



# 2020 Amendments & Resolutions

## *Political Resolutions*

- R-1 **Resolution to Require that Quorum in Local Council Meetings Mandate at least One POC** - Sean D.
- R-2 **Resolution for Greater Democracy and Transparency** - Cate R.
- R-3 **Resolution to Structure the Harassment and Grievance Officer Role as an Exclusive Position** - Cate R. & Nadia E.
- R-4 **Resolution to Restructure Roles Addressing Grievances and Conflict** - Nadia E.
- R-5 **Resolution to Use Chapter Funds to Provide Trainings for our Harassment and Grievance Officers** - Nadia E.
- R-6 **Resolution to Create a Rapid Response Working Group** - Zack D.
- R-7 **Resolution To Prioritize Chapter-wide Organizing Towards Police Abolition in Orleans and Surrounding Parishes** - Frances G. and Benjamin H.
- R-8 **Slack Reform Committee** - Trey D.
- R-9 **Resolution to Create a Project Coordinator Position** - Nicole C., Lori D.G., Zack D., Benjamin H., Blair M., and Nell O.
- R-10 **Resolution for the creation of standards to evaluate chapter work** - Laura W.

## *Bylaws Amendments*

- A-1 **Amendment to Disclose Membership in a Political Caucus for Local Council Members** - Ty-Lucas K.
- A-2 **Amendment to Add Three At-Large Seats to the Local Council** - Zack D.
- A-3 **Official Caucus Local Council Representation** - Sean D.
- A-4 **Local Council Reform** - Trey D.
- A-5 **Require a Quorum for Local Council** - Sean D.
- A-6 **Addition of a Force Majeure Clause** - Ryan S.
- A-7 **Structure Formalization 2020 Bylaws Amendment** - Trey D. & Nadia E.
- A-8 **Expansion of Article 8** - Ryan S.
- A-9 **Inclusion of Asynchronous Voting to Quorum Rules** - Ryan S.



# Political Resolutions

## Resolution #1

# Resolution to Require that Quorum in Local Council Meetings Mandate At Least One African American or Black Person

*Sean D.*

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**Whereas**, 59.74% of the population of the city of New Orleans is African American/Black, and any organization that attempts to be a representative of its city, especially one that is democratic and working class centered, should provide an opportunity for all of its city's members to be a part of its democratic process.

**Whereas**, one of the top priorities of the chapter following the convention of 2019 was to make a more inclusive space particularly for potential black and brown members, and in many members' minds, including those on Local Council and other leadership roles, has failed to accomplish that goal.

**Whereas**, there already exist a bylaw that would prevent Local Council from becoming completely led by white, cisgender, and males.

**Whereas**, there is potential for and currently an all white Local Council.

**Let it be resolved**, that to achieve quorum in any Local Council meeting, there must be at least one person who identifies as African American or Black in attendance, whether they be a member of Local Council or a rank and file member of the chapter.

## Resolution #2

### Resolution for Greater Democracy and Transparency

*Cate R.*

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**WHEREAS** in order to wield sufficient working class power to build a better world, as members of the New Orleans chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America, we must organize the unorganized, coordinate with allies, and foster a grassroots democracy that is truly accessible to all; and

**WHEREAS** we are only as strong as our organization, and our organization cannot thrive without the respect and participation of all members; and

**WHEREAS** the varied work and family lives of our members and potential members often prevent a significant weekly time commitment to unpaid activism; and

**WHEREAS** our chapter is comprised of a whiter, wealthier, more-degreed, and more childless population than the city of New Orleans, with a chapter culture that has often prized and rewarded being online; and

**WHEREAS** our chapter and its projects remain largely inaccessible to the majority of the people we wish to organize; therefore

**LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the Local Council will direct the Finance Committee to consider the cost of simultaneous Spanish translation of official chapter communications for the upcoming budget, and present these findings to the General Membership by no later than the January general meeting; and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the Local Council will send weekly emails to all members with details on 1-3 upcoming meetings, campaigns, or action items; and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the Local Council will send draft agendas for general meetings and local council meetings via email to all members, at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. All agendas will include the name and email address of elected chapter-wide leadership. The Local Council will include a form to solicit comments from members who cannot attend. (These can be included in the weekly emails and do not necessitate a separate email.)

**LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the Local Council will primarily debate and deliberate on any regular business in meetings that are open to all members, and for which agendas have

been distributed at least 7 days prior to the meeting. For time-sensitive matters, [online votes](#) may be debated, deliberated, and cast in a public slack channel according to the [electronic voting policy for Local Council](#). Wherever possible, the deadline to vote will be no less than 24 hours prior to the calling of the online vote. The results of any recent online votes shall be included in weekly emails.

**LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the Local Council will encourage active participation and deliberation in all General Meetings, Special Meetings, and the annual Convention – through advance distribution of items to be considered, agendas which estimate the time of debate on each item of new business, and delegated outreach via text and phone banking.

## Resolution #3

# Resolution to Structure the Harassment and Grievance Officer Role as an Exclusive Position

*Cate R. & Nadia E.*

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**Whereas** the role of a harassment and grievance officer (herein referred to as “HGO”) as outlined by Resolution 33 adopted by the National Democratic Socialists of America is to receive, acknowledge and compile reported grievances; notify involved parties of the accusations, request and compile all written responses; Conduct any necessary investigation and present their findings to the governing body with a written report and, if necessary, a recommendation for restorative action;

**Whereas** chapter HGOs are responsible for compiling and submitting to the national HGO(s) in accordance with national guidelines an annual report that details how many reported incidents, disciplinary processes and actions, and any recommended changes for making the reporting system more effective;

**Whereas** HGO’s may interview and question DSA members involved including direct witnesses and review supporting documents within a timely manner and respond to any reported incidents within seven (7) days of being contacted through the official [hgo@neworleansdsa.org](mailto:hgo@neworleansdsa.org) email address;

**Whereas** the position of HGO encapsulates multiple duties and require the availability and capacity of said individuals to address the concerns of general membership without bias or distraction;

**Whereas** the New Orleans DSA is committed to the behavioral health and welfare of all members with an eye to preventing burn out and overwhelming individuals with chapter duties;

**Let it be resolved that;**

Harassment and Grievance Officers (HGOs) will receive appropriate mediation and restorative justice training deemed necessary outlined by National Resolution 33 and chapter recommendations;

HGO's should not be voting members of the Local Council, serve on the National Political Committee, or serve in the Steering Committee of any national working group/committee or caucus so as to devote the appropriate time and discretion to the grievances of all New Orleans DSA members;

HGO's will be given requested support from Local Council in the administering of their duties and the Membership Chair will be informed in real time of any matter that HGOs are investigating;

The Membership Chair has active knowledge of all formal conflicts within the chapter, and can offer monthly confidential and anonymized reports to the LC on any conflicts;

Any member filing a grievance will receive acknowledgement of receipt of their grievance within 72 hours of the initial email, with next steps outlined in the response and if HGOs fail to do so may request aid directly from the membership chair or another local council official chosen by the aggrieved party;

If HGO's are unable to perform their duties and another Local Council official is named to address the report, National HGO's will be contacted to further aid in resolution of the incident;

Any HGO's who are currently voting members of the Local Council, serve on the National Political Committee, or serve in the Steering Committee of any national working group/committee or caucus shall relinquish the role of HGO to allow for a full and fair restructuring of the position by and for the general membership in conjunction with the local council however current HGO's can be nominated for the position again by General Membership;

New HGO's will be appointed by the local council from a pool of nominees submitted by the General Membership not more than thirty days from the passing of this resolution. New Orleans DSA will maintain a minimum of two HGO's with an additional Officer for every one hundred members of the chapter.

