

# HAMMER & TONGS

INTERNAL DISCUSSION BULLETIN THE SOCIALIST PARTY USA

AUGUST 2017

## HAMMER & TONGS

*Hammer & Tongs* serves as the official discussion journal for SPUSA members. In the age of social media, e-mail lists and Facebook groups, waiting weeks for your article or opinion piece to be distributed might seem like eternity, but Hammer & Tongs still exists and you are welcome to submit articles.

If you would like to submit an article, please send it to [hammerandtongs@socialistparty-usa.org](mailto:hammerandtongs@socialistparty-usa.org)

## 2017 NATIONAL CONVENTION

The Socialist Party will hold our 2017 National Convention on October 20-22 in New York City

### Important Dates:

**July 15<sup>th</sup>:** Nominations for at-large delegates are mailed from the National Office. Nominations close August 15<sup>th</sup>.

**August 1 through Sept 4<sup>th</sup>:** Resolution submissions open

**Sept 1<sup>st</sup>:** Applications for travel support via the Bea Herman Travel Program close at 6pm ET

**Sept 4<sup>th</sup>:** Resolution submissions close at 6pm ET

**Sept 14<sup>th</sup>:** State/local delegation lists are due by 6pm ET

**Sept 14<sup>th</sup>:** Ballots for at-large delegate elections are due by 6pm ET

Up-to-date convention information can be found at:  
[www.socialistorganizing.org](http://www.socialistorganizing.org)

**Hammer & Tongs** in the official discussion bulletin of the Socialist Party USA. To submit articles (1500 words max and no personal attacks on other Party members), send them to [natsec@socialistparty-usa.org](mailto:natsec@socialistparty-usa.org) with H&T submission in the subject line or mail to SPUSA 168 Canal St 6<sup>th</sup> Fl NY, NY 10013  
**Next H&T deadline:** August 31, 2017

## MINUTES

### National Action Committee

May 15th, 2017

**Attending** (via e-mail): Stephanie Cholensky, Pat Noble, Lynn Lomibao, Greg Pason  
**Absent:** AJ Segneri

### Statement Proposal

**Motion** (Greg P.): To adopt the following statement by the People of Color Commission, entitled "Statement from the People of Color Commission on the Unequivocal Support of Immigrant Rights":

Following the recent reported uptick in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids against the immigrant community and in particular the Latino immigrant community the People of Color Commission of the Socialist Party USA reiterates our Party's steadfast commitment in support of people of color. The Socialist Party USA recognizes the intimate link between racism and capitalism and demands the elimination of all forms of discrimination in housing, jobs, education, health care, immigration, etc. We are committed to the creation of a pluralistic society that defends and promotes a multicultural/multiethnic presence in both the public and private spheres. The Socialist Party is committed to the eradication of racism. Owing to our uncompromising support of people of color regardless of their US documented status, the Socialist Party strongly condemns the ICE raids that have been taking place and are currently taking place in the United States. Our country continues to profit from the labor of immigrants, from the high tech sphere of Silicon Valley to the agricultural fields across America. The reality of the immigrant community in the labor force is one of long hours with below minimum wage pay or wage theft, no benefits, no health insurance and yet they contribute to the wealth of our communities. The Socialist Party is committed to the rights of communities of color regardless of an individual's birthplace, religions, education, socio-economic class or documented status. The Socialist Party will work collectively with grassroots groups, nonprofits and civil right law organizations to ensure that the undocumented community's rights are not violated, that deportations stop immediately and that a clear path to full citizenship is granted to people who live and work in the United States, a path that does not require military service. The Socialist Party defends the rights of all immigrants to an education, health care and full civil and legal rights and call for the following:

- Defend the rights of all immigrants to education, health care, and full civil and legal rights.
- An unconditional amnesty program for all undocumented people.
- An end to the privatization of prisons and detention centers.
- Support of refugees and aiding them in relocation, providing assistance, etc.
- Providing asylum to those who need it.
- Full citizenship upon demonstration of residency for six months.

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## Minutes continued...

- Oppose the militarization of the United States/Mexican border, and an increase in the service budget instead of the "military" budget of the INS.
- Oppose the imposition of any fees on those receiving amnesty.
- Call for an end to the use of "secret evidence" in deportation hearings, a ban on all immigration detentions and military tribunals, and full due process and habeas corpus rights in U.S. courts for all non-citizens on U.S. territory or in U.S. custody.
- Demand an end to police raids in areas where immigrants congregate. End to the privatization of detention centers.

The war on immigrants must end now.  
Forward in struggle,  
The People of Color Commission of the Socialist Party USA

## National Committee June 10th-11th, 2017

Meeting via videoconference

**Attending** (all or part): Stephanie Cholensky, Pat Noble, AJ Segneri, Lynn Lomibao, Arianna Norris, Stephanie Gussin, Holly Carpenter, Mimi Soltysik, Greg Pason, David Keil, Matt Erard

## SATURDAY SESSION

Meeting called to order at 11:05am ET

Seated: Stephanie C., Pat N., AJ S., Lynn L., Arianna N., Holly C., Mimi S., Greg P., David K.

