

Democratic Socialists of America
National Political Committee
Minutes of Meeting of January 26-28, 2018
Approved March 22, 2018

The National Political Committee (NPC) met in Farmers Branch, Texas.

Present:

NPC Attendees

Ravi Ahmad - *New York City*

Theresa Alt (Secretary-Treasurer) - *Ithaca*

Dele Balogun - *Chicago*

Christian Bowe - *Metro DC*

Allie Cohn - *Knoxville*

Zac Echola - *Red River Valley*

Jeremy Gong - *East Bay*

Catherine Hoffman - *Detroit* (on phone)

Ella Mahony - *New York City*

Chris Maisano - *New York City* (on phone)

Natalie Midiri - *Philadelphia*

Christine Riddiough (NPC Chair) - *Metro DC*

R.L. Stephens - *Bryan, TX*

Ajmal Alami - YDSA Co-Chair

Staff: Maria Svart, National Director

Excused:

Joseph Schwartz - *Philadelphia*

Leslie Driskill - *Oklahoma City*

Michelle Fisher - YDSA Co-Chair

Peg Strobel visiting briefly on phone.

Friday, January 26th, 2018

Kristian Hernandez, Chair of North Texas DSA, kindly welcomed us to her office in Farmers Branch, Texas in the Dallas metropolitan area for the duration of the NPC meeting.

Tyler Davis, North Texas DSA, served as tech liaison managing the livestream for observers for the duration of the meeting.

Frances Rizo, President of the Crossroads Unit, a chapter of the National Association of Parliamentarians, and the Texas Association of Parliamentarians, chaired all business for the duration of the meeting.

1. Consent Agenda

Zac Echola moved the following resolutions:

Resolution on Studying and Educating on Municipal Banking;

1. to refer National Convention Resolution #4 to the Environmental and Climate Justice Working Group; and
2. to request that the Membership Development Committee identify someone in DSA with experience in municipal banking to write about it for *Socialist Forum* or *Democratic Left* online or in print.

Resolution on Referring a Campaign for a 35-Hour Work Week [National Convention Resolution #6] to the Democratic Socialist Labor Commission

Resolution to Assist Chapters to Have Labor Working Groups

1. to refer National Convention Resolution #17 to the DSLC to prioritize as it sees fit;
2. for the DLSC to work with the Membership Development Committee to develop and distribute materials to chapters;
3. for staff to work with DSLC on a future stakeholder call to gauge interest; and
4. for staff to provide DSLC with necessary resources and infrastructure, such as access to Zoom and emails to chapter leaders.

Resolution to Determine Shifting Work from Staff to Chapters

1. to refer Convention Resolution #30 to the National Director to prioritize as she sees fit, and
2. to include in normal report to the NPC what, if any areas could be shifted from paid staff to local chapters.

Resolution to Endorse the Inclusive Prosperity Act

1. to endorse H.R.1144 / S.434 the Inclusive Prosperity Act;
2. for the National Elections Committee to request endorsements of the Act from DSA-endorsed Federal candidates in 2018;
3. to announce endorsement of the Act on a stakeholder call; and
4. if the Act may move out of committee, for the NPC to work to mobilize DSA members.

All passed unanimously.

2. Tech Committee Reports

Christian Bowe moved Resolution to Improve the National Store. After amendment it read:

Resolved, that the National Political Committee (NPC):

1. Advises staff, the technology committee and the design committee to improve the national store, in particular to have more DSA merchandise for sale and to ensure all timely fulfillment and creation of the merchandise within the store.
2. Advises staff that they shall take into account the working class status of the membership, as well as striving to provide DSA with a viable funding source, when setting prices for items in the store.
3. Advises staff, the technology committee, the design committee and the social media committee to pilot a program with several DSA chapters across the country to explore providing chapter specific merchandise as well as marketing of those items. In particular, this pilot program will focus on logistical coordination between chapters and the national.
During this period, all profits from chapter specific merchandise will be transferred to the respective chapters.

It passed unanimously.

