

# **DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA**

**National Convention November 9-11, 2007**

## **TEMPORARY RULES**

### **Delegate Credentials**

1. The National Office shall inform locals of the delegates apportioned to them no later than August 1, 2007.
2. Locals shall conduct and supervise their own elections of Convention delegates and alternate delegates in accordance with the applicable provisions of the DSA Constitution and By-Laws not before the apportionment of delegates and no later than September 27.
3. Each local must report the result of its elections in writing to the National Office no later than October 1, 2007. The report must include full contact information, including an email address, for all delegates and should indicate if any delegate is requesting full or partial relief from the Travel Share requirements outlined in Rule 38.
4. The National Office shall conduct and supervise the election of at-large delegates under procedures determined by the NPC. A call for candidates for at-large delegates shall be sent to all at-large members no later than August 9, 2007. No later than September 9, 2007 a ballot containing the names of the delegate candidates shall be sent to at-large members containing instructions regarding the number of delegates to be elected and voting procedures. Ballots shall be counted at the National Office by October 9, 2007. One-half of the available positions for at-large delegates must be reserved for women and one-fifth of the available positions must be reserved for national and racial minorities. Those candidates who have been elected shall be immediately informed of their election by the National Office.
5. No person who has not paid DSA dues through December 2007 may be seated as a delegate or alternate delegate.
6. Based on the reports of local delegate elections and the outcome of the at-large elections conducted by the National Office, the National Office shall prepare a temporary roster of delegates and alternate delegates, which shall be made available to delegates, alternate delegates, locals, commissions and officers of DSA by posting on the DSA website no later than October 9, 2007.
7. Challenges to the credentials of any delegate or alternate must be submitted in writing to the National Office no later than November 1, 2007 and shall be forwarded to the Credentials Committee appointed by the NPC for consideration.
8. At the opening plenary, the Credentials Committee shall report to the Convention its recommendation concerning any challenge(s) properly filed. There shall be no more than one speaker for and one speaker against each credentials challenge.

9. The delegates listed on the Temporary Roster of Delegates shall vote on the Credentials Committee's recommendations, except that no delegate may vote on a challenge to his or her own credentials. Upon acceptance of the Credentials Committee those persons listed on the Temporary Roster of Delegates who are not subject to successful credentials challenge shall become the Permanent Roster of Delegates.
10. Each Local delegation shall elect a chair who shall be responsible for official communications with the Convention Secretary (see Rule 18).

## **Resolutions**

11. All proposed amendments to the Constitution and/or By-Laws shall be submitted in electronic form to the National Office no later than October 5, 2007. The National Office shall give notice of all proposed amendments to the membership by posting on the DSA website no later than October 9, 2007. The author(s) of the proposed amendments are urged to post them on the listserv DSAMember. Failing this, the National Office will do so.
12. All other proposed resolutions shall be submitted to the National Office at least 21 days prior to the Convention or by October 19, 2007. Submission shall be made electronically (flewellyn@dsausa.org). The National Office shall give notice of all resolutions by posting on the DSA website within one week of submission. Authors are urged to post resolutions on the listserv DSAMember. Resolutions submitted after October 19 shall be referred to the Resolutions Committee, which shall report on them to the Convention plenary with recommendations on whether they should be accepted for consideration at the Convention. Amendments to proposed resolutions must be submitted electronically no later than November 7, 2007. Amendments submitted after November 7th shall be referred to the Resolutions Committee, which shall report on them to the Convention plenary with recommendations on whether they should be accepted for consideration at the Convention. Deadlines notwithstanding, the National Political Committee shall be allowed to submit resolutions or amendments to resolutions at any time before or during the Convention.
13. Resolutions should consist primarily of statements of policy or outlines for organizational activity. The Resolutions Committee (see 14.d.) will be empowered to remove excess "Whereas" clauses from resolutions.

## **Convention Organization**

### *Committees*

14. The Convention committees shall consist of the following:
  - a) an Elections Committee, which is responsible for conducting the elections of members to the National Political Committee and all other elections requiring a written ballot, and for making recommendations to the Convention on any challenges made to any election;
  - b) a Credentials Committee, which is responsible for reporting to the Convention the roster of delegates and making recommendations on any properly filed challenges to the credentials of any delegate. The Credentials Committee may also make recommendations to the National Director concerning any hardships arising from the Travel Pool System;

- c) an Administrative Committee, which is responsible for making recommendations to the Convention Secretary regarding any issue that arises on the administration of the Convention. All votes to change the time devoted to any agenda item shall be referred to this Committee, which shall make recommendations to the Convention Secretary on necessary adjustments to the Convention schedule. Members of this committee shall act as ombudsmen to facilitate the resolution of problems of process that delegates or delegations may face.
- d) a Resolutions Committee, which shall receive resolutions submitted to the Convention and make recommendations to the Convention on the disposition of resolutions and amendments submitted after the resolution deadline. The Resolutions Committee may propose steps to facilitate consideration of resolutions, including but not limited to appointing small groups to redraft or combine resolutions, preferably in advance of the convention, and in consultation with the authors. Where there appear to be differences of opinion, the Resolutions Committee may propose alternate amendments that will allow the Convention plenary to concentrate discussion on points of substantive controversy. The Resolutions Committee will structure the order in which resolutions are to be considered, the time allotted to each, and the number of speakers pro and con. A vote of 20% or more of the full delegated strength of the Convention may bring the plenary for discussion and vote any resolution or amendment submitted in a timely fashion, but not recommended to the convention by the Resolutions Committee.

15. At the opening plenary, membership on all committees shall be confirmed by the Convention, which will also appoint chairs for each committee.

