

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws

The Convention Resolutions Committee (Jared Abbott, Paul Garver, Jeremy Gong, Natalie Midiri and Chris Riddiough) met July 5th. Based on the convention rules and timeline, the first task of the committee was to review the proposed amendments to the DSA Constitution and Bylaws. Twenty-one proposals were submitted. The Committee has finished reviewing the amendments.

What follows are the proposals that remain. These include those circulated last week, some that combine previously submitted amendments, and some that have been modified to put them into proper form. Some originally submitted amendments have been withdrawn. So the following includes all the amendments to be submitted to the convention.

The proposals following are listed in the order in which they were received. For each proposed amendment the number, timestamp, information about the sponsor(s)/proposer(s) of the amendment, their rationale for the amendment, old language, and proposed new language. For items #8 and #15, the committee has added a short information note.

Number 1, 6, 7 have been combined into the following:

Name(s) and Local(s) of those proposing the resolution who will serve as lead contact(s): Jackie Tolomea (Memphis), Chris Riddiough (Metro DC), Bradly McGarr, Karla Sand

Rationale: We would like to amend the constitution to include discrimination based on age, disability and LGBTQ+ status. Our socialism does not ignore the special hardships faced by those who are part of marginalized groups, and the language of our constitution should reflect that.

Old language: Article II: Purpose - We are socialists because we reject an economic order based on private profit, alienated labor, gross inequalities of wealth and power, discrimination based on race and sex, and brutality and violence in defense of the status quo.

New Language: Article ii: Purpose - We are socialists because we reject an economic order based on private profit, alienated labor, gross inequalities of wealth and power, discrimination based on race, **sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, disability status, age, religion, and national origin** and brutality and violence in defense of the status quo.

[Change indicated in bold.]

Number 2 - Withdrawn

Number 3

Name(s) and Local(s) of those proposing the resolution who will serve as lead contact(s): Michele Rossi
Philadelphia DSA

The Rationale: Statement of why this amendment is being proposed (Motivation for the Amendment)

Motivation: DSA's National Political Committee serves as the organization's highest decision-making body between National Conventions. In addition to providing political leadership, DSA's NPC members direct the implementation of DSA's political and organizational goals. They create and serve on committees and task forces to guide particular areas of DSA's political work; they also instruct and support the staff in carrying out the organization's operations.

Since our 2015 convention, DSA has enjoyed immense growth. We have witnessed an influx of new members who have varying degrees of organizing experience as well as different levels of familiarity with democratic socialist vision and politics. DSA chapters are springing up all over the country; many have formed in areas outside major metropolitan regions and in places not known as hotbeds of progressive politics.

Increasing the size of DSA's National Political Committee from sixteen to twenty-four members would increase the likelihood that the perspectives and needs of people organizing in diverse political terrain would be taken into account. Furthermore, a 24-person NPC means more people who would be available and accountable for carrying out the body's responsibilities and serving as resources for the staff and locals, without making the body itself so large that its effectiveness and efficiency are compromised. Lastly, the proportion of NPC seats reserved for women and people of color would be preserved.

Old Language in Constitution (if any) EXISTING LANGUAGE: Section 2. The members of the NPC shall be one representative of the Youth Section and 16 delegates elected at the national convention. Of the elected members, at least eight shall be women and at least four shall be racial or national minority members of DSA. In the event that these minority positions are not filled at the Convention, the position(s) shall be filled by the NPC, except that only minority members of DSA may be elected to fill such vacancies. In case of other such vacancies, except a vacancy of the Youth Section Representative, the NPC shall appoint a member of the organization in good standing to serve until the next Convention. No person shall serve simultaneously on the National Staff and the NPC.

New Language PROPOSED AMENDED LANGUAGE Section 2. The members of the NPC shall be one representative of the Youth Section and 24 delegates elected at the national convention. Of the elected members, at least 12 shall be women and at least 6 shall be racial or national minority members of DSA. In the event that these minority positions are not filled at the Convention, the position(s) shall be filled by the NPC, except that only minority members of DSA may be elected to fill such vacancies. In case of other such vacancies, except a vacancy of the Youth Section Representative, the NPC shall appoint a member of the organization in good standing to serve until the next Convention. No person shall serve simultaneously on the National Staff and the NPC.

