

Constitution/Bylaws Change #2

Title & Author "National Stipends to Chapters" by Erika P. (Lincoln), Jennifer B. (San Francisco), Tawny T. (NYC), and Zac E. (Red River Valley)

Budget
Analysis

Staff Costs	\$4,000	Working with chapters to get bank accounts, testing deposits, remedying errs, processing payments, etc.
12% Overhead	\$480	
Direct Costs	\$210,000	Cost of stipend for all chapters.
Total Cost	\$214,479	

Rationale

Socialists should redistribute wealth from each according to their ability, to each according to their need. This proposal would require National to pay a flat stipend totaling \$1,200/year to each chapter that possesses a valid bank or credit union account in its own name, whether or not separately incorporated. Because National's resources come from member dues and donations, this proposal effectively represents a redistribution of resources from the wealthiest sections of DSA to the poorest. The stipend would be independent of any current or future dues-sharing measures that National implements. This proposal is long overdue.

Many chapters, particularly those in the poorest parts of the country, lack the bare financial resources necessary to hold meetings, print literature, or fund basic organizing efforts. At the same time, current dues-sharing measures only return a small portion (~\$75,000/year in total) of monthly dues to the home chapters of members voluntarily paying monthly dues, effectively perpetuating geographic wealth disparities. DSA needs to invest in its small and poor chapters, which present our greatest opportunity for growth. This proposal will comprise only a small fraction of our annual budget (approximately \$180,000/year if all of our nearly 150 chapters qualify) but will provide a critical investment to nurture chapters seeking to grow a militant socialist movement in the country's poorest regions. Moreover, it will help restore chapters' faith in the National Organization, which is viewed with skepticism by many chapters, thereby bringing them closer to it and incentivizing ongoing coordination.

Amended
Language

DSA Bylaws

Article II. Dues

Section 7.

In addition to any procedures determined for the sharing of dues, the National Organization shall pay a standard monthly or quarterly stipend to each Local, whether or not incorporated as a separate entity, that (1) has a valid bank or credit union account into which the stipend can be deposited; and (2) regularly provides the National Organization with updated contact information for the Local and its leadership. Locals may use their stipends for any lawful purpose in their sole discretion, with the exception of electoral contributions or expenditures implicating campaign finance requirements.

The standard stipend shall be no less than \$100 per month if paid monthly or \$300 per quarter if paid quarterly. The standard stipend may be adjusted upward by the NPC, but shall always be the same for all Locals receiving it.