

# **Bylaws of the Northeast Georgia Democratic Socialists of America**

## ***Article I. Name.***

The name of the group shall be the Northeast Georgia Democratic Socialists of America.

## ***Article II. Purpose.***

Northeast Georgia DSA is a multi-tendency socialist organization, and a branch of Metro Atlanta DSA. It seeks to facilitate the transition to a truly democratic and socialist society, one in which the means/resources of production are democratically and socially controlled.

DSA rejects capitalism, an economic order based on oppression, private profit, alienated labor, gross inequalities of wealth and power, discrimination based on race, gender, disability or sexual orientation, and brutality and violence in defense of the status quo.

DSA envisions a humane social order based on popular control of resources, production, and economic planning, equitable distribution, gender and racial equality, and non-oppressive relationships.

In the present, we are building a base and a visible socialist presence within the broad democratic left. In the long run, we hope to build a majority movement capable of making socialism a reality in the United States. Our strategy acknowledges the class structure of U.S. society. This class structure means that there is a basic conflict of interest between those sectors with enormous economic power and the vast majority of the population.

## ***Article III. Membership.***

### **III. Section 1. Membership.**

Members of Northeast Georgia DSA will be those individuals who are dues-paying members in good standing with National DSA, who reside within the area officially covered by Metro Atlanta DSA, and also in the general geographic northeast Georgia region. If they do not, individuals may request to join by sending an email or letter to the group. It will be the responsibility of members to approve policies and guidelines for the operation of the group, to elect the officers, to elect delegates to the national convention, to vote on matters related to local and national policy, to make recommendations on issues, policies, activities, and ongoing efforts pursuant to local or national political goals, and to contribute toward the organization's goals as described in Article II.

### **III. Section 2. Resignation and Expulsion.**

Any member may resign from National DSA by submitting an email or letter of resignation to the National Director of National DSA. Any member may resign from the group and become an at-large

member of National DSA by sending an email or letter of resignation to both the Secretary of the group and the National Director. Furthermore, if a member in good standing is found to be consistently engaging in undemocratic, disruptive behavior or if they are found to have violated the group's Code of Conduct, the group may vote to suspend (as defined in the Code of Conduct) or expel them from the group. In order for such a finding to be made, another DSA member must formally proffer charges against the member in question to the officers, who shall set the date of a group meeting for deliberations on the charges. The member in question must receive a copy of written charges and notice of the meeting a minimum of two weeks before that meeting takes place, as well as an opportunity to speak before members prior to a determining vote. Suspension or expulsion of a member shall require a two-thirds vote at a Meeting. A suspended or expelled member may appeal to the National Political Committee of DSA.

### **III. Section 3. Voluntary Donations.**

As mandated by the national Bylaws, the group may establish a group pledge system of voluntary donations for its members. The payment or nonpayment of a group donation may not deny membership or the privileges or the powers of membership to any individual that is in good standing of National DSA, including voting or for holding group office. Members may not face retaliatory action for the nonpayment of donations or preferential treatment for paying local donations. Donations shall be kept anonymous to the greatest practical extent.

### **III. Section 4. Privacy concerns.**

Care will be taken to protect the privacy of each member's contact information.

### **III. Section 5. Law Enforcement Membership Ban**

All persons currently employed by either federal, state, county, or municipal law enforcement agencies are hereby banned from obtaining membership and attending Meetings or events of any sort. This includes but is not limited to those employed or under contract with the FBI, CIA, NSA, ICE, DHS, or DEA, as well as local police departments.

If a current member is suspected to be a law enforcement member of any of these agencies or departments, an investigation must be carried out by the officers and all evidence must be presented before the general membership via a Meeting. After evidence is presented, a vote will be held regarding their revocation of membership. If more than 50% of the attending membership vote in favor of the member in question's removal, then the member in question will have their membership revoked.

All persons formerly or currently employed by any law enforcement or intelligence agencies must disclose this information to the group.

All persons running for officer positions must disclose all past or current employment or involvement in law enforcement, including law enforcement unions, to the entire chapter in a written statement.

Employees and contractors of the DOD are exempt from the ban on membership and attendance, but not the disclosure requirements.

Any member who works with, or is part of, either a law enforcement union or a union that works with law enforcement, must disclose this to the group.

### **III. Section 6. Anti-Entryism Clause**

Northeast Georgia DSA is an independent socialist organization, organizing under the banners of Metro Atlanta DSA and the national organization. Members must organize with us in good faith, without ulterior motives or in an attempt to use the organization for their own means. Entryist activities meant to harness the group's resources and energy, including but not limited to, attempts to focus the group on outside electoral volunteering/campaign work that the group did not seek out and engage themselves, other left-wing sects or factions trying to redirect the group's activities to that of their own organization's work, or seeking to transform the group into a different organization. Members of Democratic Centralist organizations who wish to also be members of this group are not prohibited from doing so as long as they are doing so with genuine intentions.

### ***Article IV. Group Meetings and Communications.***

#### **IV. Section 1. Annual Meetings.**

The group will hold a minimum of one Annual Meeting annually, at a date, time, and location agreed upon by the Steering Committee within roughly 12 months of the anniversary of the prior Annual Meeting. At least fourteen (14) days before the Annual Meeting, all members of the group will be sent notice of the meeting along with a proposed agenda. Notice may be sent by electronic means, but individuals who have not provided an email address or other means of electronic communication must be sent a paper copy. The Annual Meeting will elect chapter officers, receive reports of the activities of the chapter, set the political direction and policies of the chapter and its programming for the coming year, and may adopt an annual budget.

