

## National Political Committee Member Description of Responsibilities

### General Information

The National Political Committee (NPC) provides DSA's primary political leadership and functions as the Board of Directors of DSA. The NPC elects a five-person Steering Committee, which meets monthly between the quarterly NPC meetings by conference call to deal with any business between NPC meetings and support the DSA National Director.

**Being an NPC member, above all else, means contributing one of your most valuable commodities: time.**

NPC members lead the implementation of DSA's major political and organizational goals, defined every two years by the National Convention. This includes helping define the tactics and specific organizational work to carry out that strategy, as well as carrying out some of this work. The NPC also gives feedback to the National Director about how to carry forward DSA's day-to-day work. Each NPC member participates in at least one national project, such as a working group or an administrative project directly with the national office.

All NPC members are expected to respond in a timely and productive manner to emails over the NPC email listserv, to participate regularly on conference calls for working groups or the NPC, and to participate reliably in national projects and fundraising for national DSA.

NPC members can expect the following time commitment:

- 1-3 or more hours per week spent on committee conference calls or email
- 4-10 or more hours per week spent on various NPC duties

### **Typical Activities for NPC members**

- Responding to NPC emails and voting on political/ administrative/ organizational decisions
- Participating in fundraising campaigns for national DSA
- Chairing national committees/teams
- Participating in committees/teams
- Train DSA spokespeople and draft press outreach materials and talking points for chapters
- Taking notes from meetings/calls and sharing them in a timely manner with the rest of the committee
- Representing DSA in coalitions

- Providing miscellaneous administrative help to National Office
- Speaking publicly, visiting chapters or YDSA conferences/retreats, running online skills or political education trainings

The NPC is required by the Constitution to:

- Determine yearly dues
- Charter new locals, regional, state organizations, and commissions
- Apportion convention delegates
- Participate in the planning of the National Activist Conference with chairs of Commissions and a YDSA representative (though the NAC has not happened for more than a decade.)

## **Constitutional Description of National Political Committee Duties**

The DSA [Constitution](#) describes the National Political Committee as “the collective leadership and the highest decision making body of the organization between meetings of the Convention.” Legally, the NPC also acts as the responsible “board of directors” of DSA, which is incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia as a non-profit corporation, and may have legal liability for some actions of the corporation. DSA is a 501(c)(4) “social welfare” not-for-profit. (DSA Fund, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, donations to which are tax deductible, is a legally separate entity with its own board of directors.)

Article VIII of the DSA Constitution, which establishes the NPC, and Article X of the [Bylaws](#) (scroll down past the Constitution), which governs the NPC, also gives it the following powers and responsibilities.

### **The NPC:**

1. meets at least four times a year and shall meet in varying areas of the country as is financially feasible;
2. fills vacancies within its ranks by appointing members in good standing to serve until the next Convention;
3. selects a Steering Committee that is responsible for decision-making between meetings of the NPC;
4. by a two-thirds vote, can remove any of its members for malfeasance or nonfeasance;
5. has responsibility for: a) staff, b) finances, c) publications and d) education and is also supposed to include the topics of general political direction and coalition work as agenda items on a regular basis;
6. appoints committees to conduct and oversee specific work and report to the entire NPC; and
7. is responsible for hiring, evaluating and discharging staff.