

Cincinnati & NKY Socialist Agitator

a publication of Democratic Socialists of Metro Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky

No. 1 - February 2018 | Workers of the World **UNITE!**

Updates from the February General Meeting

by Martin Marx & Paul Katz

Updates from the Treasurer - Steve Collins reminds us that our chapter has a solidarity fund for members unable to make their dues. In order to fund our various actions, including the solidarity fund, Steve gently encouraged members who are able to pitch in monthly local dues.

At the recommendation of national, we will explore becoming incorporated with the state of Ohio and Kentucky. Incorporation will allow us to have an official bank account and serves to legitimize and protect the organization. The cost of filing will be \$150. The Financial Committee will research and draft articles of incorporation. It is asked if anyone has relevant experience to lend assistance to this project.

Newport Syringe Exchange Initiative - The chair of the Northern Kentucky Branch gave a report on the West Newport canvassing for the Syringe Exchange Initiative and called for a strong turnout at the Newport City Council meeting and for additional volunteers for post-meeting canvassing in favor of the initiative.

A Pivot Towards Workers' Rights in the Public Library - In a change of strategy after successfully quashing the sale of the Downtown Public Library's North Building, Vince from OLOD announced a pivot toward democratizing the library for the workers. This initiative aims to empower the workers and patrons of the library, giving them control over the future of this invaluable institution. Working conditions at the Library are toxic, and rife with discontent which only democratization will address in a meaningful way. In the immediate near term, DSA demands the reinstatement of Court Motley after their egregiously wrongful termination at the hands of Library Management while seeking ADA-mandated accommodations. (cont'd p. 2)

International Womens' Day March 8th 2018

from the editor

**International
Womens Day
2018** Unite & Fight For
All Women's Rights!

**March 8th
6-8pm @ Piatt Park**



The newly-formed DSA Women's Branch, in a coalition including Black Lives Matter, Socialist Alternative, Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center, American Indian Movement Chapter of Indiana & Kentucky, Women Helping Women, Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless, and Planned Parenthood of Southwest OH, is planning a MASS RALLY for International Womens' Day March 8th at Piatt Park downtown.

The goal of this rally is to recognize and celebrate the struggles of women all around the world for human rights and dignity, and to connect local people with ongoing organizing efforts to continue the fight. When we organize, we win.

In addition to planning and speaking at the event, DSA Cincy will be coordinating a swag and lit table at the event. If you want to volunteer to help with the planning and execution, write to dsacincy@gmail.com with the subject line IWD PLANNING.

Fight for Socialism!

Join DSA!

dsausa.org/join

updates from the gen'l meeting - cont'd from p. 1

Smash the carceral state! - Executive Committee Co-Chair Mary Schartman called for assistance drafting a mission statement and determining strategy of the Prison Abolition Committee. An April reading group/organizing event has been suggested, to educate and reach out to incarcerated folks. A survey will be drafted to facilitate this effort of contacting the incarcerated in the Justice Center downtown.

The AMOS project is leading an effort to decriminalize non-violent drug offenses and use the money saved from unnecessary arrests and incarceration for prevention, treatment and trauma care. Through a unanimous vote, the chapter declared support for the AMOS Project. A canvassing effort will soon be underway to gather signatures in support of the project. The committee will send a call for DSA comrades to volunteer as soon as we know more.

Putting the Politics Back in Pride Chair of the LGBT Committee, John Bell, gave a report on "Sexuality and Socialism", the showing of "Pride" and of the Pride Parade planning meeting, which is currently missing the point of the Pride Parade. For all of the talk of celebration, vendors and sponsorships amongst the planners for the Pride Parade, there was zero talk of politics! It's time to put the politics back in Pride!

Support and Defend Immigrants! Down with ICE!

The Immigrant Dignity Coalition aims to establish practical methods of supporting immigrants in the community. The Committee is working to create a rapid response process to deter ICE deportations and roundups and also the creation of a centralized communications network for immigrants and activists to use. DSA members are receiving training for this initiative via the Central Ohio Workers' Center.

Demand HEALTH JUSTICE - In support of the Medicare For All campaign, Kyle Flynn moved to create a Health Justice Committee that passed unanimously. While the main focus of this committee will be the Sanders' Senate Plan, local initiatives will be aimed at improving the lives of Tri-State residents.

Fighting Hate and White Supremacy - Dan K provided an update on the Richard Spencer Coalition for the (now postponed by Spencer since the Feb. meeting) speaking event of Richard Spencer at UC. Update: There may still be a demonstration at UC in spite of Spencer's postponement of his speaking event. There will be more details released in the coming days.

Chapter Improvement Initiatives - The conduct committee is making progress with its work drafting a harassment/grievance policy. DSA members are working to coordinate provision of childcare at chapter events. Daniel Merrill is leading an effort to create a rideshare program to connect members who don't have access to a car with rides to events. The chapter wants to appoint one or New Member Coordinators to head up new member engagement and orientation.



DSA Cincy Treasurer Steve Collins keeps the rain off in proud fashion while canvassing in support of a syringe exchange in the working-class West Side of Newport, KY. (image credit: Hayley Powell)

staff (DSA Agitprop Committee)
- Charlie Campbell, editor (ex officio)
- Paul Katz & Martin Marx, writers

ARTISTS, WRITERS, DESIGNERS

write to dsacincy.org

The Agitprop Committee needs writers, designers and artists of every stripe to aid in the production of graphics, missives and more!



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