

Middle TN DSA Chapter General Meeting - September 26-9-30

Roles:

- Facilitator - Oli R.
- Notetaker - Josh C.
- Timekeeper - Lucas S.
- Zoom Mod - Miller W.
- Icebreaker - Mina P.
- WoTD - Cassidy P and Evan W
- Snacks -
 - Gannon M.
 - Diana W.
- Greeters -
 - 6-6:30 - Alex D.
 - 6:30-7 - Andrew O.
 - 7-7:30 - Alex P.
 - 7:30-8 - Josh S.
 - 8-8:30 - Lacie W.

[Link to website \(with calendar, donate links, and more information here\)](#)

Agenda:

- (6:35-6:37) Intro with Oli R.
 - (Suggested intro, feel free to riff) Welcome to the Middle TN DSA General Meeting. We're here to do chapter business, political education, information sharing, and having a good time with our comrades. There will be notes taken at this meeting that will be shared digitally in the coming week, and there will be a break about an hour in. I'm your facilitator this evening *introduce yourself*.
 - Meeting roles
 - Facilitator
 - Runs the meeting and keep us on the agenda
 - Notetaker
 - Cassidy P and Evan W
 - Takes notes on the meeting so we can stay accountable to what we discuss
 - Timekeeper
 - Lucas S.
 - Keeps us running on time
 - Zoom moderator
 - Miller W.
 - Controls Zoom, lets people in, keeps the chat running smoothly as needed
 - Icebreaker

- Mina P.
 - gets our meeting started with a fun question
- Word of the Day
 - Evan W.
 - Gives a brief political education lesson, reads something, or in some other way shares something with our group
- Snack bringers
 - Gannon M. and Diana W.
 - Bring snacks for before the meeting (reimbursable)
- Greeters
 - Alex D., Andrew O., Alex P., Josh S., and Lacie W.
 - Stay by the door and welcome people into the meeting
- If you have a community announcement, please tell Cassidy P. in the Zoom chat or sign up with Mina P. in person.
- (6:37-6:40) Community Norms with HGO
 - “What is an HGO?”
 - “Harassment Grievance Officers are elected members of the chapter who facilitate conflict resolution and help uphold our Code of Conduct. They are the people to go to if you are having a conflict with another member of our community or if you have been harmed or harassed by someone. They use a transformative/restorative justice framework and are supported by the steering committee and DSA National’s HGOs. If you need to contact them, you can reach out to the HGOs directly harassment.midtndsa@gmail.com or email the chapter at midtndsa@gmail.com - that email is monitored by the steering committee, and all communications about HGO issues will be kept private.”
 - We need to elect another HGO, so if you consider conflict resolution among your skills and want to help support our chapter, please talk to a Steering Committee member about how to apply!
 - “What are community norms?”
 - One mouth one mic - it is important for one person to speak at a time and for everyone else to be listening quietly or to be muted on Zoom
 - Y’all means all - use gender neutral language for the comfort and inclusion of all comrades
 - Spike and Mic! - to make sure our comrades on Zoom can see and hear whoever is speaking, please stand on the tape X on the floor and hold the mic close to your mouth. If you see the speaker wandering please call out ‘Spike!’, and if they lower the mic, please call out “Mic!”
 - Step up step back - if you find yourself speaking up often, step back to allow room for others; if you find yourself keeping silent, think about speaking up
 - Stack - if a discussion needs more structure, we will invoke stack - this means that you will raise your hand if in person or write stack in the chat if on Zoom when you want to speak and the stack keeper will call on you in

turn. If you have talked a lot, you may be placed lower in stack order than someone who has not spoken yet. This goes along with Step up step back.

