



2011 Socialist Party USA
National Convention
Pre-Convention Discussion Bulletin

2011 Convention Agenda

Friday October 14, 2011

10 am- 12:00 noon: Registration/Check-in
10:30 am – 11:30 am: NC Meeting
12 noon – 1:00 pm: Credential Committee

1:15 pm: Convention opens

Welcome by Co-Chairs (will co-chair session until convention officers are elected)

1:30 pm- Credentials Report
- delegates seated/ challenges addressed
2:30 pm: - Rules discussed/adopted
3:15 pm- Convention officers elected
3:30 pm- Agenda discussed/adopted
3:45 pm: Welcome statement by Socialist Party of Los Angeles
4:00 pm: Logistics report (National Secretary)
4:15 – 6:30 pm: Break into Committees

Saturday October 15, 2011

9:00 am: Committee reports due
10 am: Registration/check in table re-opens
10:30 am: Session called to order/ agenda reviewed for the day
10:45 am: Platform Committee Report
- resolutions, voting
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch
1:30 pm – Presidential Nomination
- Nominations
- Presentations
2:15 pm – Nominee Q&A
3:15 pm – Election of Presidential Candidate
3:45 pm - Vice Presidential Nominations
- Nominations
- Presentations
4:15 pm - Election of Presidential Candidate
4:30 pm: Co-Chair Elections
4:45 pm: Co-Vice Chair Elections
5:00 pm: National Committee Elections
6:30 pm: Convention adjourns
7:15 pm: Convention Banquet

Sunday October 16, 2011

10:00 am: Session called to order/ agenda reviewed for the day
10:15 am: Constitution Committee Report
- resolutions, voting
12:00 – 1:30 pm Lunch
1:30 am: Resolutions Committee Report
- resolutions, voting
3:00 pm: Good & Welfare / International
4:00 pm: National Committee Meeting

This bulletin includes materials submitted by the September 15, 2011 deadline. Materials submitted after the deadline must be presented to the convention committees and will be prioritized after those in this bulletin. If you submitted a resolution to convention@socialistparty-usa.org and it was not included, contact us immediately at natsec@socialistparty-usa.org or 201-803-7574 so this can be confirmed and copies can be added to the convention packet.

2011 Convention Rules (passed by the National Action Committee)

1. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the seated delegates and shall remain in effect until the time set for the session to end.
2. No one shall be admitted to the floor without paying required fees. Alternates and observers are permitted on the convention floor. Observers may speak only at the pleasure of the body.
3. Each delegate and alternate must provide credentials of election and pay required fees.
4. Voting shall be by display of official red voting card.
5. Each state or local delegation shall designate a "delegate captain" who shall keep the convention secretary informed of any changes to the delegation due to the rotation of delegates and alternates, or for any other reason. The "delegate captain" shall be responsible for maintaining order and gender balance within her or his delegation.
6. The deadline for challenging the credentials of any delegate shall be 12:00 noon on the first day of the convention, unless the delegate registers after that time.
7. Convention chairs shall be elected at the opening session of the Convention, two for each morning, afternoon and evening session. Convention chairs for each session shall be gender balanced, and will have a working knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order.
8. Provisions shall be made at each session for hearing, vision and mobility impaired. These shall include a large-print schedule of events; seating designated for disabled delegates at each session; and assisted listening devices and sign-language interpreters, upon request.
9. A Peacekeeper and Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the Chair of the first session, and they shall appoint assistants as necessary.
10. The chair of the first session shall appoint two convention secretaries for each morning, afternoon and evening session.
11. The chair of the first session shall appoint four tellers who shall count votes and distribute written ballots as necessary.
12. Committees of the Convention shall be as follows:
 - 1) Credentials
 - 2) Constitution and Statement of Principles
 - 3) Resolutions and Platform
13. Delegates are encouraged to join a convention committee when registering. Only seated delegates may vote at committee meetings.
14. The National Committee shall appoint the Credentials Committee.
 - 1) The Credentials Committee determines the validity of delegate credentials and reports to the first session.
 - 2) In particular, the Credentials Committee shall abide by the Constitutional provision that "Any delegation which fails to achieve gender parity shall have the delegation's total number of votes reduced to the size of a balanced delegation (the equal number of men and women, plus one) by the Credentials Committee, unless the Credentials Committee is persuaded that the state/local has made a good-faith effort to meet the gender requirements."
 - 3) The meetings of the Credentials Committee are open to observation by any SP member.
15. The convention committees shall elect their own conveners and recording secretaries.
16. The Convention shall determine the convention agenda, including the length of sessions and the time and location of convention committee meetings.
17. All resolutions, except procedural and congratulatory resolutions, shall be in writing.
18. Resolutions, constitutional and Statement of Principle amendments, and platform revisions are vetted through convention committees.
 - 1) Convention committees decide whether a proposal is reported to the convention.
 - 2) Proposals that have met the deadline for publication in the Convention Bulletin will have priority in committee; i.e. must be disposed of before other proposals are in order.
 - 3) Proposals submitted after the Convention Bulletin deadline but before 3:00 pm Friday shall require a 2/3 vote by the appropriate committee for consideration by that committee.
 - 4) The committee shall post (or otherwise distribute to the delegates) all resolutions by Saturday 9 am.
19. Proposed resolutions, constitutional amendments and platform revisions shall be considered by the Convention in the following order of priority:
 - 1) Proposals published in the Convention Bulletin and reported out of convention committees.
 - 2) Proposals not published in the Convention Bulletin, but reported out of the convention committee.
 - 3) Committees shall prioritize the proposals they bring to the floor, keeping in mind the total amount of time allotted for discussion and voting.
20. Except as provided in the agenda, discussion from the floor shall be limited to two minutes by each speaker, but the Convention may limit or extend time by a 2/3 vote. No delegate shall be recognized a second time until all delegates desiring to speak have had the opportunity to do so. Pro and con speakers shall alternate if possible.

- 21.** The motion "Previous Question" shall be out of order at the end of one's own speech. No more than six total speakers unless waived by 2/3 vote of the convention.
- 22.** Except where otherwise provided, voting shall be by a show of delegates' voting cards, except that when demanded by 1/3 of the delegates present and voting, the vote shall be by roll call. The Chair may call for a voice vote if no delegate objects.
- 23.** Only those members in good standing who meet the qualifications set forth in the Constitution and who are present at the Convention, and who state their acceptance of a nomination for that office, or members not present who have submitted their acceptance of a nomination in writing, shall be eligible for nomination as a national officer or national committee member or alternate.
- 24.** All votes shall be open, i.e. no secret ballots. The election for female NC members and alternates shall precede the election for male NC members and alternates.
- 25. 1)** Election of co-chairs and co-Vice-Chairs will be through a series of standing votes. Each delegate may vote for one candidate. The candidate with the lowest number of votes shall be dropped and a new round of voting will then take place until one candidate receives a majority of the votes.
- 2)** The election of National Committee members and alternates shall be by standing vote, with each delegates having as many special voting cards as there are National Committee members to be elected. With each vote, the delegate will hand the teller one of their voting cards. The voting cards for female candidates will be red, and the voting cards for male candidates will be orange to prevent the possibility that cards from the first round of voting will be used in the second round. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected as National Committee members. The next highest vote-getters equal in number to those elected to the National Committee shall be elected as alternates.
- 3)** Each delegate may vote fewer votes than they have ballots, but may not cast more than one vote for any candidate
- 26.** No motions are in order while tellers are counting votes.
- 27.** A two-thirds majority is needed to amend the Statement of Principles.
- 28.** Except when in conflict with these rules, the proceedings of the Convention shall be governed by the Constitution of the Socialist Party USA and Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.
- 29.** These rules (not including the Constitution of the Socialist Party USA) may be suspended by a majority vote during the first session of the Convention. After that time, they may be suspended by a 2/3 vote of the delegates present and voting.

Convention Rules Resolutions

*****Electing the National Committee By Matthew Andrews**

Motion: When electing National Officers and National Committee members,

- 1) Delegates shall be provided paper ballots and candidates names in writing.
- 2) Ballots shall be counted using OpenSTV software. The election of National Officers shall be conducted using Instant Run-off Voting. The election of the National Committee shall be conducted using the OpenSTV recommended Single Transferable Vote method.

Motivation: The Socialist Party no longer needs to invent its own method of conducting elections each year. By using OpenSTV, we can ensure that ballots are accurately and swiftly counted using a system proven to provide the most democratic results. OpenSTV implements the single transferable vote exactly as used by governments, including Scotland and the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts. These methods have been extensively verified against other software and actual election results. For more information, visit <http://www.openstv.org>

*****Procedural Motion- Convention Committees Process By Brandon Collins**

All convention committees are to adhere to the process laid out below:

- A chair for each committee is to be appointed by the convention.
- The chair may not vote nor make a motion.
- Roberts Rules are to be followed.
- Last minute items (those not submitted in advance in the convention "packet") submitted to committee must be approved for further consideration.
- All accepted submissions are to be read aloud.

- A quick up or down vote on each item is to be taken to determine which items can be excluded immediately. A 2/3 majority is needed to exclude an item.

The remainder are to be considered in full, with amendments and reconciliation to be considered by the committee. The merits of a particular item are not to be considered, this is not a time for debate. It is a time for considering which items are the most important for the convention to consider and in what order.

A ranking system is to be applied to each item determining the order for which the item is to be introduced to the convention.

Committee members assign a number corresponding to the number of items remaining, 1 being the most preferable, and the highest number being the least. (for example 10 resolutions use a scale of 1 to 10). A paper ballot shall be used to ensure that each number is used only once. Scores are tallied. The lowest scored item would be first presented to the convention, the second lowest would be second etc.

Any ties can be settled by vote of the committee by simple majority.

No more than 10 items should be ranked, with the assumption that only the first 5 will have a chance to be considered by the convention.