## Resolution #4

# Resolution to Restructure Roles Addressing Grievances and Conflict

*Nadia E.*

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**Whereas** the role of a harassment and grievance officer (herein referred to as “HGO”) as outlined by Resolution 33 adopted by the National Democratic Socialists of America is to receive, acknowledge and compile reported grievances; notify involved parties of the accusations, request and compile all written responses; Conduct any necessary investigation and present their findings to the governing body with a written report and, if necessary, a recommendation for restorative action;

**Whereas** chapter HGOs are responsible for compiling and submitting to the national HGO(s) an annual report that details how many reported incidents, disciplinary processes and actions, and any recommended changes for making the reporting system more effective;

**Whereas** HGO’s may interview and question DSA members involved including direct witnesses and review supporting documents within a timely manner and respond to any reported incidents within seven (7) days of being contacted through the official [hgo@neworleansdsa.org](mailto:hgo@neworleansdsa.org) email address;

**Whereas** the position of HGO encapsulates multiple duties and require the availability and capacity of said individuals to address the concerns of general membership without bias or distraction;

**Whereas** the New Orleans DSA is committed to the behavioral health and welfare of all members with an eye to preventing burn out and overwhelming individuals with chapter duties;

**Whereas** prevention of conflict is as necessary to the functionality and health of the chapter as the procedures to address grievances;

**Let it be resolved that;**

HGO’s will recuse themselves from all votes pertaining to any grievance they were involved in investigating, abiding by an internal recusal process that includes guidelines agreed upon

by HGO's to which they will hold themselves accountable and that these guidelines will be made available to general membership.

HGO's will be given requested support from local council in the administering of their duties and the Membership Chair will be informed in real time of any matter that HGOs are investigating while upholding the privacy of the parties involved;

The Membership Chair has active knowledge of all formal conflicts within the chapter, and may offer monthly confidential and anonymized reports to the LC on any conflicts;

Any member filing a grievance will receive acknowledgement of receipt of their grievance within 72 hours of the initial email, with next steps outlined in the response and if HGOs fail to do so may request aid directly from the membership chair or another local council official chosen by the aggrieved party;

If HGO's are unable to perform their duties National HGO's will be contacted to further aid in resolution of the incident;

The New Orleans DSA shall create a new position of Conflict Resolution Officer (CRO) to assist any members in need of mediation or conflict resolution to improve the health and work of the chapter;

CRO's will be provided appropriate training to best serve the membership in navigating conflicts that have not escalated to the desire of any party to file a harassment or grievance report;

New HGO's will be appointed by the local council from a pool of nominees submitted by the General Membership not more than thirty days from the passing of this resolution. New Orleans DSA will maintain a minimum of two HGO's with an additional Officer for every one hundred members of the chapter.

## Resolution #5

# Resolution to Use Chapter Funds to Provide Training for Our Harassment and Grievance Officers

*Nadia E.*

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**Whereas** the responsibilities of the New Orleans DSA Harassment and Grievance Officers (HGOs) as outlined by resolution 33 include “ adjudicating [all] dispute[s]...determine whether the report is credible and, if necessary, make a recommendation to Steering Committee of appropriate disciplinary action as soon as practicable, but ultimately within thirty days of the report being filed....The HGO(s) may notify Steering of the accuser’s report and its substance at any time after the report is filed, but must give written notice to both the accuser and the accused member before doing so.”;

**Whereas** New Orleans DSA is committed to restorative justice and the creation of conditions that allow for victim-centered consensual accountability from our members and our chapter;

**Whereas** community accountability calls for all members to take responsibility for rectifying and transforming environments that perpetuate harm, and the work of HGOs should be intentional and center the needs of those most impacted by said harm;

**Whereas** HGOs play a vital role in moving through chapter conflict and interpersonal struggles, beginning with an assessment of grievances brought forth by any member of New Orleans DSA;

### **Let it be resolved;**

All Harassment and Grievance Officers (HGOs) must complete DSA Resolution 33 Training created by Paula Bratner, National HGO, as an introduction to their role, and with the expectation that additional training will be forthcoming;

New Orleans DSA HGOs will work with chapter members in compiling a list of local resources for mediation and crisis prevention among general membership and local council, including but not limited to trained mediators and restorative justice facilitators, outside organizations supporting victims of sexual violence, racial equity tools, and LGBTQIA advocates;

Said list of resources will be a living document to which all may contribute and shall ultimately be maintained by the HGO's

Local Council will review all requests for resources and trainings and upon the financial counsel of the Treasurer work to ensure the appropriate funds for training and tools required to effectively perform the duties of HGO are allocated either through discretionary use of chapter resources or approval of fundraising opportunities

## Resolution #6

### Resolution to Create a Rapid Response Working Group

*Zack D.*

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**Whereas**, New Orleans DSA seeks to create spaces where working class people can organize safely in New Orleans.

**Whereas**, socialist and left wing organizations have repeatedly observed threats of harm and intimidation from fascist groups and reactionaries

**Whereas**, it is an obligation for our organization to have procedures and training in place to ensure a safe organizing environment for all of our members.

**Let it be resolved** that New Orleans DSA approves the creation of a Rapid Response Working Group (RRWG).

**Let it be further resolved**, RRWG will receive continuous training including, but not limited to: de-escalation, informational security, operational security and first aid.

RRWG will also be called upon to serve as marshals for any demonstration/protest/action in which the chapter is involved.

**Let it be further resolved** the policies and accountability mechanisms of RRWG are to be approved by Local Council (LC) and made available to, and ratified by, the General Membership (GM). This will include a specific list of violations in which RRWG would be called in to intervene (threats of violence, homophobic/racist language, etc.) This list will serve as the boundaries of RRWG operations and must be approved by Local Council and made available to, and ratified by, the General Membership no later than one (1) month after the formation of the Working Group.

**Let it be further resolved** that RRWG will at minimum report monthly to the Local Council, providing a report for the past month of activities, as well as planning which events and meetings will require assistance in the future. All activities of the RRWG must be approved by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority of the Local Council.

## Resolution #7

# Resolution To Prioritize Chapter-wide Organizing Towards Police Abolition in Orleans and Surrounding Parishes

*Submitted by Frances G and Benjamin H*

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**Whereas**, the organic call from the Black-led uprisings of summer 2020 is to defund and disarm police. Hundreds of thousands of people across the United States have begun to call for non-reformist reforms that question the very nature of policing in this country and move us towards abolition. The abuse of State power on all fronts including extrajudicial execution without repercussion is being challenged en masse at its core, and

**Whereas**, Defunding police and shifting budget priorities to universal measures designed to uplift the working class is clearly in line with socialist values. The call for defunding and disarming police is not just a reactive measure. It must be used as an opportunity to reimagine a fundamentally more equitable and humanistic society, an opportunity we are uniquely positioned to take as socialists. Municipal budgets can serve as a template for this reimagining, and

**Whereas**, Racist police violence and incarceration are an unacceptable scourge on reality in Louisiana. NOPD has been under consent decree since 2013 due to a pattern of civil rights abuses, yet over-policing and incarceration still tear communities apart in New Orleans, particularly Black communities. Surrounding Parish police departments do not have such consent decrees and regularly murder citizens with impunity. Reforms, however significant, cannot fully address the severity of these problems. Defunding and disarming police is a necessity for public safety, and

**Whereas**, a centralized, ambitious campaign to realign our city's priorities with the interests of the working class rather than prioritizing reactionary, violent means of state control offers a critical opportunity to put our theory into practice, therefore

**Let it be resolved**, that New Orleans DSA will begin a campaign aimed towards completely defunding and disarming local police in Orleans and surrounding Parishes, and

**Let it be resolved**, that this campaign will be a *chapter-wide effort* utilizing all existing committees along with the General Membership

**Let it be resolved**, that this campaign must work in a *broad coalition* with other organizations committed to defunding and disarming police, many of whom, Black-led organizations in particular, have been doing this work for a very long time and whom DSA has a considerable amount to learn and take direction from.