Number 4

Name(s) and Local(s) of those proposing the resolution who will serve as lead contact(s): Theresa Alt, Ithaca DSA

The Rationale: Statement of why this amendment is being proposed (Motivation for the Amendment)

This is a technical change so that no one comes upon this sentence and concludes that the secretary-treasurer may not be a voting member of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Old Language in Constitution (if any) Bylaws X.2.a) ...The Secretary-Treasurer shall serve as an ex officio member of the committee.

New Language ...The Secretary-Treasurer shall serve as a member or an ex officio member of the committee.

Number 5

Submitted by Theresa Alt, Ithaca DSA

The Rationale: Statement of why this amendment is being proposed (Motivation for the Amendment)

There have been awkward times when an organizing committee was listed but wasn't functioning, when a new organizing committee applied in an area where there was an old and poorly-functioning one, and when there was a move to change geographic lines. Previously, it was not clear that the NPC had a right to act.

New Language

Add at end of Bylaws III.3: The NPC may at its discretion dissolve an organizing committee. This will not preclude a new one from forming in the same area.

Number 6 – Combined with 1

Number 7 – Combined with 1

Number 8

Note: Resolution #14 also deals with dues, and may be considered as an amendment to Article VI, Section 6 in this amendment, to be voted on beforehand.

Name(s) and Local(s) of those proposing the resolution who will serve as lead contact(s): Sean Monahan, Providence DSA.

The Rationale: Statement of why this amendment is being proposed (Motivation for the Amendment)

This amendment empowers the next NPC to reform DSA's dues structure, switching to a primarily monthly system, substantially increasing the amount of dues money DSA brings in, which would allow the hiring of a large number of regional organizers to support chapters, among other benefits. It also allows the NPC to establish a system of sharing dues revenue, to provide local chapters with a steady stream of funds for their own activities.

Old Language in Constitution (if any) Article III Section 5 of the DSA Constitution:

"There shall be yearly dues, the amount of which shall be determined by the NPC prior to the commencement of each annual dues cycle."

Article II of the DSA Bylaws:

"Section 1. Annual dues for membership shall be determined by the NPC prior to the commencement of each annual dues cycle.

Section 2. Dues may be reduced or waived upon application by a member showing just cause for such reduction or waiver. Just cause shall include low-income and/or large number of dependents.

Section 3. Members may become sustainers of the organization nationally by paying dues in excess of regular dues. A National pledge system may be set up whereby members can pledge to make regular donations in excess of National dues on a monthly, quarterly or other basis.

Section 4. The NPC shall establish a "low-income" category of dues. Members paying low-income dues shall have full membership rights.

Section 5. Locals may set up pledge systems for their members, whereby members can pledge to make regular donations to the Local in excess of National dues on a monthly, quarterly or other basis.

Section 6. The National Convention, or should it not choose to act on this matter, the NPC, shall determine procedures for the collection of dues and contributions and the sharing of same between the Local and National Organizations."

Strike Article III Section 5 of the DSA Constitution, and replace with:

"The amount and structure of membership dues shall be determined by the NPC, and shall be altered no more frequently than once each calendar year."

New Language Strike Article II of the DSA Bylaws, and replace with:

"Section 1. The standard form of membership dues shall be monthly.

Section 2. Dues levels shall be graduated, proportionate to the member's ability to pay.

Section 3. There shall be a separate yearly dues option for very low-income members, and the NPC may designate yearly dues options for other groups for whom monthly dues would be prohibitive. Dues may be waived upon application by a member showing just cause for such waiver.

Section 4. There shall be a separate option of introductory dues for new members, to be determined by the NPC.

Section 5. Neither penalties nor privileges shall be extended to members who choose to pay substantially higher or lower than their suggested dues level, within ranges determined by the NPC.

Section 6. The NPC may determine procedures for sharing dues income between the Local and National Organizations, from the members in their jurisdictions. The NPC may establish procedures to oversee the use of those funds by Local Organizations, and may enforce penalties for misuse, including suspension of dues sharing.

Section 7. Local chapters' independent fundraising, including pledge systems, shall not affect membership dues."

Number 9

Name(s) and Local(s) of those proposing the resolution who will serve as lead contact(s): Jeremy Gong, Jared Abbot, Natalie Midiri

The Rationale: Statement of why this amendment is being proposed (Motivation for the Amendment)

This amendment to the National DSA constitution creates a mechanism wherein 20% of locals or 8% of members can petition the NPC to take up an important issue and debate it out in the open, with reports back to the membership. This will give the membership of the organization a much greater say in the running of the national organization between biannual conventions, while increasing transparency and helping keep NPC accountable to members and locals. Importantly, the process of petitioning and publicly debating issues across locals and amongst national leaders will foster a culture of internal organizing and transparency, while encouraging members to be more engaged and national leaders to be more inclusive with important decision-making processes. Finally, such a culture of open and inclusive debate and deliberation will contribute to the education of members in DSA politics and strategy, so they know why we are taking this or that course of action, and are equipped to critique and protest if needed.