No committee shall allow members from another committee to be included in the voting, though may allow others to address an item by decision of the committee.

Explanation- the 2009 convention had two committees, one was extremely well run, the other got bogged down in discussion of specifics rather than the order of importance for the resolutions to come to the floor and the committee was unable to consider all motions. This is a similar system to the one used by the well functioning committee.

RESOLUTIONS

*****Two Resolution Proposals for the Convention**

By Brandy Baker brandybaker.net@gmail.com

#1) The SP-USA shall come out in support of BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions).

<http://www.bdsmovement.net/>

"The global movement for a campaign of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with international law and Palestinian rights was initiated by Palestinian civil society in 2005, and is coordinated by the Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC), established in 2007. BDS is a strategy that allows people of conscience to play an effective role in the Palestinian struggle for justice.

For decades, Israel has denied Palestinians their fundamental rights of freedom, equality, and self-determination through ethnic cleansing, colonization, racial discrimination, and military occupation. Despite abundant condemnation of Israeli policies by the UN, other international bodies, and preeminent human rights organisations, the world community has failed to hold Israel accountable and enforce compliance with basic principles of law. Israel's crimes have continued with impunity.

In view of this continued failure, Palestinian civil society called for a global citizens' response. On July 9 2005, a year after the International Court of Justice's historic advisory opinion on the illegality of Israel's Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), a clear majority of Palestinian civil society called upon their counterparts and people of conscience all over the world to launch broad boycotts, implement divestment initiatives, and to demand sanctions against Israel, until Palestinian rights are recognized in full compliance with international law.

The campaign for boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) is shaped by a rights-based approach and highlights the three broad sections of the Palestinian people: the refugees, those under military occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and Palestinians in Israel. The call urges various forms of boycott against Israel until it meets its obligations under international law by:

Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands occupied in June 1967 and dismantling the Wall; Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN Resolution 194.

The BDS call was endorsed by over 170 Palestinian political parties, organizations, trade unions and movements. The signatories represent the refugees, Palestinians in the OPT, and Palestinian citizens of Israel." (bdsmovement.net)

"Why Socialists Should Support the Boycott of Israel"

<http://www.bdsmovement.net/2011/socialists-should-boycott-israel-7448>

*****#2) The SP-USA shall become a organizational member of the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation <http://www.endtheoccupation.org/>**

*****Clarification of Socialist Party USA role inside United National Anti-War Coalition
By Brandon Collins**

Representatives of the SP-USA to the UNAC shall regularly consult with the International Commission, Anti-Imperialism Committee, and the National Committee for an anti-war strategy and approach inside of the coalition.

The National Committee with consultation from the International Commission and the Anti-Imperialism Committee shall form a committee to lay out clear strategy and policy guidelines, and to recruit representatives to the UNAC based on the following criteria:

- gender balanced representation (one male, one female, and one alternate)
- ability to participate in on the ground organizing and travel for the UNAC
- ability to engage UNAC in internal discussion

Rationale- The SP-USA joined the UNAC in January 2011. Since then some very divisive topics have arisen inside of UNAC. One of these is the structure and process the coalition uses. The SP could be a much stronger voice inside the coalition, and take a leadership role if we were able to do more than contribute to conversation within UNAC and participate in phone conferences. With the upcoming NATO/G8 protests it is extremely critical that we have members of the SP actively participating in the planning as well as mobilizing SP members to participate. Having a general strategy and policy guiding our representatives inside of UNAC is critical, the SP needs a comprehensive approach to ending the empire.

*****Resolution on Restoring Membership Dues Rebates to SP State and Local Organizations
Submitted by the Socialist Party of Michigan**

Within not more than three months following this resolution's enactment, the National Office shall begin the restoration of membership dues rebates to SP state organizations in organized states, and SP local organizations in unorganized states, at a rate of not less than 30% of the total membership dues revenue collected from each state party's or local's membership during each yearly quarter.

As a condition of receiving quarterly dues rebates, the National Committee may bar or limit the ability of state and local organizations to concurrently mandate separate state and local dues payments while receiving national dues rebates. The National Committee may also mandate that each state and local organization submit quarterly, bi-annual, or annual affiliate reports as a condition for receiving dues rebates.

Motivational Statement: In February 2006, the National Committee established a policy of national membership dues sharing with state parties (and locals in unorganized states) provided that they comply with basic requirements such as filing quarterly affiliate reports. The NC initially set the amount at 10% of membership dues received during each quarter, and later raised this amount to 30% at the June 2007 NC meeting. In August 2008, the NC suspended the dues sharing program until the following NC meeting in January 2009. At its January 2009 meeting, the NC voted to continue the suspension of the dues sharing program until the next NC meeting in June 2009. Nevertheless, the NC failed to revisit the issue at its June 2009 and the program's operation has never since resumed.

Any organization whose operating structure is as membership branch-based as that of the Socialist Party, must have some system of dues sharing to enable Party branches to fund their operations. The current absence of any such system can only have the inevitable effect of discouraging the development, participation, activism, and sustainability of state and local branches. Even despite the fact that SP branches are officially sub-units of the national party, rather than independently affiliated organizations, they are currently still required to effectively compete with the national party for all of the funds that they manage to raise from party members on their own.

The re-establishment of a percentage-based system of dues sharing is an immensely needed element for our party's effective operation and development as a national and membership branch-based organization. Locals are often the means of contact that keep members in the party, rather than allowing their dues to lapse. Empowering locals monetarily will have the effect of growing our party, and along with it, its dues base. Through this financial sharing, the

party will be investing in its outreach abilities and over a moderate amount of time, recoup the shared funds through the greater membership involvement, thereby most likely leading to a net gain for the party in both such respects.

*****Resolution on Dual-Membership in Democratic Centralist Structured Organizations
Submitted by the Socialist Party of Michigan**

1. The blanket and politically-impartial ban on Socialist Party USA membership compatibility with dual membership in any and all democratic centralist-structured organizations is hereby repealed.
2. The National Convention and National Committee reserve the right to bar dual membership in other *specific* organizations within which dual SP membership is deemed to be politically or practically untenable.

*****Resolution to Eliminate Unemployment
Submitted by David Gil**

The New York Times published on September 7, 2011 my "Letter to the Editor" on permanently eliminating unemployment. I am copying that letter below:

TO THE EDITOR: "The Jobs Crisis" (editorial, Sept. 4) suggests constructive measures to reduce unemployment. It also stresses the need for long-term plans to deal with the scourge of unemployment.

One way full employment can be assured is to redistribute the aggregate of work in the economy to all workers by reducing the length of the individual workday to create job vacancies.

Eight hours of work a day is not a sacred institution. Congress can by periodic legislation regulate the length of the workday to assure a permanent distribution of work opportunities for all. Such a policy would carry out President Franklin D. Roosevelt's proposal in the 1944 State of the Union address, to assure to all the right to useful and remunerative jobs.

*DAVID G. GIL Lexington, Mass., Sept. 4, 2011
The writer is emeritus professor of social policy at Brandeis University.*

I suggest that the upcoming SP-USA Convention adopt a resolution to eliminate unemployment permanently by periodic acts of Congress to adjust the length of the workday to assure a balance between the number of jobs in the economy and the number of workers needing and desiring employment.

While the policy proposed herewith is is not socialism, it is an important step to move toward socialism within the existing capitalist system. David G. Gil gil@brandeis.edu 781-862-6037

*****Dues Report
by Steve Sears**

Socialist Party USA members financially support our party by paying dues, making donations, purchasing SPUSA merchandise, and other ways. They put their trust in the National Committee to ensure these funds are used in a responsible way on education and to promote Democratic Socialism. Members have a right to know how their dues are spent, and to receive a financial report from the NC on how their dues have been used in the past year.

Be it resolved that the National Secretary will compile a report that will include, but not be limited to a breakdown on how much money has been spent on the various campaigns being run or supported by the party, organizing activities around the country, convention and other meetings, education and promotion activities, The Socialist and other newsletters and additional activities as directed by the National Committee. This report will cover the previous year, January – December. This report will be reviewed, and approved by the National Committee and will be mailed to all members no later than May 1st of each year starting in 2012. The report may be mailed with other items such as The Socialist, The Organizer, Hammer & Tongs or other mailings including fund raising request.

Besides the right to know how their dues are spent, it is hoped that knowing the scope and cost of Socialist Party activities will result in more active membership, and greater fund raising potential.

***** The Socialist**

At the 2009 convention, delegates approved the publication of 6 issues of The Socialist per year. Since that time, the cost of each issue of TS has more than doubled. Some of this cost is associated with the increased cost of printing,

some from mailing TS via first class mail (currently \$.64 per comrade) and some from the payments to the volunteer editor which amounts to \$150 per edition, and \$50 per edition for the volunteer layout comrade. These additional cost are not being met by member dues, and to make our party budget balance, we have been forced to take significant money from our bank accounts. To further complicate this problem The Socialist is already significantly over budget for this year and may be forced to ask for additional money just to stay in publication. If this continues, The Socialist will continue to go up in cost while our bank accounts continue to go down. We simply can not continue at this rate. The Socialist must start to bring in at least part of it's cost to ensure that it continues to be printed, comrades continue to receive it, and are able to use it as the recruiting and education tool that it is designed to be.

Therefore:

Be it resolved that starting in January 2012, The Socialist will no longer be paid solely from Member's dues and the Party budget, but will be required to bring in a portion of its cost to produce, print and deliver by either selling advertisements, subscriptions, or paid in advance bundles. To allow the Editorial board to move this process forward the percentage of the cost will go up gradually during the year from an initial 10% to 20%. The time line will be as follows:

Issues one - three of 2012 – 10%

Issues four - six of 2012 – 15%

Issue 1 of 2013 and all future issues – 20%

Failure to meet these goals will result in the NC directing cost. This may include ending payments to the voluntary editor and layout comrade, cutting the number of issues back to 4 issues per year, or other cuts that result in the goals being met.