**Let it be resolved**, that this campaign will have *short, medium, and long term goals* to be decided by the general membership

**Let it be resolved**, that this campaign will grow our membership in numbers.

*Defining a campaign:*

- The General Membership shall develop and vote via simple majority on structure and demand for this campaign during the August General Meeting.
  - Non-binding examples of possible options derived from preliminary discussions with potential coalition partners:
    - Budget transparency
      - Target: Mayor and City Council
      - Demand: More detailed and transparent NOPD Budgets
      - Strategy: Ordinance
      - Tactics: Budget Teach-Ins, Consent Decree teach-ins
    - Reduce funding and reinvest in community
      - Target: Mayor and City Council Budget Committee
      - Demand: Decrease NOPD budget by X%
      - Strategy: Ordinance; Intervene in Budget Process
      - Tactics: Budget Teach-Ins; Pressure Campaign on the Mayor
    - Recall Sheriff
      - Target: Joe Lapinto
      - Demand: Leave office
      - Strategy: Recall petition
      - Tactics: Petition collection; Weekly press conferences
    - JPSO Body Cams
      - Target: JPSO
      - Demand: Body cams
      - Strategy: Public pressure campaign
      - Tactics: Email + Phone Zaps
  - We will not settle for any demands that legitimize or empower the NOPD or JPSO or that do not meet the definition of a 'non-reformist reform.' Our preferred demand is a 50 - 100% reduction in the NOPD and JPSO budget in 2022.

*Defining a chapter-wide effort:*

- The decision making, strategy, and practical work of this campaign will be done by The General Membership, as it is the highest decision making body of our chapter. We will aim to incorporate this work into all aspects of our chapter where it is appropriate. This includes: The General Membership, all committees, working groups, caucuses, and The Local Council.
- Examples of possible Committee contributions could include:
  - Health Care Committee may develop resources (i.e. fact sheets, talking points) about the need for greater investment in community or mental health care and divestment from NOPD, assist in the coordination of street medic trainings that prepare us for mobilization during this campaign, and/or serve as a hub for chapter wellness, preventing burn out of our organizers during the campaign.
  - Municipal Action Committee may assist organizers with navigating the city budget process, educating our base about that process, identifying targets or writing scripts for call-in efforts, or researching other Defund Police campaigns in other cities.
  - Direct Service Committee may register voters, discuss the campaign with community members at their brake light clinics and food distribution events, organize chapter fundraisers for the campaign, or mobilize other members of the Eyes on Surveillance coalition.
  - Worker Power Louisiana may assist with building relationships with local labor formations and engaging them in this campaign, working with City Waste Union to release a statement in support of or to participate in actions related to this campaign, or calling on the AFL-CIO to kick out police unions.

*Defining a broad coalition:*

- At the least, this campaign must seek to engage OPPRC, Black Youth Project 100, Eyes on Surveillance, VOTE, Jane Place Sustainability Initiative, Congreso de Jornaleros, Power Coalition, City Waste Union, Village Keepers, FRISO, TGNC, BARE, Ubuntu Village, MACCNO, Indivisible Metairie and Nola, NOMAS, Southern Solidarity, WWAV, Social Medicine Consortium, and Southerners on New Ground.

*Defining short, medium, and long term goals:*

- New Orleans DSA shall develop short, medium, and long term goals that reflect our desires to 1) grow the chapter membership, 2) diversify the chapter membership, 3) better understand our own role as a socialist organization in the political sphere of New Orleans, 4) make us a more effectively anti-racist organization, 5) build structural relationships with more coalition partners, 6) develop internal chapter leadership and deepen relationships with community leaders
- These goals (and strategies for achieving them) shall be decided by the General Membership beginning no later than the August General Meeting

*Next Steps:*

- Consideration of this resolution by the General Membership (July 25th @ Convention)
- Within two weeks of adoption of this resolution, the chapter will be encouraged to formulate specific proposals outlining campaign demands and structure to be considered at the August General Meeting

## Resolution #8

### Slack Reform Committee 2020 Political Resolution

*Trey D.*

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**Whereas**, the ubiquity of the Chapter Slack as a tool in for internal communication has been only increased as a result of COVID-19, and

**Whereas**, determinations of who receives invitations to the Chapter Slack, how channels are added or removed, which channels are set private, who is granted administration rights, and who is responsible for general maintenance and upkeep of the Slack workspace have largely been decided ad hoc and with little to no consideration of larger strategic, security, or usability concerns,

**Therefore be it resolved**, New Orleans DSA shall form a Slack Commission, open to all members, to produce and present to the General Membership a set of written recommendations for addressing (but not limited to) these issues within forty-five (45) days of passage of this Resolution.

## Resolution #9

### Resolution to Create a Project Coordinator Position

*Nicole C., Lori D., Zack D., Benjamin H., Blair M., and Nell O.*

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**Whereas**, we have been conditioned by our capitalist society to value an individual's productivity over their well-being, and

**Whereas**, as socialists, we are committed to the abolition of capitalism and the creation of a compassionate, equal, and just world, and

**Whereas**, this commitment should extend to our members within New Orleans DSA, in that we should keep sight of our comrades' well-being and capacity as well as our own, and

**Whereas**, the equitable distribution of labor fosters the development of new chapter leadership by promoting engagement and inclusion of members, while maintaining the quality of work and preventing burnout on the part of active and professional organizers who may feel compelled to overcommit themselves,

**Let it be resolved** New Orleans DSA creates the position of a Project Coordinator, whose responsibilities would include, but are not limited to:

- The creation and management of a system to track member involvement in projects across committees and working groups
- Ensuring the equitable distribution of labor by encouraging less-active members to become involved more in projects, and more active members to focus their efforts on being involved in a suggested maximum of three projects at a time
- Serving as a visible resource for members who feel overwhelmed by the level of involvement that they have committed themselves to, helping to potentially offload responsibilities onto others who are both willing to and have the capacity to take them on,
- Working in tandem with the Mobilizer team to coordinate project involvement for members
- Reporting monthly to the Local Council with an overview and assessment of member engagement

**Let it be resolved**, this position will be introduced and the nomination process will begin at the August General Meeting following the 2020 Convention, with the General Membership voting to elect to the position at the following September General Meeting,

**Let it be resolved**, this position shall exist independent of the Local Council, and will exist in collaboration with the Mobilizer team, pending the future restructuring of the Membership Committee to include these roles,

**Let it be resolved**, the Project Coordinator shall not hold any other elected or appointed positions within New Orleans DSA or within DSA nationally, and shall have a term limit of one year,

**Let it be resolved**, a working group shall be formed to develop chapter programming designed to deconstruct and dismantle the culture of valuing productivity over wellbeing and community inclusion, and that this working group shall be dissolved within 90 days following the adoption of this resolution.