## Governance

Pat N. reported on the resignation of Jen McClellan as Female Vice Chair and informed the National Committee that they are constitutionally able but not required to fill the vacancy for the duration of the term.

**Motion** (Greg P.): To leave the Female Vice Chair position vacant through the 2017 National Convention.  
Motion passed 5 yes (Pat N., AJ S., Lynn L., Holly C., Greg P.); 2 no (Mimi S., David K.); 2 abs (Stephanie C., Arianna N.)

Stephanie G. and Matt E. joined the meeting.

## National Office Report

Greg P. delivered the National Office report and answered questions.

## Executive Editor Report

Lynn L. delivered the Executive Editor report and answered questions.

AJ S. left the meeting.

**Motion** (Greg P.): Based on out-of-pocket costs relating to The Socialist, the National Committee waives the dues of the Executive Editor through October 2017.  
Motion passed 9 yes (Stephanie C., Pat N., Arianna N., Stephanie G., Holly C., Mimi S., Greg P., David K., Matt E.); 1 abs (Lynn L.)

Nine resolutions were included as part of the Executive Editor report:

**Motion** (Lynn L.): To remove Walter Beck from the Editorial Board.  
Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion** (Lynn L.): To add four new members to the Editorial Board with a specific call for members who are interested in curating content and performing Assignment Editor responsibilities. Applicants

will be asked to submit a writing sample and copy edit an article using AP style. Motion passed 9 yes (Stephanie C., Pat N., Lynn L., Stephanie G., Holly C., Mimi S., Greg P., David K., Matt E.); 1 abs (Arianna N.)

**Motion** (Lynn L.): To add an Art Director position to the Editorial Board. The Art Director will oversee the "branding" of The Socialist and perform graphic design responsibilities including, but not limited to, graphics for the website and social media channels and layout of the magazine.

**Amendment** (Mimi S.): To add "The National Secretary is directed to issue a call by June 17th via email and social media. The deadline for applications is August 1st and the position shall be filled by October 1st" . Accepted as friendly

**Motion** (as amended): To add an Art Director position to the Editorial Board. The Art Director will oversee the "branding" of The Socialist and perform graphic design responsibilities including, but not limited to, graphics for the website and social media channels and layout of the magazine. The National Secretary is directed to issue a call by June 17th via email and social media. The deadline for applications is August 1st and the position shall be filled by October 1st  
Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion** (Lynn L.): To add a Website Manager position to the Editorial Board. The Website Manager will perform responsibilities including, but not limited to, posting all new content, revising architecture as needed, implementing SEO, and managing/overseeing analytics.

**Amendment** (Mimi S.): To add "The National Secretary is directed to issue a call by June 17th via email and social media. The deadline for applications is August 1st and the position shall be filled by October 1st" . Accepted as friendly

**Motion** (as amended): To add a Website Manager position to the Editorial Board. The Website Manager will perform responsibilities including, but not limited to, posting all new content, revising architecture as needed, implementing SEO, and managing/overseeing analytics. The National Secretary is directed to issue a call by June 17th via email and social media. The deadline for applications is August 1st and the position shall be filled by October 1st. Motion passed 9 yes (Stephanie C., Pat N., Lynn L., Stephanie G., Holly C., Mimi S., Greg P., David K., Matt E.); 1 abs (Arianna N.)

**Motion** (Lynn L.): The National Action Committee is the governing body of the Editorial Board while the National Committee is not in session. The National Action Committee shall have the authority to add and remove Editorial Board members. Editorial Board members have the right to a hearing by the National Action Committee.

**Amendment** (Matt E.): To replace "have the right to" with "may request". Accepted as friendly

**Amendment** (Mimi S.): To replace "The National Action Committee is the governing body of the Editorial Board while the National Committee is not in session" with "In order to ensure Editorial Board accountability to Socialist Party membership, and in acknowledgment that the National Action Committee is the body that handles the day-to-day business of the Party," Accepted as friendly

**Amendment** (Pat N.): To add ", except for the Executive Editor." after "remove Editorial Board members". Accepted as friendly

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**Motion** (as amended): In order to ensure Editorial Board accountability to Socialist Party membership, and in acknowledgment that the National Action Committee is the body that handles the day-to-day business of the Party, the National Action Committee shall have the authority to add and remove Editorial Board members, except for the Executive Editor. Editorial Board members may request a hearing by the National Action Committee. Motion passed 7 yes (Stephanie C., Pat N., Lynn L., Stephanie G., Holly C., Mimi S., Matt E.); 1 no (David K.); 2 abs (Arianna N., Greg P.)

