

# THE ORGANIZER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY USA NATIONAL OFFICE

NOVEMBER 2011

## Socialist Party USA National Convention



The Socialist Party held an exciting and well attended 2011 national convention on October 14-16 in Los Angeles California. Our host city, Los Angeles, is home to one of the most active and fastest growing locals in the Party and their energy and enthusiasm were contagious.

From Friday through Sunday, delegates took part in committee discussions, floor debates and had the opportunity to discuss and amend the national platform and constitution. The convention passed resolutions on reorganizing the Young Peoples Socialist League (YPSL), anti-war activism and the Occupy Wall Street movement as well as helping to bring focus to the Party's vision for the next two years.

Speaking of the Occupy Wall St. movement, many of the delegates had the chance to join Los Angeles comrades at Occupy Los Angeles on Friday night and share reports on the Occupy! Movement at our convention banquet which was held on Saturday evening.

The highlight of the convention was, of course, the presidential nomination. This year the Party chose two very qualified candidates to represent us in the 2012 presidential elections. Stewart Alexander of California and Alex Mendoza of Texas. Stewart and Alex both faced very qualified candidates during the nomination, Jerry Levy of Vermont also stood as a candidate for president and Neal Gammil of Tennessee also stood as vice-president.

As with every convention, the delegates elected new co-chairs, co-vice chairs national committee members and alternates. Elected were:

**Co-Chairs:** Stephanie Cholensky and Billy Wharton

**Vice-Chairs:** Vivian Nelson-Melle and Mimi Soltysik

**National Committee** (order of election)

**Female:** Kim Ortiz , Kristin Schall, Lynn Lomibao, Stephanie Adames, Veronica Nowakowski, Stephanie Gussin

**Male:** Greg Pason, Justin Simons, Matthew Andrews, Larry Rockwood, Steve Sears, Larry Burks

**Alternates** (in order of election)

**Female:** Melanie Clarke, Candice Hare, Doris Lake, Brandy Baker, Angela Sarlay, Alice Kelsey

**Male:** Peter Moody, Neal Gammil, Nick Pehlman, Brian Valverde, Albert Westpy, Brandon Collins

*Continued on page 2*

## Bring the Stewart Alexander/Alejandro Mendoza Campaign to Your State



Recently, Stewart Alexander was nominated for president by the Socialist Party USA and Alejandro Mendoza was nominated as vice president; now the Stewart Alexander for President Campaign is asking all Socialist Party chapters and state locals to help bring our candidates to your state.

Socialist Party candidates do not have the big financial backing like the candidates representing the two corporate parties. Therefore, by working together, we can reach millions of voters, across the nation as we approach Election Day 2012. This is how you can join-in and help bring our SP candidates to your state. First, Alexander and Mendoza are working people, so it is important to plan ahead for their visit to your state. Second, Alexander will begin visiting states in early January 2012; therefore, for a January visit to your state you must begin planning as soon as possible. Third, the National Campaign Committee with need for your state chapter or local to cover much of the basic cost: round-trip airfare, housing, food and ground transportation. To cover this basic travel cost, a \$500 contribution to the campaign will generally be necessary at this time. Providing shelter or transportation directly may reduce this cost.

This is subject to change dependent upon the amount of financial support we receive in donations.

While the candidates are available to your local, you should try to use them to the best of your ability. Try to find places they can speak at, take them out to your local Occupy movement, and consider holding a 50-50 fundraiser to benefit both the campaign and the local.

Marilyn Peters is the travel, transportation and scheduling coordinator for our two candidates, so please do not contact the candidates directly to make travel arrangement.

*Continued on page 2*

## Election Day 2011 Report

The Socialist Party congratulates Brandon Collins and Pat Noble on their campaigns this fall.

Brandon Collins, who ran for a seat on the Charlottesville, VA City Council ended up getting 8% of the votes in a seven candidate race for 3 seats w/ winners getting 24%.

Pat Noble ended up getting about 1,400 votes for Monmouth county (NJ) Freeholder. Pat, at 18 yrs old, was the youngest candidate in the race. Great job comrades!

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.

## Convention continued...

The Party also gave out our annual awards. This year's Ann Rosehaft Local Organizing Awards went to Melanie Clarke of the Memphis Local and Mimi Soltysik of the Los Angeles Local. The Erv Koth Youth Awards went to Kim Ortiz of the NYC Local and Justin Simons of the Los Angeles Local.

