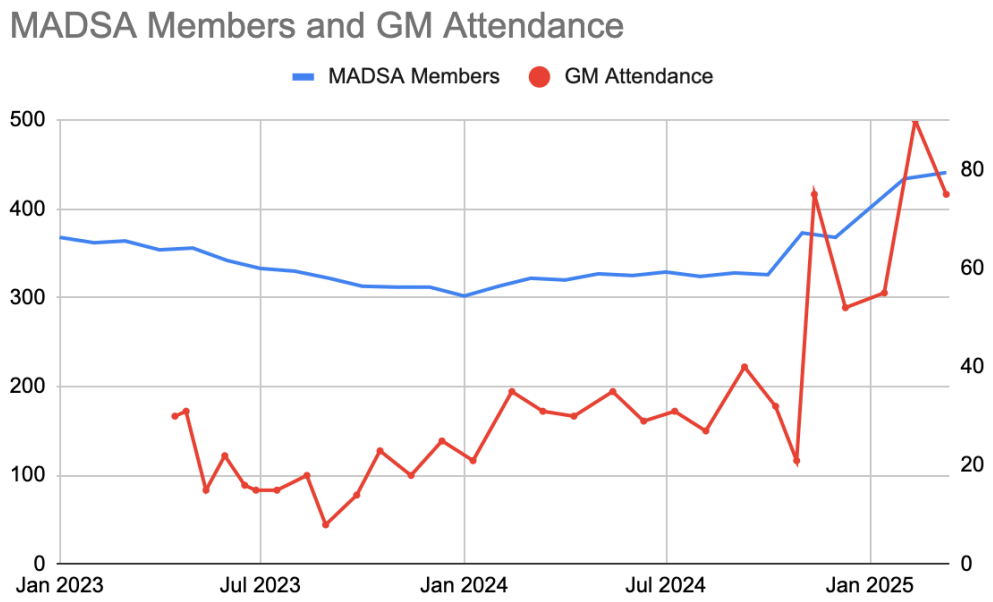
Politically, the year 2024-2025 was defined by the fight for Palestine and the election of Trump, sharpening the urgency of our organizing. For our chapter, it was a year of growth, campaign work, and renewed political clarity. Through it all, we made key interventions to build our chapter's strength and impact—now, we take this moment to reflect on what we learned and where we go from here.

General Membership Meetings

Our goal was to increase attendance at general membership meetings and make them a central space for chapter-wide decision-making, discussion, and accountability. To achieve this, we committed to holding one chapter meeting per month, with a social afterward to encourage connection. We experimented with a second monthly meeting in late October but saw little additional engagement, so

we stuck to the monthly model. Structurally, we aimed to include updates, political education, and discussion of ongoing campaigns in every meeting, though this wasn't always feasible. A key shift was increasing the number of votes held at meetings—encouraging working groups and members to bring organizing proposals forward in a ready-to-vote format. This helped move decision-making out of smaller groups and into the general membership, creating a culture where members expected to participate in chapter-wide discussions and strategy. We also improved meeting promotion and divided up meeting roles more intentionally.

These efforts helped increase attendance, with average meeting participation rising from 19.6 in 2023 to 32.2 in 2024, even before the post-election surge. General meetings have become the lifeblood of the chapter, reversing the previous dynamic where working groups were the primary spaces for organizing. While newer members sometimes hesitated to speak or vote against proposals, participation remained high, and the shift toward more in-meeting decision-making helped integrate members into the chapter's organizing process.



Note: Meeting attendance figures may not be 100% exact for some months.

Increased Transparency

To improve transparency of the executive committee, we made the #executive-committee Slack channel public, allowing members to see our discussions and deliberation. We also created and maintained documents explaining chapter resources and processes (like the chapter Quick Start guide, tutorials on how to use our texting platform, etc), making it easier for members to access important information. Additionally, we strove to share bi-monthly executive committee reports, which were shared via Slack and email to keep the chapter informed on exec votes, membership, the treasury, etc. Unfortunately, we failed to release a report between Oct. 2024 and March 2025.

Nevertheless, these efforts received positive feedback through word of mouth and our exec survey, showing that members felt positively about increased transparency. We recommend the next

executive committee improve on this by making minutes of exec meetings more readily available to general membership and provide a record of decisions made by Exec in written or verbal reports at chapter meetings.

