

General Minutes 2021-09-14

People in Attendance: 34 in person and 5 online

1. Agenda Approved
2. Report by communications secretaries (ask the secretaries what they want to report on regarding
 1. Sectaries give a report on the strike support and where to send information
 1. Report by Membership Sectaries
 2. Report by Organizational Sec: There is no report
3. Report by Chairs
 1. Chris S. gives a report on the strike working group, this is detailed in the next point of business.
4. Report by Strike Support
 1. Chris S. gives a broad overview of the strike support for the Nabisco-Mondelez strike. Chris S explains how we have structured everything and how we are reorganizing everything moving forward. This is followed by a talk by Cory W, a representative from the union and striker. The big news is that Nabisco-Mondelez is now negotiating with the union as of Monday September 13, 2021. After detailing the working conditions and abuses by Nabisco Mondelez, Cory closes by requesting both assistance on the picket line and any donations possible.
5. Report about the 2021 National Convention by the Richmond Delegation
 1. The Delegation introduces themselves, in that delegation is:
 1. Trey P.
 2. Katherine D.
 3. Alex S.
 4. Eric S. (Not presenting)
 5. Austin G. (Not present at time of report)
 6. Nathan A. (Alternate)

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2. The delegation then goes to speak about what each of them were to report on. There was not enough time for each member to give their report so the written reports are in Attachment XX of the minutes.
6. Report by the Treasurers from Joseph R.
 1. Joseph describes the financial situation only as “good”. Joseph answers questions regarding the treasurer. The question asked is what are the chapters online donation options. That can be done at the Patreon listed:
<https://www.patreon.com/dsarichmond>
7. Scott S. goes over the Combhee river collective statement and leads a discussion on it.
8. Scott S strike support resolution. The resolution is below:

A RESOLUTION from the Membership Secretaries of the Steering Committee of the Richmond Democratic Socialists of America to be voted on. Be it resolved for the Steering Committee to provide symbolic and monetary assistance to the Bakery Confectionery Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers (BTCGM) Local 358 to aid in their strike against Mondelez Nabisco; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Richmond Chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America provide a one-time payment in the amount of \$250.00 from the Richmond DSA General Fund to the Local 358 of the BTCGM; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Steering Chairs shall find the best conduit for that payment, be it GoFundMe, a check at the donation tent of the strike action, or other method deemed most suitable; and, be it further

RESOLVED, as this monetary amount is primarily a symbolic display of solidarity, the Steering Committee shall designate a member or members to endeavor to hold open lines of communication with at least one BTCGM Local 358 member, be they rank and file or leadership, to assess how to best fulfill the needs of the Local 358 workers until the strike is concluded; and, be it further

RESOLVED, a member or members designated by steering to be in communication with Local 358 shall give reports to the Steering Committee.

This is passed unanimously.

1. Announcement of elections
 1. Chris announces that there is another general meeting this month on 9/30/2021 for the election

2. Break Out
 1. Morgan S, PRO Act lead, Morgan provides an update on the State PRO Act. And says that any questions regarding the PRO Act can be directed to her.
 2. Nabisco Strike Support Chris S – Chris explains we are restructuring how the strike support is going and how we are plugging people in.
 3. Break outs take place with the above groups and a third one led by Eric S talking about the chapter for new members and those that want to see changes.

3. Open Discussion

4. Adjournment
 1. Meeting Adjourned at 8:30PM

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Attachment XX Convention Reports

Eric S. Delegation Chair's report:

Our Local was granted five delegate seats as per its member roster. Our Local sent five delegates, Alex S., Katherine D., Austin G., Trey P., and Eric S. Our Local elected to send one alternate, Nathan A., as per allowance of the Bylaws of the Democratic Socialists of America.

All delegates participated in the convention to their capacity. Our alternate, Nathan A., was brought in to vote on an occasion. Our delegates met with Local members for two months in advance to hear the concerns of the Local. Our delegates, to the best of their ability, sought to vote in line with their constituent members to the degree they saw fit. Our delegates occasionally disagreed on particular votes, however, our delegates remained in constant communication with one another and provided technical and strategic support to one another as to ensure our delegation could accomplish the task given to it by the Local.

Our delegation hopes to receive greater details on how the NPC will seek to balance the budget as it is critical to the democratic legitimacy of the Democratic Socialists of America. If the budget is not effectively balanced, the decisions of the Convention shall be in many cases moot, as the resolutions and amendments shall be changed in unforeseen manners. It is the hope of the Chair of the delegation that future conventions are provided with a budget before business is conducted.

As Chair, I shall remain in capacity to answer any outstanding questions from the Local until the next delegation is seated.

In solidarity,

Eric Sundberg

Chair of the Richmond Delegation to the 2021 National Convention of the Democratic Socialists of America

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(he/him)