#### **IV. Section 2. Regular Meetings.**

The group will hold General Meetings several times per year, the time and place of which shall be set in a schedule published and distributed by the group. The General Meetings will set group policy and work priorities and may include political discussion or education sessions. The group Steering Committee will propose the agenda for Regular Meetings.

#### **IV. Section 3. Special Meetings.**

The officers or membership may call a Special Meeting of the group on at least seven days' notice when an urgent and important matter requires deliberation. No matters other than those listed in the meeting notice may be brought to or raised from the floor at a Special Meeting.

#### **IV. Section 4. Accessibility.**

Members may participate in Meetings by, or through the use of, any means of communication allowing all participants to simultaneously or sequentially communicate with one other, such as teleconference, video-conference, or other available technology. This includes voice votes. Any participant in a Meeting by such means shall be deemed present in person at such meeting.

A Member in good standing (Proxy) who is present at a Meeting may hold up to two signed proxy cards from other non-present Members in good standing. The Proxy must vote in line with each non-present Member's directions as written on their proxy card. Any member who requests an accessibility accommodation and is not present at a Meeting shall not be counted toward the two proxy-vote limit. Despite being deemed present by attending electronically, non-physically present members may avail themselves of proxies for purposes of voting by secret ballot.

#### **IV. Section 5. Online Communications.**

Because of the spread-out rural nature of much of our membership, it is the duty of the officers to maintain some form of online communication, such as a chatroom application, for use of the membership to communicate and plan. Periodic voicechat meetings (conference call format) shall be scheduled by the officers. The membership at large should choose the preferred format. Minor decisions may be reached via vote on these calls, but serious matters should be decided upon during Annual, General, or Special meetings.

#### **IV. Section 6. Decision-Making Authority.**

The membership, meeting in a General, Regular or Special Meeting, shall constitute the highest decision-making body of the group. All decisions, policies, agendas, statements, and other items of business decided at these Meetings are binding over any other body of the group. Meetings may overturn the decisions of prior Meetings, but no other body may.

### ***Article V. Group Officers: Powers and Duties.***

#### **V. Section 1. Officers and Terms.**

The officers of the group will be Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Athens Liaison. Should the Chair reside in Athens, then a Co-Chair outside of Athens shall be elected as the fourth officer. The term of office will be one year, and shall run from the time of election during the Annual Meeting until the next Annual Meeting or until their successors are elected.

## **V. Section 2. Vacancies.**

In the event of a vacancy in any group office, a special election for the remainder of the vacant member's term shall be triggered within thirty (30) days after the opening of the vacancy if regular elections are not to be held within sixty (60) days of the vacancy. Special elections may coincide with a Regular Meeting.

## **V. Section 3. Chair, Athens Liaison, Co-Chair.**

The Co-Chairs will preside over group meetings or will appoint a substitute to assume the powers and duties of the presiding officer. The Chair and Athens Liaison (or Co-Chair, whichever applicable) will be the official public spokespersons for the group in their respective areas and will facilitate such actions and policies as the group's general welfare may demand. They will also be responsible for coordinating the day-to-day operations and political work of the group's branches and committees.

The Athens Liaison is the presiding officer over operations and organizing in the Athens area; should the Chair already reside in Athens and thus a Co-Chair is elected outside of the Athens area instead, then they are the presiding officer over operations and organizing outside of the Athens area.

## **V. Section 4. Secretary.**

The Secretary will be responsible for answering all correspondence and queries of the group, for maintaining an up-to-date membership list of the group, distributing copies of minutes and agendas to each member, and assuring that records are maintained for legal status. They will ensure effective communication with national DSA, including the filing of any amendment to these bylaws.

## **V. Section 5. Treasurer.**

The Treasurer will be responsible for the funds and financial records of the group. All funds collected by the group will be turned over to the Treasurer, who shall deposit them in a bank account under the name of the group. In cooperation with the Secretary, the Treasurer will be responsible for ensuring that membership dues are paid up-to-date. The Treasurer will chair a Finance Committee if one is established; will prepare the annual group budget and deliver the group financial report to the General Meeting of the group, as well as periodic progress reports as requested by the Steering Committee of the group; will provide basic information to National DSA related to the operations and finances of the group.

## ***Article VI. Code of Conduct***

The group will establish, by vote of a Meeting, a code of conduct (Code of Conduct) that outlines the boundaries of acceptable behavior by members of the group and describes options for censure of members, including suspension. The Code of Conduct shall be made available to all members of the group. Amendments to the Code of Conduct must be approved at a Meeting.

**Article VII. Amendments.**

Proposed amendments to these Bylaws must be made by written resolution, endorsed by five members of the group, and submitted to the officers at least two weeks in advance of an Annual, General, or Special Meeting. The officers shall take at most one week to process the amendment and must then provide the group membership written or electronic notice of the proposed amendments. The amendment must be approved by a 2/3 supermajority vote at an Annual, General, or Special Meeting.

**Article VIII. Dissolution.**

In the event of the dissolution of this group, all remaining funds and assets are to be released to National DSA or a neighboring DSA chapter. If both this Chapter and National DSA are being dissolved, then all remaining funds and assets are to be released to such other organizations that are organized exclusively for the promotion of social welfare and that will operate to further the common good and general welfare of the community included in this Chapter's stated boundaries.

**Certification**

These bylaws were approved by a majority of the group's membership on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

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Signature of Chair

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Printed Name of Chair