AJ S. joined the meeting.

**Motion** (Lynn L.): Editorial Board members are required to attend nine monthly meetings of the Editorial Board per year. Extenuating circumstances will be evaluated on a member basis. Motion passed 9 yes (Stephanie C., Pat N., AJ S., Lynn L., Arianna N., Stephanie G., Holly C., Mimi S., Matt E.); 1 no (David K.); 1 n/v (Greg P.)

**Motion** (Lynn L.): All Editorial Board members will participate in a self and peer evaluation at the end of every calendar year with the National Action Committee.

**Amendment** (Pat N.): To replace “with the National Action Committee” with “The National Action Committee will compile the results for the Editorial Board.” Accepted as friendly

**Motion** (as amended): All Editorial Board members will participate in a self and peer evaluation at the end of every calendar year. The National Action Committee will compile the results for the Editorial Board. Motion passed 10 yes (Stephanie C., Pat N., AJ S., Lynn L., Arianna N., Stephanie G., Holly C., Mimi S., Greg P., David K.); 1 abs (Matt E.)

**Motion** (Lynn L.): The National Committee shall write a mission statement for The Socialist.

**Motion** (Mimi S.): To table discussion to the beginning of Sunday’s agenda. Lynn L. will draft a mission statement for discussion on Sunday. Motion withdrawn

**Substitute** (Greg P.): To direct the Plan of Action Committee to include a mission statement for The Socialist in the Plan of Action document for the 2017 National Convention. Accepted as friendly

**Motion** (substitute): To direct the Plan of Action Committee to include a mission statement for The Socialist in the Plan of Action document for the 2017 National Convention. Motion passed 10 yes (Stephanie C., Pat N., AJ S., Lynn L., Arianna N., Stephanie G., Holly C., Mimi S., Greg P., David K.); 1 abs (Matt E.)

Adjourned for lunch from 2:15pm ET to 3:00pm ET

Seated: Stephanie C., Pat N., AJ S., Lynn L., Arianna N., Holly C., Mimi S., David K., Matt E.

Motion (Lynn L.): The responsibilities of the Executive Editor shall include:

1. Establish overall vision for The Socialist.
2. Maintain regular communication with the National Action Committee and National Committee by attending the bimonthly meetings of the National Action Committee and submitting monthly reports.
3. Actively solicit content for the website and magazine in various forms, particularly from women, people of color, LGBTQI+, disabled, and other marginalized or oppressed peoples both within and outside of the Party.
4. Establish editorial and operational processes with input from all Editorial Board members and continually monitor staffing needs and internal processes and suggest changes as needed.

5. Ensure that National Committee and National Action Committee statements are published in a timely fashion.
  6. Facilitate magazine editorial planning.
  7. Make formal calls for submissions within and outside the Party.
  8. Promote The Socialist online and in-person.
  9. Manage The Socialist Facebook page and manage/establish other social media channels as needed.
  10. Serve as technical backup to the Website Manager.
- Motion passed unanimously.

Greg P. and Stephanie G. joined the meeting. Stephanie C. left the meeting.

David K. presented six resolutions independent of the Executive Editor report.

Motion (David K.): The National Committee directs the Editor and Editorial Board to regularly publish editorials and articles in The Socialist and the Webzine to expose U.S. wars, acts of war, and threats of war. A core socialist obligation is to actively oppose imperialist war.

Amendment (Matt E.): To replace “directs” with “encourages”. Accepted as friendly

Motion (as amended): The National Committee encourages the Editor and Editorial Board to regularly publish editorials and articles in The Socialist and the Webzine to expose U.S. wars, acts of war, and threats of war. A core socialist obligation is to actively oppose imperialist war. Motion passed 6 yes (AJ S., Lynn L., Arianna N., Stephanie G., David K., Matt E.); 1 no (Pat N.); 2 abs (Holly C., Mimi S.); 1 n/v (Greg P.)

Pat N. requested the minutes reflect his no vote being based on a concern that the resolution infringes on the jurisdiction of the Anti-War Commission and International Relations Committee.

Greg P. left the meeting.

David K. withdrew one resolution due to it being addressed in the Executive Editor report resolutions.

Mimi S. requested that the remaining four resolutions from David K. be voted on as a group. No objections.

Motion (David K.): The National Committee encourages the Editor and Editorial Board to:

1. Solicit and publish material from all Plan of Action Commissions and other commissions.
2. Regularly cover local activities, starting by reaching out to locals, Local Organizers, and at-large members; and solicit suggestions from locals on topics to cover.
3. Give consideration to a letters-to-the-editor feature so that The Socialist and the Webzine will become a forum for lively discussion among readers and staff.
4. Ensure an inclusive, welcoming discussion atmosphere in the Editorial Board so that all members are encouraged to voice their concerns. Complaints or labels applied during discussion should be accompanied by specifics.