Christian Bowe moved Resolution for Pilot Program Providing Digital Infrastructure to Chapters.

After amendment, Christian's resolution read:

Resolved, that the National Political Committee (NPC):

1. Advises staff and the technology committee to work with several chapters and provide them with the following digital infrastructure:
 - a. Chapter website (i.e. chaptername.dsausa.org) that can be used to host chapter contact information, meeting details, writings, etc.
 - b. Chapter emails (i.e. info@chaptername.dsausa.org , housing-rights@chaptername.dsausa.org).
 - c. Donation forms that link to a chapters bank account or paypal.
 - d. Membership sign-up forms that connect to the national CRM.
2. Requests recommendations from staff and the technology committee about the feasibility and cost of providing digital infrastructure to every chapter that requests it.

It passed unanimously.

Christian moved Resolution to Explore More Accessible Voting:

Resolved, that the National Political Committee (NPC):

1. Approves the formation of an Accessible Voting Task Force and that this group provide a report, to be submitted for the next meeting of the NPC, that details ways that DSA could make voting more accessible to all members, both nationally and at the chapter level.
2. Requests that the technology committee and the disability working group solicit volunteers of their respective groups to compose the membership of the Accessible Voting Task Force.
3. Requests that the report contain answers to the following questions:
 - a. What does it mean for something to be accessible?
 - b. What types of votes are held most often in DSA and why?
 - c. What sorts of voting platforms already exist and could DSA use them?
 - d. How could technology be used to make voting more accessible to members?
 - e. How do we hold votes that are secure, trustworthy and trusted?

It passed unanimously.

Christian moved Resolution to Implement National Social Media Guidelines.

A substitute motion to create a task force that includes staff and specialists in social media to examine national and local chapter DSA use of social media and create a report for the NPC by next NPC meeting passed unanimously after discussion.

3. Budget and Finance Committee Report

Theresa Alt reported excellent cash flow, income of \$2 million and surplus of \$500,000 in 2017 but uncertainty in the future.

Theresa moved a 2018 budget with conservatively estimated \$1 million in income and realistically estimated \$1.5 million in expenses. It will clearly need to be amended at subsequent NPC meetings as more information on swag, online fundraising and dues sharing comes in in the next few months.

After discussion, Theresa's motion to approve the 2018 Budget passed unanimously.

Ella Mahony nominated Theresa Alt as Secretary-Treasurer, and she was elected unanimously.

R.L. Stephens made a motion which, as amended, said that staff be directed to seek interested specialists with financial expertise to staff the B&F committee, and then recommend them to the Steering Committee for appointment. R.L.'s motion passed unanimously.

Review the Budget and Finance Committee's Narrative Financial Report accepted by the NPC [here](#) and Budget [here](#). (It is the item called '20180119 DSA 2018 Budget Adopted.xlsx.pdf'.)

4. Fundraising and Development Committee Report

Ravi Ahmad reported on plans for dues renewal leaning on chapter efforts to renew members, after training chapter activists and giving them a handbook. There was discussion of the plans. Maria Svart noted that staff plans to phonebank at-large members first, while local chapters actively contact their own members to renew.

5. National Director's Report on Coalition Work

Maria Svart's discussion emphasized DSA's existing coalition work with National Nurses United, the Poor People's Campaign, and Our Revolution and the need for national DSA to coordinate with local chapters in this. Discussion raised questions of other potential coalition partners such as United We Dream. Maria emphasized that political questions like this are central to the NPC's work, more so than operations questions, and that there will be an increasing amount of complex political decisions for leadership to make.

Ella Mahony moved to create a committee with two NPCers to work with Maria to facilitate coalition building, to propose protocols for communication and coordination with coalition partners. It passed without opposition. R.L. Stephens and Christian Bowe volunteered to be the two NPC members.

Christian moved to endorse the Poor People's Campaign, to encourage chapter leaders to participate in state level planning and report back to the membership, and to establish a national coordinating committee to plan our participation in the campaign. Christian's motion passed with no opposition.