Old Language in Constitution (if any)

New Language [The following language shall be added to the National DSA Bylaws as Section 3 of Article X]

Section 3. Pressing issues may be placed on an agenda for an NPC meeting by a petition of 20% of locals or 8% of members. The SC shall publish the language of a petition at the time that it is successfully submitted and call for comments from the general membership. After the meeting the NPC or a committee thereof shall publish a report, separate from the normal minutes, detailing the debate surrounding the petitioned issue and any decisions that were made to address it.

Number 10

Name(s) and Local(s) of those proposing the resolution who will serve as lead contact(s): Jeremy Gong, Adam Goldman, Natalie Midiri

The Rationale: Statement of why this amendment is being proposed (Motivation for the Amendment)

This will make it easier for new chapters to form without having to go through a tedious and potentially alienating experience surrounding the drafting of new bylaws.

Forcing Organizing Committees to write bylaws as their first official act together in order to form a chapter risks draining the energy and excitement that led to the formation of the OC; selecting for litigative and argumentative personalities (often older people, men, and/or hardened “activist-ists”) and selecting against people who want to do real organizing in communities, build the chapter, or do any other meaningful work; isolating new members who do not have established relationships or formal or informal leadership structures in potentially contentious situations; leaving important decisions around bylaws to new members who might never have participated in an organization like DSA before, or even known what bylaws were; and wasting time.

This amendment will allow new chapters to form and get right to work; and then after a short period of time, once the chapter’s members have gotten to know each other, affirmed their commitment to DSA and the real organizing work that is possible as a socialist organization, and built networks of support outside of their chapter, they can write new bylaws that better suit them than the Standard Constitution.

Old Language in Constitution (if any) BYLAWS

Article III. Locals

Section 1. Charters may be granted to Locals upon submission of an application which contains a statement of agreement with the principles and policies of the organization, a description of the geographic area to be served by the Local, a proposed Constitution for the Local and the signatures of 15 or more people who are members of the organization and who wish to be members of the Local, except that in special circumstances, charters may be granted to Locals submitting applications with 10 to 14 signatures. Special circumstances are defined to include the establishment of Locals in areas of low population.

Section 2. Each Local shall, as stated in Section 1 of this Article, submit to the National Office a file copy of their Constitution (and any subsequent changes therein). Such Constitution shall contain provisions which call for at least two meetings per year of the Local. It shall contain provisions for the election of officers of the Local. It shall contain provisions for informing all members of meetings and procedures

for the election of officers and delegates to National, Regional and State bodies and of decisions of the Local. Each Local shall submit to the National Office information about the financial status of the Local.

Section 3. Groups of five or more members in a geographic area may become Organizing Committees upon approval of the NPC. Such Committees may become Locals upon attainment of the requirements described in Section 1 of this Article. Such Organizing Committees shall receive from the National Office information relevant to the formation of a Local, including criteria for chartering, a model Constitution and such guidelines for Local work and policy as are adopted by the NPC.

New Language [The amendment includes the following 3 changes:

- a) struck "proposed Constitution" from Section 1;
- b) replaced Section 2 entirely with a new language about Standard New Local Constitution, as well as added a line about requirements for constitutional amendments; and
- c) struck "model Constitution" from Section 3.]

BYLAWS

Article III. Locals

Section 1. Charters may be granted to Locals upon submission of an application which contains a statement of agreement with the principles and policies of the organization, a description of the geographic area to be served by the Local, and the signatures of 15 or more people who are members of the organization and who wish to be members of the Local, except that in special circumstances, charters may be granted to Locals submitting applications with 10 to 14 signatures. Special circumstances are defined to include the establishment of Locals in areas of low population.