- Freedom of movement - we're all human and have different needs - if you need to move around, leave and come back, use the restroom, turn off your camera, etc you are free to do so during this meeting
- Jargon giraffe - if you don't understand something that does not seem like it will be explained by the speaker, raise your hand and ask for clarification. If you're speaking and someone calls for jargon, please take a moment to explain the term, acronym, or reference you used.
- Comradely criticism - we know that everyone here is trying their best, but we can all make mistakes; it's important to call each other out with compassion so we can learn and grow together.
- Land the plane - get to the point of what you're saying in a concise manner to respect our comrades' time.
- (6:40-6:50) Icebreaker with Mina P.
 - We're celebrating our chapter's 10th anniversary this year - what do you think we will be doing 10 years from now?
- (6:50-6:55) Chapter Updates
 - Recent Chapter Actions and Asks with Co-chairs Mina and Jacob
 - Our last General Meeting was in July
 - South Central Branch got started
 - Presidential forum was a big discussion meeting about what DSA's plan should be around the next presidential election. Chapters around the country also had forums, and National is compiling all the info gathered.
 - New access to tech tools - Solidarity Tech - which makes a lot of Steering Committee Business easier
 - Committees have formed and applicants have been approved
 - 10 Year Anniversary Celebration and Fundraiser
 - Treasurer Report with Treasurer Evan W.
 - Current Balance: \$11,967.00 -> \$11,370.66 + recent fundraising
 - Last Dues Imbursement: Next one will be in October
 - [Reimbursement Form](#)
- (6:55-7) Branch Updates
 - Murfreesboro
 - Carson - Branch Library, Comrade Community Gardens, bi-weekly mutual aid distro
 - Maury/Williamson
 - Alex P - prepping for Columbia Pride next week, ICE watch trainings
 - Clarksville
 - Jacob - Legislative and Electoral Working Group and Socialist Night School Working Group started, tenants' rights campaign Oct 11 meeting
 - Nashville

- Kerrie-Rose - a lot of social events and mutual aid work, working on deciding on a new campaign, more bylaws talks, Halloween Party in the works, swap, reading group
 - South Central
 - Bo - recruitment and electoral work
 - (7-7:10) Logo Process Updates with Ad Hoc Committee
 - [Survey](#) - Closes Sunday!
 - [Presentation](#)
 - (7:10-7:30) New Member Breakout
 - (7:10-7:15) Recent Votes with Secretary Cassidy P.
 - Results
 - Proposed Accessibility and Voting Bylaws Amendments
 - Accessibility amendment DID NOT MEET QUORUM
 - Will be resubmitted with amendments.
 - Voting amendment PASSED
 - Proposed Endorsement for the "Fight Back Against Anti-Muslim Hate Campaign"
 - PASSED
 - Vote to ratify these minutes for the DSA National Archive ([DemCom Member Memo](#))
 - Yes: 21 (in person) + 10 (Zoom) = 31
 - No: 0 + 0 = 0
 - Abstain: 0 + 0 = 0
 - Total Present: 27 + 10 = 37
- (7:15-7:30) New Proposals Part 1 with Secretary Cassidy P. and authors
 - If you want to propose that the chapter endorse a political candidate/event/group, amend our bylaws, spend part of our budget, or change something about the way we operate, please use this [proposal form](#). If you want to learn more about the way proposals work and how our chapter functions in general, check out our [bylaws](#).
 - [Text of all proposals](#)
 - (7:15-7:25) P26-3 Clarifying Endorsement Bylaws of the Middle Tennessee DSA Local
 - Presentation
 - Jacob B motivated - proposal clarifies language and simplifies tiers
 - Also loosens restrictions around sharing social media on non-endorsed orgs to allow if it is aligned (with steering approval)
 - Q&A
 - Lucas S, POI - Will endorsements always be all in in terms of labor / endorsement?
 - Jacob B - Member labor will not be mandatory but will be enabled by endorsement.

- Miller W, stack for - This helps us comply with national DSA electoral guidance. Makes us “put our money where our mouth is”. Helps us hold candidates accountable.
- (7:25-7:30) P26-2 Comrade Community Gardens Budget Request
 - Presentation
 - Carson B - We need \$400 to purchase tools and equipment for our community garden. We will purchase second hand and provide itemized receipts. This will be a good project to bring members into DSA.
 - Q&A
 - Oli R, POI - Where is the garden located?
 - Carson B
 - Cassidy P, POI - This is a one time request. Do you think you will make this a recurring budget in the future?
 - Carson B - Possibly, but we are aiming to make the project self-sustaining through fundraising. But not sure if there may be future expenses.
 - Oli R, POI - Whose land is this on?
 - Carson B - We are partnered with a local Episcopal church that already has a garden space.
 - Miles, POI - Where will tools be stored?
 - Carson B - Tools will be stored in a toolbox on site.
- (7:30-7:40) Break
- (7:40-7:50) [Word of the Day with Evan W.](#)
- (7:50-8:20) New Proposals Part 2 with Secretary Cassidy P. and authors
 - (7:50-8) P26-4 A New Party/Coalition 2: TN People's Party
 - Presentation
 - Alex P - Will G gave a previous version of the proposal but it was initially unclear. This is a version of the proposal rewritten with Alex P as a cosponsor. To form a minor party in TN, you need at least 2.5% from a previous Gubernatorial vote. We will approach other orgs like PSL and the Green Party to consider collaboration. Based on the model of the Bolsheviks and Morena. This will be a long term effort.
 - Q&A
 - Evan W, POI - Would there still be room to run as a Democrat in districts that are heavily Democrat leaning?
 - Alex P - Yes, especially given that this is a long term project.
 - Jacob B, stack against - Third parties are mostly irrelevant. The costs are high to maintain ballot access. Statewide organizing is super difficult, this is very ambitious. We already function mostly as an independent worker's party except for the ballot line. Candidates would continue to run as democrats.