6. Democratic Left Committee Report

Chris Maisano reported that the Committee had received about 160 applications and was reviewing them. The print magazine will dedicate the spring issue to Medicare for All, the summer issue to electoral work, and the Labor Day issue to Labor.

After discussion, Natalie moved to have an NPC member coordinate with Maria and the coalition task force and social media task force, along with other relevant groups and individuals, to come up with a PR strategy document for the next NPC meeting. This carried unanimously. Zac Echola was nominated and accepted to draft the PR strategy.

Saturday, January 27th, 2018

7. Staff Reports

Maria Svart thanked all the organizers of the meeting including the North Texas co-chairs. She then continued her report detailing the work of different staff members including a focus in December and January on upgrading internal organizing infrastructure and operations.

8. YDSA Report

Ajmal Alami reported on the work the National Coordinating Committee, staffer Hannah Allison, temporary staffer Anna Bonomo, all the operations staff, and NPCers Ella Mahony and Allie Cohn are doing to prepare for the Winter Conference.

9. Personnel Report

Chris Riddiough recapped the Personnel Committee Report including recommendations to hire a full time development director, a full time events coordinator/grievance officer, and turn the operations director from half time to full time. If funds are available, DSA might hire another full time organizer.

The NPC voted unanimously to accept the report.

10. Next Convention

In response to questions about plans for the next National Convention in the South, Natalie Midiri moved for the convention planning committee to give a report at the next meeting about specific details for location and time of convention.

Natalie's motion passed unanimously.

11. Leadership Training for NPC Members

Chris Riddiough had passed out a *Leadership Handbook* for the NPC. She led a broad discussion of change, collective leadership, and leadership in general. There were many suggestions for additions to the handbook.

Chris moved to refer the handbook to the whole NPC for further revisions and a vote at the next NPC meeting.

Chris' motion passed unanimously.

12. Strategic Planning Session

Maria Svart presented a proposal from staff for sharing dues with local chapters at four different levels.

Ravi Ahmad moved to defer a decision until after the bulk of dues renewal is complete in the second quarter at earliest, with monthly donors being asked whether their payments were intended as contributions or dues.

Ravi's motion passed unanimously.

Maria reminded NPCers of the importance of strategic planning principles like SWOT and SMART in our work.

13. Electoral Report

Christian Bowe moved moved the National Electoral Strategy Proposal. After extensive discussion and many amendments, the operative parts of the Proposal, as amended, read:

The National Electoral Committee

The National Electoral Committee (NEC), comprised of DSA members engaged in electoral work around the country, is the national body empowered to execute the NPC's political strategy by

assisting locals and recommending national endorsements. The structure and role of the NEC should follow from the electoral strategy adopted by DSA; this proposal will now outline how the NEC can best empower chapters to run the best campaigns they can in their local contexts, building electoral power for DSA, while remaining democratically responsive to DSA membership. The NEC should be (1) local-focused; (2) collaborative; and (3) democratic, transparent, and accountable.

Local-focused

- Because the national organization has a limited capacity to affect local campaigns, the NEC should focus on those areas where it can assist locals to reach their fullest potential.
- The NEC should organize trainings, skills-sharing, workshops, etc., aimed at giving local electoral groups the skills and knowledge they need to effectively run the campaigns they want to run.
 - Important skills include using campaign data tools, running press operations, legal and compliance work, vetting candidates for serious problems, etc.
- In all its work, the NEC should focus on amplifying local work beyond what a chapter could achieve on its own.
 - First question is always what the local requests by way of national assistance.
 - Locals and national should together consider what will help build the local's political power. What will help elect the candidate in a way that makes them accountable to DSA? What will help create lasting socialist political power in their community?
 - The NEC's relationship is with the local, rather than the candidate, and should be focused on building the local's power, not assisting any particular campaign directly.

Collaborative

- The model for trainings shouldn't be top-down instruction, but collaborative skills-sharing across locals, facilitated by the NEC.
- Many locals have expressed the desire for more organized and sustained intrastate collaboration; the NEC should help facilitate statewide tables and other regional partnerships that are essential for electoral work, for both practical and legal reasons.
- The NEC should facilitate and encourage regular communication via national email groups and other means to build relationships between locals, to help build a community and encourage cross-branch collaboration, including on projects like phonebanking.