Commitment to External Work

We took on a number of large external-facing campaigns the past year, including the Uncommitted primary campaign in early March, the launch of the School Meals Campaign in April, support for the UW-Madison Palestine encampment in early May, the Maia Pearson State Assembly primary in June and July. School meals work continued through the fall and winter, interspersed with other initiatives like coordinating local Palestine solidarity rallies, the October endorsements of local budget referendums, and the People's March in January.

As outlined elsewhere in this report, we saw major successes in some of these efforts. There was a collective sense of urgency to meet the political moment in 2024, as well as a shared desire among active membership to re-establish our presence locally after spending most of the previous year rebuilding the chapter. Madison DSA's profile grew with increased media coverage and local visibility, and our increased presence was an important factor in our post-election membership growth and causing more people to see our chapter as a potential political home for them.

A recurring theme across many of the campaigns was that they often came together on short notice or with extremely aggressive timelines. Many also happened concurrently or immediately after other efforts concluded, and were bottomlined by a small group of the same chapter leaders who were juggling multiple projects and other leadership responsibilities. This resulted in an organizing environment where we deprioritized the crucial steps of debriefing and reflecting on work we had done in favor of taking on new work.

Chapter leaders had less time to devote to important questions of larger chapter strategy and political leadership, and spent less time communicating with other members and leaders and maintaining alignment on shared organizing goals. Falling into a rut of doing the work and losing touch with a guiding political vision is a prime recipe for burnout. Despite these shortcomings we see a lot of room for growth in the chapter this year, especially with many newer members looking to start new chapter work. We look forward to seeing new projects take shape and get developed collectively by membership.

One shortcoming of our priority campaign selection process at last convention was encouraging members to develop fully-formed campaign proposals before bringing them to chapter convention. The School Meals Campaign won majority support from membership both for David O's strong vision, but also for the level of development and detail in the proposal. However, this led to some pitfalls when actually running the campaign, where despite David's support other members struggled to build confidence and a sense of ownership organizing around the issue, and too often deferring on political and strategic questions to overburdened campaign leadership.

One lesson from this is that to build stronger leadership and buy-in, more members need to be involved in the process of developing strategies and vision for external campaigns, even if that means

taking more time for campaigns to take shape and launch. More members taking ownership in this process is key to the further political development of the chapter.

Depoliticization

This reflected another chapter trend in 2024 – a depoliticization of the way we assessed our work internally and externally through an explicitly socialist lens.

While general membership weighed in on questions of strategy for ongoing work, these discussions sometimes de-emphasized the political dimension – not just considering what work to take on and why, but taking time to question and examine the ideological priors undergirding those strategies. This stemmed from a lower level of political development among active chapter membership and leadership compared to several years prior, and a lack of confidence applying a socialist analysis to our organizing methods and understanding of history.

For example, the school meals campaign's original proposal invoked the legacy of the Black Panthers' free breakfast programs. However the campaign and chapter never set aside time to learn and discuss the historical context those programs arose from, analyze how those conditions did or didn't map onto our own, and reflect on what other lessons to take from previous generations of socialists.

Our attempts to place more emphasis on political education were haphazard, although we see significantly more chapter interest and opportunities to reprioritize this in the coming year. Developing members' confidence in applying a socialist analysis informed by theory and history to their work is an important step to building a larger body of leaders and organizers in the chapter. While we made significant steps in building our organizing practice last year, we hope this year the chapter combines that with more engagement with socialist theory, further sharpening our practice.

Member and Leader Development

Our goal and continual challenge as a chapter was to re-engage membership by developing more members into active participants and future leaders. To do this, we made a number of changes to practices. Our February 2024 membership drive reinstitutionalized the practice of structured listwork of our membership; listwork being the practice of tracking outreach to and development of members. Listwork had not been done in the chapter in several years. This year, the practice was maintained in some working groups and campaigns. Exec also started doing listwork periodically to better track engagement and leadership development of active chapter members.

We also focused on delegating more entry-level tasks—such as setting up for meetings and processing sign-up sheets—to newer members, helping them build familiarity with chapter operations. Exec held two Leadership Roundtable retreats in June and December with working group and committee leaders to talk about membership development and strategize about collective work.

We had major success with revamping our monthly New Member Orientations (DSA 101s) and putting more emphasis on organizing new and prospective members to attend. Over the course of the past year, we made major overhauls to the presentation and our distribution of organizing labor around the

events. In the fall we began regularly textbanking new and prospective members and had two members running the orientation, improving attendance to 5-8 people a month. This increased exponentially following the election, and we overhauled the format to meet the demand. Our November NMO had over 50 attendees, and we enlisted other chapter leaders to help facilitate breakout groups. Attendance remained above 30-40 in the last two months, and we began delegating more meeting roles to other newer members on the revived Membership Committee, which has yielded positive results. We intend to continue with this format going forward and encourage other chapter bodies to consider similar practices for delegating more responsibilities for meetings and events.