Section 2. The NPC shall produce a Standard New Local Constitution by which all newly chartered Locals shall operate for at least the first six months of their operation. During those six months, new Locals shall elect leadership in accordance with the Standard New Local Constitution. After six months, the Local's members may vote to ratify a new Constitution, at which time the Local shall submit to the National Office a file copy of their Constitution (and any subsequent changes therein). Such Constitution shall contain provisions which call for at least two meetings per year of the Local. It shall contain provisions for the making constitutional amendments, wherein all amendments shall require at least a two-thirds vote by the Local's members. It shall contain provisions for the election of officers of the Local. It shall contain provisions for informing all members of meetings and procedures for the election of officers and delegates to National, Regional and State bodies and of decisions of the Local. Each Local shall submit to the National Office information about the financial status of the Local.

Section 3. Groups of five or more members in a geographic area may become Organizing Committees upon approval of the NPC. Such Committees may become Locals upon attainment of the requirements described in Section 1 of this Article. Such Organizing Committees shall receive from the National Office information relevant to the formation of a Local, including criteria for chartering, and such guidelines for Local work and policy as are adopted by the NPC.

Number 11 Combined with #19/20

Chief sponsor: Sean Monahan, Providence DSA

The Rationale: Statement of why this amendment is being proposed (Motivation for the Amendment)

This amendment abolishes the system of vice chairs and honorary chairs. There are a series of serious problems with the current chairs system. Some chairs are heavily involved with DSA and others do little to nothing with us. Some chairs have continued on for decades despite their politics drifting quite far away from the organization. The chairs periodically cause immense internal controversy that soaks up a lot of DSA members' time and energy and weakens camaraderie in the organization, for little benefit. To avoid an unnecessary conflict over which chairs to replace and which to keep, and to be done with a celebrity-oriented presentation for our organization, this amendment simply eliminates the honorary and vice chairs, while leaving in place the National Advisory Committee described in the DSA Constitution.

Old Language in Constitution

"Article VI. Officers and Staff Section 1. The officers of this organization shall be the directors, the honorary chairs, and the vice-chairs. There shall be one or two directors who shall be full time staff members as defined in Article IX of the DSA Bylaws. There shall be five to ten honorary chairs half of whom shall be women and at least two of whom shall be members of racial or national minorities. The exact number of Honorary Chairs shall be set by the National Convention. There shall also be a number of National Vice-Chairs, half of whom shall be women and at least two of whom shall be members of racial or national minorities. The exact number of National Vice-Chairs shall be set by the National Convention. Half of the Vice-Chairs shall be women and half shall be men, and a minimum of two Vice-Chairs shall be racial or national minorities. There shall also be a Secretary-Treasurer. All of these officers shall perform the duties prescribed by this Constitution, the Bylaws and the standing rules. Section 2. The Director(s) shall be hired by the NPC according to the procedures set out in the DSA Bylaws. The Honorary Chairs and Vice-Chairs shall be elected by the National Convention to serve for two-year terms or until their successors are elected, and their terms shall begin at the close of the National Convention at which they are elected. Should any of the above offices fall vacant due to death, resignation or removal under Article VI, Section 5 of this Constitution, the NPC may elect, by two-thirds vote of all members of that body voting in person or by proxy, a successor to fill the unexpired term. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected annually by a majority of the NPC and shall serve until a successor has been chosen. If at least one racial or national minorities person is not elected Honorary Chair at the Convention because of the failure of nomination, the NPC will elect at least one minority candidate as if a vacancy has occurred. Section 3. Any member of the organization is eligible to hold any office. Section 4. The duties of the officers shall include the following: a) The Director(s) shall be members of the full-time staff and shall be the official spokesperson(s) of the organization. b) The Honorary Chairs shall be the official spokespersons for the organization when so requested by the staff or the NPC and shall carry out other duties as specified in the Bylaws. c) The National Vice-Chairs shall be spokespersons for the organization when so requested by the staff or the NPC and shall carry out other duties as specified in the Bylaws. d) The Secretary-Treasurer shall present a detailed financial report at the first plenary session on the first full day of each Convention and perform such duties as outlined in the Bylaws and prescribed by the NPC." Article VII. Section 2. "The National Activist Conference shall include the officers of the National organization, the members of the National Political Committee, Chairs of Commissions, the Honorary Chairs and Vice-Chairs, two delegates selected by each Local, and any additional DSA members who want to attend."

New Language

How the new language would appear if accepted.

"Article VI. Officers and Staff

Section 1. The officers of this organization shall be the directors, the Secretary-Treasurer and the members of the Steering Committee of the NPC. There shall be one or two directors who shall be full time staff members as defined in Article IX of the DSA Bylaws. All of these officers shall perform the duties prescribed by this Constitution, the Bylaws and the standing rules.