Democratic, Transparent, and Accountable

- NEC members should be democratically nominated and elected by the electoral working groups or other body making electoral decisions of DSA locals engaged in electoral work nationwide
 - If logistical difficulties posed by such an election are impossible to overcome, at the very least, all NEC members should be nominated by their local electoral working group or equivalent before selection
 - The NEC should be larger rather than smaller, to guarantee diversity in geography, race, gender, people with disabilities, age, gender identity, and sexual orientation, and to ensure that the time commitments for NEC don't become unmanageable

- The NEC should be comprised of multiple subcommittees organized by the skills and knowledge necessary to run a campaign: field, communications/social media, compliance, fundraising/finance, and research, etc.
 - Each committee should include people with experience in these arenas, including with political campaigns.
 - The NEC should have two co-chairs, democratically elected by the membership of the NEC, and two co-chairs for each subcommittee.
- NEC should facilitate and seek feedback from DSA members doing electoral work, so that the NEC's support structures can be improved and remain accountable to local members doing the work.
 - The NEC's membership should be published on DSA's website with email contact information.
 - Regular reports should be provided to the NPC and made public to membership.

- Ultimately, of course, the NEC is subordinate to and subject to ratification by the NPC; any decision to overrule a decision of the NEC should be brought to a full vote of the full NPC.

The National Electoral Committee should have two co-chairs selected from the body itself - one member of the NPC that serves on the NEC and one non-NPC member from the NEC, both selected democratically by the NEC.

The NEC will be comprised of no more than twenty-five voting members. The non-NPC NEC members should be democratically nominated and elected by the electoral working groups or other appropriate decision-making body of DSA locals engaged in electoral work nationwide. Out of the NEC's 25-person body, 5 seats will be set aside for small (less than 250 members) chapters. The NEC will, additionally, decide on and set a cap for number of representatives per chapter.

A committee to determine the rules of the election, and in particular to set quotas that ensure representation from geographically diverse locals and smaller locals will be formed from the current members of the NEC, with those rules publicized for comment among DSA nationally prior to final adoption. Non-NPC NEC members may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the NEC for failure to perform their duties or otherwise obstructing the work of the NEC. The NEC may add further non-voting members and representatives from other national working groups, caucuses, or committees by a majority vote. The NEC will, by a majority vote, appoint a representative to the Medicare for All political subcommittee, and appoint one point person for direct communication and planning with the Democratic Socialist Labor Commission.

The current NEC will continue to operate to implement these proposals until a new NEC is elected, which should be on or before March 31, 2018. In addition to starting the training team proposal and running the new NEC election, the current NEC should also focus on identifying all locals engaged in electoral work and connecting with them.

Endorsements

The NEC should provide assistance and programming to any local that wants to take advantage of its resources, regardless of whether they are working on a nationally endorsed campaign. However, national endorsements still have a role to play under this electoral model.

Any candidate endorsed by national should be thoroughly researched and vetted. Before endorsing any candidate, national should establish that the local chapter has a plan to ensure that a victory for the endorsed candidate will be a victory for DSA, not just a victory for the lesser evil. Candidates should be running to win, meaning they should have a credible path to victory, and be endorsed by their local DSA chapter. The flexibility and knowledge of local conditions gained by basing much of the organization's decision-making power in the chapters will be the greatest asset available for guidance in this area.

In the interests of candidates who have early primaries, we will open candidate endorsement applications on February 1st. Applications will end on February 28th. Applications will be reviewed and accepted on a rolling basis. Please allow two weeks for us to process applications. We will open applications for the 2018 cycle again on April 2nd. Applications will end on April 30th and we will accept no submissions after that date. The current NEC will serve in the interim for primaries until April 2nd and assist the elections for the body. The newly elected NEC will then serve for a one-year term.