This year, we saw growing pains balancing continued internal membership engagement with a renewed focus on external-facing work. Our February 2024 membership drive helped develop many active members who took on larger leadership roles following the 2024 Convention on Exec, working groups, and the school meals campaign. We struggled to backfill their contributions on the membership committee, and a significant amount of membership work between the March convention and November election was performed by our membership coordinator Alex P and other members of the executive committee.

In the coming year, we recommend chapter leaders increase focus on membership development, such as the training series we held in February covering 1:1 organizing conversations and strategic campaign planning. Another area of emphasis for the chapter this year should be focusing more attention on leadership development and supporting current chapter leaders. Due to previous leadership turnover and loss of institutional memory, many new and existing leaders in the chapter did not receive as much support as needed to ensure they were in a position to succeed and help develop other leaders behind them. New and existing working group leaders were placed in difficult positions and some were unaware of all the resources and tools available to them through the chapter and national organization. This led to leaders being tasked with too many responsibilities and stretched thin.

Overcommitment also led to constantly planning and coordinating new actions and events, and we too frequently fell into the trap of core leaders taking on too many tasks themselves in order to meet tight deadlines. This came at the expense of opportunities to develop other members, creating a cycle where potential new leaders were less prepared to step up because they hadn't gotten enough experience in lesser roles, because those were being done by existing leaders who were too busy to develop new leaders. One example of this was the YDSA-led People's Org Fair the weekend after the election. Seeing the event planning well behind schedule, several members of the executive committee stepped in the week before the event and took on significant responsibilities planning panels and developing programming themselves, rather than working to identify other members who could be asked to take on these tasks.

Following our co-chair terms, we intend to help build more intentional leadership development opportunities in the chapter for both current and prospective leaders, and we hope to start breaking the cycle of leadership burnout and turnover that has plagued the chapter in previous years. We believe that with the influx of new members we have many potential new leaders who can develop and step into elected and middle leadership roles across the chapter in the coming year.

The Coming Year

As we look ahead, it's clear that there is always more to do. In a time of rising fascism and ongoing attacks on workers' rights, the pressure to act is constant. But our mission is not just to act—it's to act strategically. We must sharpen our socialist analysis to understand the political conditions of our city and country, using that understanding to choose fights that will build worker power and grow our capacity. A healthy chapter and a strong socialist movement require both external organizing—strategic campaigns, coalition building, and political education—and internal work to sustain ourselves, from leadership development to communications and membership outreach. Balancing these priorities is challenging, but we make small advances every day. To grow, we must also reflect, assess our choices, and improve through collective discussion and report-backs, and we encourage every working group, committee and campaign to make these a regular part of your organizing.

At the heart of it all, people stay in the fight because of each other—because of the relationships they build, the struggles they share, and the trust they develop. Strengthening the social fabric of our chapter is just as important as our organizing. We encourage everyone to plan and attend socials, talk to one another, talk to other chapters, and also build community connections beyond DSA. These relationships, particularly connections to DSA leaders across the country, have been central to our personal growth, which we've brought to the chapter and we encourage others to do the same.

As co-chairs, we've learned so much over the last year, and we're energized by the growing number of people stepping into leadership and bringing new ideas. We welcome the diversity of political thought, debate, and even disagreement—because through these discussions, we sharpen our analysis and build a stronger movement. We encourage everyone to stay involved, step up, and help shape the future of our chapter!

Abolitionist Working Group

Successes

We helped with the Fitchburg Cop City pushback which stopped another $20-some million from sinking into a fascist training facility.

A few members went to the jail groundbreaking protest with folks from Freedom Inc, and it felt good to shout at the people in power even though they ignored us (and boy it was gross to see the local NAACP chapter carrying water for the sheriff department's continued carceral overreach.)

We held two good book clubs for political education. One on Abolition. Feminism. Now. by Angela Davis, et al, and another on Our Enemies in Blue by Kristian Williams, with a wrap-up meeting hosting the author that went great and brought some inactive members back.

Activity

The core crew has stayed relatively stable at 4-5 people in meetings; the highest attendance we had was our last book club, where 12 folks showed up.