The National Committee, the Editor, and the Editorial board are also directed to look into future cost savings for The Socialist. These can include, but not be limited to electronic subscriptions, volunteers or a local doing bulk mailings instead of first class (TS could be shipped to a local from the printer where the bulk mailing could be done), or a NC directed cut from 6 to 4 issues per year. Members are encouraged to forward additional ideas to the EB and the National Office.

We owe it to members who pay their hard earned money as dues to our party. We need to ensure that this money is used to the best ways possible. Taking steps to cut the cost of TS means more money that can go to other aspects of the party including actions and organizing.

Members are encouraged to purchase ads and bundles as well as sell subscriptions to help keep The Socialist in publication.

***** Convention Travel Fund by Steve Sears**

Democracy plays an important part of our party, but how democratic is it to hold conventions where a large number of delegates are unable to attend due to the cost of travel and hotels. To ensure democracy, our party needs to help those locals who struggle with fund raising and ensure that delegates elected, are able to serve.

Therefore, be it resolved that all membership forms, cards or pitches will include a solicitation for donation to a Convention Travel Fund. The solicitation will include the suggested amounts of \$5, \$10, \$25, and other. This amount will be added to their dues payment.

This fund will be managed by the National Secretary who will report it's balance at all NC meetings, and in each copy of Hammer & Tongs. Convention Travel Grants will be made by a committee chosen by the NC with at least 50% of the members being delegates elected to attend the convention that the grants are being made for. The committee will decide the requirements for the grants, distribution, and ensure that the fund is used to help the most comrades as possible.

***** Statement of Agreement Submitted by Greg Pason**

Motion: To create a statement of agreement that highlights key sections and the main positions of the Statement of Principles. This "Statement of Agreement" will be composed of "points" which highlight at least six but no more than twelve key sections of the Party's principles.

Rationale: The Statement of Principles is a wordy document and applicants can easily miss key points. A standard Statement of Agreement will be a key document for local and state organizations to use to highlight important party beliefs when interviewing or approving applicants.

*****Plan of Action and Priorities**

Submitted by Greg Pason

Motion: To pass a plan of action & priorities and statement of purpose for the period in between conventions.

Follow up Motion 1: To draft a six to ten point priority agreement to guide the National Committee from this convention.

Follow up Motion 2: To create a committee of two representatives from each chartered state organization or one rep from locals in unorganized states (not to surpass 2 reps in one state) to draft "Plan of Action and Priorities" for the 2013 national convention. The committee will rotate the chair for each meeting and submit quarterly reports to the National Committee on progress. The committee will submit a final proposal 6 month before the 2013 national convention and well as any minority positions of at least 25 % of the members. Committee Quorum for meetings/voting will be 75% of states/ locals in unorganized states and states/ locals.

Rationale: Every convention a new National Committee is elected and resolutions passed and various mandates claimed by delegates and members. It is important that delegates have the opportunity to give the National Committee a clearer directive on what Party priorities and directions should be over the period in between conventions.

*****Resolution on Publishing Committee**

by Vivian Nelson Melle

As the Socialist Party USA continues to explore fundraising options it is important to look to our history for guidance. We have an opportunity to not only educate new members, but to dissuade misinterpretations so prevalent in the media and public while finding common ground with other progressive thinkers. Our party's strengths are often held in the words and power of literature and the arts. From Eugene V. Debs selling Appeal to Reason at speaking engagements, to the artists and freethinkers who were blacklisted beginning in 1947, we are often the backbone of the very talented people's movement.

Therefore be it resolved that the Socialist Party USA create a Publishing Committee that will research the planning and profitability for creating an arm to publish the work of progressive writers and artists representing the multitude of principles and beliefs of the party.

The Publishing Committee will embrace all methods of publication, including traditional print in addition to electronic media. The Committee's publishing can include literary work as all as art and music.

The Publishing Committee will make use of social media and all relevant methods for promotion.

Upon passage of stated resolution, a call for committee members will go out for a minimum of four members and a maximum of eight. Members have one month to apply with committee members chosen within one month.

Depending on the knowledge and background of the Publishing Committee, a plan should be devised within the first six months to address the feasibility, financial capabilities and potential of the publishing arm. This should include, but not be limited to, addressing types of media, social promotion, marketing and economically responsible choices for publication of materials/goods.

Because the outcome of this research will guide the committee, it becomes their responsibility to maintain an ongoing schedule for accomplishing tasks. However, it is attainable for the committee to begin implementation of goals within a year of inception of said committee.

This is an exciting and viable solution to increase funds while promoting our ideology to newcomers and the curious as well as supporting our members.

*****National Organizing Committee
by Socialist Party of Los Angeles**

1. Casey Peters of the Maggie Phair Institute and the Martin Luther King Coalition emailed the following request for consideration at the Convention:

"Hi Mimi - As you know, I'm Educator/Organizer for the Maggie Phair Institute, and Maggie was active in the SPUSA for decades. I'm also interim national secretary of the National Organizing Committee, which Maggie supports. We're trying to build a broad coalition of socialist-oriented groups to develop working unity over the course of time. While SPUSA clearly intends to run its own presidential ticket in 2012, it can still consider cross-endorsing Left candidates where the SP is not running. There are too many offices for any of us to contest all of them. Groups currently affiliated with NOC include Freedom Socialist Party, Party for Liberation and Socialism, Peace and Freedom Party of California, and Socialist Organizer. We expect to grow considerably leading up to and throughout 2012. We'd love to have the SP convention next month consider adopting our affiliation statement and have a representative participate in our conference calls. The NOC Affiliation Statement is below (as well as on our website, www.noc2012.org). I know I'm asking this at the last minute as resolutions are due tomorrow, September 15, for convention consideration. Thanks for at least thinking about this. Comradely,-- Casey"

2. We would like to ask that the SPUSA formally endorse Economic Justice Los Angeles. Economic Justice Los Angeles is a group of activists, which includes the SP Los Angeles Local, that are working on various "tax the rich" campaigns throughout the state of California. The plan is to work toward a people's budget that makes sense for the working people of California. Recent projects have included a signature gathering campaign aimed at getting Prop 1481, an oil excise tax for education measure, on the ballot in California. Other groups working with Economic Justice Los Angeles include the Peace & Freedom Party, the Green Party, the Coffee Party, etc. Meetings are held on a regular basis at the SP / P&F office in Los Angeles.

***** Replacement of the Ban on Democratic Centralism
By Veronica Nowakowski**

Motivation: Democratic centralism is understood to be several distinct things by different people. In order to ensure that we are preventing entry only to potential members whom meet the criteria of whom we want to keep out, we should define who we want to keep out rather than use an ambiguous label such as "democratic centralist."

1. The Socialist Party USA hereby repeals its ban on dual membership with democratic centralist groups.
2. The Socialist Party USA bans dual membership with any group which:
 - a) requires members to limit their speech outside of the group to speak only in favor of its official stances, or
 - b) is structurally capable of directing members' specific actions within the Socialist Party USA, or
 - c) is reasonably believed to possibly attempt hostile entryism into the Socialist Party USA.

*****Constitutional Convention
by Veronica N**

1) Socialist Party Constitutional Congress

A) A body shall be created on this day, called the Socialist Party Constitutional Congress (hereon referred to as the SPCC). The body will exist from now until the convening of the next National Convention in 2013.

B) The purpose of the body is to construct a new Constitution for the Socialist Party USA.

2) Constitution of the Body

A) The body will consist of twelve (12) members which will be gender-balanced. Candidates for the SPCC shall be nominated and elected today by consensus voting: each convention delegate shall get six (6) ballots for each gender and the six (6) delegates of each gender with the highest vote tallies shall be elected to the body. In cases of ties that differentiate who is elected and who is not, instant runoff voting will be used to break the tie.

B) Co-chairs from the elected members of each gender shall be elected by instant runoff voting.

C) Procedural rules will be drafted and chosen by the SPCC members no later than November 30, 2011.

3) Powers of the SPCC Members

SPCC Members shall have the authority of proposing specific text for the Constitution and voting rights on the inclusion of such text.

4) Powers of the Co-Chairs

Co-chairs shall be responsible for keeping the group on task and calling votes officially in line with the adopted procedural rules.

5) The Convention directs the National Secretary to provide an electronic forum on the Socialist Party USA website, visible to all verified members, for which the SPCC may deliberate. A section, or sections, shall be provided for all members to discuss and another for direct deliberation by SPCC members where non-SPCC members can only view.

6) The SPCC will provide a finished version by July 15, 2013 to be made available to the party as a whole for review. If a conclusive version cannot be come to, the Co-chairs may produce competitive versions. The final version(s) will automatically be taken to the floor of the 2013 Convention for discussion, at which time the 2013 Convention may choose to adopt the new version.

***** Resolutions**

Submitted by Marc Luzietti

#1, The Convention directs the NC to raise minimum dues to a level sufficient to fully pay for staff, the office, and necessary functions of the SPUSA without taking the trust fund, potential donations, or potential growth into consideration.

#2, No member of the SPUSA may hold office in the Party without submitting a signed statement that s/he has read and understood the Constitution of the SPUSA and will uphold it to the best of his/her abilities, regardless of agreement. No officer held to be in willful disregard of the Constitution shall be allowed to continue in office, and may not hold office for a period of two calendar years. Nor may s/he be considered as a delegate to the following regular convention, nor any special conventions preceding the regular convention, nor may not vote in elections for delegates.

#3, The SPUSA shall put together all relevant constitutional sections, and convention and NC resolutions in force, regarding elections and seeking political office. This shall be made prominently available on the SPUSA website.

