

# BY-LAWS OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA – MILWAUKEE

[Adopted February 12, 2017]

## ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Democratic Socialists of America – Milwaukee (Milwaukee DSA), a chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America, a not-for-profit corporation.

## ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

As a chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America, Milwaukee DSA seeks to facilitate the transition to a truly democratic and socialist society and its members share a vision of democracy and equality in economic, social, and political relationships.

We will work to promote a society in which human beings are free to develop to their fullest potential, in which public policy is determined not by wealth but popular participation, and in which individual liberties are carefully safeguarded. We believe economic equality is required to ensure the pursuit of happiness is uninhibited.

Milwaukee DSA members share a vision of human solidarity expressed in commitment to the common good of society. We interpret economic, social, and political structures as serving all the people.

At the same time, Milwaukee DSA members are committed to the dignity of every person. We will act collectively to promote a society in which human beings are free to develop to their fullest potential in which public policy is determined not by wealth but popular participation, and in which individual liberties are carefully safeguarded. We believe economic equality is justice to ensure the pursuit of happiness is uninhibited.

## ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Requirements for Members. All national members in good standing with the Democratic Socialists of America and who reside in southeast Wisconsin (as defined by Milwaukee County and surrounding counties of Kenosha, Ozaukee, Racine, Washington, and Waukesha).

Section 2: Dues. Voluntary annual Local dues may be established by the Executive Committee to sustain the work of Milwaukee DSA.

## ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

Section 1: Regular Meetings. Meetings will be held on a regular basis. The time and place will be published and distributed by the Executive Committee, which will propose the meeting's agenda. Regular meetings will set Local policy and work priorities, and will include political education sessions.

Section 2: General Meetings. A General Meeting of the Local shall be held once annually for the purpose of electing officers. An announcement for this meeting will be published at least one month in advance.

Section 3: Special Meetings. Special Meetings may be called by the Co-Chairs, the Executive Committee, or upon written request of three members of the Local to both Co-Chairs who shall duly notify the membership when urgent and important matters require deliberation. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the Call.

Except in cases of emergency, at least five days notice shall be given.

Section 4: Quorum. Quorum shall consist of 50% of the average attendance of members present at the last two regular meetings.

## ARTICLE V: OFFICERS, POWERS, AND DUTIES

Section 1: Officers. The officers of Milwaukee DSA shall be two co-chairs, one woman and one man; secretary; treasurer; education; outreach; and two at-large members. Milwaukee DSA shall strive to promote wide representation of marginalized groups among its officers and membership. All officers will serve a 12-month term.

Section 2: Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy, the Executive Committee will appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term.

Section 3: Co-Chairs. Co-Chairs shall share responsibility for overall coordination and operation of the Local, act as primary spokespeople, preside at Local and Executive Committee meetings, and be keylist contacts for the National Office. They shall initiate such actions and policies as the Local's general welfare may demand.

Section 4: Secretary. The Secretary shall record the minutes of Regular, General, and Executive Committee meetings. The Secretary shall also maintain a current list of active and recently inactive members, notify members of meetings, and prepare correspondence as specified by the Executive Committee.

Section 5: Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be the Chief Financial Officer of the Local, be responsible for adhering to fiscal procedures specified by National DSA, make deposits and disbursements, and ensure that annual national and local dues are current for each member. The Treasurer will make an annual report at the General Meeting, as well as periodic reports as requested by the Executive Committee.

Section 6: Education. The Education Officer shall be responsible for the educational work of Milwaukee DSA. The officer shall arrange formal political discussions, study groups within Milwaukee DSA, and forums.

Section 7: Outreach. The Outreach Officer shall be responsible for social media, marketing, branding, and recruitment of Milwaukee DSA. Additionally, they shall serve as liaison to university Democratic Socialist organizations within the Milwaukee DSA region.

Section 8: At-Large. The At-Large Officers shall work to support the efforts of the Local's committees and assist in the formation and development of ad hoc committees and working groups.

## ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1: Structure. The Executive Committee shall consist of the eight officers of the Local. Its meetings will be open to any member, who will have voice but not vote.

Section 2: Duties. The Executive Committee shall supervise the business of the Local and may act on any matter which requires immediate and urgent action. The Executive Committee is the regular executive body of the Local, and thus is subordinate to its General and Regular Meetings.

Section 3: Meetings. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at the call of the Co-Chairs at intervals determined by a prior Executive Committee Meeting or by consultation with any three members of the Executive Committee. All members of the Executive Committee must normally be given five days notice of

regular Executive Meetings. A 24-hour notice may be given under emergency conditions.

Section 4: Quorum. A quorum of 50% of Executive Committee officers is required to transact business.

Section 5: Terms of Office. Elected Officers shall serve for 12-months or until their successors are elected, and shall take office upon adjournment of the meeting at which they are elected.

#### ARTICLE VII: CONVENTION DELEGATES

The Local delegates to the National Convention shall be elected from among dues-paying membership at least one month prior to the date of the Convention and in line with requirements articulated by the National Office.

#### ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

Amendments may be initiated by the Executive Committee or petition of five members. Amendments must be published to the membership at least one month prior to a vote at a Regular or General meeting. Amendments receiving at least two-thirds of the votes of the members present will be accepted into the ByLaws.