Motion passed 8 yes (AJ S., Lynn L., Arianna N., Stephanie G., Holly C., Mimi S., David K., Matt E.); 1 abs (Pat N.)

Adjourned for a break from 5:10pm ET to 5:30pm ET

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Seated: Pat N., AJ S., Lynn L., Arianna N., Stephanie G., Holly C., Mimi S., David K., Matt E.

### Treasury Report

Pat N. delivered the Treasury report and answered questions.

Mimi S. requested the minutes reflect Greg P.'s absence from the meeting and unawareness of the discussion taking place.

**Motion** (Mimi S.): To direct the National Secretary to write a check to Greg Pason by June 16th for \$500.00 as compensation for unpaid hours. The National Secretary shall present proof of receipt to the National Committee.

Motion passed unanimously.

Stephanie G. left the meeting. Stephanie C. joined the meeting.

**Motion** (Mimi S.): To direct the National Treasurer to conduct an analysis to determine the minimum membership level necessary to pay the National Secretary a \$15/hr salary at 40 hours per week and present the information to the next National Committee.

**Substitute** (Pat N.): To direct the National Treasurer to include a \$15/hr salary for the National Secretary in the FY2018 budget proposal and provide necessary backup information on the feasibility of this line item adjustment. This analysis will include information on revenue needed to sustain that pay rate. A fiscal responsibility study on current budget line items will also be included. Accepted as friendly

**Motion** (substitute): To direct the National Treasurer to include a \$15/hr salary for the National Secretary in the FY2018 budget proposal and provide necessary backup information on the feasibility of this line item adjustment. This analysis will include information on revenue needed to sustain that pay rate. A fiscal responsibility study on current budget line items will also be included. Motion passed unanimously.

Three resolutions were included as part of the Treasury report:

**Motion** (Pat N.): To direct the National Action Committee to research the cost and application of an automated dues renewal system. If a suitable and affordable program is found, the National Action Committee is authorized to purchase and implement the system on a trial basis through the end of FY2017. The system will be reviewed at the January 2018 National Committee meeting and, if deemed successful by the National Treasurer, may be included in the FY2018 budget proposal for consideration by the National Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion** (Pat N.): When mailing non-merchandise items to Party members, the National Office shall use USPS First Class Mail. If the mail item is returned or not delivered, the National Office will confirm the mailing address of the member before attempting to mail the item again via First Class Mail. Any member that requests or requires a mailing method above First Class Mail shall be required to pay the corresponding shipping cost before the item is mailed. Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion** (Pat N.): To authorize the National Treasurer, under guidance from the National Action Committee, to develop regular financial presentations to be disseminated to Party membership via interactive videoconferences. This initiative shall be done on a trial basis and will be reviewed by the January 2018 National Committee meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

### Plan of Action

**Motion** (Pat N.): To move the remaining Saturday agenda to Sunday morning. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm ET.

### SUNDAY SESSION

Seated: Stephanie C., Pat N., AJ S., Lynn L., Holly C., Mimi S., Greg P., David K., Matt E.

### Plan of Action

Anti-War – Greg P. reported

Arianna N. joined the meeting.

Labor/Living Wage – Greg P. reported

Ecosocialism – Mimi S. reported

AJ S. left the meeting.

Commissions / Committees

### Women's Commission

Stephanie C. reported on activities in the Womens Commission and answered questions.

Motion (Stephanie C.): To add a Womens Commission meeting for Sunday during lunch at the 2017 National Convention. The meeting will be listed on the convention agenda.

Motion passed unanimously.

Disability Rights Commission

Greg P. reported that the National Committee mail ballot on chartering a Disability Rights Commission failed due to a lack of quorum.

**Motion** (Greg P.): To charter the Disability Rights Commission and empower the National Action Committee to add and remove conveners. Motion passed 8 yes (Stephanie C., Lynn L., Arianna N., Holly C., Mimi S., Greg P., David K., Matt E.); 1 abs (Pat N.)

### LGBTQA+ Commission

Greg P. and Pat N. reported on difficulties establishing and making clear who the conveners of the LGBTQA+ Commission are.

**Motion** (Greg P.): The National Action Committee is empowered to add and remove LGBTQA+ Commission conveners. Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion** (Matt E.): The identity commissions are empowered to elect their own conveners.

**Amendment** (Greg P.): To add "Based on guidelines on reporting developed by the National Action Committee," Accepted as friendly

**Motion** (as amended): Based on guidelines on reporting developed by the National Action Committee, the identity commissions are empowered to elect their own conveners.

Motion passed 8 yes (Stephanie C., Lynn L., Arianna N., Holly C., Mimi S., Greg P., David K., Matt E.); 1 abs (Pat N.)

Stephanie G. joined the meeting.