#4, All members of the SPUSA seeking political office must indicate, by signed statement, that they have read, understand, and will comply with the collective will of the Party as represented in its constitution and by laws.

#5, The NC has immediate and concurrent jurisdiction over any officers of the Party deemed to be in violation of the Constitution and by-laws of the SPUSA. It may, at its discretion, defer to processes in motion at the state or local level regarding such officers.

#6, No member of the SPUSA shall threaten, by word or deed, violence against other members of the SPUSA, except in immediate self-defense. Such action shall be cause for expulsion and a permanent ban on re-admittance.

#7, The SPUSA shall pay for the travel and lodging of NC members traveling to NC meetings. The National Secretary is directed to secure both for NC members indicating they are attending with more than two weeks notice. NC members shall be responsible for food and drink purchases.

#8, The NC shall hold monthly phone meetings to conduct the business of the SPUSA, except within two weeks of a constitutionally required physical meeting.

#9, The SPUSA interprets Article IX, Section 4, subsections c & d to include electronic means of communication. Information to be included in the physical post to full NC members shall be made available to the entire NC, including its alternates, electronically, upon mailing of physical ballots.

#10, Any NC member who misses three consecutive meetings of the NC, whether by phone or in person, shall be dropped from the NC.

#11, The National Secretary shall be paid for regular forty hours of work, and such overtime as is necessary for the normal functions of the position. Volunteer work, and political work as a member of the SPUSA, or other offices held within the Party, shall not be paid by the SPUSA.

#12, The Party shall provide health care and paid vacation to its full time paid staff.

#13, The Party is directed to establish a travel & lodging fund for low income members who are elected as delegates to the national convention. It shall be apportioned on the basis of need.

#14, Members of the SPUSA may request to use nom du plumes, pseudonyms, or political names in addition to their real names.

#15, All perspective members who apply for membership with the SPUSA shall be contacted by the appropriate body to ensure they understand the Statement of Principles and are in agreement with it. Perspective members who cannot be contacted or who do not return contact shall not be considered for membership.

#16, No officer of the Party shall vote in any decision in which s/he has a conflict of interest. Such officers shall recuse themselves without appointing an alternate.

#17 The SPUSA will hold a constitutional convention in the summer of 2012. The purpose of the convention will be to write and adopt a new constitution of the SPUSA. The convention shall be scheduled for five days, to be followed by the National Organizing Conference.

***** Executive Branch Term Limits**
By Steven Edinger

EXECUTIVE BRANCH TERM LIMITS, by Steven Edinger

[I would like to see this statement in the party platform, IF we can get a 98% or better approval vote. That's because I favor having a platform that just about everyone in this party can agree on. -- If the resolution passes by somewhere between 50% and 97%, then I'd like to see it as a RESOLUTION. We can show the world that we've passed this RESOLUTION, and we should list what percentage of the delegates voted in favor and against. Likewise with other non-unanimous topics. This year I certainly hope that the convention is going to vote on it.]

The Socialist Party USA is the voice of revolutionary democratic socialism in the United States. We are all for revolutionary measures that may affect property relations or increase citizen participation. But we also favor democracy, yes, even what some people call "formal democracy" or "representative democracy." We stridently oppose constitutional changes that allow for the unlimited reelection of presidents, governors, or mayors.

The restrictions on a leader's time in office represents a very important built-in democratic protection -- probably the #1 protection against a single government official gaining too much power. A national leader without term limits has a license to steal and a license to kill. Mayors and governors without term limits have a license to develop a corrupt network of personal favors.

We especially urge socialist governments around the world to include term limits for presidents, governors and mayors. It is important that the term limits include a bar on immediate family members taking over at the end of a leader's time in office.

*****Nicaraguan Revolution Revival Concert Series Resolution**
by Steve Edinger

In honor of the thousands of people who gave their lives for the Nicaraguan Revolution, and in honor of the recent FSLN election victory in Nicaragua, the Socialist Party USA assumes sponsorship of the Nicaraguan Revolution Revival Concert Series. Our purpose here is to help the Nicaraguan Revolution succeed. We aim to bring CRITICAL SUPPORT -- critical in both senses of the word -- BADLY NEEDED and WILLING TO VOICE OUR OPINION. We aim to offer badly needed financial and material support, directly from the people of the United States. AND at the same time, we intent to offer our opinions -- to help guide this revolution in what we consider to be a good direction.

The Nicaraguan Revolution Revival Concert Series has been taking place on a decentralized, small-scale basis. The role of the Socialist Party will be to help promote the concerts -- both on flyers and on official Socialist Party USA web sites. Although we will not be putting SP-USA funds into these concerts, we also pledge not to siphon of any concert revenues for ourselves.

The use of the concert revenues will be as follows. At least half of the money raised, in each and every concert, will go straight to Nicaragua's national government budget, to replace the "Millenium Challenge" aid money that was recently cancelled by the United States government. We will also work toward the long-term goal of helping Nicaragua pay off and/or wipe out its foreign debts. The Socialist Party also invites the participation of independent or non-partisan organizations that are helping to build socialism in Nicaragua or elsewhere in the Third World. In some of the concerts, half the revenues will go to a fund to help the newly-elected socialist government of El Salvador tackle its foreign debts. In other concerts, organizers may decide to direct half the revenues toward other socialist governments, such as Uruguay or Bolivia, or toward specific, socialist-oriented development projects in a variety of countries. However, when an independent organization joins us and directs some of the concert revenues toward a development project, they may not use concert revenues for their administrative costs. Also, the project may not involve environmentally destructive practices, U.S. government funding, nor corporate foundation funding.

Environmental Standards at our Concerts: Strict environmental standards must apply. Airplanes are by far the most environmentally destructive form of transportation; we pledge not to use air travel in connection with these concerts. We won't be using gas generators, plastic silverware, plastic plates, plastic cups, styrofoam plates nor styrofoam cups. We will be recycling our bottles and cans from the concerts.

Leeway as to the Concert Content: Concert organizers should aim for participatory activities, but they will have leeway as to the choice of music, speakers, poets, storytellers, or sports activities.

Leeway to Voice our Opinions: It is hard to say what new proposals the Nicaraguan, Salvadoran or other socialist governments may introduce during the next few years. But concert organizers should have leeway to express their opinions. No, we're not presenting "conditions" for our support. But we are going to FEEL like trying harder if we see things going in a good direction.

From the outset, we can state unequivocally, a sentiment of our party as a whole.

-- The Socialist Party USA supports a woman's right to abortion, and we especially oppose anti-abortion laws that may endanger a woman's life.

-- The Socialist Party USA is the voice of revolutionary democratic socialism in the United States. We are all for revolutionary measures that may affect property relations or increase citizen participation. But we also favor democracy; yes, even what some people call "formal democracy" or "representative democracy." We stridently oppose constitutional changes that allow for the unlimited reelection of presidents, governors, or mayors. The restriction on a leader's time in office represents a very important built-in democratic protection.

-- The Socialist Party USA is committed to defending the natural environment, anywhere in the world. Yes, we oppose capitalism in part because of its devastating impact on the environment. But we recognize that socialist governments and socialist countries have ALSO inflicted environmental harm, as occurred at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station in 1986. We aim to guide socialism in a direction that will reduce and eventually halt humanity's harmful impact on the environment. And in this respect, we stridently oppose the construction of a new, near-sea-level canal across Central America -- no matter what countries might be involved. Because of its terrible impact on Caribbean and Pacific sea life, such a canal would represent an environmental disaster.

***** Revival of the Young People's Socialist League (YPSL) Submitted by Nelson Terry**

The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow and the SPUSA needs to be actively engaged with young people wherever they are, on campuses, at home, or in the streets. Around the world, young people are leading revolutions for freedom. Using modern technology they are organizing, setting the world on fire and sending a message that they accept socialism and view it as a much needed replacement to capitalism. In recent polls, socialism (~28%) was almost just as favored as capitalism (~32%), with almost 40% unsure! Therefore:

Be it resolved the the SPUSA and it's members will seek to rebuild it's youth affiliate, the Young People's Socialist League. To accomplish this, the NC shall:

- With the National Secretary, create a mailing soliciting SPUSA members 30 and younger to join the SPUSA at their 2012 national conference to reform YPSL;
- Include advertisements for YPSL in The Socialist and the Webzine, as well as solicit articles on youth organizing for publication;
- Create and mail a fund raising letter (can be included with other mailings) to help fund a "re-founding" convention at the SPUSA 2012 national conference;
- With the help of the technology committee, create and host a website and provide other technical support as needed;
- provide other support as needed.

Having a youth affiliation will help the SPUSA tap into the radicalization of youth around the country. Locals around the country are already involved in several campus issues from rising tuition, loan debt, jobs, and many other issues. The SPUSA and YPSL combination will help revitalize the party, and tap into an abundant source of Socialist energy and spirit.

It is understood that the SPUSA cannot, and will not form YPSL on it's own. It will be up those YPSL members themselves to do so. The SPUSA will only help support the re-founding with funds, organizing, and other skills as are available

PLATFORM

*****Proposed New Platform Statement, to Replace What We Currently Have on Immigration. International Migration Submitted by Steve Edinger**

If and when we are able to begin the transition to socialism in the United States, we hope to end the unequal forms of migration that we see today. We will aim to find new ways -- using environmentally sound forms of transportation -- for people to visit each others' countries on a temporary basis. International migration under socialism should be for learning and sharing -- never for the people of one country to take care of the hardest, dirtiest chores for another country.