#### *Recording*

16. The National Director of DSA shall serve as Secretary to the Convention, keeping the official record of the Convention, and may appoint such assistants as he or she deems necessary.

#### *Voting*

17. A quorum of the Convention shall consist of fifty percent plus one of the registered delegates and seated alternate delegates.

18. An accredited alternate delegate may be seated for a delegate temporarily or permanently. The permanent seating of an alternate must be reported immediately to the National Director acting as Convention Secretary.

19. Each delegate and seated alternate shall be entitled to one vote on all questions coming before the Convention, except that each Local delegation may vote its full strength provided that no individual casts more than three votes unless authorized to do so by the Convention. A Local delegation which is less than full strength must inform the Convention Secretary prior to any vote in which multiple votes are to be cast, and shall advise the Convention Secretary of the method by which such multiple ballots will be cast (whether by the delegation as a whole, or by designated delegates.)

20. All questions before the Convention shall be decided by majority vote of the delegates and seated alternate delegates present and voting, except that proposals that would amend the Bylaws require a three-fifths vote of the delegates and proposals that would amend the Constitution require a two-thirds vote of the delegates and seated alternate delegates. All procedural motions, including a motion to suspend the rules shall require a majority vote.
21. No secret ballot shall be conducted. No Convention committee meeting or Convention session may be closed to delegates or the public.
22. All votes other than election of officers shall be by hand with Voting Cards issued by the Convention Secretary. The Chair of the Convention session (see Rule 24) shall determine the results of hand votes and report the results to the Convention Secretary as well as announcing it to the convention session. A vote will be recorded at the request of any delegate or seated alternate, or if in the judgment of the Chair it is warranted due to closeness of the initial count. The Chair shall appoint such tellers as needed to assist in the counting of the vote.
23. Roll call votes shall be conducted at the request of thirty percent of the delegates and seated alternates present and voting, and shall consist of a recorded vote by delegation and individual at-large delegates.

#### *Plenary Procedure*

24. An officer of the organization shall call to order the opening session of the Convention at which time the Convention shall elect one Chair for each voting plenary session of the convention.
25. The National Director shall submit to the Convention on its opening day a report on the activities of the staff since the 2005 National Convention.
26. The Secretary-Treasurer shall submit to the Convention on its opening day a report on the finances of the organization.
27. Only delegates, seated alternate delegates, NPC members, national DSA officers, and DSA staff members may speak on questions coming before the Convention in plenary session. Speakers on all motions shall be limited to two minutes, unless the convention accepts a different limit.
28. Amendments to the Constitution and/or Bylaws may not be amended in any material way. The decision on whether or not an amendment is material shall be made, in the first instance, by the chair of the plenary session at which the amendment is considered. Challenges to a ruling by the chair shall be decided by majority vote of delegates present and voting.

#### *Procedural Authority*

29. Except as provided in these Rules, the Constitution or the Bylaws, the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the proceedings of the Convention.

30. The Chair of each Convention plenary session shall be the sole interpreter of the Convention Rules and may appoint a parliamentarian, Sergeant-at-arms and such other assistants as needed to conduct the session.
31. Any delegate or seated alternate may appeal any ruling of the Chair or of the Resolutions Committee to the Convention. In such instance, the person making the appeal may speak for up to two minutes to advocate the appeal and the Chair may speak for up to two minutes to defend the ruling. No other debate shall be permitted. The ruling of the Chair may be overturned by a vote in favor of the appeal by a majority of delegates and seated alternates present and voting.

### **Election of Officers and NPC Members**

32. Any DSA member in good standing is eligible for election as an officer or NPC Member. Any member may nominate him/herself for such positions and any DSA member, local, section, commission, or the NPC may nominate any DSA member in good standing to such position provided that a written statement by the nominee indicating a willingness to serve is submitted with the nomination or prior to the time of election.
33. The deadline for submission of nominations for the NPC shall be 2:00 PM on Saturday November 10, 2007, and the deadline for submission of nominations for all other positions is 2:00 PM on Friday, November 9, 2007.
34. Contested elections for office shall be conducted by paper ballots.
35. The election for the NPC shall be conducted by preferential ballot. The Elections Committee shall count the ballots. In counting the ballots each #1 choice shall be accorded a number of votes equal to the number of positions to be elected, each #2 choice shall be accorded a number of votes equal to one less than the number of positions to be elected, etc. All ballots from which the voter's preference can be clearly determined shall be counted, except that no "bullet" voting (voting for fewer candidates than the number of positions to fill) shall be allowed. The candidate(s) with the highest number of total votes shall be declared elected.

### **Travel Share and Other Costs**

36. All delegates, alternates, NPC members and DSA Officers attending are responsible for paying the \$\_\_\_\_\_ Convention Fee and the Travel Pool Assessment, except that alternates who are not seated do not participate in the Travel Share.
37. An Observer Fee, as well as a fee for displays, shall be set by the National Director in consultation with the Budget Committee.
38. The National Director shall administer the Travel Share system. Each delegate and seated alternate shall submit travel expenses based on the least expensive and most reasonable means of transportation available to the delegate. Expenses deemed excessive shall be disallowed. The total amount of all travel expenses shall be divided by the total number of delegates and seated alternates to determine the Travel Share. Those delegates whose allowed travel expenses are lower than the Travel Share will pay the difference. Those delegates whose allowed travel

expenses are greater than the Travel Share will receive payment for the difference. All delegates must meet their obligation to the Travel Share in order to receive and maintain their credentials, except that delegates may be relieved of all or part of the Travel Share upon showing of hardship and recommendation of the Credentials Committee.