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## NOTES:

### **Creating the position of Capacity Coordinator, who assesses and redistributes capacity**

- Committees and working groups report their current projects and who is involved working on them. (Who do they report to? Where is this information stored/organized?)
- Membership team maintains spreadsheet(?) of members and the number of projects that they are working on.
  - If a member is at or over capacity [*see "Project capacity limit"*] the Capacity Coordinator can reach out and offer help. Having a guideline for what an individual's capacity should be will make this less confrontational or awkward.
  - This spreadsheet can also be used by the Mobilizers to reach out to members who may not be doing anything [*see "Mobilizers".*]
- Members can reach out to the Capacity Coordinator if they are feeling overwhelmed. They can work together to identify a project that they would like to pass off to someone else, and the Capacity Coordinator will see if they can find somebody to take up the project.
- The Capacity Coordinator can introduce themselves at General meetings to remind people of the resource. They are the one to go to if you have too much on your plate, they will try to hand off something to somebody else.

- The Capacity Coordinator will, for the time being, work with the Mobilizer team. Eventually, we should write a resolution to define the Membership committee as consisting of the Membership chair, the Membership trustees, Mobilizers, and the Capacity Coordinator.

### **Project capacity limit**

- Members are strongly encouraged to only dedicate themselves to three projects at a time.
- Having a capacity limit will encourage people to focus on putting their energy into what they're the most passionate about.
- This will also naturally foster new organizers (what Sean was talking about.)

### **Mobilizers**

- The Mobilizers will be able to use the information in the membership involvement spreadsheet(?) to identify people who might be available to take on projects.
  - This has to be done gently, obviously. We don't know what's going on in people's lives!
- Project organizers can tell the Mobilizers what roles they need filled for when they make these calls.
- We can set a goal of having all members involved in at least one project.

### **Programming**

- This entire issue stems from the way our capitalist culture has conditioned us to tie our self-worth to our productivity. We should have chapter programming to reinforce that this is the opposite of what we want happening in our socialist organization!
- Our resolution should include language to create a working group to develop this programming. There should be a timeline for this working group's existence, after which it will be dissolved.

## Resolution #10

### Resolution for the Creation of Standards to Evaluate Chapter Work

*Laura W and Gate R.*

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**Whereas** DSA is a big tent organization with members of various political tendencies and at different stages of political development;

**Whereas** every New Orleans DSA member should be empowered to shape the work of the chapter;

**Whereas** New Orleans DSA does not have standards to weigh the strategic benefits of taking up work;

**Whereas** the lack of these standards relies on members individual political beliefs and understanding of the political landscape, power structures, and the chapter itself to drive the work of the chapter;

**Whereas** business presented to the membership without standards for the evaluation often results in the membership being asked to approve business rather than participate in a deliberative debate;

**Be it resolved** that New Orleans DSA adopt the following as a publicly available member resource

**Be it resolved** that the following shall be included in agendas and packets whenever business is being conducted

**Be it resolved** that the following is a rubric for the evaluation of potential chapter work, and that the membership shall retain all voting rights regardless of whether a proposal meets these standards

- How is this work socialist?
- Does this work present opportunities to struggle alongside the BIPOC working class?
  - Which workers are most directly affected by this campaign, and how do we organize with them?
- How does this work build power for the working class?

- What other community support will be necessary to win? (Churches, politicians, activist groups, labor unions, parents, etc.)
- What is the history of this work in New Orleans, and do we have the capacity to power map our organizing conditions?
- What does victory look like?
  - What are some benchmarks and escalation opportunities?
  - What are our red lines, or non-negotiable positions?
- Does this campaign grow the chapter?
  - Is it something that will be identified with New Orleans DSA, to raise our visibility among the city's working class and create an incentive for people to join?
  - Does this work actively recruit new members through a structured campaign, or rely on activist interest and passive recruitment?
- Is this campaign scalable?
  - Are there opportunities for members of all levels of chapter involvement to participate in this work?
  - Is it something dozens of members can participate in at one point or another?
- Who will lead this campaign? How many leaders will need to be elected from the general membership? What will the terms be?
- What are the capacity needs from the membership and from established Committees and/or working groups?
- What chapter resources will this work require?
  - Membership mobilization, design, social media, budget, GSuite
- Will this work involve working in coalition with other New Orleans organizations?
  - Are we in a position to lead and/or pull the strategy left?
  - Which organization/s? How do our principles align/where do our principles deviate?
  - Do we have an established relationship with these organizations?
- What training, political education, and membership development will be a part of this campaign?
  - Six-step organizing conversations?
  - Power mapping?
  - Historical context?
- What is our plan to debrief? How will we evaluate and integrate these lessons into our institutional knowledge?



# Bylaws Amendments

## Amendment #1

# Amendment to Disclose Membership in a Political Caucus for Local Council Members

*Ty-Lucas Kelley*

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**Whereas**, DSA’s national political caucuses have strategic goals that may or may not be in line with those of the chapter,

**Whereas**, intra-caucus goals and projects may trickle down into the chapter without General Membership explicitly knowing, which runs the risk of the chapter becoming a “testing ground” for national caucus strategies, and

**Whereas**, intra-caucus issues, including but not limited to fights, suspensions, and resignations, may have an adverse effect on the chapter without the knowledge of the General Membership,

**Whereas**, the General Membership is largely unaware of the existence or purpose of national caucuses, which members of the Local Council participate in a caucus at all, and which specific caucuses Local Council members are a part of, and

**Whereas**, the General Membership should have a clear voice in determining the strategic vision of the chapter,

**Therefore be it resolved**, The Chapter’s bylaws shall be amended as follows (text in green represents an addition, text in red represents a removal, “...” represents an unchanged section of the bylaws that sits between two sections relevant to this amendment):

### Article 5: Local Council

[...]

**Section 10: Treasurer Trustees.** Two trustees shall preside over the local’s finances, in cooperation with the Treasurer. Trustees shall oversee Treasurer activities, and report any irregularities directly to the Local Council. Trustees shall be responsible

for co-authoring the annual financial report to the annual convention along with the Treasurer.

**Section 11: National Political Caucuses.** Current Local Council officers, Committee Stewards, and candidates seeking office must disclose their participation in a national political caucus to the General Membership. Candidates for office that participate in a national political caucus shall have that information appear alongside their name on any election ballot, and additionally must make a good-faith effort to explain to the General Membership what the goals of their caucus are, and how those goals relate to the candidate's vision for the Chapter.

## Amendment #2

### Amendment to Add Three At-Large Seats to the Local Council

*Zack D.*

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**Whereas** New Orleans DSA has seen a substantial growth in membership since the formation of the current Local Council structure.

**Whereas** as a democratic organization, New Orleans DSA leadership must be accountable and responsive to the needs of the general membership.

**Whereas** the scope of the chapter's organizing has grown more complex and ambitious, thus requiring more regular communication between Local Council and the general membership.

**Whereas** it is recognized that a key responsibility in this chapter is to develop socialist leadership in our communities.

**Resolved** that New Orleans DSA adds three (3) additional At-Large seats to the Local Council, bringing the total number of At-Large seats to five (5). These three (3) additional At-Large seats will be elected by the general membership at the September 2020 General Meeting.

**Resolved** that the chapter bylaws be amended as follows:

#### **Original**

**Section 2: Officers.** The Local Council shall consist of two (2) co-chairs, one (1) membership chair, one (1) secretary, one (1) treasurer, two (2) at-large Local Council members and a steward representing each of the official committees.

[...]

