

Democratic Socialists of America 2009 Convention Working Schedule

(Subject to Change)

Best Western University Plaza Hotel 1501 Sherman Ave., Evanston, Illinois

Please note that the meeting rooms for the convention and the convention office are located on the Mezzanine floor of the hotel. There is elevator access to the Mezzanine.

Thursday Nov. 12

1:00PM Convention office (Gross Point Room) opens

3:30-6:30PM Registration and distribution of materials to convention participants.

5:30 PM Ridgeville Room Showing of: *Never Turning Back: The World of Peggy Lipschutz*.

This 32-minute film of one woman's unwavering commitment to art, peace, justice and social change. Peggy Lipschutz, a DSA Member, is an artist, book illustrator, political activist, labor unionist, feminist, pacifist, humanist. The Director and Producer, Jerri Zbiral, will lead a short discussion following the film screening.

6:30 - 8:30 PM **Dutch-Treat Dinner for convention participants. (location TBA) Advance Sign up**

8:45 – 10:00 PM Registration and distribution of materials continues

8:45 – 10:00 PM Ridgeville Room: The role of radicals in Illinois labor history. - **Rose Feurer**

10:15-11:30 PM **socialize at (TBA)**

Friday Nov. 13

8:00 AM **Registration reopens in Convention Office (Gross Point Room)**

8:30 AM **Coffee and Tea in Fountain Room C & D**

8:50 AM **Fountain Room C & D**

Convention called to order Frank Llewellyn:

Introduction to Procedures: Brief Presentation on Meeting Process - Michele Rossi

Brief questions and answers (10 min.)

Introduction of Process Consultants

Approve Temporary Roster of Delegates

Approve Rules

Approve Session Chairs

Approve Committees and Committee Chairs

Approve Agenda

10:00AM Break

10:15AM **Reports - State of DSA - Joseph Schwartz, chair**

National Director Report (Frank Llewellyn 15 min.)

NPC Report (Herb Shore 10 min.)

Discussion (30 min.)

11:10AM **Secretary-Treasurer's Report on Finances** (David Knuttunen 10 min)
Q and A—10 min

11:30AM Youth Organizer Report (Erik Rosenberg 10 min.)
Young Democratic Socialists Coordinating Comm. Report (Tatiana Guerrero 10 min.)
Report on Locals (Simone Morgen & Barbara Joye; 10 min.)

Discussion of YDS and Local reports (20 min.)

12:20 PM **Lunch Break**

1:30 PM **Plenary Session Fountain Room C& D - John Strauss, chair**
What is to be Done: The State of Global and US Politics and DSA's Role in the Coming Period
Mike Hirsch, Theresa Alt, Joe Schwartz – (15 min each)

2:15 PM Small Groups Discussion (pre-assigned by packets)
Facilitators: Michele Rossi, Maxine Phillips, Erik Rosenberg, Tim Sears

3:00 PM Report back and plenary discussion

3:30 PM **Break - Coffee and Tea Fountain Room C& D**

4:00 PM **Workshop Session I: Effective Organizing**

Ridgeville Room **Starting a Local:** (Barbara Joye, Atlanta; Rannfrid Thelle, Wichita)
Fountain Room A **Maintaining Viable Locals** (David Green, Detroit; Virginia Franco; San Diego)
Fountain Room B **Who's a Socialist Now? How to talk about socialism in public when most people no longer know what socialism is and some people even claim the president is a socialist.** (Chris Maisano Joseph Schwartz, Michele Rossi)

5:30 PM **dinner break**

7:30 PM **Fountain Room Public Forum:**

Ron Baiman
Welcome
Chair Chicago DSA

The Politics of the Economic Crisis
Right Wing Populism or Left Wing Resurgence?

with

Kim Bobo
Executive Director and Founder Interfaith Worker Justice

Bill Fletcher, Jr.
co-author
Solidarity Divided: The Crisis in Organized Labor and a New Path Toward Social Justice.

Harold Meyerson
Editor At-Large *American Prospect*
Op-ed Columnist *Washington Post*
Vice-Chair Democratic Socialists of America

Maria Svart
Moderator

Cash Bar follows forum

Saturday Nov. 14

8:30 AM Coffee and Tea Fountain Room C &D

8:00 AM Women's Caucus Fountain Room B

9:00 AM Plenary Fountain Room C &D - David Green, Chair

Introduction of all resolutions (informal discussion, raising any questions or required clarifications)

10:00 AM – Break

10:15 AM Plenary Session

The Crisis of US/Global Capitalism and the Fight for Equality

Bill Barclay

Reindustrialization and Jobs

John Cameron

Fiscal Crisis of the States,

Michele Rossi

Redressing Gender, Class and Racial Inequality via Revived Public Sector

11:00 AM Plenary discussion

12:15 PM Lunch Break

Religion & Socialism Commission TBA

Solidarity Economics TBA

1:30 PM Nominations for NPC Due

Tim Sears, Chair

1:30 PM Plenary Session: Consideration of Priorities Resolution including suggested amendments/additions.

3:00 PM Break - Coffee and Tea

3:15 PM Final Approval of the Permanent Roster of Delegates

3:20 PM Workshop Session II: How to Build a more Visible DSA

Fountain Room B: **Working in Mass Coalitions while maintaining your socialist identity (Chris Hicks)**

Fountain Room A: **Building Stronger Locals: How to create space for YDS graduates and new and different folk in your local's culture and activist work (Maria Svart, David Duhalde, Sean Monahan)**

Ridgeville Room: **Getting Our Message Out: Communications Strategy for the 21st Century**
Valerie Denney, President, Valerie Denney Communications. Mike Hirsch, facilitator

4:40PM Plenary session: Other Resolutions

Consideration of resolutions other than the priorities. If time allows, adopt.

5:40 PM – Meet NPC Candidates (Delegates ask candidates questions.)

6:15 PM **Break.**

7:45 PM **NPC Ballots due**

7:30 PM Banquet: Fountain Room
Cash Bar

Elaine Bernard

Executive Director, Labor and Work Life Program Harvard University Law School
Vice-Chair Democratic Socialists of America

Joel Bleifuss

Editor and Publisher *In These Times*

Chair - Frank Llewellyn

Sunday November 15

8:15AM **Coffee and Tea Fountain Room C& D**

Michele Rossi, Chair

8:45AM **Workshop Session III: Workshops on issues:**

Fountain Room B: *Sustaining a Mass Movement for Truly Universal Health Care,*
David Green,

Fountain Room A: *Room Building a Revitalized Labor Movement,* Paul Garver, Mike Hirsch

Ridgeville Room: *Responding to the Mortgage/Foreclosure Crisis* Milt Tambor, Barbara Joye

Fountain Room C&D : *A Progressive Response to the Fiscal Crisis of the States* Marty Luster,
Sharon Alexander

10:00AM **Plenary Session Fountain Room C& D**

--Announce results of NPC Elections

--Elect Vice Chairs and Honorary Chairs

--Further Consideration of Resolutions as Required

10:10 AM priorities resolution

11:00 AM other resolutions

11:30AM Lunch Break (go out and bring back your lunch)

12:15PM **Plenary Session: Implementing our Priorities**

Facilitator David Knuttunen

--US Social Forum

--Economic Justice Priorities

--Other Priorities and strategies

2:00 PM **Closing Plenary - Milt Tambor, chair**

--Evaluation

--Closing Address

--Songs – Herb Shore and John Strauss

2:40 PM **meeting of new NPC and Fund Board.**