The NEC will develop a list of political principles representing DSA's values and political positions broadly that nationally endorsed DSA candidates will be required to adopt to receive a DSA national endorsement in the future as a step towards holding DSA candidates accountable to a working class program. This list of political principles will be submitted as a resolution to the DSA National Convention in 2019 to be debated by the general membership as a step towards defining the socialist principles shared broadly by DSA members.

R.L. Stephens proposed a further amendment to authorize a delegation of up to five members--including RL Stephens--to Jackson, MS to do a political investigation into the Jackson-Kush strategic vision, its organizing, and the strategic plan's relationship to the successful electoral campaign for Chokwe Antar Lumumba. This was referred to the NEC.

Dele Balogun proposed an addendum to the main resolution, which, after amendment, read:

- 1) DSA should begin collaborating with both movement and electoral-focused organizations on the left with the intention of exploring building a mass working class party in the long-term depending on the conditions on the ground. This means rooting the organization in strategic base-building work, building a base-constituency, and reorienting our electoral work toward much more strategic aims which help build independent socialist political power.
- 2) DSA recognizes that the Democratic and Republican parties are organs of and represent the interests of the capitalist ruling class. However, we will work with and relate to the most progressive forces within the Democratic Party while we develop strategic work to build independent socialist political power and organization as a long term goal.

- 3) DSA should begin formal communication and consultation with other anti-capitalist electoral formations. Examples include other socialist parties and organizations nationally and internationally, the 1996 Labor Party, and other groups with an independent, working class electoral focus. The lessons of past attempts at party formation must be studied intently by DSA's leadership and rank-and-file, and national DSA should conduct political education to examine these issues.
- 4) As a tactic for base-building, political education, and winning reforms, ballot questions (also known as *measures*) sidestep some of the more complicated aspects of candidate campaigns for direct engagement on an issue. Ballot question campaigns should be given comparable resources to candidate campaigns in electoral work as a way to center our socialist politics.
- 5) As socialists, we should encourage support for candidates who are members of DSA or other socialist organizations and who are running as explicit socialists on a socialist or independent ballot line.
- 6) There are cases where independent ballot access is made very difficult, and that socialist candidates may seek to run on the Democratic ballot line in those instances. While we should be critical of that decision, there are some special cases where this might constitute a strategic decision.
- 7) DSA should consult the legal working group, legal subcommittee, and staff in order to explore working with other organizations to fight and defeat ballot access hurdles across the country.

The amendment was put to a roll-call vote with Ravi, RL, Zac, Ella, Dele, Natalie, Jeremy, Ajmal, Christian, Chris M, Catherine voting for; Chris R, Allie voting against; Theresa abstaining.

The National Electoral Strategy with this addition then passed unanimously.

Chris Riddiough noted that the Movement for a People's Party had claimed to have formed a coalition with DSA's unofficial Refoundation Caucus. She moved that the NPC contact the Refoundation caucus and caution them that unofficial caucuses such as theirs do not have the authority to form coalitions with outside organizations. Discussion suggested that the caucus was in communication with the MPP but the claim of a coalition was entirely from the MPP. The motion passed, and Chris R. will contact the Refoundation Caucus.

14. Labor Report

Chris Maisano and R.L. Stephens gave reports as to the nature and composition of the Democratic Socialist Labor Commission. They also spoke about the need for labor education and building relationships with organizations such as *Labor Notes* and about continued solidarity with other labor struggles. Once the DSLC is elected, the NPC will discuss what the relationship will be with the commission.

15. Medicare for All Report

Jeremy Gong and Chris Riddiough reviewed the report from the Medicare for All Steering Committee which included status updates on the committee's ongoing work to launch DSA's national Medicare for All campaign.

Chris R. moved to accept the committee's report, including the committee's nominations of Ben Fong and Megan Svoboda to the Medicare for All Steering Committee.

Zac Echola moved to divide the question. Zac's motion passed.

The NPC voted to enter executive session to discuss the nominations.