**Motion** (Stephanie C.): At present, the identity commissions include the Womens Commission, People of Color Commission, and LGBTQA+ Commission. The National Secretary is directed to communicate with the Disability Rights Commission to determine

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whether their membership is exclusive to Party members with disabilities. If yes, the Disability Rights Commission shall be automatically recognized as an identity commission.

**Amendment (Greg P.):** To remove “The National Secretary is directed to communicate with the Disability Rights Commission to determine whether their membership is exclusive to Party members with disabilities. If yes, the Disability Rights Commission shall be automatically recognized as an identity commission.” and add “Disability Rights Commission” to the first sentence. Amendment withdrawn

**Motion (original):** At present, the identity commissions include the Womens Commission, People of Color Commission, and LGBTQA+ Commission. The National Secretary is directed to communicate with the Disability Rights Commission to determine whether their membership is exclusive to Party members with disabilities. If yes, the Disability Rights Commission shall be automatically recognized as an identity commission. Motion passed unanimously.

**AJ S. joined the meeting. Greg P. left the meeting.**

**Plan of Action (cont.):**

**Prison Industrial Complex –** AJ S. reported

#### **Electoral**

Matt E. delivered the Campaign Clearinghouse Coordinator report and answered questions.

Matt E. inquired on the National Action Committee decision to endorse Chelsea Rudstad. Pat N. read the National Action Committee resolution and gave context for the wording.

**Motion (Matt E.):** To nominate Chelsea Rudstad for Tumwater City Council and encourage inclusion of the Socialist Party platform in the campaign. Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion (Matt E.):** To retroactively nominate Chris DiLoretto for Peterborough Library Trustee for the purpose of listing campaign information and media on the Campaign Clearinghouse website. Motion passed 8 yes (Stephanie C., AJ S., Lynn L., Arianna N., Holly C., Mimi S., David K., Matt E.); 1 no (Pat N.); 1 abs (Stephanie G.)

Adjourned for lunch from 1:50pm ET to 2:45pm ET

**Seated:** Stephanie C., Pat N., AJ S., Lynn L., Arianna N., Holly C., Mimi S., Greg P., David K., Matt E.

#### **States & Locals**

Greg P. reported on the mid-year state and local reports and answered questions.

#### **Maine state charter request**

Greg P. reported that formal communication requesting a charter for a Socialist Party of Maine has been received from the Southern Maine and Eastern Maine locals. Pat N. reported on communication with Maine members and a concern that, since their state convention is scheduled for mid-July, they will not have a state delegation at the National Convention based on delegate weights being set on July 1st.

**Motion (Pat N.):** To charter the Socialist Party of Maine pending a state convention in July 2017 and election of a State Executive Committee. The state organization shall be recognized on July 1st for the sole purpose of delegate allocation for the 2017 National Convention .Motion passed unanimously.

#### **National Convention**

Greg P. reported on the items that require approval by the National Committee in preparation for the 2017 National Convention. Pat N. provided language passed by the previous National Committee for the 2015 National Convention as reference.

**Motion (Greg P.):** The draft rules for the 2017 National Convention shall be as follows:

1. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the seated delegates and shall remain in effect until the time set for the session to end.
2. No one shall be admitted to the floor without paying required fees. Alternates and observers are permitted on the convention floor. Observers may speak only at the pleasure of the body.
3. Each delegate and alternate must provide credentials of election and pay required fees.
4. Voting shall be by display of official red voting card.
5. Each state or local delegation shall designate a “delegate captain” who shall keep the convention secretary informed of any changes to the delegation due to the rotation of delegates and alternates, or for any other reason. The “delegate captain” shall be responsible for maintaining order and gender balance within her or his delegation.
6. The deadline for challenging the credentials of any delegate shall be 12:30pm on the first day of the convention, unless the delegate registers after that time.
7. Convention chairs shall be elected at the opening session of the Convention, two for each morning, afternoon and evening session. Convention chairs for each session shall be gender balanced, and will have a working knowledge of Robert’s Rules of Order.
8. Provisions shall be made at each session for hearing, vision and mobility impaired upon request.
9. A Peacekeeper and Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the Chair of the first session, and they shall appoint assistants as necessary.
10. The chair of the first session shall appoint two convention secretaries for each morning, afternoon and evening session.
11. The chair of the first session shall appoint four tellers who shall count votes and distribute written ballots as necessary.
12. Committees of the Convention shall be as follows:
  - a) Credentials
  - b) Constitution and Statement of Principles
  - c) Resolutions
  - d) Platform
13. Delegates are encouraged to join a convention committee when registering. Only seated delegates may vote at committee meetings.
14. The National Committee shall appoint the Credentials Committee.
  - a) The Credentials Committee determines the validity of delegate credentials and reports to the first session. Delegates and delegations may be challenged by a majority vote of the convention after the credentials committee report.
  - b) The Credentials Committee is directed to abide by the following Constitutional provision that “Any delegation which fails to achieve gender parity shall have the delegation’s total number of votes reduced to the size of a balanced delegation (the equal number of men and women, plus one) by the Credentials Committee, unless the Credentials Committee is persuaded that the state/local has made a good-faith effort to meet the gender requirements.”
  - c) The meetings of the Credentials Committee are open to observation by any SP member.
15. The convention committees shall elect their own conveners and recording secretaries.
16. The Convention shall determine the convention agenda, including then length of sessions and the time and location of convention committee meetings.
17. All resolutions, except procedural and congratulatory resolutions shall be in writing.