New Members

We've had a few new and returning members this year, but also lost a couple previous regulars. As happens. Our jail communications costs research has been a group effort that folks have dipped in and out of; that's been the main organizing task thing we've been connecting folks to.

Leadership Development

While not many have stepped into facilitation yet, we run a fairly anti-hierarchal show and feel that the group as a whole steers things.

Direction

Trying to convince liberals that punishment is not the answer is a tough fight, always. Politically, it feels like the abolitionist working group is attempting to prepare the ground for the next major rupture so people have directions to fight: reducing carceral budgets and increasing support for things we know work.

The struggle in our working group is probably similar to most: people are pushed to the edge of exhaustion by trying to survive, and the rich people who have time generally just want to support the mass incarceration and police overinvestment because it protects their property and shitty way of life. Not a new problem, not a new fight.

It would be good to join up more with other working groups; many of us did not have a ton of energy to contribute to the school lunch campaign due to exhaustion from the jail fight, despite [school lunch debt] being a positive form of abolition: feed the damn children! House the damn people!

Unclear how to address, other than continuing to build ourselves up, find ways to take action that are invigorating, and keep trying to make organizing against the death machine joyful at least some of the time!

Electoral Working Group

Successes

- Vote Uncommitted movement and subsequent related actions.
- Progress on developing a socialist caucus in the state legislature. Francesca Hong was endorsed by the Chapter and is part of the caucus.
- Supported three funding referenda for City of Madison and Madison Schools, all passed.
- Initial steps to cooperate with Progressive Dane.

Activity

Attendance has dropped off. Elections this year included August primaries and a high stakes national election in November. Activities included endorsing and supporting Maia Pearson in an August primary to challenge to the state Assembly incumbent. We also searched for candidates to run for City Council in several progressive districts with many DSA members but were not successful. All DSA affiliated candidates on Madison City Council will be stepping down and DSA will have no endorsed candidates on the City Council.

New Members

135 members participate in the EWG Slack channel. About 10 people have joined the EWG Slack channel since Jan. 1st. No successful meetings and activities in recent months.

Leadership Development

Many people have worked on electoral activities in the past year (particularly the Uncommitted and Maia Pearson campaigns), but currently the working group is less active. There was not strong interest for DSA to have a role in this spring's elections.

Direction

In most times, national issues seem to get the most interest (compared to state or local). Can we find ways to respond to the unprecedented threats in the era of Trump 2.0? It would be ideal if we could continue to support statewide issues where feasible, such as the DPI Secretary election that could have a key role in the School Lunch issue, as well as DSA and DSA-allied legislators at the state level. At the local level, there is an opportunity to work on School Board, City, and County elected offices. More work is needed to translate ad hoc projects into integrated and strategic committee work.

Labor Working Group

Successes

First in-person organizing event in ~1 year

Activity

20 unique attendees over the past 6 months. 8 recurring members

New Members

The LWG currently does not retain new members well since I have become co-chair. Other than co-chairs there is limited repeat attendance thus far. One idea to improve this situation is to develop a contact list to text blast reminders to attendees

Leadership Development

Individual members are quite developed in different roles in the labor movement. LWG consists of EWOC volunteers, rank and file members, current organizers, and current staff. This gives each member a depth of understanding but unfortunately limited connection between other members

Direction

The direction of the LWG looks optimistic. We have passed an 18 month resolution to re-invigorate the group. This includes expanding our leadership, adopting strike readiness, continuing EWOC, and building SCFL connections. I believe 2025-2026 will determine the future of this working group as we have multiple in-person events planned to test and build our capacity

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Tech Committee

Successes

N/A

Activity

2-3, this is an increase from near complete inactivity

New Members

I've trained 2-3 members as understudies for maintaining the chapter website

Leadership Development

N/A

Direction

We're looking for more volunteers to help maintain the chapter website. We're currently on wordpress but a developer with any CMS or front end experience is welcome. We're also looking into migrating to another CMS like Ghost.

