

Democratic Socialists of America
National Convention November 9-11, 2007
Atlanta, Georgia
Frequently Asked Questions

Who can be a delegate to the DSA National Convention?

Any DSA member in good standing may be a delegate to the convention. Delegates are selected from DSA locals or if there is not a functioning local in your area a member may be an At-large delegate. Local delegate elections are conducted by the local DSA. At-large delegate elections (if required) are conducted by the DSA National Office. In practice it is very easy to become a delegate to the convention. The national office will accept any self-nominations to be a delegate and forward them to a local if appropriate.

Do I have to be a delegate to attend the convention?

DSA conventions are open to the public. Any member or non-member may attend convention events as an observer provided they pay the required registration fees.

Exactly where and when will the convention be held?

The convention will be in the IBEW Union Hall located at 501 Pulliam St (near Turner Field) in Atlanta, Georgia. The convention will open at 9:30 AM on Friday November 9th and conclude Sunday afternoon, November 11th. To be on the safe side we encourage delegates to book their return flights after 6:00 PM on the 11th. All convention sessions will be at the IBEW Hall.

Will there be special convention events or events on any other days?

We plan to organize a walking tour of important civil rights sites in the downtown Atlanta area Sunday afternoon and a Dutch treat dinner for delegates arriving on Thursday, November 8th. On site registration will also open Thursday evening.

Can family members participate in convention events?

Delegates' family members are welcome to participate in convention events. Family members will have to pay the posted observer fees if they are not delegates. Unfortunately we are unable to provide childcare services at the convention.

When do I have to decide by?

Since travel is involved the sooner you make your decision the better off you will be. Most locals will be electing delegates in September. Local elections must be finished by September 27th and the results of elections reported to the National Director by October 1. At-Large delegates have until September 21st to nominate themselves. If you decide to go at the last moment it still may be possible to serve as a delegate by filling a vacancy.

How do I nominate myself to be a delegate?

Contact your local DSA group, or contact the national director by phone, mail or email, (filewellyn@dsausa.org), or use the DSA Website: www.dsausa.org/convention2007.

What costs will I have to incur to be a delegate?

All delegates to the convention are responsible for their own travel and hotel costs as well as payment of the convention fee. The fee for this convention will be \$175.00 (\$200 at the door); the fee covers convention materials, coffee breaks and snacks as well as three meals. A block of rooms has been reserved for convention attendees at near by hotels. Rates will range from \$85 to \$99 (plus 15% hotel tax) for a single or a double room. All delegates membership dues will have to be up to date by the time the convention opens.

Are there any programs to offset these costs?

YES Delegates to the convention participate in a mandatory **travel share** program that is intended to equalize transportation costs. An estimated travel share will be set prior to registration. If their travel cost is less than the estimated travel share a delegate pays into the fund at registration. If they spent more than the estimate they will receive a rebate of the difference after the convention. Travel expense information is collected at registration so that the final travel share will be based on the exact cost. Covered expenses include airfare, bus fare or train fare. Mileage and tolls (based on the IRS charity mileage rate in effect at the convention (currently 14 cents a mile). Hotel costs, transportation to or from an airport or other terminal, and meal costs are not included. Delegates are expected to travel on 21-day non-refundable airline tickets or their equivalent. Transportation costs deemed excessive may be reduced for the purpose of calculating and dispensing rebates. Travel from outside the United States is not included. Delegates who travel from outside the United States may submit a travel cost based on domestic airfares. A committee of delegates will work with the National Director to address any inequities that may arise in the administration of the travel share system.

In addition to the travel share a small amount of funds is available to help subsidize participation in the convention. For the most part these funds are reserved to help students and young people participate in the convention. Delegates may request help when they pre-register for the convention. Additionally some local DSA's are able to help delegates with costs. However most delegates will have to bear all of the convention costs.

How will I find out about convention resolutions and other important convention business?

Any delegate, local or member may submit a resolution to be considered at the convention. All resolutions will be posted on the convention page of DSA's web site. Delegates will be emailed convention materials in the fall.

Is there any mechanism for pre-convention discussion among the delegates and other DSA members?

Locals are encouraged to have meetings to discuss convention issues in October of 2007. Additionally delegates are encouraged to join DSAMember, DSA's moderated discussion list. If you are not already on DSAMember you can join by sending an email to moderator@dsausa.org. The pre convention discussion on dsamember prior to the 2005 convention was very constructive and had a positive impact on the convention process.

What about the convention hotels?

Hotels are all within a quarter mile of the IBEW hall. Shuttle vans will be available to get to delegates to and from the IBEW hall. **Individual delegates are responsible for making their own reservations before the cut-off dates.** We have negotiated very good rates for the convention, but they are only guaranteed until the cut-off date that each facility has established. The national office will do what it can to facilitate delegates looking to share rooms in order to reduce costs. The DSA rates are generally good from November 8th until the 13th; it should be possible to extend the rate if you wish to come in early or stay LATER. The following hotels are holding blocs of rooms for the DSA Convention.

Comfort Inn, 795 Pollard Blvd. SW Atlanta, GA. 30315. DSA rate: **\$85** for a single or a double.

