

**Democratic Socialists of America
National Political Committee
Minutes of Meeting of May 3-4, 2008**

Present: Theresa Alt, Virginia Franco, David Green (present Saturday after 5:00 and Sunday), Mike Hirsch, Barbara Joye, David Knuttunen, Frank Llewellyn (National Director), Simone Morgen, Joseph Schwartz, Herb Shore, John Strauss. Absent: David Duhalde, Nicole Iaquinto, Michele Rossi, Tim Sears, Maria Svart, Corey Walker (all excused).

Herb Shore chaired Saturday morning.

Theresa Alt moved to approve the 2008 budget; Simone Morgen seconded, and the budget was approved unanimously.

National Director Frank Llewellyn added to his written report. There was discussion of the June 2-3 Socialist International Migration Committee meeting in Los Angeles, which Frank will attend, and of the dispute between SEIU and CNA, which could have implications for healthcare activism. John Strauss moved to accept the report; David Knuttunen seconded, and the report was accepted unanimously.

The Committee discussed the David Duhalde, Youth Organizer's written report. David Knuttunen moved to accept the Youth Report; Barbara Joye seconded, and it was accepted unanimously. Frank moved to put the NPC on record thanking David Duhalde for extraordinary and effective service. David Knuttunen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The NPC discussed the report of the Personnel Committee with details about the search for a new Youth Organizer and mention of plans to evaluate the National Director. John moved to accept the Personnel Committee Report with the remark that the National Director evaluation is mandated to be annual. Simone Morgen seconded, and it was accepted unanimously.

There was further discussion of the transition to a new youth organizer.

David Knuttunen gave highlights of the written Budget and Finance Committee Report. Both the financial picture and new ideas for fundraising were discussed extensively.

John Strauss chaired Saturday afternoon.

Frank introduced a more extensive discussion of the CNA-SEIU dispute, its implications for the healthcare struggle, and the politics of the struggle for universal health insurance.

David Knuttunen presented the Renegotiate NAFTA petition as a project that is ready to go. It could be a larger or smaller project depending on the extent of our electoral activity and legislative alerts. David Knuttunen moved to authorize Frank to establish a bank

account for Renegotiate NAFTA as a wholly owned subsidiary of Democratic Socialists of America with Frank Llewellyn and Fatou Camara as signatories. This passed unanimously.

We discussed the alternatives for electoral work, such as a contest for ads.

We discussed the newly revised draft of the Economic Justice Agenda and how we might use it. Mike Hirsch volunteered to do a shorter version. David Knuttunen moved that the NPC accept the new version of the Economic Justice Agenda as the final version, and this passed unanimously.

Frank Llewellyn reported more extensively on his plans for the Socialist Migration Committee in Los Angeles June 2-3 and on plans for the Socialist International Council and Congress meetings in Athens, Greece, June 29-July 2. Possible attendees representing DSA in Greece could be Corey Walker, Frank Llewellyn, Bogdan Denitch, Penny Schantz, Skip Roberts, Alejandro Duhalde, David Duhalde, Joe Schwartz and David Knuttunen. David Knuttunen moved that the NPC accept Frank's list of proposed attendees with the proviso that NPC members have priority if they want to go. This passed unanimously.

There were brief reports by Frank on the Talking Union blog, by Theresa Alt on the International Commission, and by Simone Morgen on the Local Development Committee.

The NPC discussed the report on *Democratic Left*. John Strauss noted that Scott McLemee would join the editorial board.

The NPC adjourned for the day.

David Green chaired Sunday morning.

The National Political Committee convened at about 10:30, after the end of the Fund Board.

Joe Schwartz motivated a discussion on the DSA perspective on the presidential elections, which had been rewritten to take into consideration changes in the situation since the National Convention, and on the role DSA could play in the elections. Discussion was extensive with suggestions for further edits. Joe moved that the statement with his and Mike's revisions be adopted, but with changes to the paragraph on Wright pointing out the racist nature of the charges, although Wright had said absurd things. The document is referred to Joe and Mike for further rewriting. It will be circulated to the whole NPC for comments; then the Steering Committee will be empowered to pass it, the whole process to be completed and the document put up on the DSA website by May 15. This passed unanimously.

Barbara Joye chaired Sunday afternoon.

We discussed future plans for a healthcare mythbusting tour.

There was further discussion of possible support for Congressional candidates, should they want the endorsement of DSA PAC.

Other potential fundraising through grant applications was discussed.

Plans for the August 7-8 retreat for invited youth leadership and selected older DSAers were discussed. A socialist social activity should be added to the agenda. Suggestions for invitees should be emailed to Michele Rossi well before May 15.

We discussed possible sites for the DSA national convention in 2009. John moved to authorize Frank to explore further sites. Herb seconded and the motion passed unanimously. There was further discussion of whether a three-year convention cycle would be better than the current two-year one.

Mike reported further on the Talking Union blog.

After evaluations the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Theresa Alt