After the executive session, both parts of Chris R.'s motion, to accept the committee's report and approve the nominations of Ben Fong and Megan Svoboda passed.

Review the Medicare for All Committee Report accepted by the NPC [here](#).

16. Membership Development Report

Ravi Ahmad reported on the Membership Development Committee, which was formed at the October NPC meeting as a restructuring of political education, training and new members and chapter/organizing committee approvals.

Ravi moved to adopt the operating rules in the report.

Chris Riddiough moved to amend the operating rules for style, so that usage of “Membership Development Committee” as the primary term for the body is consistent.

Chris R’s motion passed.

Ravi’s amended motion to adopt the Membership Development Committee’s operating rules passed.

R.L. moved that he and Ella be accepted as co-chairs of the political education subcommittee. After a substitution, the following language passed:

R.L. Stephens and Ella Mahony will serve as interim co-chairs of the political education subcommittee and work with Peg Strobel to reconstitute the membership of the subcommittee.

R.L. moved to adopt his resolution to form an [Anti-War Think Tank](#).

R.L.’s motion to form the Anti-War Think Tank passed.

R.L. moved to adopt a resolution to endorse the Operation PUSH prison strike and a prison solidarity task force.

R.L.’s motion passed unanimously.

R.L. moved to adopt a base-building motion that would

1. Form a base-building project in the political education subcommittee.
2. That working group would have access to Zoom calls, if feasible.
3. The NPC endorses an ongoing base-building speaking tour.

Jeremy moved that the motion be referred to the political education committee.

Jeremy's motion to refer R.L.'s resolution to the political education committee passed.

Sunday, January 28th, 2018

17. Working Group Discussion

Chris Maisano moved (as amended) to continue the current moratorium on the formation of national-level working-groups/committees until the next NPC meeting and that a subcommittee of the NPC will be charged with doing a survey and drafting recommendations for the NPC to consider at our next meeting..

A subcommittee of Natalie Midiri, Chris Maisano and Ravi Ahmad was approved to carry out the work.

18. Status of Incorporation Work

Maria shared Sasha Hammad's "Sample Bylaws Update to NPC" which outlined alternative ways to proceed with coming to agreement on sample bylaws.

No action was taken during the meeting.

19. OC into Chapters Moratorium

Allie Cohn moved to refer the moratorium for organizing committees becoming new chapters and the discussion regarding gender make-up of OCs to the Membership Development Committee.

Allie's motion passed unanimously.

Allie moved to require the following language (as amended) as grounds for expulsion in bylaws for OCs to become accepted as chapters:

“if they are found to be under the discipline of any democratic centralist organization.”

Allie’s amended motion passed, 9 in favor and 5 opposed.

R.L. moved that documentation on democratic centralism be updated and sent to OCs, and that discussion of the required guidelines be referred to the Membership Development Committee, to report back to the NPC.

R.L.’s motion passed.

Allie moved to require the following language in bylaws for OCs to become accepted as chapters:

“Distribution of assets. Upon dissolution of the organization, any residual assets shall become property of the national organization of Democratic Socialists of America.”

Allie’s motion passed unanimously.

Allie moved that YDSA representatives be allowed to opt out of voting on DSA chapter and OC applications. The individuals who opt out may not vote until they declare to the Chair of the Steering Committee and to the National Director that they want to resume voting. They may not choose to vote on some applications and not others.

Allie’s moved passed.

Allie moved that NPC members may opt out of voting on DSA chapter and OC applications. The individuals who opt out may not vote until they declare to the Chair of the Steering Committee and to the National Director that they want to resume voting. They may not choose to vote on some applications and not others.

Allie's motion passed.

20. Training Team Report

Ravi summarized a detailed report on a committee with evolving membership and its plans to do trainings and finalize Hannah Allison's organizing manual. Staff will give guidance in selecting the chapters and leaders to be trained.

The NPC accepted the report.

21. National Leadership Reform

Delé Balogun had submitted a proposal for clarifying roles of the NPC, Steering Committee and membership and improving communication and transparency. Discussion suggested that parts of it were actually Bylaws amendments that would have to go to the next Convention. The NPC agreed to discuss the document at its next meeting.

