

# The Organizer

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY USA NATIONAL OFFICE

JULY 2013



## JOIN THE SPUSA FOR SOCIALIST SUMMER!

This summer the Party will coordinate a "Socialist Summer 2013" activist campaign. As part of this campaign, the Party's National Committee is asking local and state Party organizations to work on one of the following issues:

- **Youth and Student Organizing**
- **Environmental Issues**
- **40th Anniversary of the SPUSA's Reconstitution**

**plus**

- **one local issue campaign**

Activist campaigns can be an opportunity for locals across the U.S. to coordinate actions and for the Party to prioritize our energy and focus.

The National Office will help provide materials and support, but we need your state and local to adopt a campaign and organize around it.

The Socialist Summer 2013 website will list events and reports will be posted to the Party's "Locals in Action" Blog. [www.socialistparty-usa.net/socialist-summer-2013.html](http://www.socialistparty-usa.net/socialist-summer-2013.html)  
[www.socialistparty-usa.net/locals-in-action-blog.html](http://www.socialistparty-usa.net/locals-in-action-blog.html)

Keep us up-to-date of your activities and which campaigns you're working on. E-mail the National Office at [natsec@socialistparty-usa.org](mailto:natsec@socialistparty-usa.org)

## RESPONSE TO GEORGE ZIMMERMAN TRIAL



By Kay T. Liberato

*I had just left my uncle's store with some friends. A friend of mine saw a passing police car and waved at the officers. The cop car stopped and backed up, with the lights on. The officers pulled up with their high beams directed at us. They hopped out of the car. The white officers forced us to turn around and spread our legs. He then took his night stick and ran it up our legs making sure to tap each of us in the crotch area. "How old are you son?" "I'm 13" I said. The officer went on to tell me about how I was already a trouble maker. I remember turning my head towards him ... and then he hit me with his baton. My friends suddenly turned around. The officer, in a panic, drew his weapon. It was at this point that we became aware that we were completely powerless.*

When I think about what happened to Trayvon I remember how easily that police officer could have killed us. And the judicial system would not have done a thing. I tell this story because many People of Color experience white supremacy at a young age. So, many of us are aware of just how much society values us.

People of Color and those who are true allies are right to feel a sense of outrage. We should feel anger. And we have a right to feel a sense of betrayal and heartbreak when this society rebukes our humanity and dignity, as it has done with the horrific acquittal of George Zimmerman.

The Organizer is the newsletter of the Socialist Party USA National Office. Subscriptions are free to members and sustainers. For bulk copies contact the SPUSA National Office at 339 Lafayette St. #303 New York, NY 10012. The Editor is Greg Pason, National Secretary.

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## Socialist Party USA Points of Agreement

*The following points represent the key ideas of agreement of the Socialist Party USA.*

- 1) The Socialist Party is a democratic socialist organization. We see socialism as a new social and economic order in which workers and consumers control production and community residents control their neighborhoods, homes and school and the production of society is used for the benefit of all humanity, not the private profit of a few..
- 2) We see the working class as in a key and central position to fight back against the ruling class and its power. The working class is the major force worldwide that can lead the way to a socialist future – to a real radical democracy from below.
- 3) We stand in opposition to all forms of oppression including but not limited to racism, sexism and homophobia.
- 4) We are a “multi-tendency” organization. We orient ourselves around our principles and develop a common program, but our members have various underlying philosophies and views of the world. Therefore we reject vanguardism and democratic centralism.
- 5) We advocate for independent political action outside the Democratic and Republican parties.
- 6) Our tactics in the struggle for radical democratic change reflects our ultimate goal of a society founded on principles of egalitarian, non-exploitative and non-violent relations among all people and between all peoples.

## SPUSA ANNUAL DUES RATES

### Based on Net Income

- (under \$20k) base rate: \$33.00 or sliding scale up to \$78.00  
(\$20k-\$35k) base rate: \$78.00 or sliding scale up to \$153.00  
(\$35k-\$50k) base rate: \$153.00 or sliding scale up to \$275.00  
(\$50k-\$65k) base rate: \$275 plus 1% of net income between \$50,000 - \$65,000/ yr  
(over \$65k) base rate: \$425 plus 2% of net income over \$65k

Make checks or money orders payable to "Socialist Party USA"  
[www.socialistparty-usa.net/join-us-or-renew.html](http://www.socialistparty-usa.net/join-us-or-renew.html)  
Socialist Party USA 339 Lafayette St. #303 NY, NY 10012

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Socialist Party USA National Convention!**

**October 25 -27 2013 in New York, NY**

[www.socialistparty-usa.net/2013-national-convention.html](http://www.socialistparty-usa.net/2013-national-convention.html)

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c/o Socialist Party USA  
339 Lafayette St. #303  
New York, NY 10012

## Response continued

We should feel even more hurt and betrayal at our “progressive” and “Leftist” friends who have sided with white supremacy in telling us what we should feel and why we should not feel what we feel. None of us can feel more hurt and passion unabated than the family of Trayvon Martin and the families of those who have experienced similar loss. We can only “lift them up” in prayer, in thought, in consciousness, and in power.

The call for Justice for Trayvon was initially about the people pleading and hoping our society’s legal institution would actually prove that our Color would not impede justice from being done. We were hoping that the judicial system would find a killer guilty, because it would assure us that justice could be done by a system historically designed to oppress the Darker Peoples. But this was not the case.

The question is “Where do we go from here?” This trial -- and the outrage from the verdict -- has been like a strike of lightning to the consciousness of many young People of Color. Like a flash of lightning, it has briefly lit up the dark skies of our society and revealed a broader field of social struggle. We see the consciousness work that must be done to enlighten many of our friends and ourselves to fully explicate the entangled roots -- the rhizomatic nature of White Supremacy, Capitalism (human exploitation), and Patriarchy.

As Leftists we cannot hope to build any meaningful movement unless we sincerely make racial justice the center of our project. American society is founded on Racism. And racism isn’t just perpetrated by political and economic functionaries. It is mostly perpetrated by our friends and neighbors who deny its existence or downplay its importance.

## SOCIALISTS ORGANIZE IN MISSISSIPPI!

The Party is happy to announce a new local “SPUSA SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI”!

The newly chartered Mississippi Local is the first Local in Mississippi in over two decades! Welcome comrades!

## NATIONAL OFFICE VIDEO UPDATES

Starting in June, the National Office will be posting 10 minute Party updates on-line. This will be an opportunity for members to hear about campaigns, announcement and upcoming events. The videos will be posted on the National Office webpage, Facebook and on youtube.