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18. Resolutions, constitutional and Statement of Principle amendments, and platform revisions are vetted through convention committees.

a) Convention committees decide whether a proposal is reported to the convention.

b) Proposals that have met the deadline for publication in the Convention Bulletin will have priority in committee; i.e. must be disposed of before other proposals are in order.

c) Proposals submitted after the Convention Bulletin deadline but before 3:00 pm Friday shall require a 2/3 vote by the appropriate committee for consideration by that committee.

d) The committee shall post (or otherwise distribute to the delegates) all resolutions by Saturday 9 am.

19. Proposed resolutions, constitutional and Principles amendments and platform revisions shall be considered by the Convention in the following order of priority:

a) Proposals published in the Convention Bulletin and reported out of convention committees.

b) Proposals not published in the Convention Bulletin, but reported out of the convention committee.

c) Committees shall prioritize the proposals they bring to the floor, keeping in mind the total amount of time allotted for discussion and voting.

20. Except as provided in the agenda, discussion from the floor shall be limited to two minutes by each speaker, but the Convention may limit or extend time by a 2/3 vote. No male delegate shall be recognized a second time until all delegates desiring to speak have had the opportunity to do so. Pro and con speakers shall alternate if possible.

21. The motion "Previous Question" shall be out of order at the end of one's own speech. No more than six total speakers unless waived by 2/3 vote of the convention.

22. Except where otherwise provided, voting shall be by a show of delegates' voting cards, except that when demanded by 1/3 of the delegates present and voting, the vote shall be by roll call. The Chair may call for a voice vote if no delegate objects.

23. Only those members in good standing who meet the qualifications set forth in the Constitution and who are present at the Convention, and who state their acceptance of a nomination for that office, or members not present who have submitted their acceptance of a nomination in writing, or members who shall be eligible for nomination as a national officer or national committee member or alternate.

24. The election for female NC members and alternates shall precede the election for male NC members and alternates.

25. The procedure for the election of co-chairs and vice chairs shall be determined by the convention at the time of the election.

26. The election of National Committee members and alternates shall be signed. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected as National Committee members. The next highest vote-getters equal in number to those elected to the National Committee shall be elected as alternates.

a) The number of National Committee members shall be decided by the convention.

27. No motions are in order while tellers are counting votes.

28. A two-thirds majority is needed to amend the Statement of Principles.

29. The Convention shall be governed by the Constitution of the Socialist Party USA and Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised by default unless another system is decided by the convention.

30. These rules (not including the Constitution of the Socialist Party USA) may be suspended by a majority vote during the first session of the Convention. After that time, they may be suspended by a 2/3 vote of the delegates present and voting. Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion** (David K.): To create a committee to review the Statement of Principles, Party Platform, and Constitution before the convention, with one rep per local, organized like the Plan of Action Committee. At the convention, this committee would hand off their work to the respective committees. Motion withdrawn

**Motion** (Pat N.): To direct the National Secretary to setup an online discussion forum for reviewing and discussing pre-submitted convention resolutions. The rules of conduct for the Facebook Members Only discussion group shall apply to this forum. Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion** (Greg P.): To instruct the National Secretary to create a tab on the national website by August 1st, 2017 through September 4th, 2017, titled "2017 National Convention Resolution Submission" that links to a formstack where membership has the ability to submit proposed Convention resolutions, constitutional amendments, and principles and platform changes for the October 2017 National Convention. The National Secretary shall collect and store the proposed resolutions for inclusion in the Pre-Convention Discussion Bulletin. Once submissions are entered into the formstack database, the submissions are not reversible until the 2017 National Convention. Submissions submitted during this period must be reviewed by the resolutions, constitution, or principles/platform committee. Submissions received after September 4th must be brought to the convention by the delegate making the proposal and are not guaranteed to be reviewed by the convention committees. Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion** (Greg P.): The registration rate for the National Convention shall be set at \$30 for delegates and alternates.

Motion passed 9 yes (Stephanie C., AJ S., Lynn L., Arianna N., Holly C., Mimi S., Greg P., David K., Matt E.), 1 no (Pat N.)