Zac Echola moved his Resolution to Create Standing Rule to Allow for Electronic Meetings of the National Political Committee (as amended):

Resolved, that the National Political Committee (NPC):

1. Cease voting via email as soon as feasible and establish an electronic voting system such as Loomio or Opavote and that the selection of a voting system be assigned to a committee consisting of Zac and Christian; and
2. Adopt a standing rule to allow each individual member, as well as the collective NPC, to be permitted to participate in a regular or special meeting by, or conduct the meeting through the use of, any means of communication by which all NPC members participating may simultaneously hear each other (including other forms of communication to meet the accessibility needs of all NPC members) during the meeting; and
3. An NPC member participating in such a meeting by these means shall be considered to be present in person at the meeting;

Zac's motion passed.

22. Online DSA Forum

Zac Echola for the Tech Committee moved a Resolution to Create and Moderate a National Forum for Members (as amended):

Resolved, that the National Political Committee (NPC):

1. Directs the Tech Committee to create a common forum for the uses described herein along with a plan to train and support members in its use; and
2. Authorizes staff and the Tech Committee to plan a budget, with oversight from the Budget and Finance committee, to develop the system; and
3. Authorizes the Tech Committee to build a system to open up access to the entire membership in good standing; and
4. Directs all Working Groups, Commissions and Campaigns to prioritize using the forums for organizing by May 1, 2018; and
5. Advises staff to work with the Tech Committee to migrate each national Working Group, Commission and Campaign to use the forums; and
6. Requests that the moderators of the New Members Facebook Group and the Activist Listserv work with relevant staff on usage and moderation policies for the forums, respecting the needs of each commission using the forums; and
7. Advises staff to develop a plan to encourage use of the system by
 - a. Communicating with commission leadership to promote the forums among their members; and
 - b. Communicating to chapters via Leaders and stakeholder calls; and
 - c. Communicating to members via emails, with particular importance given to new membership; and
 - d. Any other methods staff deems necessary to communicate; and
8. Upon migration of all working groups, commissions and campaigns to the new system and the completion of a moderation plan and the ability for all members to access the forums, the New Members Facebook Group and the Activist listserv will be shut down and replaced with a similar forums on the website, as needed; and
9. Finally, the NPC will commit to using such a system for important announcements to the membership, using a category of the site dedicated to such regular updates.

Zac's resolution passed.

23. Grievance Committee Report

Catherine Hoffmann, noting various resignations had left her alone on the Grievance Committee, presented the Committee report calling for hiring a full-time National Grievance Officer to both develop materials and procedures and handle grievances. We noted that the Personnel Committee had recommended a part-time NGO. The NPC will refer potential committee members to Cathy.

24. Process for filling NPC Vacancies

To date, two NPC members have submitted resignations. Danny Fetonte months earlier and Leslie Driskill just before the meeting.

Delé moved to accept Danny Fetonte's resignation, and the motion carried unanimously.

We discussed various procedures to fill the vacancy and criteria to use.

Jeremy Gong moved that a subcommittee of the NPC develop a nominations procedure which would include a call for applications based on criteria. Then the NPC would review the applications in advance of a vote at the next NPC meeting. This passed unanimously.

Chris Riddiough, Ravi Ahmad, Jeremy Gong and Christian Bowe were unanimously voted to form the subcommittee.

25. Endorsing Two Actions

Chris R. moved a resolution to endorse the International Women's Strike and one to endorse and urge members to sign a petition initiated by Jules Bernstein to censure Donald Trump. This passed with 11 votes in favor.

26. Scheduling of Next NPC Meetings

We discussed scheduling the next two NPC meetings out of three more to be held this year. A likely location for the next one is Los Angeles [subsequently reconsidered]. For each possible weekend from April through September Maria recorded who would be definitely or probably unable to attend. She will consult absentees and tabulate the results.

Prepared by Ajmal Alami, Theresa Alt, Zac Echola and Natalie Midiri.