

Solidarity Slate

2022 Metro DC DSA Steering Committee Platform

The Moment Ahead

2022 saw both historic wins in our organizing as well as devastating attacks on our rights by the surging right wing. Our chapter effectively led campaigns focused on electoral, tenant organizing, labor, public power, and more and continued to build out the internal infrastructure needed for our external organizing to succeed. We led during moments of crisis, from the Supreme Court Dobbs decision to attacks on our chapter and members from external figures. We were able to respond confidently during these moments because of the work previous committees have done to build our chapter in years past, and we come out of this year as an even stronger chapter than before. To continue this work and build on our successes for an even more strategic and mature organization, **we're running for the Metro DC DSA Steering Committee as the Solidarity Slate:**

 **Allison K**, Campaigns Council

 **Bakari W**, At-large

 **Dieter LM**, At-large

 **Imara C**, At-large

 **Michael M**, Secretary

 **Aparna R**, At-large

 **Carl R**, At-large

 **Hayden G**, At-large

 **Kareem E**, At-large

 **Philip B**, At-large

 **Tim S**, Treasurer

Looking Back on 2022

Most members on our proposed slate served on Steering last year, and all of our slate members were key leaders for internal and external organizing. We dedicated our time to strengthening the chapter and are proud of the success that we've seen.

- **As organizers spanning multiple issue areas and working groups, we helped bridge working groups to find common points of organizing.** Our working groups in MDC DSA are already incredibly mature with strategic and effective organizing campaigns. As Steering members, we were able to support some of that organizing by finding opportunities for collaboration across different working groups to support multifaceted organizing goals. We worked closely with members of the **WePower** working group to help identify and reach out to Councilmembers and DSA candidates to support the Public Power Pledge and have been working with them over the course of the year on ways to collaborate with our elected officials. Our Initiative 82 campaign blended **labor** and **electoral** organizing, combining worker outreach to tipped workers and longer term organizing with electoral canvassing and shorter-term campaigning. Through the Initiative 82 campaign, we also canvassed a building that Stomp Out Slumlords is organizing with, getting out the vote for I82, but also identifying residents interested in joining the building's tenant union as well.
- **Our slate members have been instrumental in supporting our working groups and in external organizing themselves.** Over the past year, we've worked closely with the **Labor Working Group** to provide support to local organizing efforts like the Union Kitchen unionization efforts, the local Starbucks Workers Union efforts, and Amazon warehouse walkouts. Members of our slate also organized a May Day action with local unions and have led organizing efforts with the Congressional Workers Union. Slate members have also been active with the **Stomp Out Slumlords tenant organizing** campaign, both as organizers themselves, and in providing institutional support for fundraisers for La Unión Buena Vista in forming a coop and for tenants and SOS organizers to attend the first ever Autonomous Tenants Union Network conference. We also worked closely to support the **WePower** campaign in launching their public power campaign and coordinating with local electeds as well as other working groups. Our slate members have also been active within the campaign to **Defund the Police**, contributing as organizers and collaborators in Black-led spaces in an effort to organize a multi-racial working class toward this common goal of undermining our oppressors. Additionally, slate members have been involved in the fight for abortion post-Dobbs with the creation of the new Reproductive Justice Working Group.
- **From leading our Initiative 82 campaign to launching canvasses for Zachary Parker's campaign, and deepening our electoral strategy with the Political Engagement Committee (PEC), our slate has been highly involved in our electoral successes in 2022.** We've identified new leaders, trained members on the tools required to succeed electorally, and designed and sent mailers that got our message to an even larger audience—all while slate members added well over ten thousand doors to our chapter's total 82,000 for the cycle. We've been out to canvas every weekend for 10 months, which translated to three electoral wins for the chapter, one strong challenge against an incumbent, and an indication of what's to come for our future

electoral efforts. When Solidarity Slate is involved in the chapter's electoral work, the chapter wins.

- **When the Supreme Court overturned Roe vs. Wade, our members led rapid response efforts.** Once news of the Dobbs decision leaked, the Steering Committee organized a mass mobilization outside the steps of the Supreme Court that was attended by hundreds of people, including DSA member and elected Janeese Lewis George. Members of this slate were also key in disrupting a Federalist Society event and involved in building the long-term fight post-Dobbs with the creation of the new Reproductive Justice Working Group. Members also supported the Political Education Working Group in organizing an event on abortion and reproductive rights.
- **The Finance Committee continued to maintain and expand the chapter merchandise, developing a recruitment model through the store.** In addition to the chapter t-shirt, hoodie, and branch offerings, this year's Steering Committee developed the store into a vehicle to further our recruitment and mobilization goals. During the 2022 primary season, the Finance Committee developed commemorative shirts of our slate of endorsed races to engage electoral volunteers as well as a tote bag campaign to incentivize members to opt-in to chapter dues. The Committee also added two new hat designs to the store in coordination with our graphic design team.
- **This Steering Committee led the development of vital infrastructure in the chapter to deepen member mobilization and engagement.** Over the course of this term, members of our slate have played key roles in revitalizing our chapter website, leading the first year of our Member Engagement Committee (MEC), and bringing back our red rabbits security program. In addition, members of the slate helped organize a Mid-Atlantic regional organizing retreat, fostering connections between DSA members across the region and laying the groundwork for inter-chapter collaboration. The event highlighted Metro DC as a leader in the region.

Organizing for Next Year

As we reflect on our success and struggles from the previous term, and look towards the next, we will continue to support our working groups, build out internal infrastructure, and facilitate collaboration across discrete parts of the chapter. In taking on new work or deepening our existing work, we think strategically about how what we do builds power for the working class, how it recruits for our chapter, and how it helps build engagement and collaboration across all our different issue-based campaigns.