UW-Madison YDSA

(Young Democratic Socialists of America)

Successes

- heavily involved in organizing the encampment (only used specific encampment donations, no MADSA funds)
- negotiated with board of regents post encampment
- working w SBWU

- disrupted board of regents meeting
- ASM election (in progress, but lots of good energy and work)
- organizer fair
- bylaws overhaul
- ongoing meeting formalization process

Activity

- 30 members at average general meeting
- yes, increasing attendance as a trend

New Members

- 1.5x membership growth this year
- >5x membership growth over past 3 years
- new freshman members chairing working groups

Leadership Development

- a large portion of chapter work is planned and organized by working groups and general membership, rather than steering members
- many good candidates to fill spots in steering as they open
- moving in a good direction, but will hopefully continue to improve

Direction

- moving in a positive direction, focused on campaigns and meaningful change
- post election period of 'wtf do we do' has been a struggle, improved since by focusing on campaigns
- infighting was impeding productivity, gotten a lot better

School Meals Campaign Committee

- Annual Report and Debrief prepared for the March 4, 2025 Chapter Meeting and March 15, 2025 Annual Convention

The 2024 Annual Convention: Picking One Priority Campaign

At the March 2024 MADSA annual convention, the chapter decided to vote on ONE priority campaign proposal for the following year. This decision was made because our chapter traditionally engages in a lot of different but often disconnected organizing. **The goal of only selecting one priority campaign was to 1) mobilize the chapter in a coordinated way**, in order to engage in **2) mass mobilization and politicization of our community around a socialist demand** (and hopefully leading to large chapter recruitment).

The School Meals Campaign Proposal Which Passed at 2024 Convention

Official 2024 Proposal: Official_ School Meals for All Campaign Proposal.pdf

- The above campaign proposal was submitted with 15 member cosponsors. It passed at the 2024 convention with 23 first choice votes by ranked choice voting. 15 members voted for a Heat Justice campaign and 6 voted for a Homelessness Justice campaign with their first vote.

- **Opportunity:** to engage in a mass mobilization campaign focused on bringing mutual aid and socialist politics and organizing to a large and key base in Madison that is largely untapped by MADSA - Madison's working families.
    - In 2024, MMSD considered and voters eventually passed large **Operating and Capital referendums** which give MMSD additional financing, including discretionary spending which could be used on free school meals.
- **Demand:** That every child should be guaranteed access to free and healthy breakfast and lunch in the Madison Metropolitan School District. 2 complementary goals:
    - **1. Abolish School Meal Debt:** *Through coalition building (Freedom Inc, Madison Teachers Incorporated, and the WI Poor People's Campaign), communications, and a large-scale chapter canvassing effort,* MADSA will lead a community-wide mutual-aid fundraising campaign to abolish the current debt and provide direct relief to working families.
    - **2. Free Healthy School Meals for All:** Building off the momentum and public relations of the mutual aid campaign, *MADSA and the campaign coalition will pressure the MMSD school board* to fund free healthy meals for all in the 2024-2025 school budget (about $2 million), creating a systemic solution for free meals moving forward.
- Follow up proposals were brought to the general chapter throughout the year to discuss and decide collectively on campaign strategy. Some of those resources are below.
    - July 9th meeting Free School Lunch For All Group Discussion
    - 2024.08.06 August General Membership Meeting
    - Free School Meals Report Back for 09.10.24 MADSA GM
    - School Meals Campaign- Jan-Mar 2025 proposal

School Meals Proposal Accomplishments and Organizing

- **Coalition Building**
    - **Achieved:** Built a successful organizing coalition primarily led by MADSA, Freedom Inc. and Madison Teachers Incorporated. Families for Justice and the WI Poor People's Campaign also engage but have had less leadership and mobilization capacity.
    - **Weakness/Barrier:** Definition and strategy of coalition. Relationship building with all coalition partners (coalition relationships are strongest w/ those orgs where we invested time + capacity to build direct relationships). Other organizations did not have capacity to invest time.
- **Community Actions**
    - **Petition** – currently 1,256 signatures!
    - **Canvassing**
        - June canvasses
        - School district referendum canvassing with Working Families Party. 7 members knocked 400 doors.
    - **Tabling - About 10-15 tabling events total -** May/June - Farmers' markets (about 5!), Juneteenth at Penn Park (June 2024), Back to School event hosted by Freedom Inc (Aug 2024), Outreach Magic Pride Festival (Aug 2024), YDSA People's Org Fair (Nov 2024), Big Gay Holiday Market (Dec 2024)