At the post convention National Committee meeting, Kristin Schall was named temporary Editor (though the January 2012 NC meeting), Steve Rossignol was named archivist, Greg Pason elected as National Secretary and Jerry Stastny will continue as Treasurer. The NC decided to put out a call for candidates for Editor and Treasurer (Kristin and Jerry are welcome to apply as are all other SPUSA member). Matt Erard was elected Campaign Clearinghouse coordinator of the SNC.

The Party has a lot of work over the next two years and we look forward to working with all members in all of our locals and at-large areas.

## Alexander/Mendoza Campaign continued....

You may contact Marilyn Peters at [spusa.california@ca.rr.com](mailto:spusa.california@ca.rr.com) or to write and make travel arrangements, contact: Stewart Alexander for President, Attn: Marilyn Peter, 40485 Murrieta Hot Springs Road, #149, Murrieta, CA 92563.

In most situations, the candidates will be traveling separately, so please indicate your request for Stewart Alexander or Alex Mendoza for travel arrangement. Alex Mendoza speaks fluent Spanish; so for a bilingual presentation, please arrange a visit with Mendoza. Best travel days for Alexander will be on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

Remember, this is not our candidate's campaign and it is not the Socialist Party's campaign; this is our campaign and we must succeed together. We are looking forward to our candidates visiting your state chapter and locals.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>: Global Day of Action for Migrant Rights - The Socialist Party has endorsed actions around the Global Day of Action for Migrant Rights.** More info will be posted on the Party's website.

**January 28-29, 2012: Socialist Party National Committee Meeting - Dallas, TX**

**February 1, 2012: Deadline for Hammer & Tongs** – send articles (1500 word max- no personal attacks on other members) to [natsec@socialistparty-usa.org](mailto:natsec@socialistparty-usa.org) or SPUSA/H&T 339 Lafayette St. #303 NY, NY 10012

**Keep your membership up-to-date! You can renew on-line:** [www.socialistpartyusa.org/joinus/paydues.html](http://www.socialistpartyusa.org/joinus/paydues.html) or by mail: SPUSA 339 Lafayette St. #303 NYC 101012

## The Organizer

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New York, NY 10012

## Occupy Wall Street!

Socialist Party members (either as individuals or as part of their locals) have been active in the "Occupy Wall St! Movement since day one. After sharing experiences and discussing tactics at our National Convention, the Party passed the following resolution.

### The Socialist Party decides:

1. To participate enthusiastically in the Occupy movement, learning from it and offering it our best efforts.
2. To organize coordination of SP locals and members active in this movement
3. To encourage members of the SP locals to participate in decision-making bodies of their local Occupy groups.
4. To support continued growth and empowerment of horizontal democratic structures in the Occupy movement.
5. To encourage SP members and locals to consider facilitating, encouraging, and participating in acts of nonviolent civil disobedience and direct action.
6. To support currently developing communication among Occupy sites.
7. To support SP participation in ongoing development of local Occupy statements of purpose.
8. To provide teach-ins supporting the ideas inherent in our statements of principles and platform.

Send your Occupy! Reports and photos to the National Office at [natsec@socialistparty-usa.org](mailto:natsec@socialistparty-usa.org) so we can post them in The Socialist and on our Occupy Wall St. webpage at: [www.socialistparty-usa.org/occupywallstreet.html](http://www.socialistparty-usa.org/occupywallstreet.html)



The Socialist Party USA is putting out a call for candidates to fill open positions. These are all volunteer positions and will be filled by the National Committee or National Action Committee.

**The following positions are now open and will be filled at the January**

**Editor of *The Socialist***- The Editor of *The Socialist* is a Party officer and oversees production of *The Socialist* under the guidance of the Editorial Board (which is elected by the National Committee). The Editor also has a seat on the Party's National Action Committee.

**SPUSA Treasurer**- The Party's Treasurer oversees the Party's Treasury and submits financial report to the National Committee. The Treasurer also has a seat on the Party's National Action Committee.

Send applications to [natsec@socialistparty-usa.org](mailto:natsec@socialistparty-usa.org) with information on your background and any other information you would like to share.