(This language for Section 1, proposed by Resolution #19/20 by Theresa At is accepted by the sponsor. Resolution 19/20 is accordingly withdrawn).

Section 2. The Director(s) shall be hired by the NPC according to the procedures set out in the DSA Bylaws. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected annually by a majority of the NPC and shall serve until a successor has been chosen.

Section 3. Any member of the organization is eligible to hold any office.

Section 4. The duties of the officers shall include the following: a) The Director(s) shall be members of the full-time staff and shall be the official spokesperson(s) of the organization. b) The Secretary-Treasurer shall present a detailed financial report at the first plenary session on the first full day of each Convention and perform such duties as outlined in the Bylaws and prescribed by the NPC."

Article VII. Section 2. "The National Activist Conference shall include the officers of the National organization, the members of the National Political Committee, Chairs of Commissions, two delegates selected by each Local, and any additional DSA members who want to attend."

Number 12

Name(s) and Local(s) of those proposing the resolution who will serve as lead contact(s): Adam Goldman, Philly, Natalie Midiri, Philly, Jeremy Gong, East Bay

The Rationale: Statement of why this amendment is being proposed (Motivation for the Amendment)
Whereas, During this recent period of tremendous growth and transition, DSA chapters and members have experienced various instances of severe conflict, harassment and assault, putting individual members at risk and threatening our ability to do effective work.

Whereas, there is currently no clear system of handling grievances at the local or national level, putting undue burden on chapters both new and old to handle these matters without a clear, transparent and accountable process.

Old Language in Constitution (if any)

New Language [To be inserted as a new Article X: NPC, Section 4 of the Bylaws with the current sections 4 and 5 being renumbered accordingly] The National Political Committee shall be empowered to enforce a grievance and/or mediation process on individual members or on entire locals.

All DSA locals shall outline in their by-laws the elected position of Grievance Officer and produce a grievance procedure in accordance with national guidelines.

Number 13

Name(s) and Local(s) of those proposing the resolution who will serve as lead contact(s): Matthew Wolfsen of Metro Atlanta

The Rationale: Statement of why this amendment is being proposed (Motivation for the Amendment)

To ensure the language of the Constitution is not excluding those who do not identify as male or female and to ensure that the demographics of the National Political Committee is better representative of the national demographics specifically with national and racial minorities.

The changes are incredibly comprehensive. And changes several different sections. But anywhere that mandates a certain amount of seats are reserved for women is changed to a cap of seats that men are allowed to hold.

Old Language in Constitution (if any)

New Language https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HWtCI6_eFgs09I36Eo3CNK2KrNI-ZLnJZ3y3gSoEWhE/edit?usp=sharing <--- please just look at this. It outlines the changes fairly well.

By: Matthew Wolfsen, Jeb Boone, Adam Cardo, Scott Douglas, Anat Fintzi, Chad Floyd, Daniel Hanley, Barbara Joye, Brad Lathem, Eric Robertson and Maxwell Ruppensburg of the Metro Atlanta Chapter

AN ACT

To amend the Democratic Socialists of America Constitution, so as to ensure the language of the Constitution is not excluding those who do not identify as male or female and to ensure that the demographics of the National Political Committee is better representative of the national demographics specifically with national and racial minorities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE NATIONAL CONVENTION WITH TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF THE DELEGATES VOTING AND PRESENT

SECTION 1

Article VI of the Democratic Socialists of America Constitution, relating to the officer and staff positions is amended by revising Section 1 as follows:

“Section 1. The officers of this organization shall be the directors, the honorary chairs, and the vice-chairs. There shall be one or two directors who shall be full time staff members as defined in Article IX of the DSA Bylaws. There shall be five to ten honorary chairs no more than half of whom shall be men ~~half of whom shall be women~~ and at least two of whom shall be members of racial or national minorities. The exact number of Honorary Chairs shall be set by the National Convention. There shall also be a number of National Vice-Chairs, half of whom shall be women and at least two of whom shall be members of racial or national minorities. ~~The the exact number of which National Vice-Chairs shall be set by the National Convention. No gender shall hold a majority of National Vice-Chair positions~~ Half of the Vice-Chairs shall be women and half shall be men, and a minimum of two National Vice-Chairs shall be racial or national minorities. There shall also be a Secretary-Treasurer. All of these officers shall perform the duties prescribed by this Constitution, the Bylaws and the standing rules.”