For the time being, we still live under capitalism -- a society built on inequality. For now, most international migration will continue on an unequal basis -- with tourists from wealthy countries visiting the tropics on cruise ships, and with migrant laborers from poor countries crossing borders to work on farms, in restaurants, on construction sites, and in upper middle class households. For as long as this unequal form of migration persists, we can only ask to find ways to minimize the damage to human life and to the environment. Where people are crossing borders to seek employment, we support efforts to greatly improve their physical safety. Where people are crossing borders to visit beaches, ancient ruins, (or even socialist conferences!), we support tax and regulatory policies that punish toxic dumping or excessive fossil fuel use. Airplanes use far more fuel-per-passenger than any other form of transportation; it is very appropriate for governments to begin heavy taxation of airline passengers, or even to bar non-emergency air travel altogether.

What is the Socialist Party USA position on permanent international migration, amnesty for undocumented workers, etc.? Our party has room for a wide variety of opinions on these important and contentious issues. Because of the wide range of viewpoints in our party, we, like the Sierra Club, have decided not to take an official position. Instead, we will leave it up to each party member to express his or her opinion on this. We very much agree with the Sierra Club, that it is important to address the root causes of migration. That is, of course, a major priority of our fellow socialists in the Third World.

*****Argument in Favor of International Migration Clause for the new Party Platform,
by Steve Edinger**

Migration and immigration are a complex topic. I believe that being a socialist does not necessarily mean having a set position on migration and immigration. Some socialists advocate having no countries or borders at all. Others, such as myself, are in favor of borders. A world government, in my opinion, would be a terrible thing.

When asked about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, M. K. Gandhi answered that we'd be better off with a declaration of human duties. I don't think that people have a right to go wherever we want and do whatever we want.

Our party should not be trying to promise everything to everybody. But that's what the present immigration section of our party platform is doing. As it stands, we're calling to basically open the borders and allow anyone from anywhere in the world to become a U.S. citizen after they've been living here for six months. Yet in other sections of the platform, we call for defending the environment! And in other sections, we advocate universal healthcare for everyone in the United States. These positions are completely contradictory! How on earth is the United States going to withstand the tripling or quadrupling of our population, provide this free healthcare for all, and at the same time, become environmentally sustainable??!!

This is completely impossible. If you put two and two together, our present party platform adds up to a joke.

As our platform presently reads, this party is working toward a world "where ... everyone will be able to ... live where they choose."

-- Daniel Boone and the other European settlers who moved to Indian lands in the Ohio River Valley??!!

-- Today's Israeli settlers in the Palestinian Territories??!!

-- Urban Sprawl housing in today's remaining natural areas??!! NO WAY.

-- I hope that in the 2011 Convention, this party will pass the NEW platform statement on International Migration that I have submitted. I realize that for many party members, support for "immigration amnesty" is a top priority, and I respect that. But I would like to see a platform that allows room for people who generally oppose permanent immigration to ALSO feel comfortable as members of this party. I'm one of those people. And by the way, opposing permanent immigration does NOT mean support for expelling or persecuting people who are visiting this country without adequate paperwork. -- I've tried to write a platform statement that will leave room for a wide range of opinions on this important subject -- including the "pro-amnesty" and "anti-amnesty" opinions.

*****Platform Changes
Submitted by Greg Pason**

1. International

Current plank "We call for an end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank-East Jerusalem and Gaza, and an end to all U.S. aid to Israel, as a precondition for peace."

Motion: To replace the section above with "We call for an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine, oppose Zionism and call for an end to all U.S. aid to Israel, as a precondition for peace."

2. Agriculture

Motion: To add the following point " We call for the end of the decades-long exclusion of farm workers from receiving overtime pay after eight hours a day or 40 hours a week"

3. Economics

Motion: We oppose the court-created precedent of "corporate personhood" that illegitimately gives corporations rights that were intended for human beings.

CONSTITUTION/STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Constitution

Constitutional Changes

Submitted by Greg Pason

1. Motion: To strike the following section of Article III Section 2.

ARTICLE III: Membership

~~Section 2: Persons may indicate their membership in a Party state affiliate in such a manner as provided by law for individuals to indicate membership in a political party.~~ A member in good standing is a member that has remitted dues to the Party and has signed the statement in section 3 below. Members in arrears in the membership dues for three months or more are no longer in good standing. Members not in good standing shall not be entitled to hold party office nor vote in any Party election or referenda, ~~except as permitted by law.~~

2. Motion: To add the following section to **ARTICLE IV: Organization** "Section 4: State or Local organizations chartered by the National Committee or National Action Committee must submit regular reports to the National Committee as requested. a) Organizations which do not report will be subject to automatic charter revocation. b) The National Committee is empowered to draft rules on reporting.

3. Motion: To add the following section to **ARTICLE VI: Political Action** "**Section 6:** In all cases oversight of authorized political campaigns will be run under the authority of the local or state organizations under which jurisdiction they are contested. The National Committee will not enact rules which will infringe on this authority.

4. Motion: To change the following section of **ARTICLE X: National Action Committee Sec. 2 (c)** All actions and decisions by the National Action Committee shall be subject to mail vote of the entire National Committee, ~~upon the request of any member of the National Committee~~ and replace it with "upon the request of three National Committee members."

5. Motion: To change the following section of **ARTICLE XI: Referenda Section 1:** The National Committee and the National Secretary shall submit to a referendum vote of the members: (a) any matter acted upon by a national convention when requested to do so be any petition signed by at least 25% of the total delegates seated at the convention. Such petitions shall be submitted to the National Committee within three days after the convention adjourns. If such a petition is to submit a convention action to a referendum, the signers may submit an alternative proposition for a vote if such alternative proposition was offered at the convention. (b) Any question, motion, resolution, or constitutional amendment if submitted to the National Committee and endorsed ~~by at least three locals in at least three states or by three state organizations having a total membership of at least 20% of the National Committee members.~~ (c) Any question, motion, resolution, or constitutional amendment proposed by at least one-third of the National Committee members.

And replace with "on a petition signed by at least 100 members in good standing"

*****Amendment to the SP Constitution: Article III: Membership, § 3**

Submitted by the Socialist Party of Michigan

Section 3: Every applicant for enrollment as a member in good standing of the party, shall sign the following membership application pledge: "I, the undersigned, recognizing the necessity of the working class organizing itself into a political party, independent of and in opposition to the twin capitalist parties and the system they defend, and creating a radically desiring to bring about by democratic new social system from below, based on collective ownership and democratic control of the means of production, distribution, and commerce through political mobilization and mass action, means a new society based on democratic socialism, hereby apply for membership in the Socialist Party of the United States of America and affirm agreement with subscribe to its Statement of Principles principles."

*****Amendment to the SP Constitution: Article III: Membership, § 4 & 5
Submitted by the Socialist Party of Michigan**

Section 4: A) Applications for enrollment as a member in good standing of the party, shall each formally be acted upon by the local organization or the local executive committee, subject to review by the local organization. B) Local Organizations shall develop procedures for obtaining reasonably specific confirmation of each new membership applicant's fundamental understanding of, and corresponding agreement with, the party's principles, prior to each new applicant's enrollment to party membership in good standing.

Section 5 A) Applications for enrollment as a member in good standing of any state organization or the national party at-large, shall each formally be acted upon by the state organization or state committee, subject to review by the state organization, in organized states, and by the National Secretary or National Action Committee, subject to review by the National Committee, in unorganized states, and by state committees in organized states.

B) Procedures for obtaining reasonably specific confirmation of the fundamental understanding of, and corresponding agreement with, the party's principles by applicants for enrollment as members of the party at-large, shall be developed by the state organizations in organized states, and by the National Committee, in coordination with the National Action Committee and the National Secretary, in unorganized states, prior to each new membership applicant's enrollment to party membership in good standing.

*****Constitutional Changes
Marc Luzietti**

#1 Change current Article III, Section 2, final phrase to read, "except as required by law."

#2 Article III, Section 3, add "and abide by its constitution and by-laws" after the word "principles."

#3 Add Article III, Section 4 (and renumber subsequent Sections). The oath of membership shall be reaffirmed with each payment of dues.

#4 Add Article III, Section (last), "Dues shall not be paid until the membership application has been accepted by the Party."

#5 Add Article VI, Section 7. "No member of the SPUSA shall belong to a political party or political organization which supports U.S. imperialism or capitalism. No member of the SPUSA shall give support, whether verbal, financial, or through actions to such a party. Labor organizers who can show prima facie evidence that a violation of this section is necessary as a condition of their union work shall not be held to be in violation.

#6 Add Article IX, Section 8. Any decision of the NC may be overturned if a majority of locals pass resolutions opposing the decision.

#7 Article XIII, shall be renumbered Article XII, Section 2.

*****Constitutional Changes
Submitted by Lawrence Rockwood**

Whereas membership dues are and will remain the main source of income for the national party and the most effective and least coercive measure to increase dues is the expansion of national membership, as opposed to increases in individual dues which would restrict membership, the national party (the National Convention and elected national leaders) should be the arbitrator of membership requirements for the national party. Some state parties', local parties', and so-called recognized groups' attempts to customize party membership requirements has limited membership and instigated distrust, disaffection, and disunity. A mass revolutionary democratic socialist party always uses the least coercive measures to achieve its internal goals and restricts the opportunity and forums for the establishment of coercive methods against individual members to an absolute minimum.

1) ARTICLE III: Membership
Replace Sections 4 and 5 with the following:

Section 4: All applications for enrollment as a member in good standing of the Party shall be acted upon by the National Secretary or National Action Committee and are subject to review by the National Committee. Applicants residing in geographic areas with an active state or local parties will be assigned to those entities unless applicant requests to be administered as a member at-large.

Section 5: Involuntary terminations of membership in the Party shall be acted upon by the National Action Committee and are subject to review by the National Committee and the National Convention. Members expelled by local parties or state committees in organized states\ shall be considered members at-large until termination action is undertaken by the national party.

2) ARTICLE XII: State Organization
Add Sections 2 and 3.

Section 2: The mission of state parties is to support and coordinate (1) electoral activities of members of the national party, (2) activist campaigns of members of the national party, and (3) expansion of membership of the national party.