**Motion** (Mimi S.): To direct the National Action Committee to develop a travel program called the Bea Herman Travel Program to help contribute towards the expenses of delegates in need. This program will be passed by the NAC by June 25th and will make a diligent effort to help members in a timely fashion. Motion passed unanimously.

Arianna N. left the meeting.

**Motion** (Greg P.): Delegate names must be received by the National Office by September 14th, 2017 at 6:00pm ET. Each local may submit as many alternates as they wish. The National Office will create a credentials form which will be mailed to state organizations and local organizations in states without charters. The form will also be downloadable from the Party's website. Delegate lists must be signed by the state/local chair, a co-chair, or secretary. All delegation changes made after September 14th at 6:00pm ET must be brought directly to the credentials committee at the convention. Motion passed unanimously.

Arianna N. joined the meeting.

**Motion** (Pat N.): The National Committee believes that Article VIII, Section 3(b)(ii) of the Party Constitution, "unless the Credentials Committee is persuaded that the state/local has made a good faith effort to meet the gender requirements." is inclusive of delegations that include non-binary delegates and requests the Credentials Committee to take this into account when credentialing delegations.

**Amendment** (Mimi S.): To replace "requests" with "directs". Accepted as friendly

**Motion** (amended): The National Committee believes that Article VIII, Section 3(b)(ii) of the Party Constitution, "unless the Credentials Committee is persuaded that the state/local has made a good faith effort to meet the gender requirements." is inclusive of delegations that include non-binary delegates and directs the Credentials Committee to take this into account when credentialing delegations. Motion passed 9 yes (Stephanie C., Pat N., AJ S., Lynn L., Arianna N., Holly C., Mimi S., Greg P., David K.), 1 no (Matt E.)

6Stephanie G. joined the meeting.

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**Motion** (Greg P.): The National Action Committee will establish at-large delegate regions that are contiguous. A call for nominations will be sent out on July 15th via mail and e-mail. Nominations must be accepted by August 10th via formstack or hard copy. The acceptance verification must include the member's name, city, state, contact information, and up to two paragraphs on why they want to serve. Elections will take place on August 20th via mail and email and are must be received by the National Office by September 14th at 6:00pm ET via mail or formstack. The National Secretary will post nominations received via e-mail to confirm the receipt of all nominations.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion** (Pat N.): To direct the National Action Committee to develop and host videoconferences for Party membership to explain the convention process. The information presented will also be made available on the convention website.  
Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion** (Greg P.): To direct the National Action Committee to organize the convention journal.  
Motion passed unanimously.

Greg P. left the meeting.

### **New Business**

Matt E. inquired on the status of the National Constitution Review Committee. Pat N. reported that four applications for the ten-person committee were received by the deadline, three of which were for the same region seat. As a result, the National Action Committee did not believe the committee could function as intended by the 2015 National Convention.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm ET.

### **National Action Committee**

July 6th, 2017

**Attending:** Stephanie Cholensky, Pat Noble, AJ Segneri, Lynn Lomibao, Greg Pason  
**Absent:** None

Meeting called to order at 10:00pm ET

### **Waiver Requests**

6 pending waiver requests were reviewed by the NAC: (#1) Donald Adams of Austin, TX; (#2) Laura Lotz of Seabeck, WA; (#3) Chandler Ridley of Trussville, AL; (#4) Lorraine Baker of Virginia Beach, VA; (#5) Valerie Liesenfelt of Springfield, IL; (#6) Francis DeRhone of Ocala, FL

Waiver request #1 – Approved unanimously

Waiver request #2 – Approved unanimously

Waiver request #3 – Approved unanimously

Waiver request #4 – Approved unanimously

Waiver request #5 – Approved unanimously

Waiver request #6 – Approved unanimously

### **Local Organizers**

No pending waiver requests at the time of this meeting.

### **States & Locals**

**Northern Indiana** – Pending a meeting with the National Secretary to review Socialist Party roles & responsibilities.

### **Commissions/Committees**

**Workshop Committee** – The NAC reviewed five appointment applications for the Workshop Committee.

**Motion** (Greg P.): To appoint Mary Loritz to the Workshop Committee. Motion passed 4 yes (Stephanie C., AJ S., Lynn L., Greg P.); 1 no (Pat N.)

### **Disability Rights Commissions**

**Motion** (Greg P.): The NAC affirms the current Co-Chairs of the Disability Rights Commission are Andy O'Nan and Richard Wolff.  
Motion passed unanimously.

### **Plan of Action**

Greg P. reported that recommendations from the Anti-War Commission and Labor/Living Wage Commission on their next Chair/Convener is still pending.

### **National Convention**

**Motion** (Pat N.): To designate the at-large delegate regions for the 2017 National Convention as follows:  
Mid-West: Indiana at-large, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota at-large, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin  
Northeast: Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts at-large, New Hampshire, New York at-large, Pennsylvania at-large, Rhode Island, Vermont  
West: Alaska, Colorado at-large, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming  
Southeast: Alabama at-large, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky at-large, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina at-large, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia  
Southwest: Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas  
Motion passed unanimously.