*Section 2(f). At-Large Local Council Members:* At least one At-Large Council Member must not identify as white, cisgender, and male. Each at-large Council Member will be responsible for serving as a point of contact and project facilitator for the membership as a whole, including:

Assisting in membership mobilization and engagement, and  
Assisting in the coordination of projects involving multiple committees or  
caucuses. Each at-large Council Member will be additionally expected to  
report on any projects, concerns and needs resulting from this work.

## Amendments

### Strike/Add

**Section 2: Officers.** The Local Council shall consist of two (2) co-chairs, one (1) membership chair, one (1) secretary, one (1) treasurer, ~~two (2)~~ five (5) at-large Local Council members and a steward representing each of the official committees.

*Section 2(f). At-Large Local Council Members:* At least ~~one~~ three At-Large Council Members must not identify as white, cisgender, and male. Each at-large Council Member will be responsible for serving as a point of contact and project facilitator for the membership as a whole, including:

Assisting in membership mobilization and engagement, and  
Assisting in the coordination of projects involving multiple committees or  
caucuses. Each at-large Council Member will be additionally expected to  
report on any projects, concerns and needs resulting from this work.

## Revised

**Section 2: Officers.** The Local Council shall consist of two (2) co-chairs, one (1) membership chair, one (1) secretary, one (1) treasurer, five (5) at-large Local Council members and a steward representing each of the official committees.

[...]

*Section 2(f). At-Large Local Council Members:* At least three At-Large Council Members must not identify as white, cisgender, and male. Each at-large Council Member will be responsible for serving as a point of contact and project facilitator for the membership as a whole, including:

Assisting in membership mobilization and engagement, and  
Assisting in the coordination of projects involving multiple committees or  
caucuses. Each at-large Council Member will be additionally expected to  
report on any projects, concerns and needs resulting from this work.

## Amendment #3

# Bylaw Amendment: Official Caucus Local Council Representation

*Sean D.*

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**Context** While the bylaws encourage members to form their own caucuses, these bodies do not have any official role in the chapter even though being tasked to “to promote a vibrant democratic culture within the organization.” Additionally, official recognition by the Local does not award a caucus any additional formal responsibilities or significance in the organization. Currently officially recognized caucuses, the BIPOC Caucus and the Socialist Feminists, are composed of members who belong to groups who have been traditionally oppressed and marginalized by capitalism. If we are to create a just and equitable world, these groups and their oppression deserve even more attention and representation in our fight to overthrow capitalism, and the goals and strategy of the chapter and the Local Council should reflect those challenges and include their voices.

This amendment gives caucuses more responsibility and representation in the Chapter and Local Council respectively.

### **Article 5: Local Council [original text]**

**Section 2: Officers.** The Local Council shall consist of two (2) co-chairs, one (1) membership chair, one (1) secretary, one (1) treasurer, two (2) at-large Local Council members and a steward representing each of the official committees.

### **Article 5: Local Council [additions/deletions]**

**Section 2: Officers.** The Local Council shall consist of two (2) co-chairs, one (1) membership chair, one (1) secretary, one (1) treasurer, two (2) at-large Local Council members, a caucus representative representing each officially represented caucus, and a steward representing each of the official committees.

[...]

*Section 2(g): Caucus Representatives.* Each Caucus Representative will be responsible for communicating and representing the interests of the members of its caucus in the Local. Each caucus is exclusively responsible for delegating their own representative.

#### **Article 5: Local Council [resulting text]**

**Section 2: Officers.** The Local Council shall consist of two (2) co-chairs, one (1) membership chair, one (1) secretary, one (1) treasurer, two (2) at-large Local Council members, a caucus representative representing each officially represented caucus, and a steward representing each of the official committees.

[...]

*Section 2(g): Caucus Representatives.* Each Caucus Representative will be responsible for communicating and representing the interests of the members of its caucus in the Local. Each caucus is exclusively responsible for delegating their own representative.

#### **Article 7: Caucuses [additions/deletions]**

**Section 1: Definition and Purpose.** Caucuses are independent, unofficial formations of members within the Local. The Local encourages the formation of Caucuses to promote a vibrant democratic culture within the organization. With or without consent from or recognition by any official Local leadership or the Local itself, members may self-organize into temporary or permanent caucuses according to shared interests, affinities, and/or political goals. Caucuses may promote policies and actions for the Local to take on, and may challenge Local leadership and/or official Local policies.

**Section 2: Official Recognition.** A Caucus will be formally recognized by the Local in one or more official media if no less than five members in good standing sign a mission statement that includes the name and purpose of the Caucus. The Local Secretary will be responsible for ensuring proper recognition.

#### **Section 3: Official Local Council Representation**

*Section 3(a) Application:* A Caucus may apply for official representation if the caucus:

1. Is officially recognized by the Local
2. Has a caucus membership that is at least one tenth but not exceeding one half of the chapter's membership at the time of application
3. Has written its own caucus bylaws, approved and signed

by at least half of its caucus members

*Section 3(b) Local Council Approval:* After reviewing the caucus bylaws and its current membership, the Local shall approve of a caucus' application for official representation by a two thirds majority vote at a Local Council meeting. The caucus must appoint a Caucus Representative within three months of this approval.

## **Article 7: Caucuses [resulting text]**

**Section 1: Definition and Purpose.** Caucuses are independent, unofficial formations of members within the Local. The Local encourages the formation of Caucuses to promote a vibrant democratic culture within the organization. With or without consent from or recognition by any official Local leadership or the Local itself, members may self-organize into temporary or permanent caucuses according to shared interests, affinities, and/or political goals. Caucuses may promote policies and actions for the Local to take on, and may challenge Local leadership and/or official Local policies.

**Section 2: Official Recognition.** A Caucus will be formally recognized by the Local in one or more official media if no less than five members in good standing sign a mission statement that includes the name and purpose of the Caucus. The Local Secretary will be responsible for ensuring proper recognition.

### **Section 3: Official Local Council Representation**

*Section 3(a) Application:* A Caucus may apply for official representation if the caucus:

4. Is officially recognized by the Local
5. Has a caucus membership that is at least one tenth but not exceeding one half of the chapter's membership at the time of application
6. Has written its own caucus bylaws, approved and signed by at least half of its caucus members

*Section 3(b) Local Council Approval:* After reviewing the caucus bylaws and its current membership, the Local shall approve of a caucus' application for official representation by a two thirds majority vote at a Local Council meeting. The caucus must appoint a Caucus Representative within three months of this approval.

## Amendment #4

### Local Council Reform 2020 Bylaws Amendment

*Trey D.*

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**Whereas**, membership is the highest legislative body of New Orleans DSA, and the Local Council, as the elected representatives of the membership, draws its strength from its ability to work collectively and transparently, and

**Whereas**, awareness amongst membership of the work of the Local Council is critical to the realization of truly democratic self-organization, and

**Whereas**, recordings of decisions of the Local Council serve little democratic purpose if not freely available to the membership, and

**Whereas**, the desire for speedy meetings and expediency in decision-making should never eclipse the duty of the Local Council to give fair hearing to the duly-elected representatives of the membership, and

**Whereas**, to act fully as representatives of the membership, the democratic rights of all Local Council members must be coequal to those of the co-chairs, and

**Whereas**, the collectivization of leadership will both reduce the burdens of the co-chairs, and increase the accountability to membership of all members of the Local Council,

**Therefore be it resolved**, New Orleans DSA shall amend **Article 5, Section 6** of its Bylaws as follows:

#### Current

**Section 6: State of the Local.** The Local Council is responsible for presenting a State of the Local Address each year at the annual Convention.