SECTION 2

Article VIII of the Democratic Socialists of America Constitution, relating to the National Political Committee positions is amended by revising Section 2 and by revising Subsection a of Section 3 as follows:

“Section 2. The members of the NPC shall be one representative of the Youth Section and 16 delegates elected at the national convention. Of the elected members, no more than eight shall be men at least eight shall be women and at least five ~~four~~ shall be racial or national minority members of DSA. In the event that these minority positions are not filled at the Convention, the position(s) shall be filled by the NPC, except that only minority members of DSA may be elected to fill such vacancies. In case of other such vacancies, except a vacancy of the Youth Section Representative, the NPC shall appoint a member of the organization in good standing to serve until the next Convention. No person shall serve simultaneously on the National Staff and the NPC.”

“a) It shall be composed of the five people who shall be elected by the NPC from among its at-large members, and the Youth Section representative to the NPC. It shall include no more than three men at least two women and at least one person of color. The National Director and the Youth Section Organizer shall be ex officio members, without vote, of the SC.”

SECTION 3

Article IX of the Democratic Socialists of America Constitution, relating to the National Advisory Committee positions is amended by revising Section 2 as follows:

“Section 2. Members of the National Advisory Committee shall be chosen by the NPC and must be members of the Democratic Socialists of America. In electing members to the NAC, the NPC shall act so as to ensure fair representation of women, genderqueers and minorities.”

AN ACT

To amend the Democratic Socialists of America Bylaws, so as to ensure the language of the Bylaws are not excluding those who do not identify as male or female.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE NATIONAL CONVENTION WITH THREE-FIFTHS VOTE OF THE DELEGATES VOTING AND PRESENT

SECTION 1

Article IV of the Democratic Socialists of America Bylaws, relating to National Convention and the Elections of At-Large delegates is amended by revising Section 2 as follows:

“Section 2. Elections for at-large delegates shall be conducted by the NPC. A call for candidates for at-large delegates shall be sent to all at-large members not less than three months and not more than five months prior to the opening date of the Convention. Two months prior to the Convention a ballot containing the names of the delegate candidates shall be sent to at-large members. This ballot shall contain instructions regarding the number of delegates to be elected, voting procedures and date for

the counting of ballots. Ballots shall be counted at the National Office one month prior to the Convention. ~~No more than one-half of the available positions for at-large delegates may be available to men~~ ~~One-half of the available positions for at-large delegates must be reserved for women~~ and one-fifth of the available positions (~~all genders both men and women~~) must be reserved for national and racial minorities. Those candidates who have been elected shall be immediately informed of their election by the National Office.”

Number 14 (includes former #17)

Sponsors, Sam Miemczewski, West Suburban IL, Gareth Sparks, Metro DC

Current language: Bylaws, Article II, Section 6. The National Convention, or should it not choose to act on this matter, the NPC, shall determine procedures for the collection of dues and contributions and the sharing of same between the Local and National Organizations.

New language: Bylaws, Article II, Section 6. Chartered Locals that meet the criteria described in this section shall receive 20% of all dues paid by members of that Local and collected by the National Organization, the balance of which shall be assessed and distributed once in every six month period by the National Organization. To receive any balance, a Local must first publish to its members and submit to the National Organization a budget detailing plans for all funds to be received. To receive any balance, a Local must provide details for a valid bank account to the National Organization. If a Local does not meet these minimum qualifications, any balance not received shall be forfeit to the National Organization at the end of the next six month period. Regardless of these conditions, any chartered Local that collects dues on behalf of the National Organization shall be entitled to a 30% share of those dues.

Number 15

Name(s) and Local(s) of those proposing the resolution who will serve as lead contact(s): Celeste Earley, Michael Patterson, Stephen Jolley, Anchorage DSA

The Rationale: Statement of why this amendment is being proposed (Motivation for the Amendment)

Since the 2016 election the DSA has grown exponentially. Because of the increase in size of membership Article 4 of the DSA constitution is not conducive or structurally adequate to retain and recruit members and provide the communications system necessary to contribute to the continued growth or success of the DSA in a national capacity.

Old Language in Constitution (if any)

New Language We suggest removing sections 3 and 4 and replacing it with new language which will become section three and amending section 5 with new language which will become section 4. Section 6 will remain but will become section 5.