Section 3: Membership requirements for membership in a state party are identical to that of the national party. Any member may elect to be administered by the National Office as a member at-large rather than a member of a state party. No state party may add or subtract requirements for membership in the national party.

3) ARTICLE XIV: Local Organizations

Replace Sections 1 and 2 with the following:

Section 1: Local organizations shall consist of all members residing in the area designated in its charter except in the case of a member requesting to be administered as a member at-large..

Section 2: Applications for membership shall be acted upon by the local executive committee, subject to review by the local organization. Membership requirements for membership in a local party are identical to that of the national party. No local may add or subtract requirements for membership in the national party.

4) ARTICLE XVI: Miscellaneous Regulations

Define current content as Section 1 and add Sections 2 thru 4.

5) ARTICLE XVI: Miscellaneous Regulations

Define current content as Section 1 and add Sections 2 thru 4.

Section 1. States and locals may be organized to coordinate the work of the Party, to perform any duty or function required by state, county, or local election laws.

Section 2. Commissions and committees may be organized to coordinate the work of the Party, to advise the National Committee, National Action Committee, state parties, and locals based on the professional expertise and / or a vocational interest of the members of the specified commission or committee. Each action and statement of any commission must be approved by the elected entity that authorized / created the commission or committee.

Section 3. No recognized groups, factions, or so-called tendency based on ideological positions and sectarian loyalty may be recognized or established. No group may be granted publication rights or preferences above and beyond those granted to any individual party member. No member or party candidate of the party can be disciplined in any way for violating the rules or stipulations of such entities.

Section 4. The right of individual dissent as a member of multi-tendency party shall not be abridged. The right to individual dissent in multi-tendency party is not a right that can be granted, only recognized. No member can be required to assent or publicly endorse to any opinion of national, state, or local leadership or any other entity of the party. The Statement of Principles, as the party's core collective beliefs, the Party Constitution, and Party Platform are the only instruments that must be publicly acknowledged by party members and party candidates (who must publicly acknowledge any differences from these instruments).

***** Constitutional Changes: Political Action**

Veronica Nowakowski

ARTICLE VI: Political Action Section 2. Strike out: Members as individuals may run for political office as candidates of other political parties only with the approval of the National Committee, and of the state or local organization, with the exception of political parties previously approved by the National Convention or the National Committee.

Add: Members, as individuals, may run for political office as candidates of other political parties only if their campaigns do not directly conflict with the Socialist Party USA's Statement of Principles.

Motivation: The Socialist Party USA does not need to expect priority from each an every one of its members. To make such demands on members as this is beyond what is reasonable outside of a democratic centralist organization. Ensuring that members are in accordance with our Statement of Principles is as far as we should go.

Statement of Principles

*****Amendment to the SP Statement of Principles: Electoral Action Section Submitted by the Socialist Party of Michigan**

Socialists participate in the electoral process to present socialist alternatives. The Socialist Party does not divorce electoral politics from other strategies for basic change. While a minority, we fight for progressive changes compatible with a socialist future. When a majority we will rapidly introduce those changes, which constitute socialism, with priority to the elimination of the power of big business through public ownership and workers' control.

By participating in local government, socialists can support **growth of independent** movements of working people **toward the struggle for political power, while also make making** improvements **and demands** that illustrate **both** the potential of public ownership **and the inherently anti-democratic character of the capitalist state**. We advocate **socialist** electoral action, independent of the capitalist-controlled two-party system.

*****Principles - ML**

Replace existing section with the following

ELECTORAL ACTION

The Socialist Party is committed to a revolutionary transformation of capitalism. Such a transformation cannot occur as the result of a purely electoral process. The strength of the socialist movement lies in its links to militant movements on the streets and in the workplaces.

Socialists participate in the electoral process to present a socialist perspective. Socialist Party members who are candidates stress the need for a fundamental transformation of capitalism and the urgent necessity of creating a radically different, democratic socialist society. Socialist Party members who stand as candidates always prominently state their membership in the Socialist Party.

The Socialist Party fundamentally opposes both the Democratic and Republican parties. We work with other socialists interested in building an internally democratic, mass-based democratic socialist party rooted in the working class. The Socialist Party will not participate in, or support, the formation of a nominally independent party of progressives, a party premised on the illusion that capitalism can be reformed. Such a party cannot contribute to the building of a movement to fundamentally transform society.

*****Amendment to the SP Statement of Principles: Intro – Paragraph 3 Submitted by Matt Erard**

Under **both** capitalist and authoritarian **statist systems** ~~"Communist" states~~ people have little control over fundamental areas of their lives. The capitalist system forces workers to sell their abilities and skills to the few who own the workplaces, profit from these workers' labor, and use the government to maintain their privileged position, **while correspondingly relying upon the continued draining of society's productive wealth and goods into military purposes, despoliation of the environment and natural resources, and perpetual war in which workers are compelled to fight other workers.** Under authoritarian **statist regimes** ~~"Communist" states~~, decisions are made by ~~Communist~~ Party officials, the bureaucracy and the military. The inevitable product of each system is a **highly stratified** ~~class~~ society with gross inequality of **resources, privileges, and meaningful participation in political life.** ~~a draining of the productive wealth and goods of the society into military purposes, environmental pollution, and war in which workers are compelled to fight other workers~~

STATEMENTS

Presidential Candidates

*****Statement by Stewart Alexander to the SPUSA National Convention**

Comrades,

I am Stewart Alexander and I would like to welcome you to the National Convention for the Socialist Party USA. Thank you for supporting the SPUSA as we move toward achieving our purposeful mission, the transformation of capitalism through the creation of a democratic socialist society.

Many of you are aware that I was the Vice Presidential Nominee for the Socialist Party USA in 2008. Now as we approach 2012, I am seeking your support to receive our party's Nomination for President.

I am asking for your support to be the nominee for president because we share a common goal, to pursue a socialist transformation of society, as we join with other in making radical demands on the existing system; demands that challenge the basic assumption of a capitalist market economy while pointing the way to a new society.

As stated in our platform, reforms will not in themselves bring about socialism; the fight for them will advance the cause by demonstrating the inherent limitations and injustice of the capitalist system.

Today, I ask you to join me, demanding that we establish a government that is accountable to the people, and end all corporate controls over our national, states and local governments.

Briefly, let's examine the needs of working people:

Just for a minute, let's consider the real U.S. unemployment numbers; there is an estimated 22 million unemployed individuals nationwide. More than 50 million people in the U.S. are relying on some form of public assistance. Millions of seniors, over the age of 70 are actively seeking full time or part-time income. More than 48 million people in the U.S. have no health care coverage. Comrades, the recession is not over and the capitalists have fooled working people once again; a different president, the same program.

Today, I want you to know that the U.S. is still in a deep recession and the blame is on former President George W. Bush, President Barack Obama, the Republicans, the Democrats and the failure of capitalism.

It is well known that President Obama had more than a trillion dollars to stimulate the U.S. economy and to create jobs at the beginning of his presidency; unfortunately, the president chose to stimulate Wall Street. Congress has gone on a reckless spending spree; the results, the economy has gone from bad to worse and the U.S. is now \$15 trillion in debt. Now in his third year in office, President Obama has added another \$4 trillion to the national debt; now the president wants to sell working people on the notion of a "jobless" economic recovery.

I join the Socialist Party in opposing the continuous aggression of U.S. imperialism that is costing lives and is plunging the nation deeper into debt. The U.S. occupation of Iraq, the escalating war in Afghanistan, and the illegal war in Libya has been devastating for any worker's economic recovery. While running for president in 2008, candidate Barack Obama promised to end these wars during his first 9 months in office with a promise to bring our troops home. Today, the nation can see that was another broken promise. As socialists, we do not support a war driven economy. We are calling for the United States to immediately and unconditionally withdraw its forces from Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Pakistan.

Seeking the U.S Presidential Nomination for the Socialist Party USA, I am calling for unconventional measures to revive the U.S. economy and to create jobs. As stated in our Platform, I am calling for all banks, financial and insurance institutions to be socially owned and operated by a democratically-controlled national banking authority which should include credit unions, mutual insurance cooperatives, and corporate state banks. While running as the Socialist Party's 2008 nominee for Vice President, I proposed a plan that would include other North American countries to form a North American Banking Authority.

Comrades, the struggles for working people are global; we need global solutions. In the 21st Century, it has become necessary to reorganize the entire world banking system; the present world banking system will never meet the long term needs of working people. Therefore, as the next president of the United States, I will propose the creation of a

Universal Basic Income (UBI) to help eliminate poverty and to meet the basic needs of working people and the long term needs for seniors.

As president, I will support the U.S. government investing as much as \$100 billion into electric car manufacturing, and \$500 billion to develop mass transportation systems, with the dividends being reinvested in jobs and providing for the needs of working people.

The U.S. construction industry is an essential element for the future of a worker's economic recovery. Let's create a real stimulus for working people. Congress should establish a \$1 trillion fund to make low interest loans available for home improvements; this would create good paying jobs across America and would benefit homeowners and local communities.

To achieve my vision to create good paying jobs and establishing a viable economy that will benefit working people, I am hoping to receive the Presidential Nominations for the Socialist Party USA. I am asking you to join me and support my nomination for president and together we can work toward creating a democratic socialist society based on compassion, empathy, and respect as well as the development of new social structures that will benefit working people here in the U.S. and our international community.

Thank you for your support.

Comradely,
Stewart Alexander

Statement by Jerry Levy to the SPUSA National Convention

To the Socialist Party-USA

During this crisis in global capitalism and at a critical juncture in the history of the Socialist Party USA, I would serve as a candidate for President in the elections of 2012. I have been a candidate numerous times for the US Senate for Vermont as a candidate of the Liberty Union Party. I have been a teacher for 45 years and I am the author of 2 books from a Socialist perspective. As an actor I have engaged in productions that are critical of Capitalism.