Greg P. asked for clarification on the six month membership rule for delegate eligibility.

**Motion** (Pat N.): To be eligible to serve as a convention delegate, a member must have been a continuous member for six month preceding the convention with no break in good standing status or, if applicable, monthly dues payments during that time.  
Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion** (Pat N.): The parameters of the Bea Herman Travel Fund for the 2017 National Convention shall be as follows:  
1. Applicants may request a maximum of \$200 in financial support for travel expenses.  
2. Applicants must be registered to attend the National Convention and paid the \$30 registration fee before applying for travel support.  
3. Applicants must be paid and registered delegates to be eligible for travel support.  
4. As the fund consists solely of donations, the full amount requested by each applicant cannot be guaranteed. The National Action Committee will make every effort to disperse the funds equitably with priority given to non-white and non-male delegates, as well as special consideration to regional representation.  
5. Applications are due by September 1st at 6pm ET.  
Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00pm ET

## National Action Committee

July 18th, 2017

**Attending:** Pat Noble, AJ Segneri, Lynn Lomibao, Greg Pason

**Absent:** Stephanie Cholensky

Meeting called to order at 10:00pm ET

### Waiver Requests

# pending waiver requests were reviewed by the NAC: (#1) Jazzy Osborn of Bangor, ME; (#2) Sheila Malone of Farmingdale, ME; (#3) Anthony Miles of Orono, ME; (#4) Camille Liedtka of Orono, ME

Waiver request #1 – Approved unanimously

Waiver request #2 – Tabled

Waiver request #3 – Approved unanimously

Waiver request #4 – Approved unanimously

Pat N. will communicate with the Maine SEC for clarifying information on the tabled waiver request and report back to the NAC.

### Local Organizers

No pending Local Organizer applications at the time of this meeting.

Pat N. reported on a Facebook post made by the “Olympic Peninsula Socialist Party” in support of several non-partisan candidates in and outside of the Local Organizer jurisdiction.

**Motion** (Pat N.): To direct Kyler LaViollette, Local Organizer for the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State, to rescind all endorsements and statements of support for candidates made in the Socialist Party’s name and make sure the candidates are not listing the Socialist Party as an endorsement on their campaign websites. This directive will be carried out no later than July 25th, 2017. Motion passed unanimously.

Greg P. requested that the minutes reflect that Kyler L. has previously been communicated with about the constitutionality of endorsements from chartered locals.

Greg P. requested that the following National Committee resolution from January 2016 be read into the minutes:

**Motion** (Mimi S/ Pat N): If a member of the SPUSA endorses and event or signs paperwork as an officer of a SPUSA Local that does not exist, that members will be suspended for one month for the first incident, 6 months for the second incident and indefinitely for the third incident, pending review of the National Action Committee. In each instance, a hearing with the NAC will be conducted within one week of the infraction.

### States & Locals

Maine – Pat N. reported on the founding convention for the Socialist Party of Maine that took place on July 16th. Greg P. reported that convention minutes and a list of elected SEC officers has not been received at the time of the meeting.

Boston local – Pat N. reported on a meeting with Boston LEC members on July 17th.

Northern Indiana – Greg P. reported that members in Northern Indiana have submitted a valid local charter application request and a meeting was held with the new Local Executive Committee to review Socialist Party roles & responsibilities.

**Motion** (Greg P.): Based on the valid charter application submitted to the National Office and successful completion of a meeting with the National Secretary to review Socialist Party roles & responsibilities, the National Action Committee certifies that all requirements for a local charter have been met and hereby charters the Northern Indiana Socialist Party with a jurisdiction of Lake, Porter La Porte, St Joseph, Elkhart, Lagrange, Steuben, Marshall, De Kalb and Allen counties. Motion passed unanimously.

Illinois – Greg P. reported that convention minutes from the Socialist Party of Illinois’ April state convention have not been received at the time of the meeting. AJ S. will send them to the National Office.

Greg P. requested that the minutes reflect confirmation from AJ S. (as Illinois State Co-Chair) that the Illinois State Secretary, Gregory Lucero, is openly refusing to communicate with the National Office.

Chicago local – Greg P. reported on a phone conference with the Chicago local on roles & responsibilities and the upcoming National Convention.

### National Convention

Greg P. reported that the National Committee did not set a deadline for nomination forms to serve as an at-large delegate to the National Convention.

**Motion** (Greg P.): All nomination forms to serve as an at-large delegate to the 2017 National Convention are due to the National Office by August 15th, 2017 at 6pm ET. Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion** (Pat N.): The observer rate for the 2017 National Convention shall be set at \$20 for members in good standing and \$40 for non-members.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30pm ET.