We suggest new language for the new section 3 to be as follows:

National Policy Committee (NPC)I needs to be empowered with the ability to create new state communications councils and regional communications administrators to facilitate the coordination of local and national efforts. It is the duty and responsibility of NPC to carry out this national mandate by creating a task force that will implement the creation of a national communications system. Any prudent

changes to the by-laws, specifically Article 4, shall be under the task force purview pending NPC approval.

Each state shall form a communications council with the purpose of facilitating efficient and expedient communication between local and national entities. NPC shall have the power to mandate the formation of such councils.

State councils shall be populated by representatives from each local chapter. Members that constitute a representative to these councils shall be elected by popular vote individually amongst the chapters that constitute the state council. If only one chapter exists in the state at the time of the implementation of this mandate the local chapter may elect to join the nearest state council or directly communicate to a regional administrator.

Each local chapter must have a representative to qualify for chapter status. Local chapters have the autonomy to consolidate representation into districts so long as representatives representing more than one local chapter can carry out their duties and responsibilities to the satisfaction of the NPC and the local chapters they represent.

NPC shall appoint regional communications administrators whose sole purpose is to facilitate communications between the state communication councils under their region and NPC.

NPC shall have the power to define which states constitute a region. It is the duty and responsibility of NPC to organize states into regions that promote democratic, expedient, and efficient communication and assign a regional communications representative for each region. Each state can only be organized into one region at a time.

New language added for the new section 4 to be as follows:

If deemed in the interest of a state communication council that their regional administrator is not carrying out their duties, a grievance may be issued by the communications council of the state through majority vote within the council.

If a grievance is successfully issued by the communications council of a state, NPC must establish a special elections commission to oversee the statewide grievance vote.

This grievance must then be ratified by the general membership of each local chapter within that state by majority vote.

If the grievance vote is passed by a majority of the local chapters of the state, it shall be mandated that NPC must appoint a taskforce to investigate the grievances to determine appropriate action. The taskforce must be comprised of members in good standing outside of the state in which the grievance was issued. Members of the task force must be impartial and therefore must recuse themselves if there is any conflict of interest.

The taskforce appointed shall have the authority to determine and implement appropriate action to resolve this grievance, including but not limited to the removal of regional administrators and the reassignment of state communication councils to another region. The taskforce does not have the authority to remove elected representatives within the state's communication council. The power to recall state representatives lies within the local chapters of their origin.

Number 16

Name(s) and Local(s) of those proposing the resolution who will serve as lead contact(s): Peg Strobel

The Rationale: Statement of why this amendment is being proposed (Motivation for the Amendment)

We are in a period of very rapid growth. I have felt since I joined the NPC in 2011 that “local” was not helpful. Now is a perfect time to make a change toward clearer language.

1. At the time of the merger, we chose to call out chapters “locals” in solidarity with unions. We had many active union members and, in some cases, high up in the leadership of unions. We are in a very different situation now. Union membership nationally has dropped precipitously. Although we have (and are proud of) our members who are active in unions in various capacities, we don’t have significant numbers of union leaders who are also DSA members.
2. As a result of the drop in union membership nationally (outside DSA), “local” has become, in my opinion, in-group language that can have the effect of making newcomers feel they are outsiders rather than that we are in solidarity with workers.
3. “Local” can be confusing and awkward in some cases: “The local campaign around racial justice...” Does this mean a campaign that is happening locally, or a campaign that the DSA chapter is leading or the chapter’s campaign?

Old Language in Constitution (if any)

New Language Where the Constitution and Bylaws refer to "Local" or Locals", meaning a chapter, or chapters, insert instead the word "Chapter" or "Chapters".

Where the Constitution and Bylaws refer to "Local" or Locals", meaning a chapter, or chapters, insert instead the word "Chapter" or "Chapters".

Number 17 Subsumed in #14

Number 18 Withdrawn

Number 19 Same as #20

Subsumed in #11

Number 20 Same as #19

Duplicate withdrawn

Number 21

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The Rationale: Statement of why this amendment is being proposed (Motivation for the Amendment)

Under this policy, national has the authority to place a local chapter in trusteeship under limited and serious circumstances. Typically, national DSA would conduct a hearing and have a vote of its executive board before imposing trusteeship. However, local chapters can make an emergency request, expediting

the process by imposing the trusteeship before the hearing is heard. Under a trusteeship a local chapter suspends its autonomy and gives authority to national.

