

THE ORGANIZER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY USA NATIONAL OFFICE

NOVEMBER 2009

Socialist Party USA Holds 2009 National Convention

On the weekend of October 9-11th the Socialist Party USA held our 2009 National Convention. Just under one hundred delegates, alternates and observers attended all or part of the convention meetings, dinner or Friday night forum.

Delegates discussed resolutions and amendments to the platform, principles and constitution as well as electing a new National Committee. The new National Committee is the most youthful and diverse in decades, a good sign for the future.



Elected were:

Co-Chairs: Andrea Pason and Billy Wharton
Vice-Chairs: Diana Demers and Jim Sanders

National Committee (Female) Sally Joyner, Kristin Schall, Stephanie Cholensky, Susan Dorazio, Sarah McLean and Steve Tash (Male) Rafael Thurin, Greg Pason, Matthew Andrews, Peter Moody, Zelig Stern and Larry Burks

Alternates (Female) Stephanie Gussin, Gretchen Van Dyck, Mal Herbert, Doris Lake, Tessa Salo and Alice Kelsey (Male) Jerry Stastny, Amilcar Navarro, Marc Luzietti, Brandon Collins, Steve Sears and Art Kazar

The Party hosted a full house for our forum on Friday night. The forum titled "Building Solidarity Across Racial, Gender and Sexual Boundaries" featured New Jersey civil rights activist Toy-Ling Washington along with SPUSA members Amilcar Navarro, Jim Sanders and Susan Dorazio

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Looking Forward to 2010

by Greg Pason, National Secretary

The Party has every reason to be encouraged after the 2009 convention, a new NC, new locals and a general sense of optimism in our party's future. We'd like to continue the progress and we need your help to make it happen. To be successful we need rank-n-file support for our work and membership involvement in campaigns, locals and commissions.

Some ways to get involved in the Party include:

Join a Commission

Commissions are a way for us to coordinate our work within social movements. The SP currently has the following commissions:

Labor – contact Zelig at stern.zelig@gmail.com.

People of Color- contact Erik at ectoren@gmail.com

Women – contact natsec@socialistparty-usa.org

International- contact Peter Moody at moodyp@lafayette.edu

Faith - contact natsec@socialistparty-usa.org

Queer (LGBT)- contact Jim at jimsanders954@yahoo.com

Help build your Local

If you are unsure of where your local meets or want info on how to build a local organization in your area, contact the National Office. There is a directory of local and state organizations on the Party's website at: www.socialistparty-usa.org/contacts.html

Distribute The Socialist & SPUSA Literature

Contact the National Office for a bundle. Call us at 212-982-4586 or e-mail natsec@socialistparty-usa.org.

There will be many actions in 2010. March anti-war actions, International Women's Day, May Day, and the summer US Social Forum. Along with these events the Party will be hosting a Summer Organizing Conference. The location will be decided in early 2010 and we'll keep you up-to-date, but if your local is interested in hosting contact the National Office for info.

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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 100 S12. The Editor is Greg Pason, National Secretary.

Convention continued...

The and was co-chaired by Andrea Pason and Stephanie Gussin of the Northern New Jersey Local.



Friday night convention forum

Saturday and Sunday were spent focused on resolutions, platform, principles and constitutional amendments, with minor changes to the principles and platform, affirmation of our work on healthcare and two changes to the Party's constitution. The changes to the constitution included changing the good-standing period for membership from 6 months to 3 months beyond expiration date and simplifying the presidential nomination process so that a simple convention majority (50% +1) is needed for the party to run a presidential ticket.

On Saturday delegates and observers attended the convention dinner which was held in the lounge of a Spanish Tappas Bar in the Ironbound section of Newark. Attendees discussed politics, sang a couple songs. The Party also held its convention raffle (Wendy Herdman of the Central VA Local won!) and gave out the convention also gave out the following awards:

Jimmy & Jenny Higgins Volunteer Awards
Jesse Heiwa (NY) and Jane Newton (VT)

Irv Koth Youth Award
Zelig Stern (NY) and Kristin Schall (NY)

Ann Rosenhaft Local Organizer Award
Brandon Collins (VA) and Sally Joyner (TN)

At the post-convention National Committee the NC elected/re-elected Greg Pason as National Secretary, Jerry Stastny as Treasurer and Billy Wharton as Editor. Also elected were new Commission chairs, Peter Moody for the International Commission, Jim Sander for the Queer Commission, Erik Toren for the People of Color Commission and Zelig Stern for the Labor Commission. The Faith Commission and Women's Commission both retained their charters but are looking for new chairs.

Convention minutes will be on-line soon.

Looking Forward continued..

The Party will also organize a phone conference in December for local and commission reps. to discuss these actions and help coordinate our work. If you want to call in, contact the N.O. after Thanksgiving for the date, time and call-in information. SPUSA Co-Chairs Andrea Pason and Billy Wharton will convene the meeting. This will be the first of a few of these phone conferences and we hope we can get reps from all the locals and commissions to attend.

Finally we need you to renew your membership for 2010. If your membership has expired or will expire by the end of the year, renewing now would really help. The Party relies on your membership dues and contributions to keep us going. You can renew on-line or by mail. To renew on-line go to: www.socialistparty-usa.org/joinus/paydues.html or renew by mail by sending your payment to the National Office at: SPUSA 339 Lafayette St. #303 NY, NY 10012.

Dues rates based on net income
under \$20k: base rate: \$30.00 or sliding scale up to \$75.00
btwn \$20k-\$35k: *base rate* \$75.00 or sliding scale up to \$150.00
btwn \$35k-\$50k: *base rate* \$150.00 or sliding scale up to \$270.00
btwn \$50k-\$65k: *base rate* \$270 plus 1% of net income between \$50,000 - \$65,000/ yr
over \$65k: *base rate* \$420 plus 2% of net income over \$65,000/ yr

Make checks or money orders payable to "Socialist Party USA"

For news, statements, meeting announcements and more, check out the Party's website at: www.socialistparty-usa.org. Also check out the webzine at: www.socialistwebzine.blogspot.com

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