Cut off date: October 8, 2007. Free parking is included as is a modest continental breakfast. The Comfort Inn does not have a restaurant or a bar. There is a baseball themed bar/restaurant a short walk from the hotel. **Reservations:** telephone the hotel and request the **Democratic Socialists of America bloc**. The telephone number is 404-658-1610

Country Inn and Suites, 759 Pollard Blvd. SW Atlanta, GA. 30315 DSA rate: **\$95** for a single or a double, suites \$105. **Cut off date: October 25th.** Free parking is included as is a modest breakfast buffet. The Country Inn does not have a restaurant or a bar. There is a baseball themed bar/restaurant a short walk from the hotel. Reservations: Individuals must call (404) 658-1961 or (800) 456-4000 and ask for **'DSA'** group rate.

Holiday Inn Select Capital Grand, 450 Capitol Ave. Atlanta, GA. 30312. DSA rate: **\$99** for a single or a double. **Cut off date: October 12th, 2007.** The Holiday Inn is a full service facility with a bar and a restaurant. Parking is \$16 per night. Reservations call Holiday Inn at 404-591-2092 or 1-800-442-6011; request the **Democratic Socialists of America bloc**.

All room rates are plus 15% hotel tax. Each hotel will require a deposit of one night billed to your credit card to hold your room when you make your reservation. Delegates are strongly encouraged to make reservations early, especially if you are seeking one of the lower priced facilities. The best airline deals are also found by looking early.

What about transportation from the Atlanta airport to the Convention hotels?

There are several ways to get from the Airport to the hotels. Our hotels do not have their own shuttle service from the airport. The convention and our hotels are located in the "downtown" section of Atlanta. A taxi to or from the airport is a flat rate of \$38.

There is a hotel shuttle: **The Atlanta Link**. A one way ticket costs \$16.50; a round trip ticket costs \$29 (A fuel surcharge of \$.50 is mentioned on their website.) The shuttle requires reservation from our hotels they do not have regular pick ups scheduled. Shuttle transportation may be arranged on-line at www.theatlantalink.com. The ticketing counter is located in the Arrivals Lobby of Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta International Airport. The loading area is located outside of the Delta Baggage Claim South Terminal in the middle island. You can call the Atlanta Link at (404) 524-3400 or 1-866-545-9633 or e-mail them at sales@theatlantalink.com.

Atlanta has a subway system: Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA)! (<http://www.itsmarta.com>) The base fare is \$1.75 per trip. Passes are available starting at \$8.00. There is a MARTA stop in the Airport. There are not MARTA stops close to our hotels. However it is possible to get a taxi to one of the hotels from a downtown MARTA stops for \$8 or \$1.75 for a bus. The Holiday Inn will pick you up at the MARTA stop, but you will have to call when you get there. You should take the MARTA to the Five Points Station for the Comfort Inn or the Country Inn and Suites and the Georgia State (change at Five Points) stop for the Holiday Inn.

The MARTA runs 5AM-1AM Monday-Friday at peak hours trains run every ten minutes otherwise every twenty minutes. Weekends and holidays Marta runs 5AM-12: 30AM, trains run every twenty minutes. It is approximately twenty-minute train ride to the downtown area from the Airport.

Please note that the Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta International Airport can be a little confusing. While shuttles may drop passengers near specific airlines, passengers may not board shuttles at the drop off locations. Follow signs to **ground transportation** for all airport shuttles: rental cars shuttles, hotel shuttles, etc.

Late arrivals: The last MARTA from the Airport leaves at 1:00AM. The Holiday Inn shuttle stops running at 10:30PM.

What about driving to the Convention?

You should not need a car in Atlanta for convention events. Traffic in the downtown section can be very congested on business days during rush hour. If you are driving remember that you will have to pay for parking at the Holiday Inn while it is free at the other two hotels. Also remember that the mileage allowance for the convention travel share is the IRS charity rate, currently 14 cents a mile. The highway system and Turner Field can make driving in the convention area a little confusing, at first.

These directions take you to the Comfort Inn and the Country Inn from the major highways:

I75/85 North - Exit 245 Left on Pollard Blvd. The hotel is on the left.

I75/85 South - Exit 246 Left on Fulton Street. Right on Capitol Ave.
Right on Abernathy Blvd. Left on Pollard Blvd. Hotel on right.

I20 East - Exit 56B (Windsor/Spring) Turn right on Windsor. Left on
Fulton St. Right on Capitol Ave. Right on Abernathy Blvd. Left on
Pollard Blvd. Hotel on right.

I20 West - Exit 58A Left on Capitol Ave. Right on Abernathy Blvd.
Left on Pollard Blvd. Hotel on right.

Directions to the Holiday Inn located on Capitol Ave just north of Abernathy Blvd.

From the Comfort Inn or Country Inn on Pollard Blvd. make a right turn out of their parking lots continue to Abernathy Blvd make a right turn. Continue on Abernathy to Capitol Ave make a left turn. The Holiday Inn is on the right hand side.

What about train service?

Amtrak has service to Atlanta.