New Language (To be inserted as a New Article XI with subsequent articles renumbered)

Article XI: Trusteeship

Under this policy, national has the authority to place a local chapter in trusteeship under limited and serious circumstances. Typically, national DSA would conduct a hearing and have a vote of its executive board before imposing trusteeship. However, local chapters can make an emergency request, expediting the process by imposing the trusteeship before the hearing is heard. Under a trusteeship a local chapter suspends its autonomy and gives authority to national. (a). Authority to impose trusteeships: When such a case arises that the NPC has reason to believe that, in order to protect the interests of the membership, it is necessary to appoint a Trustee for the purpose of correcting corruption, financial malpractice, or in the event where the democratic functions of a local organization has either broken down or become otherwise compromised they may appoint a Trustee to take charge and control of the affairs of a Local or of an affiliated body. Such appointment shall have the effect of removing the officers of the Local

A Local may be taken under trusteeship by the National Political Committee by a two-thirds majority vote of its members. The NPC shall be compelled to vote on a case of trusteeship should 10 or more members deliver a petition to the NPC calling for such a vote.

(b). Powers and duties of trustee; responsibility to president: The Trustee shall be authorized and empowered to take full charge of the affairs of the Local and its related funds, to remove any of its members and/or officers from that Local's board or any subordinate bodies (branches, committees, working groups, etc). They may appoint members to take charge of specific functions of the Local board or other subordinate bodies during their trusteeship. They will take these actions in the interest of protecting the interests of the local membership and pursuant to the goal of restoring the democratic functions of the Local and returning democratic control of the Local to the membership.

(c). Money, books, and property: Upon the institution of the trusteeship, all moneys, books and property of the Local shall be turned over to the Trustee. The Trustee shall be bonded for the faithful discharge of their duties relating to the handling of funds or other property of the Local DSA chapter.

(d). The Trustee shall report on the affairs/transactions of the Local DSA Chapter to the NPC National correspondent. The Trustee and all of the acts of the Trustee shall be subject to the supervision and direction of the NPC National correspondent. If a Trustee is found to be lapsed in any way in the execution of their duties in the judgement of the NPC, they may be removed and replaced at will by a new Trustee by a simple majority vote of the members of the NPC

. (e). Financial Responsibilities of Trustee: The Trustee shall take possession of all the funds, documents, signage, and other property of the Local DSA chapter. The Trustee shall pay all outstanding claims, properly proved, if funds are sufficient. When self-government is restored, the Trustee shall return all funds and other property to the duly elected Local board . If, however, the Local is dissolved by the revocation of its charter, then any balance remaining to the credit of the Local shall be forwarded to the National Secretary-Treasurer and shall become the property of DSA National.

(f). Procedure for imposing trusteeship; appointment of hearing officer; emergency trusteeship: In order to ensure that no trusteeship is imposed without an adequate right to be heard or without other appropriate safeguards, prior to the imposition of a trusteeship the NPC shall appoint a hearing officer or officers (who need not be a member or members of this organization), and shall issue a notice, which shall be distributed in a timely fashion, setting a time and place for a hearing, for the purpose of determining whether a Trustee should be appointed. Said hearing officer or officers shall issue a report and recommendations, in writing, to the NPC , who shall thereupon make their determination; provided that where in the judgment of the NPC an emergency situation exists within the Local

A Trustee may be appointed prior to a hearing; provided further that in an emergency situation, the NPC shall appoint a hearing officer or officers (who need not be a member or members of the organization) who shall conduct such a hearing within 30 days after imposition of the trusteeship, and a decision by the NPC shall be made within 60 days after the appointment of such Trustee. These time limits may be extended by the NPC for good cause which decision shall be final and binding. Pending the NPC decision, the trusteeship shall remain in full force and effect.

(g). Within 90 days of the successful appointment of a Local Trustee, an open and fair democratic election of the Local board by the members shall be held to restore the democratic functioning of that Local. Election rules shall be drafted by the Trustee, in consultation with the NPC, and submitted for a vote to the Local membership before an election can be held. Upon election of a new Local board, all responsibilities, records and funds shall be transferred back to the Local board within 60 days of their assuming office. All records of activity, financial or otherwise, shall be made available by the NPC to the Local board upon request.

(h). If, after 90 days, an emergency situation still exists that prevents the holding of an election, the NPC may extend this deadline by a further 90 days by a two-thirds majority vote of its members. The NPC shall be compelled to vote on a case of an extension should 10 or more members deliver a petition to the NPC calling for such a vote.