

Resolution Title: Renew the National Activist Conference

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Resolution:

Be it therefore resolved, that the National Political Committee and DSA staff begin planning for a National Activist Conference to be held in 2024; and,

Be it further resolved, that the 2024 National Activist Conference include programs for socialist political education and general organizing skills trainings; and,

Be it further resolved, that the 2024 National Activist Conference include programs developed by all national commissions, committees, and working groups designated as a priority by the Convention or National Political Committee; and,

Be it further resolved, that the 2024 National Activist Conference include an open strategic discussion by the National Political Committee, and that members may watch this discussion and submit questions for NPC members to answer; and,

Be it further resolved, that DSA undertake a fundraising campaign to help offset the additional expense that comes with holding a new conference; and,

Be it further resolved, that DSA will do its best to make the conference open to all members who wish to attend with the caveats that space and financial constraints will provide limitations; and,

Be it further resolved, that DSA will make some programming available online for those unable to attend in person due to the aforementioned limitations; and,

Be it further resolved, that in the event that attendance has to be limited, that the application process will prioritize the attendance of representatives from every chapter and ensure an equitable representation based on race, gender, and income; and,

Be it finally resolved, that the National Political Committee may add any and all programming that it deems necessary and fit for the 2024 DSA National Activist Conference.

Rationale:

Whereas, Article VII, Section 2 of the DSA Constitution states “A National Activist Conference shall be held at least once between Conventions in the year in which a Convention is not held”; and,

Whereas, despite this language in our Constitution, DSA has failed to hold a National Activist Conference for many years; and,

Whereas, in recent years DSA has cosponsored the annual Socialism Conference but has been unable to make this into an event associated with and beneficial to DSA and our needs; and,

Whereas, DSA has held small activist conferences for members organizing on certain subjects, such as the Socialism is the Future conference, but not a general activist conference open to the whole membership; and,

Whereas, an activist conference held in the off year between conventions will help develop our members as organizers and provide chapters and national bodies necessary space to develop our work in-person; and,

Whereas, a single activist conference held every other year will allow us to consolidate many existing smaller efforts into a larger and more effective event; and,

Whereas, the National Activist Conference would be a venue where our national leadership, staff, and campaigns would meet and hear directly from the wider DSA membership.