- Cassidy P - motion to suspend the rules and schedule a new discussion (passes)
- (8-8:10) P26-5 Protect Our Members' Privacy by Establishing a Data Privacy Policy
 - Presentation
 - Jacob B - We need safeguards in place for member data and official policy around how access is granted / record keeping. Mostly limited to elected officials.
 - Q&A
 - ?, POI - What went into designing this policy?
 - Jacob B - Based on Sonoma County DSA policy. Wanted to ensure that branches only had access to their own data.
 - Kerrie-Rose S, stack against - There is already a policy put together at the national level and that should suffice. Does this reduce risk? Is this necessary? The definition of PII is too broad. Doesn't cover revocation or auditing.
 - Motion to delay passes.
 - Mina P, POI - This is going back to steering and not tech committee?
 - Cassidy P - Yes
- (8:10-8:11) P26-1 Creation of Middle Tennessee Democratic Socialists of America Official Chapter Discord
 - Previously presented at 8/25 Discussion
 - Jacob B - Discord will become our new "digital town hall".
- (8:11-8:12) Endorsement Request 1 Owen Farnsworth (SH34)
 - Previously presented at 8/22 Discussion
 - Jeff S - Owen has done great work in the Murfreesboro branch. He has great policy positions. Would be a good endorsement.
 - [Notes](#)
- (8:12-8:13) Endorsement Request 2 Spencer Sharpe (Metro CD5)
 - Previously presented at 9/24 Discussion
 - Jacob B - Spencer is a serious candidate, a socialist, a committed member. This would be a great campaign for the chapter.
 - [Notes](#)
- (8:13-8:14) P26-6 Revisions to the Local Bylaws Sections on Branch Membership and Territory
 - First Read
 - Miller W - Clarifies language around branches and adds these requirements:
 - Specific geographic boundaries.
 - Opts all members in by default (can opt out on request)
 - Keep records of the primary branch with chapter secretary
- (8:14-8:15) P26-7 Revisions to the Chapter Bylaws for Clarity and Accessibility
 - First Read

- Miller W - Change "Local" in bylaws to "Chapter".
 - (8:15-8:20) Ballot and voting process
- (8:20-8:25) Committee Updates and Asks
 - [Apply to be on a committee here!](#)
 - Political Education
 - Planning more discussion events, including one about how socialists should organize with respect to the Christian church in the South.
 - Red Rabbits
 - Spinning up a red rabbits committee for protest and meeting safety.
 - QUILT
 - Partnering with mutual aid to do a bench build this Saturday, 11-1 pm at Riverside Commons
 - Communications
 - If you are at all artistic please volunteer!
 - Growth and Development
 - Kickoff meeting scheduled this Friday to discuss scope
 - Tech
 - Trialing solidarity tech
 - Electoral
 - Meeting on Zoom Saturday the 10th
- (8:25-8:30) Local Announcements
 - Jane H.
 - Nashville Peace and Justice Center - Original iteration of DSA was a founding member
 - Will be tabling at centennial park this Saturday, DSA members welcome, please bring flyering materials!
- (8:30) Volunteer for Roles with Co-Chairs Mina and Jacob
 - Next Meeting - 12/2/26
 - Facilitator - Kim B
 - Notetaker - Jackson S
 - Timekeeper - Justin S
 - Zoom Mod - Gannon M
 - Icebreaker - Josh S
 - WoTD - Cassidy P
 - Snacks -
 - Lucas S
 - Jackson S
 - Greeters -
 - 6-6:30 - Lucas S
 - 6:30-7 - Oli R
 - 7-7:30 - Josh C
 - 7:30-8 - Miller W
 - 8-8:30 - Jane H