    - **Referendums -** MADSA endorsed a yes vote on two school referendums after our 10/8 general meeting (and a city referendum), and all three referendums passed with supermajority support.
    - **School Board Turn Out**
        - June 2024 - 21 written comments and 27 public comments in support of Free School Meals for Al - 48 total
        - November 2024 – 27 comments in favor of universal free school meals
    - **Fundraising** – $5,774 raised and used to pay off part of the debt at Madison East High School
        - October 2024 FINAL Press Release - Paying off Debt at East.pdf
- **Member Engagement**
    - More than 400 MADSA members have signed the petition
    - About 50-60 MADSA members have engaged in one or more actions (attended a campaign meeting or action such as canvassing or tabling).
    - 12+ MADSA members have been core campaign volunteers or leaders
    - Barrier/Weakness: onboarding new members into the campaign with easy tasks, and then having a coordinate system to onboard them further.
- **Communications**
    - **Kickoff Press Conference** - in late May which all 3 local outlets attended. Total media hits of rollout: covered by Spectrum News, Madison 365, WKOW, and WORT FM.
    - Fundraising October 2024 press release got covered on Spectrum News.
    - **November Radio.** https://www.wortfm.org/politics-before-turkey-with-the-dsa/

Challenges, Barriers, Weaknesses Encountered During the Campaign and Reflections for Future School Meals and Chapter Organizing

MADSA members have done great and meaningful organizing work around an issue-based campaign! The school meals campaign passed at the 2024 convention was a very ambitious plan to try and build chapter readiness to lead a mass mobilization work. **The base level of administrative work/capacity needed to run the campaign at its current level, along with other chapter and general organizing barriers, stopped the school meals campaign from making the "jump" to mass mobilization work.**

The campaign definitely had specific weaknesses as well, and the lack of capacity made it a challenge to try and address strategic and tactical weaknesses at the campaign leadership and chapter level. One of the weaknesses was that our chapter does not have many active members who are parents and public education has not been a top organizing issue in our chapter's recent history, meaning the chapter did not have an activated base of members who were already engaged/concerned on this issue and did not have a base of activated members with deep knowledge about the issue area/local public education context. This was a double sided coin, as it was also a big opportunity for the campaign - to build new connections and recruit a new base in the community. The inability to make the "jump" to mass work meant the lack of public education interest in the chapter was a weakness and not an advantage.

We struggled to involve chapter members in campaign work in a **meaningful capacity**, outside of just taking a few actions here or there (which many members did!), although this has started to improve in the past few months, with several members stepping up to take ownership of key areas of campaign work, such as comms, member engagement, and community event planning; and most recently three members volunteering to act as campaign liaisons if the resolution restructuring MADSA's involvement in the campaign passes. Potential reasons:

- The campaign spent a long time in a "restructuring" phase in late summer/early fall 2024, as we revisited our strategy and Liz and Athnie acclimated to managing the campaign. During this period, it was difficult to identify small, intro-level tasks to get members involved
- Because of the complex nature of school food finance, there was some "frontloading" that needed to be done before members could meaningfully participate
- A lot of our membership is very new to MADSA/DSA and to organizing, so there is a lot of appetite for small, simple actions but less appetite and capacity for longer-term engagement with more responsibility

The priority campaign model helped focus efforts and engaged some MADSA members that may not have otherwise engaged, but otherwise the **school meal chapter priority campaign was very similar to our traditional working group model, where a few chapter members engaged in the work get siloed off from the overall chapter.**

The chapter did see success doing mass mobilization work in 2024 during short rapid response moments around an issue core to our chapter's values - Palestinian liberation. In March 2024 our chapter underwent an incredible 4 week uninstructed campaign with 20-30 chapter members engaging continually to canvass and GOTV against the Biden Administration. The very next month, YDSA (supported by many DSA comrades) was influential in organizing the UW Madison encampment. The chapter was able to successfully mobilize a critical mass of members to engage in mass community work because **these were short term and incredibly urgent campaigns**.

In conclusion, **the main chapter takeaway from this campaign is that the current state of Madison Area DSA is not prepared to build a long term mass mobilization campaign from scratch.** Our members are busy organizing in our community across a range of issues and trying to survive under capitalism. We are a small but mighty and growing chapter. MADSA's Executive Team and chapter leadership has done a great job building chapter structure and capacity in 2024, including a new Communications committee, Membership committee, and more.

Recommendations/Observations for the chapter to discuss moving forward include:

- **Sustainable campaigns/achievable goals:** Instead of an ambitious long term chapter priority campaign, an emphasis on shorter term campaigns and/or engaging in longer term campaigns at a sustainable level
- **Chapter-wide capacity**: Continuing to emphasize building chapter-wide capacity and skills that can support all of our organizing.
- **Membership Development**: Emphasis on training and developing members (and leaders) so they have the tools to engage more.
    - Campaign could have done a better job with developing new members' skills as well as developing their understanding of the issue.