#### Amended

**Section 6: Rights and Duties.**

The Local Council shall produce and distribute to membership monthly written reports of chapter activities, including records of all votes taken by the Local Council, excepting those which would violate the confidentiality of an ongoing grievance process.

The Local Council shall maintain an up-to-date archive of all recorded minutes for meetings of the Local Council, and ensure this archive is easily accessible to all members.

The Local Council shall maintain an up-to-date archive of all Bylaws Amendments and Political Resolutions passed by the Local, and ensure this archive is easily accessible to all members

No member holding voting rights on the Local Council shall be prevented from adding items for discussion or vote to a Local Council meeting agenda.

Any member holding voting rights on the Local Council shall maintain the right to extend discussion time on any item during meetings of the Local Council, unless overruled by a vote of two-thirds of the Local Council.

The Local Council is responsible for presenting a State of the Local Address each year at the annual Convention.

**Further be it resolved**, New Orleans DSA shall amend **Article 5, Sections 1 and 2** of its Bylaws as follows:

Current

**Section 1: Purpose.** The New Orleans DSA Local Council serves as the democratically elected leadership of the Local and is the highest legislative and judicial body under the General Membership. The Local Council shall set, maintain, and carry out policies which advance the principles, policies, and strategies enumerated in these bylaws and by the General Membership. The Local Council shall manage the day-to-day affairs of the Local between General Meetings.

**Section 2: Officers.** The Local Council shall consist of two (2) co-chairs, one (1) membership chair, one (1) secretary, one (1) treasurer, two (2) at-large Local Council members and a steward representing each of the official committees.

*Section 2(a). Co-Chairs:* The Co-Chairs shall preside over all official meetings of the organization and the Local Council, shall have responsibility for overall direction and management of the organization, and shall interpret the bylaws as well as the policies and priorities set by the Membership, subject to appeal by the Local Council.

The Co-Chairs are responsible for scheduling all Local Council meetings and preparing all agendas thereof. The Co-Chairs are responsible for consistent communications with all committee leaders and facilitating collaboration and coordination between them. The Co-Chairs will be the official public spokespersons for the Local and will initiate such actions and policies as the Local's general welfare may demand. Additionally:

Amended

**Section 1: Purpose.** The New Orleans DSA Local Council serves as the democratically elected leadership of the Local and is the highest legislative and judicial body under the General Membership. The Local Council shall set, maintain, and carry out policies which advance the principles, policies, and strategies enumerated in these bylaws and by the General Membership.

The Local Council shall have responsibility for management of the overall direction of the Local as stipulated by general membership, and shall, collectively or through a representative appointed as needed by majority vote of the Local Council, act as the public spokespersons for the Local.

The Local Council shall manage the day-to-day affairs of the Local between General Meetings.

**Section 2: Officers.** The Local Council shall consist of two (2) co-chairs, one (1) membership chair, one (1) secretary, one (1) treasurer, two (2) at-large Local Council members and a steward representing each of the official committees.

*Section 2(a). Co-Chairs:* The Co-Chairs shall preside over all official meetings of the organization and the Local Council, and shall interpret the bylaws as well as the policies and priorities set by the Membership, subject to appeal by the Local Council. The Co-Chairs are responsible for scheduling all Local Council meetings and preparing all agendas thereof. The Co-Chairs are responsible for consistent communications with all committee leaders and facilitating collaboration and coordination between them. Additionally:

## Amendment #5

### Bylaw Amendment: Require A Quorum for Local Council Meetings

*Sean D.*

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**Context** Currently, there is no quorum required for Local Council Meetings. While decisions can be made by simple majority, the bylaws do not specify if the simple majority refers to the number of Local Council Officers or those in attendance of a Local Council meeting. Furthermore, there are many opportunities for motions, debate, and amendments during a Local Council meeting that would benefit from the involvement of all the member elected Local Council Officers. Additionally, while also requiring a simple majority, the bylaws do not specify what that constitutes for decisions made outside of Local Council Meetings. Because these decisions are normally made on platforms such as email or instant messaging apps like Slack, typically with less of a time constraint and formality than a Local Council Meeting, more Officers are able to be a part of the decision making process.

This amendment establishes quorum for both of these situations.

#### Article 5: Local Council [deletions/additions]

[...]

**Section 11: Local Council Quorums.** a quorum of fifty percent of Local Council Officers shall be required for Local Council meetings. Decisions made by the Local outside of Local Council Meetings require a quorum of two thirds of Local Council Officers.

#### Article 5: Local Council [resulting text]

[...]

**Section 11: Local Council Quorums.** a quorum of fifty percent of Local Council Officers shall be required for Local Council meetings. Decisions made by the Local outside of Local Council Meetings require a quorum of two thirds of Local Council Officers.

## Amendment #6

### Addition of a Force Majeure Clause

*Ryan S.*

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#### **Context**

This amendment adds a new section to Article 2: Basic Organization and Conventions. The purpose of this new section is to provide a mechanism for moving high-level meetings that are typically scheduled far in advance in the event of disruption or disaster external to the chapter. The added section reads as follows:

#### **Article 2 : Basic Organization and Conventions**

[...]

**Section 10: Force Majeure.** In the event that a general meeting, special meeting, or local convention cannot be held on a scheduled date due to extraordinary disastrous circumstances beyond the chapter's control, the Local Council may, by a ¾ majority vote, postpone that meeting. The postponed meeting must occur within the same number of days as that meeting's notification period as outlined in these bylaws. The postponed meeting must be held in a format that adheres to all of the principles outlined in these bylaws.

*Section 10(a). Ongoing disasters.* A meeting postponed by the Local Council may not be postponed a second time unless the general membership votes to approve a new date.

## Amendment #7

# Structure Formalization 2020 Bylaws Amendment

*Trey D. & Nadia .E*

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### Summary

Starting a chapter project, deciding what type of group is best for it, and ensuring all members are aware of their rights and duties are all vital parts of being an active participant in the work of our Chapter. But when contemplating launching a new Chapter project, general members have good reason to feel perplexed: currently our Bylaws don't provide any clear rules governing the creation of groups other than committees, despite the practicalities of our work necessitating a large number of working groups, ad hoc teams, and unofficial subcommittees.

Many of these provisional groups handle tasks crucial to the everyday functioning or continued political development of our chapter, but have no defined method of creation, dissolution, or standard criteria for operating democratically.

Further, the creation and internal operations of these bodies are largely governed by institutional knowledge kept only by our longer-term and veteran members. As our Chapter grows in size beyond small groups of comrades, we will also have to grow beyond personal acquaintance and "who do you know" being an organizing prerequisite if we aim to become a real force for the working class in this city.

This amendment aims to give broad but flexible outlines for all of these existing groupings, while also creating a framework for future growth, with the ultimate goal of empowering our membership to initiate new projects and shape the future of our work.

## Chart

New Structures	Current Formations Applicable (Suggested)	Bylaws Required ?	Duration	Chartered By...	Signatories	Budget	Dissolution	Leadership	LC Representation	Reporting
Committee	Healthcare   MAC   Direct Service   WPL	Yes	Indefinite	GM, Special Meeting, or Convention	10	Annual Budget	GM, 2/3rds	Bylaws	Yes, 1 seat	Y
Admin Group	Tech(?) / Comms   Mobilizers   HGOs (?)	No	Indefinite	GM, Special Meeting, or Convention	10	Annual Budget	GM	Min: 2 Coordinators	Yes, 1 seat	Y
Campaign Group	(new)	No	6mo unless otherwise specified, renewable	GM, Special Meeting, or Convention	10	Defined in Charter	GM, 2/3rds	Min: 2 Coordinators	Yes, 1 seat	Y
Working or Task Group	Rapid Response   PoliEd   ARWG   etc	No	Indefinite	GM, Special Meeting, Convention, or LC	5	Discretionary from Local	GM(majority) or LC(2/3rds)	NA	No	N?