I would use my extensive contacts touring, "Marx in Soho," as a basis for organizing my candidacy. In the fall of 2012, I will be quarter time at Marlboro College(one day a week).

From mid May, 2012, to the election, I would be an active, enthusiastic, and full time candidate.

I would need a manager with internet skills.

I believe in the principles of the Socialist Party, and I would give this candidacy all I have if I am chosen. While there are other excellent potential candidates, I am ready to serve the Party during this critical time.

Salude,
Jerry Levy

Co-Chair Billy Wharton- Co-Chair Statement

Comrades,

We live in exciting and dangerous times. A wave of democratic revolutions has spread throughout the Middle East and North Africa sweeping away the last vestiges of authoritarianism in the region. Across the rest of the globe, capitalism is in a deep crisis. In Europe, the once generous welfare state is under attack. In the US, the austerity being carried out on all levels is resulting in predictably sharp increases in poverty rates and unemployment. More and more people are waking to the real face of capitalism – seeing it as an undemocratic system in which the profit of the few is based on the misery of the majority. They are searching for a political and economic alternative. Our organization must present democratic socialism as that alternative.

I would therefore like to present myself as a candidate for the position of co-chair of the Socialist Party USA. I have served in this position over the last two years and have witnessed many positive trends in our organization. A co-chair cannot do it all – activity by rank-and-file members working through our local organizations are the critical factor in the health of our organization. What an effective co-chair can do is support these efforts, publicize them and increase the presentation of our politics to the public.

Over the past two years, I have worked to publicize the efforts of the Socialist Party USA to be America's voice for democratic socialism. Whether it is a small internet-based radio station or the mighty New York Times, I have presented our vision of a society based on radical democracy that aims to place the needs of people at the center of our society.

These efforts have yielded some gains. When I attended the Solidarity Conference this summer, I was recognized by one person as, "the Socialist Party person I heard on the Canadian Broadcasting Company's morning show." This was less praise of my individual effort and more a positive view of the organization as a whole. Similarly, when Greenhaven Press asked to print an article about Obama in their college issues series without compensation, I said yes on the condition that our Party's contact information was included. Today, thousands of college students will encounter our organization through this book.

There is, of course much still to be done. Our Party is growing. We have recovered from the declining membership trend of previous years. In some areas, such as California, we are growing by leaps and bounds. In others, like newly organized locations in Kentucky, Alabama and Pennsylvania, we are growing in smaller numbers, but with the same positive enthusiasm about advancing the cause of democratic socialism. We need to support this new organizing in every way possible. Understanding what resources are needed locally and creating imaginative ways to link the National Party to local efforts is of vital importance.

A co-chair should be prepared to represent the Party in the media, should be sensitive to local organizing and should represent the organization well at meetings of broad coalitions and with other left-wing organizations. The SP-USA needs to do a better job at participating in national coalitions. We do so, not in order to control or steer these formations, but to heighten and sharpen the class struggle, to better mobilize resources and to bring larger numbers of people into political organizing. Effective representatives are able to enhance the reputation of our organization by playing positive and productive roles in such efforts. This is equally true in regards to other sectors of the left. In this spirit, my appearance at the Solidarity Conference resulted in an invitation for closer collaboration between the two organizations. We should view this

I have been proud to contribute to successes of the last two years. I remain committed to building the Socialist Party USA into a vibrant, modern, democratic socialist organization. America needs a democratic revolution and I think our Party can play a productive role in this effort. I therefore ask for your vote for co-chair. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have either by email – wawharton@yahoo.com or by phone (718) 869-2279. Keep up the struggle; together we will win!

National Committee

*****Statement by Brandon Collins**

I would like to be seated on the National Committee. Unfortunately, due to the rigors of a large campaign for City Council I am unable to attend the convention. I ask that I be nominated and would gladly accept any such nomination.

Some key issues facing the National Committee are-

- The finances of the party, we cannot ignore these problems, nor can we use our situation as an excuse for political rivalries to continue as they have.
- Follow through on resolutions and projects
- Recruitment
- Meaningful chartering and re-chartering of of commissions built to last and expand.

I believe that organizing the unorganized and activism should be top priorities.

I would like to see a broader participation by all members in opposing US wars, occupations, militarism and empire.

I am not a member of any tendency, recognized or not.

I am currently an alternate on the National Committee.

I am currently running a campaign for city council in my hometown.
I am prepared to meet the requirements for travel.
I am actively engaged with membership on-line and highly recommend that all NC members regularly report to membership in various ways.
I am secretary-treasurer, and a founding member of the Socialist Party of Central Virginia.
I received the Anne Rosenhaft award for local organizing in 2009.
I firmly believe in Multi-Tendency and Decentralized democracy.

Brandon Collins
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*****Considerations for electing the next National Committee
By Matthew Andrews**

Delegates to the 2011 National Convention in Los Angeles will have a chance to debate many important issues and set the course of the Socialist Party for the next two years. These next two years could be crucial to the development of our movement, as the economic crisis festers and global revolutions gain momentum. People in the US are suffering from the failures of capitalism more than ever. It is up to us to reach out and have the conversations that help working people see their role in creating solutions.

Having the right political message is crucial to reaching people, explaining socialism, and presenting a plausible way forward that will actually challenge capitalism. But I would like to contribute a new angle to the usual political debates that swirl around the National Convention and the election of our National Committee in particular. When considering who to vote for on the National Committee, it is vital to consider the job we are electing comrades to do. To build our movement, good politics are not enough. The National Committee plays an administrative role to make sure procedures are followed, mandates (often coming from the National Convention) are fulfilled, and that our bills are paid. We also need an effective organization that can carry out campaigns, solve problems, and create structures or procedures that facilitate communication and unity in action.

Everyone has different strengths and perspectives to offer the National Committee. Some are hardworking organizers; others craft innovative policies, while others offer unique political insights. A mix of all these talents and more among National Committee members is what will make us a dynamic and effective organization.

Here are some characteristics that are often overlooked, yet still important for every National Committee member to share.

- 1) At a minimum NC members must be able to make a commitment to travel and attend National Committee meetings. The NC cannot function without a quorum.
- 2) NC members must also actively engage in the work of the NC in between meetings to building the Socialist Party at a national level. Otherwise a handful of NC members end up setting the agenda, driving the debates, and carrying the work load. Furthermore, when the national organization is ineffective, locals become isolated and miss out on the benefits that our national unity can bring.
- 3) NC members are expected to set aside egos sometimes to carry out majority decisions and uphold the Party's Principles and Platform. It may take a touch of modesty to allow the Party to carry out decisions you personally disagree with. But respecting the group means respecting the democratic process and playing by the same rules as everyone else. Remember that unity is essential for collective action, which is where our power lies.
- 4) Don't expect the work of the National Committee to be as exciting as organizing your local. Often the work of the NC seems more like housekeeping than activism.
- 5) Finally, be prepared for your comrades' passion for politics to lead to conflict on the NC. NC members must be able to tolerate a certain level of conflict and engage in political debates without becoming emotionally provoked. Debate must stay on topic and avoid personal attacks. Everyone on the National Committee must be prepared to tolerate occasional flurries of email and have the patience to wade through controversies as they arise.

Delegates should review past issues of Hammer & Tongs to see who has been attending National Committee meetings and how each member has voted on important issues. Don't be afraid to ask for explanations! That accountability is part of our democratic process.

Taking into consideration all of these important factors when electing a new National Committee may seem daunting, but it is better to discuss the challenges in advance and be prepared for them. If you know good candidates for the

National Committee, discuss nominating them with them in advance. The Socialist Party benefits from having a competitive election. Sometimes those who understand the seriousness of the task hesitate to volunteer. Each individual can make a big difference in this organization with a little bit of effort and persistence. That is one of the most rewarding aspects of this work. We need your talents, energy and enthusiasm to grow the Socialist Party, win victories for the working class, and build the road to socialism!

GENERAL SUBMISSIONS

Submission for the Pre-Convention Discussion Bulletin by Philip Blank

I deeply regret that I will be unable to serve as a delegate at what I consider to be the most important SP event since 1932. I hereby submit the following, which I hope will have serious consideration:

Because I believe this is the most important convention since 1932, I believe it is imperative that we collaborate with as many like-minded groups as possible to field a single candidate who supports the following ideas, summarized by the term 'common good,' which no one seems to mention these days. This is no time for cult of personality, or winner of a popularity contest to be a nominee. While I suggest no particular candidate, I believe we should hear from such people as Prof. Cornel West, Noam Chomsky, and even Ralph Nader. -- I discuss the following in alphabetical order:

CAPITALISM: See the discussion under "CORPORATIONS"

CIA: This unaccountable organization has spent more money on illegal activities, than perhaps organized crime and the World War II Axis powers combined. There are numerous books and articles by ex-CIA operatives that attest to this. Is there any wonder why some believe that we have become what we defeated in WWII? Too much has been done in our name that we don't even know about, and which has more to do with American capitalism than with any semblance of democracy. We should abolish any part of the United States that has no transparency. It is well-known that while J. Edgar Hoover led the FBI he had strong influence over presidents because of the files he had on all of their activities. I sadly fear that the CIA has even more powerful influence over presidents, especially since the presidency of former CIA director, the senior President Bush. Since then we have had some brilliant, articulate presidents and at least one dullard; BUT many of their actions and/or decisions belied their personal characteristics. This must be probed, and if found true, stopped. Such an investigation could certainly be life threatening to the investigators.

