



WESTERN MONTANA  
DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA

Business Meeting Agenda - DRAFT

February 11, 2023 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. [This meeting took place, as planned, on February 11, 2023]

Missoula Public Library Blackfoot Room and on Zoom

○ **Openings (15 min)**

- Introductions: Name, Pronouns, and Question: “If you had to teach a class on one thing, what would you teach?” Present: Rachel, Mark, Robbie, Jackie, Tony, Sarah, Sandy, Arthur, Brendan, Jim, Catherine, John
- Community Agreements for Respectful Discussion (brief) Tony
- Rotating Roles:
  - Facilitator – Sandy Mark
  - Timekeeper – Robbie
  - Progressive stack – Mark Sandy
  - Notetaker – Sarah

Agenda: additions and approval Mark motions to approve, Tony seconds, approved

- Meeting Minutes: correction and approval Mark motions to approve, Robbie seconds, approved
- Treasurer’s Report (Sarah) We have deposited the \$6050 surplus funds from the Reproductive Justice campaign against LR 131. Jackie will keep track of these funds and communicate the information to Sarah who will enter it into our chapter records. So our balance is \$6768.89, but our real balance is \$718.89. We owe Jackie \$281.90 for printing costs over the past year (or more). The treasurer will give her a check soon. We’ll get the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter dues share in about a week. Sarah shared the “Gracias” sent to our chapter from Schools for Chiapas in re: our \$100 contribution.

- **Robbie’s Rules Reminder (2 min)** Robbie reminds people that making a motion during a discussion before the discussion of a point is exhausted will bring the discussion to a halt and/or re-direct it procedural points. So we should be mindful of this.

○ **Working Group Reports (30 min)**

- Ecosocialists (Sarah) We are continuing to try to talk to the City Council members about the FFNPT. Jennifer Savage has not yet responded. Sarah went to Helena with the multi-organization Climate demonstration on January 20. It was very encouraging to hear from a 350 member that Missoula representative Connie Kehoe is planning to put forward a bill to make it legal for a city to own its own power grid. It is not expected to pass, but it will be the start of a honing process. (To

plan and work to municipalize our grid was proposed by the ecosocialist working group and was approved by the members.)

- Common Good Missoula (John) ..... John and Dave Ashworth are in the Common Good Missoula HJART group which concentrates on housing. Sarah and Arthur are in the CART group which concentrates on community. Many people are involved in this code modernization process, which is expected to last about three years. CGM will give people involved a stipend of \$50 for attending their trainings. There is a training on Thursday, February 16, which John will attend. Contact John Wolverton if you want to go to this training. Sarah is signed up for a training on March 29 and 30. Sandy asks, how is CGM funded. John does not know.
- Editorial (Robbie) ..... Sarah has an editorial on war which will be published (probably) on the anniversary of Russia's invasion, Feb. 24. Another editorial, this one on housing, will be submitted soon. Being prompted, Robbie explains that the editorial working group will share the work of communications so all functions don't rest with the communication officer (Robbie). The DSA National had a training about communications recently attended by Robbie, Sarah, Jackie, Mark, Tony. Jackie opens a discussion of social media and that we should try to do more of it because younger people may be more likely to read tic toc, tweets, Instagram, WhatsApp, etc. Rachel says she'll be glad to post content on Instagram if someone sends her the content. Robbie will talk to her. Robbie says trainings for alternative types of social media are available from National and he'll post the times.
- RJWG/Legislative Action (Mark)..... Mark can't speak to the mutual aid aspect of this working group. But on legislative action, he was in Helena with Tony, Jackie and Sandy with other DSA members from Bozeman and Helena and other unaffiliated socialists, for the Protect the Constitution Day in the legislature. The legislative action working group is keeping track of 10 bills, and Tony, Catherine, Mark, and Jackie have testified. At least we/they are learning and creating capacity., says Mark. Areas of concentration are labor, housing, and reproductive justice. Of great concern is SB 154 which would amend the Right to Privacy in the Montana Constitution so that it would not apply to the right to abortion. Robbie says that if there is a Boycott, Divest, Sanction (BDS) bill of any kind, this working group has the offer of the aid of Laurie Franklin.
- Labor (Jackie).....Jackie says that the Organizing for Power trainings by Jane McAlevey meet on Wednesday evening for 6 weeks and on Monday the attendees from this chapter meet on zoom to discuss it. Anyone can attend. Wednesday, Feb. 8 was the first one. Worker's rights on the job and labor law are important aspects of information, Sandy asks if some of this information could be shared via social media. Rachel says she will do it. They will work on it together.