## Amendment

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**Whereas**, committees are the only official structures defined by the Chapter Bylaws, and

**Whereas**, the requirements for establishing committees are extensive, requiring weeks of preparation and member work to draft Committee Bylaws, and the committee structure is specifically designed for broad, issue-based work, and

**Whereas**, significant amounts of ongoing work essential to the day-to-day operation of the Chapter neither fits within the established scope of our existing committees, nor is suited for the committee structure in general, and

**Whereas**, this deficiency has resulted in the creation of many scattered and ad hoc groups existing outside the Bylaws, which have little defined structure or integrated systems of accountability, and

**Whereas**, the lack of clarity on the structure, roles and duties of these groups has lead to hesitancy and confusion amongst membership in getting involved with the work of these groups, and when attempting to launch new projects, and

**Whereas**, the ambiguities of this arrangement severely hinders the sustainability of these groups, as well as their broader coordination with committees, the Local Council, and the chapter as a whole,

**Therefore be it resolved**, New Orleans DSA shall amend **Article 6** of its Bylaws as follows:

Current

## **Article 6: Committees**

**Section 1: Formation.** Committees shall be formed by the General Meeting, Special Meeting, or the Convention to address a specific operational need. Any proposed Committee will produce a Written Statement of Purpose, which will prescribe the Committee's activities, and must be signed by at least ten (10) New Orleans DSA members.

**Section 2: Function, Responsibilities, and Bylaws.** Each Committee shall be responsible for its own activities. To this end, each Committee shall produce Bylaws and appoint a committee steward within three (3) months after official status was granted to the Committee. The Local Council must approve committee bylaws by a simple majority vote. Each Committee is responsible for:

Carrying out the program of the Committee as prescribed by the Written Statement of Purpose.

Committee leadership is also responsible for regularly reporting their activities to the General Meeting.

Committees shall work with the Treasurer to fundraise for committee needs and establish oversight of any committee funds.

Committees shall not institute any dues system or recurring collection of funds outside that of the Local.

**Section 3: Dissolution.** The General Meeting shall dismiss any Committee by a two-thirds majority vote.

*Amended*

## **Article 6: Internal Organization**

### **Section 1: Committees**

- (a) **Formation.** Committees shall be formed by the General Meeting, Special Meeting, or the Convention to address a specific operational need. Any proposed Committee will produce a Written Statement of Purpose, which will prescribe the Committee's activities, and must be signed by at least ten (10) New Orleans DSA members.
- (b) **Function, Responsibilities, and Bylaws.** Each Committee shall be responsible for its own activities. To this end, each Committee shall produce Bylaws and appoint a committee steward within three (3) months after official status was granted to the Committee. The Local Council must approve committee bylaws by a simple majority vote. Each Committee is responsible for:

- Carrying out the program of the Committee as prescribed by the Written Statement of Purpose.
  - Committee leadership is also responsible for regularly reporting their activities to the General Meeting.
  - Committees shall work with the Treasurer to fundraise for committee needs and establish oversight of any committee funds.
  - Committees shall not institute any dues system or recurring collection of funds outside that of the Local.
- (c) **Dissolution.** The General Meeting shall dismiss any Committee by a two-thirds majority vote.

## **Section 2: Administrative Groups**

- (a) **Formation** Administrative Groups shall be formed by a simple majority vote of a General Meeting, Special Meeting, or Chapter Convention to address a specific operational or logistical need of importance in the day-to-day operations of the Local.

Any proposed Administrative Group will produce a Charter, prescribing the activities and general organization of the Administrative Group, naming two coordinators, and prescribing for the democratic election of future coordinators. This Charter must be signed by at least ten (10) New Orleans DSA members.

(b) **Function and Responsibilities**

- Each Administrative Group shall be responsible for its own activities, as prescribed in the Administrative Group Charter, and shall abide by the Rules of Order as outlined in Article 11 of these bylaws
- Each Administrative Group shall hold a single (1) vote on the Local Council, where it will be represented by a coordinator.
- The coordinators, or a designated Administrative Group representative(s) appointed by vote of the Administrative Group, shall regularly report the Group's activities to the General Meeting.
- Budgets for each Administrative Group shall be considered alongside the annual Local budgeting process; Administrative Groups shall not institute any dues system or recurring collection of funds outside that of the Local.

- (c) **Dissolution** the General Meeting shall dismiss any Administrative Group by simple majority vote.

### Section 3: Campaign Groups

**(a) Formation** Campaign Groups shall be formed by a simple majority vote of a General Meeting, Special Meeting, or Chapter Convention, or by a two-thirds vote of the Local Council, to enact a specific campaign or project, of a limited and defined duration.

Any proposed Campaign Group will produce a Charter, prescribing the activities and general organization of the Campaign Group, outlining a provisional budget for the Campaign in concert with the treasurer, and naming two Campaign coordinators. This Charter must be signed by at least ten (10) New Orleans DSA members.

Campaign Groups Charters will be authorized for six (6) months, unless a different period is otherwise specified in the Campaign Group Charter, and will be considered dissolved following that period. Campaign Groups Charters may be renewed by a simple majority vote of a General Meeting, Special Meeting, or Chapter Convention.

**(b) Function and Responsibilities**

- Each Campaign Group shall be responsible for its own activities, as prescribed in the Campaign Group Charter, and shall abide by the Rules of Order as outlined in Article 11 of these bylaws
- Each Campaign Group shall hold a single (1) vote on the Local Council, where it will be represented by a coordinator. The coordinators, or a designated Campaign Group representative(s) appointed by vote of the Campaign Group, shall regularly report the Group's activities to the General Meeting.
- Campaign Groups shall not institute any dues system or recurring collection of funds outside that of the Local.

**(c) Dissolution** The General Meeting can dismiss any Campaign Committee by a two-thirds majority vote before the expiration of a Campaign Committee Charter.

### Section 4: Task or Working Groups

**(a) Formation** Task or Working Groups shall be formed by a simple majority vote of a General Meeting, Special Meeting, Chapter Convention, or the Local Council, to coordinate work on a specific task or area of work relevant to the Local.

Any proposed Task or Working Group will produce a Charter, prescribing the

activities and general organization of the Task or Working Group, as well as listing an affiliation with a Committee, Administrative Group, Campaign Group, the Local Council, or the General Membership as a whole. This Charter must be signed by at least five (5) New Orleans DSA members.

**(b) Function and Responsibilities**

- Each Task or Working Group shall be responsible for its own activities, as prescribed in the Task or Working Group Charter, and shall abide by the Rules of Order as outlined in Article 11 of these bylaws
- Each Task or Working Group shall also be responsible for regularly reporting their activities to the affiliate indicated in the Task or Working Group Charter.
- Task or Working Groups shall not institute any dues system or recurring collection of funds outside that of the Local; Task or Working Groups may request funding from the Local via the standard methods for discretionary requests outlined by the Local.

**(c) Dissolution** the General Meeting shall dismiss any Task or Working Group by simple majority vote; the Local Council may dismiss any Task or Working Group by a two-thirds vote.