External Organizing

We continue and will build on our external organizing work to deepen collaboration across working groups. Many of our slate members are external organizers across different

campaigns and, as there is no single-issue campaign, there are many opportunities to coordinate across working groups. As stated above, over the course of this year, we've helped bridge campaigns across working groups including electoral, labor, tenant, and ecosocialism, and will explore opportunities to expand that cross-working group collaboration through legislative advocacy, multi issue campaigns, and more. We see opportunities to support collaborations between WePower and Stomp Out Slumlords on utility campaigns; labor and electoral on legislative advocacy and deep canvassing; and electoral and other working groups on candidate accountability. We hope that as the Priority Campaign process unfolds, that the chapter considers selecting working groups that have demonstrated a willingness to collaborate.

We will work to deepen our electoral successes in 2022 through proactive candidate recruitment, district targeting, and working closely with our endorsed and elected members. Through our work on the Political Engagement Committee and as electoral organizers, we continued to build MDC DSA's electoral reputation in the region this year. We are committed to collaborating with every part of the chapter for upcoming electoral cycles. That means collaborating with working groups and branches to identify races to contest across the DMV as well as cadre candidates to run in those races. It also means working closely with priority campaigns and chapter working groups to identify areas where their organizing can be part of a strategy for elections in 2024, 2025, and 2026. We commit to legislative organizing across the DMV to see our values turned into policy that materially benefits the working class and provides a better political environment for our issue-based working groups. We will do this in part by ensuring that DSA elected officials are engaged with our non-electoral organizing. If and when there is an organized attempt to overturn or undermine Initiative 82, we commit to defending it through all means available to the chapter. The working class of DC has said the subminimum wage must go. We will fight to make sure their votes are respected.

Internal Infrastructure

Recruitment, Mobilization, and Development

We will design a recruitment strategy to build a strong left in the face of an ineffectual center and rising right. This past year, our chapter utilized both traditional and creative methods to recruit individuals into our organization. This coming year, through the MEC, we will devise a plan that builds on existing recruitment efforts more intentionally. From scaling up our distribution of recruitment cards to general membership, to taking our message to more community events across the District, to working with our merch team on areas of collaboration, we can build on the attention we have received due to our organizing successes to show DC that there is a socialist future worth fighting for.

We will work to build out our fundraising capacity through two key internal structures. As a member-funded organization, we're able to have autonomy in our organizing, but this also requires us to be more intentional about our money, especially as our membership and organizing efforts continue to grow. In the coming year, we will maintain reimbursement and reporting procedures that are currently working well, while also working to build our fundraising capacity, by building up internal structures in two areas:

1. **We will encourage National DSA to implement a data system that more efficiently updates member information.** It is often difficult for members to update their addresses— and thus their chapter membership. This determines which chapter receives their dues split with national. This diverts money that should, according to national bylaws, go to this chapter, and also makes it more difficult to maintain our lists and engage new members seeking to get involved. Developing a system to update membership efficiently will likely require slow, constant work with National, but we will work with them on this however we can.
2. **We will encourage additional monthly donations directly to the chapter.** We will work to communicate to members how their dues translate to specific benefits for working groups and priority campaigns and how increased funding could deepen that work. Collecting and distributing this information would not only work to bring in more donations, but also increase transparency, further publicize chapter work internally, and remind members, especially less active members, of the importance of our organization's financial independence.

We will expand the offerings of chapter merchandise store items and continue recruitment and recommitment drives with items in the store. Across the country, comparable large chapters have used their merch stores to fund external campaigns and to increase member recruitment and retention. We will institutionalize the tote bag recurring donation drive as an incentive for members to set up recurring donations directly to the chapter. These funds will directly benefit our chapter priority campaigns, other external organizing, and internal administrative costs.

Training & Leadership Development

We will work with the Political Education Team to grow our internal organizing capacity with political education and skills training. By institutionalizing the recurring organizer trainings hosted by the Political Education Working Group and designing new internal trainings to give members a clearer understanding of our organization's internal structures and norms, we can address and combat member burnout and bring more comrades into our active campaigns and working groups - notably from our walking tours and reading groups. Depending on capacity and interest, future trainings could include: how electoral/priority endorsements work, communications prioritization, the process for event endorsements, and

information for members on how other processes operate within the democratic decision-making structures within the chapter.

We will use our slate's experience with DSA's Multiracial Organizing Committee to intentionally recruit and mobilize members of color. We will continue to lean on our external organizing and other existing recruitment tools to bring members of color into the chapter. The Stomp Out Slumlords, Defund MPD, and electoral campaigns are just a few examples of how strong working groups with clear goals can organize POC tenants, workers, and neighbors, and provide clear steps and pathways to leadership to deeply mobilize members of color. As a slate that's majority POC, we deeply understand the importance of thoughtful leadership development to increase engagement and reduce burnout for members of color and will work with National and our existing campaigns to think deeply about how to recruit, engage, and mobilize more members of color.

Administrative Functions

We'll work to maintain the current Administrative Committee (Adcom) functions that help run the chapter and work to establish new processes. We'll work to support the Adcom Steward and the rest of the department so every function from website maintenance to spoke texting is adequately resourced and staffed. We'll also work to create more proactive processes and decision-making frameworks for functions that have been generally ad hoc. We will also work to increase our Adcom capacity and more aggressively try to mobilize members who indicate in the member survey that their skills align with those needed in Adcom (anyone w/ technical skills, project management, design, comms, etc.). And finally, to ensure that Adcom is effectively supporting our external organizing, we will proactively work with WG leaders to ensure that all of their administrative needs are met to the best of our ability.