- Steering (Sandy).....Sandy says, see below.
- **General Meeting Planning (15 mins) March 4, 2023 at 10 a.m.** .....Sandy says at this meeting we will vote for officers, see a new budget for the chapter for the year, see each working group's action plans for the year with budgets attached, and we will discuss and approve or disapprove these plans as a chapter. We need to plan for a delegate to go to the national convention in August in Chicago. March 1 is the deadline for submission to the co-chairs of action reports and budgets. Sandy says this March 4th meeting will be enjoyable.
  - Budget - solicit major budget items for the year, i.e. convention .....A donation for this will be included in the chapter budget for the year by Sarah. ....
  - Campaign Plans: assign lead to write campaign plan for the year
    - Labor: Mark and Jackie agreed to
    - Common Good Missoula/Eco-socialists: John.....agreed to
    - Statewide: Sandy and Mark.....agreed to
    - Mutual aid/Repro Justice: .....not represented in this meeting
    - Editorial: Robbie.....agreed to
    - Steering: Sandy and Mark.....agreed to
  - Nominations reminder: looking for Co-chair and Secretary .....Jackie will run for secretary. We still need a co-chair.
- **Land Acknowledgement follow-up (10 mins) (Tony - PowerPoint)**.....Tony gives a PowerPoint presentation which can't be reproduced here. Tony, Brendan, and Catherine will work on the wording for next month's meeting.
- **Josh Slotnick (5 mins)**.....Mark says Josh Slotnick wants to discuss with our chapter a sales tax aimed at tourists, presumably on motels and restaurants, which would be returned to Montana citizens as a sort of rebate. This is being proposed by the Montana League of Cities and Towns. Slotnick would like our support. Who wants to listen to his presentation? Mark notes those who raise their hands. Mark will co-ordinate the meeting.
- **Membership drive (5 mins)**.....Sandy will organize a phone bank to call old or lapsed members and get them to re-up. We are only 10 members away from being able to send, not one, but two delegates to the National Convention in August. Who would like to volunteer? Sarah, Mark, and Sandy.
- **Announcements (5 mins)**

- Chapter Instagram Account – continue to contribute and share!  
.....Sandy says, when you get a post, those of you who can do Instagram, please repost it. Jackie will help.
  - Newsletter submissions – by Wednesday Feb 22 .....This was said.  
Submissions should go to Bob Rosen.
  - March 29 - Discernment with Common Good Missoula (John).....John has reserved the Good Works Ventures space for Wednesday, March 29 , at 5:30 for a DSA chapter retreat, part 2, which will be a pot-luck dinner. Lisa Davies from CGM will attend and present on CGM, its aims and expectations.
  - .....Mark reiterates that submissions of action reports to the co-chairs are due by March 1.
  - Mark says that at the Missoula Community Theater on Feb. 23 at 5:45, there will be a screening of the documentary, *March for World Power*. The directors, one of them is Michael Workman, will be there. [this note-taker did not catch the title properly. Apologies.]
  - Mark and John will have a discussion of how ward boundaries will be redrawn.
- **Regional and National DSA (1 min)**
    - Regional leadership meeting w/Hayley Banyai-Becker – Feb 28, 2023  
.....This was said and that it’s by zoom, of course. (see Newsletter for link)
  - **Media (2 min)**
    - “Voice of the People: Radio by & for the 99%” radio show, Saturdays 1-3 pm, KFGM 101.5 FM, 1015kfgm.org, or podcast on <https://anchor.fm/vop-montana>  
The show today will be on Julian Assange and the Belmarsh Tribunal. Details on the dsa website.
    - Montana DSA has a podcast! <https://anchor.fm/montana-dsa>.....

-----This was said, also that the details are on the DSA website.-

**Added item:** The DSA National Education Committee has a podcast on “Class”  
The details are on the DSA website.

**Added Item:** Socialize with Socialists will meet at the Union Club Friday, Feb. 17, at 6:00 p.m.

-----

Mark motions to adjourn this meeting and Sandy seconds. This meeting is adjourned. These are the minutes of the meeting of February 11, 2023. Submitted in solidarity by Sarah McClain, acting secretary.

**Upcoming Meetings & Dates:**

- Sunday, February 12, at 6:00 pm – Statewide Montana DSA Legislative Action group. Contact [cochair@westernmtdsa.org](mailto:cochair@westernmtdsa.org) for more information.
- Monday February 13 at 6:00 – Ecosocialist Working Group: contact John Wolverton or Sarah McClain at [ecosocialist@westernmtdsa.org](mailto:ecosocialist@westernmtdsa.org)
- Thursday, February 16 at 6:00 - Labor Working Group. Contact [labor@westernmtdsa.org](mailto:labor@westernmtdsa.org)
- Friday, February 17 at 6:00 - Socialize with Socialists! In person at the Union Club, 208 E. Main St., Missoula
- Sunday, February 19, at 6:00 pm – Statewide Montana DSA Legislative Action group. Contact [cochair@westernmtdsa.org](mailto:cochair@westernmtdsa.org)
- Tuesday February 21 at 6:00 -- Editorial Working Group via Zoom
- Sunday, February 26, at 6:00 pm – Statewide Montana DSA Legislative Action group. Contact [cochair@westernmtdsa.org](mailto:cochair@westernmtdsa.org)
- Tuesday February 28, at 6:00 – Western Montana DSA Steering/Charting Committee via Zoom. All are Welcome!
- Saturday March 4, 10:00 - 11:30 am – Steering Committee elections at the Western Montana DSA Annual Meeting, in person at the Missoula Public Library's Blackfoot Room and also via Zoom.