**Therefore be it further resolved,** New Orleans DSA shall amend **Article 5, Section 2** of its Bylaws as follows:

Current

**Section 2: Officers.** The Local Council shall consist of two (2) co-chairs, one (1) membership chair, one (1) secretary, one (1) treasurer, two (2) at-large Local Council members and a steward representing each of the official committees.

Amended

**Section 2: Officers.** The Local Council shall consist of two (2) co-chairs, one (1) membership chair, one (1) secretary, one (1) treasurer, two (2) at-large Local Council members, a steward representing each of the official committees, and a representative of each Administrative or currently-chartered Campaign Group.

## Amendment #8

### Expansion of Article 8

*Ryan S.*

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#### Context

Up to this point, the only external roles addressed in our chapter bylaws concern the election of delegates to the DSA National Convention. Our chapter has, from time to time, joined other coalitions and appointed members to be liaisons or representatives, but we have not always given members enough notice that this role has been created and that we are looking for people to fill it. While these positions are not elected positions, some of the same principles for transparency and accountability should apply to them.

This expansion also lays out some stipulations for members who want to represent our chapter on other DSA bodies (similar to Convention delegates) or who want to run for an elected position on a National DSA committee or working group.

#### Article 8: Delegates [original text]

**Section 1: Election.** Delegates to National, Regional, and State bodies shall be elected by the General Membership at the General Meeting most immediately preceding the Convention or other gathering at which delegates are needed. The delegate election process will conform to DSA National bylaws and the National Convention calendar.

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#### Article 8: Delegates Participation on External Bodies [deletions/additions]

**Section 1: Election National, Regional, and State-level DSA Bodies.** Any member of the Local may seek to represent the chapter in another DSA formation that is not a chartered local or YDSA chapter.

*Section 1(a): Eligibility.* In order to be considered a delegate, appointee, or representative of the chapter body in this manner, an individual must:

- Have been a member in good standing of the chapter for the full duration of the sixty days before the announcement of the role, and
- Not be the subject of a grievance at the time their role begins

*Section 1(b): Dual Office.* Local Council members seeking to be considered for any elected role on a body funded by the Democratic Socialists of America during their tenure must request the endorsement of the Local. This endorsement may take place during a General Meeting, and a quorum of twenty percent of the membership in good standing plus one member shall be required for this vote.

*Section 1(c): Chapter Delegates to National Conventions.* Delegates to the National, Regional, and State bodies Convention of the Democratic Socialists of America or any other gathering convened by DSA National at which delegates are needed shall be elected by the General Membership at the General Meeting most immediately a Special Meeting preceding the that meeting Convention or any other gathering at which delegates are needed. The delegate election process will conform to DSA National bylaws and the National Convention calendar.

**Section 2: Non-DSA Bodies.** Any member of the Local may seek to represent the chapter as a delegate, appointee, or participant in any non-DSA formation such as a coalition, association, or on a board or a committee of another political organization if each of the following criteria are met:

*Section 2(a): Announcement.* The Local Council is responsible for announcing the intent to choose an occupant of a role of this type within 24 hours of any proposal, resolution, or bylaw amendment that authorizes the creation of the role.

*Section 2(b): Eligibility.* In order to be considered, an individual must have been a member in good standing for sixty days prior to the creation of the role. Anyone who wishes to be considered must notify the Local Council seven days before a confirmation vote is held.

*Section 2(c): Confirmation Vote.* A member may be confirmed by a unanimous vote of the Local Council. If a unanimous vote is not reached or a Local Council vote is not called, the member must be confirmed by the general membership at a General Meeting, Special Meeting, or Local Convention.

**Section 3: Recall.** The chapter retains the right to recall representatives, appointees, officers, and others they have confirmed to positions outside of the chapter when it

is within their power to do so. Recall votes must be undertaken in a manner that provides 50% quorum of the general membership.

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## **Article 8: Participation on External Bodies [resulting text]**

**Section 1: National, Regional, and State-level DSA Bodies.** Any member of the Local may seek to represent the chapter in another DSA formation that is not a chartered local or YDSA chapter.

*Section 1(a): Eligibility.* In order to be considered a delegate, appointee, or representative of the chapter body in this manner, an individual must:

- Have been a member in good standing of the chapter for the full duration of the sixty days before the announcement of the role, and
- Not be the subject of a grievance at the time their role begins

*Section 1(b): Dual Office.* Local Council members seeking to be considered for any elected role on a body funded by the Democratic Socialists of America during their tenure must request the endorsement of the Local. This endorsement may take place during a General Meeting, and a quorum of twenty percent of the membership in good standing plus one member shall be required for this vote.

*Section 1(c): Chapter Delegates to National Conventions.* Delegates to the National Convention of the Democratic Socialists of America or any other gathering convened by DSA National at which delegates are needed shall be elected by the General Membership at a Special Meeting preceding that Convention. The delegate election process will conform to DSA National bylaws and the National Convention calendar.

**Section 2: Non-DSA Bodies.** Any member of the Local may seek to represent the chapter as a delegate, appointee, or participant in any non-DSA formation such as a coalition, association, or on a board or a committee of another political organization if each of the following criteria are met:

*Section 2(a): Announcement.* The Local Council is responsible for announcing the intent to choose an occupant of a role of this type within 24 hours of any proposal, resolution, or bylaw amendment that authorizes the creation of the role.

*Section 2(b): Eligibility.* In order to be considered, an individual must have been a member in good standing for sixty days prior to the creation of the role. Anyone who

wishes to be considered must notify the Local Council seven days before a confirmation vote is held.

*Section 2(c): Confirmation Vote.* A member may be confirmed by a unanimous vote of the Local Council. If a unanimous vote is not reached or a Local Council vote is not called, the member must be confirmed by the general membership at a General Meeting, Special Meeting, or Local Convention.

**Section 3: Recall.** The chapter retains the right to recall representatives, appointees, officers, and others they have confirmed to positions outside of the chapter when it is within their power to do so. Recall votes must be undertaken in a manner that provides 50% quorum of the general membership.

## Amendment #9

### Inclusion of Asynchronous Voting to Quorum Rules

*Ryan S.*

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#### **Context**

The purpose of quorum is to ensure that no decisions are made without the opportunity for input and awareness from a reasonably substantial aggregate number of members of a body.

As we've had to hold most decisions through digital/online methods throughout the pandemic, rules of quorum have sometimes been hard to discern or maintain. Asynchronous voting—AKA members don't all vote at the same time in the same place, but within an pre-established voting period—can be done in a way that *extends* the electorate *without* sacrificing information and debate.

Depending on *physical, temporal* quorum for chapter-wide votes as our chapter grows will continue to prove cumbersome due to time limitations, schedule availability, etc.

This amendment extends access to voting to people who are not able to attend general, special, or convention meetings due to schedule conflicts, relieves meeting planners of developing contingency plans in case quorum is not met at a live meeting, and reflects the principle that voting should be expanded, not restricted. This amendment adds one sentence to Article 2, Section 8, highlighted below:

**Section 8: Quorums.** Unless specified otherwise in these bylaws, a quorum of ten percent of the membership in good standing shall be required for valid meetings of the Convention, Special Meeting, or General Meeting. A quorum of twenty-five percent of the membership in good standing plus one member shall be required for Electoral Endorsement votes. Asynchronous votes related to any election or decision of the chapter shall contribute to meeting the threshold of quorum if 20% of the general membership casts a vote, including a combination of in-person and asynchronous votes.