CORPORATIONS: Not only are they not mentioned in the US Constitution, but the Declaration of Independence was written in partial response to what preceded the modern corporation. Some months' ago I wrote a brief essay related to this entitled: "Is a Sustainable Society Possible?" (1) In that document, I suggest what might follow the modern corporation, which deserves no such thing as personhood. Personhood and money as 'free speech' must be abolished. Flagrant violators related to the illegal finding about money being free speech (against the equal protection clause) are the Koch brothers who have initiated or supposed founding of 'Astroturf' organizations that work against democratic principles and the common good. Their father supported the fascists prior to our entry to WWII. When they assert that teachers are the enemy, that says it all. Could they be in cahoots with the CIA to eliminate all social aspects of governmental programs in order to transform the United States of America to United Corporations of the World?

DRUG POLICY: We should have learned from how Prohibition enhanced organized crime in this country and world-wide. I make no case for what are considered illegal drugs, but I believe they should be decriminalized and taxed; and the taxes should go in part toward education and approaches to drug addiction as a public health problem. John Stockwell and other ex-CIA operatives have documented how the US through the CIA has profited along with organized crime syndicates from drug trafficking. All the money wasted on those operations could have helped to avert the financial situation in which we currently find ourselves, and it could have been used for public education through baccalaureate degree level. So-called 'ethical' drug companies should have their products tested by specialists in universities at arms-length, with no influence by the companies.

ECONOMICS: So many sins have been committed in the name of this discipline. Some years' ago when I chaired a state organization related to international education, I had a chance to speak to the welcoming speaker at the state conference (President of the host university and a professor of Agronomy) after his welcome, and I asked him if in any of his economics courses when he was a student they mentioned the ultimate source of wealth (short of theological

considerations) such as the sun and the earth. His response was negative, but he added that he figured it out by himself. Many of us had an example in the lower grades by learning about the terrarium (and of course, I didn't fully appreciate or understand it at the time). Many would add that humans must be considered a part of that source of wealth, but I submit that humans have screwed it up about as much as they have added value. I submit that any effort to add value that goes beyond production of goods and services (and their support activities) is not a valid economics constituent. And by service I do not include the veterinarian interpretation one might ascribe to banking and investment services! (My essay alluded to in the Corporation section relates to this.)

MATERIAL/SPIRITUAL BALANCE: This may be a rather elusive concept, but let me explain what took at least six decades of my life to realize. When I speak of 'spirituality', I do not mean it in any denominational sense; I mean it in the sense of the human spirit. I firmly believe that most of the problems of the world are due to an imbalance between the material and spiritual aspects of humans. Since I have no way of defining or quantifying these, it is a rather nebulous concept; but I believe introspection by those who have had significant life experience will enable them to have some kind of agreement with this idea. I have no way of prescribing how one might arrive at such a balance, and I confess that I feel that I'm on such an undefined path. This evolved through my participation at two or more intentional communities that have a strong spiritual base: Findhorn, Scotland and the Chinook Learning Center on Whidbey Island in the State of Washington. In 1982 I attended a workshop on our economic future at Chinook where such notables as Robert Schwartz (of the Tarrytown 100), Paul Hawken, founder of the Erewhon Natural Foods co-op and author of numerous books on green-types of business and others of note. One of the presenters, Shan Turnbull of Australia (not one of us), who is noted for mediating between the Australian government and the indigenous people to enable the Aussies to mine uranium on the sacred lands of the indigenous spoke about currency and its uses. Since I had never thought much about the concept of currency, it struck me that love is spiritual currency. To me that was profound, because the currency about which he spoke was material and finite, love is infinite, and can beget love. This example may give the reader some idea of what I'm getting at. I might suggest that those who are more philosophically inclined might consider this and perhaps give it more profound meaning, assuming that what I'm getting at makes any sense.

NATO: This quasi-legitimate organization has outlived its alleged reason for existence and should be abolished. It is simply a tool of aggressors and those who wish to perpetuate the idea of Empire. It is based on an overemphasis on materialism.

SUSTAINABILITY: This should perhaps be a subset of economics. My essay, alluded to above, and in a footnote gets at this. I believe it was at Earth Day in 1996, where the late Walt Bressette, co-author of "Walleye Warriors" presented his idea for an amendment to the US Constitution, called the Seventh Generation Amendment. It is based on a Native American concept of preserving the bounties of the planet for the next seven generations, to be perpetuated by each succeeding generation. Walt was an artist and activist who prevented a sulfide mine from opening in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan by preventing a trainload of sulfuric acid from proceeding by standing in the tracks. He was of the Red Cliff Chippewa Nation.

UNITED NATIONS: While the UN consists of nation-state members, it has its problems, including some criminal elements that do bad things in its name; however, it does need more power to do the positive things for which it was set up. First, it should tax all weaponry that crosses international borders, because weapons trafficking is an example of excessive materialism and efforts at empire. This may be a difficult ideal, but it will help not only to fund its legitimate work, but cut back on aggression.

WAR: While I make no case for war, we are currently in at least two, and our country should follow the positive aspects of our action in WWII. There should be legislation mandating that ALL residents must be involved in some way. When I was a child, I knitted (after school) six inch squares for blankets; I helped with waste-paper drives; and when I was an adolescent, I bought war stamps (toward war bonds). Those of draft age served in the military if they were physically and mentally fit; otherwise they worked on essential plants that contributed to the war effort. FDR had a pay-as-you-go program that initiated the payroll deduction tax, and he imposed an 'excess profits' tax on all war industries. While I believe it was solely for the pay as you go program, now it should be to prevent wars to be initiated or prolonged for profiteering by the knaves that believe war is a high ideal. If these ideas are put into law, it could help eliminate or at least shorten wars.

Because of time constraints, this is not complete, but I hope it foments some positive actions on the part of a most important political party for the restoration of democracy to our land.

Footnote

(1) **IS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE POSSIBLE?** Unfolding events in the world today clearly show that democracy does not (figuratively) come at the point of an American gun. The results of what have been happening in the Middle

East, North Africa, and yes, Wisconsin and other states demonstrate that human spirit is more powerful than any army. While most of these events are yet to be completely played out, they manifest a universal quest for distributive justice.

While human freedom is of utmost importance, the most powerful in today's international society threaten that: they threaten most life on the planet, especially human life. In short, today's capitalism especially and specifically American capitalism, threatens life on the planet. Why? The concept of the BOTTOM LINE! It is clear that predatory capitalists are not and cannot be futurists (mostly because they only look to immediate profits or the next quarterly report) – Let's examine that damnable bottom line: it is profits at the expense of all else. For any semblance of the idea of capitalism to survive, we need a new concept of profit which I call HOLISTIC PROFIT: any organization is holistically profitable if and only if there is a gain in at least one of the following six realms and no loss in any. The realms are: 1) ownership, 2) management, 3) employees, 4) consumers, and 5) the physical and 6) spiritual environment. Let me hasten to assert that by "spiritual" environment I refer to the human spirit rather than any denominational concept of spirit. Of necessity, this must be considered a work in progress, with all stakeholders having input. To a somewhat lesser extent we might similarly consider the physical environment in that manner, but there are many objective criteria for this, but again, all stakeholders must be involved.

Can we encourage CEOs of multinational organizations as well as those of lesser organizations to agree to operate on the basis of this redefinition of profit? I am convinced this must happen lest we lose all. Should this transformation occur, we may end up with a complex society consisting of reformed capitalists, cooperatives and enlightened socialists.

By its very description holistic profit includes the ideals of the Green Movement and many socialist organizations. While I may not live to see the end or (more hopefully) the transformation into a moral, sustainable society, I feel impelled to work for a universal acceptance of holistic profit and the society which must evolve.

If I am wrong, enlighten me to help modify my thinking toward a sustainable future.

Philip Blank, President, Milwaukee Public Enterprise Committee

*****Inclusion at the National Convention
Submitted by Greg Pason**

The national convention can be a great opportunity to meet comrades from across the US. It can also be an alienating event for some Party members with alcohol addictions, since many unofficial social gatherings are alcohol centric.

There is no reason for this to happen in our organization. Delegates, alternates and observers who would like to socialize in an alcohol-free environment or in an environment which is not dominated by alcohol should look for delegates and alternates with an "inclusion" button. We'll work to make sure there are alternates available.

Let's have a great time and make sure no one feels excluded.

*****Climate Change
Submitted by Maggie Phair**

Climate change is the most urgent problem confronting the world. Education is the chief tool needed to deal with this problem. Research and experimentation are also required.

The primary funds for the huge federal investment required will come from a major reduction in the military budget. Although the U.S. currently lags behind other countries in acknowledging and exploring this problem, all research results will be public and will be shared with all countries, thus reducing international tensions. Even currently oil-rich countries will eventually run out of oil, and all countries will experience climate change and sea rise.

Military discharges should be offered training in climate change research, renewable energy research, construction and maintenance of renewable energy facilities, and retrofitting of existing homes and buildings.

The U.S. should cooperate with all countries making an effort to mitigate climate change.

*****Social Security**

Submitted by Maggie Phair

The Socialist Party was an early advocate of Social Security, which was finally adopted in 1938, now supporting over 53 million people, more than half of whom are secure from poverty only because of it. Private pensions are constantly being reduced or eliminated by corporations. Public pensions are being endangered in states like Wisconsin and California. So instead-

Double Social Security and lower the eligibility age for retirement, thus making more jobs available for others. A payroll tax increase of just 1% on employees and employers would pay for this.

Return Social Security to its own independent account. Johnson put it in general federal status to make his deficit expenditures for Vietnam War appear smaller. Contrary to allegations by deficit hawks who want to reduce Social Security, this program runs a surplus and in no way contributes to the federal deficit.

*****Healthcare For All**

Submitted by Maggie Phair

Currently Medicare provides the basic program for healthcare for people over 65. Although the Socialist Party advocates universal, comprehensive healthcare for all, with personnel employed by local governments, expanding Medicare to the entire population would go a long way toward that goal. Of course, good health depends first on good housing, good food, and clean air and water.