

Oregon Socialist

Autumn 2007

<http://www.thesocialistparty.org/>

Multnomah Local

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"Just as with the man in the fairy tale who turned everything he touched into gold, with me everything is turned into newspaper clamor."

-- Albert Einstein (to Max Born, Sep 9, 1920)

Oregon Socialist is produced semiannually by the Socialist Party of Oregon, P.O. Box 5633, Portland, OR 97228. (503) 241-8217

"It may be true that the law cannot make a man love me, but it can keep him from lynching me, and I think that's pretty important."

--Martin Luther King, Jr., Wall Street Journal, November 13, 1962.

Multnomah County members should look for a ballot within this mailing: vote for new officers. Nominations were sought in November; the result of the ballots will be counted and the new officers seated at the December 16 meeting of the Local (held 1:00pm at the Belmont Library). In addition, there is one question submitted regarding a proposed change to officer positions: Shall we have two Co-Chairs instead of one Chair? Y/N

Candidates nominated for County Chair:
Kathy Leonard-Bushman
Brian Plinski

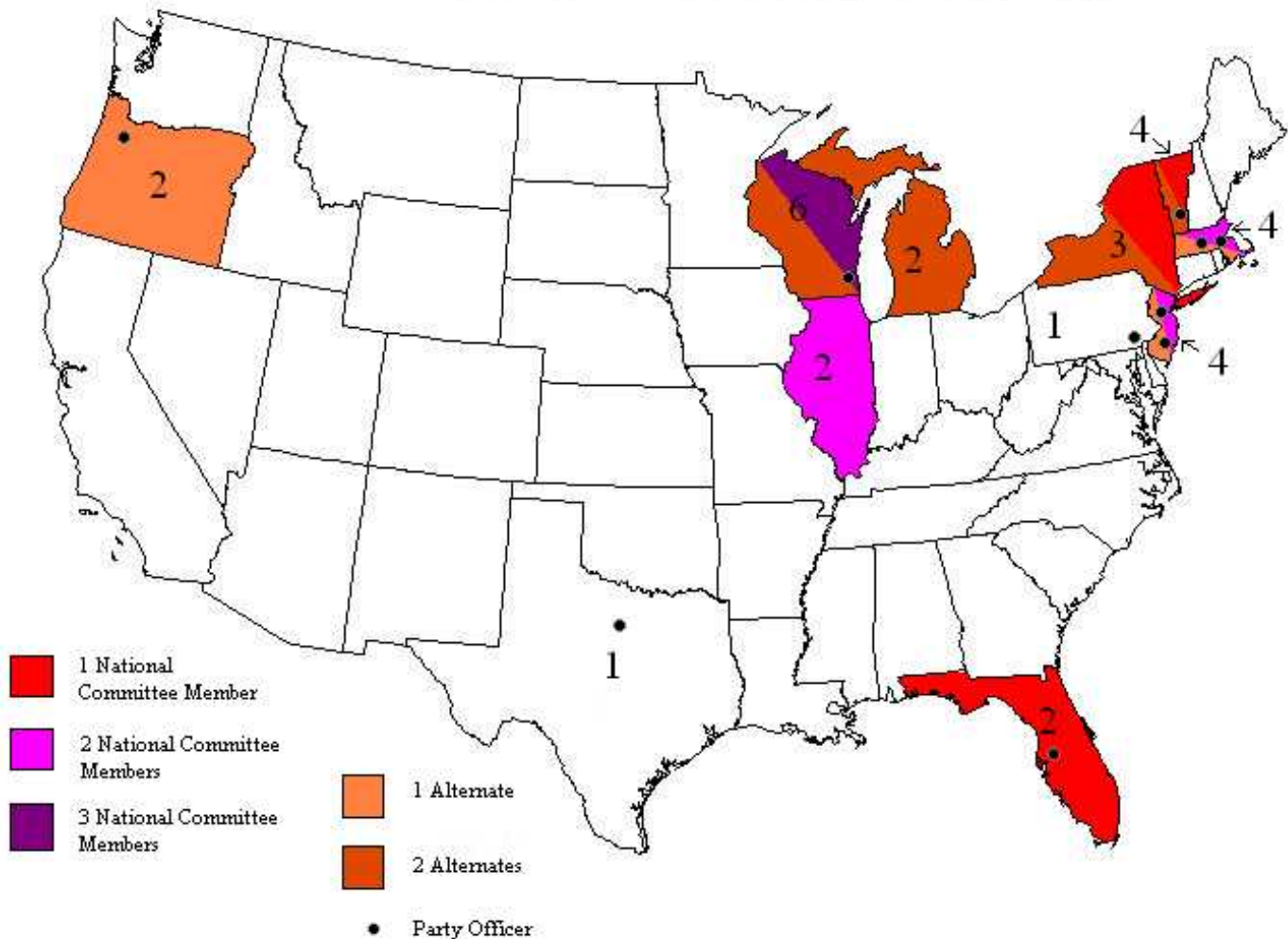
County Secretary
(no candidate announced)

Blank lines are included for write-in votes. Ballots need to be returned on or before the meeting of December 16. Multnomah County members who receive this WITHOUT a ballot, please call the office and leave a message at (503) 241-8217.

What we need the Chair to do: announce meetings to the press, handle contact with the outside world, prepare agenda, routine familiarity with Robert's Rules, and, of course, be ready to be blamed for everything.

What we need the Secretary to do: keep track of records of membership, deal with the SPUSA National Office, take minutes, have minutes and other reports ready for the next meeting.

National Committee Map (with Officers)



SPUSA Officers by Location by Michael C. Marino

The picture, above, was put together by a member of the National Committee. Since its creation, and fixing a small error.

Anita Zeidler, of Wisconsin, is stepping down from the National Committee, lowering Wisconsin's number of members on the NC from three to two (plus three Alternates). Oregon's one alternate, Beverly Isbell Brown, takes Zeidler's seat, and Walt Brown is erroneously counted as an NC member (he is the Party's legal counsel), which changes Oregon from having "two Alternates" to having one full NC member.

The California chapter is one of the largest in the country; they have zero NC members. The Midwest is entirely devoid of representation on the National Committee. Our stalwart Texas Comrades have but one lowly, humble, hard-working archivist, and no representation on the NC.

Nobody could look at the above graphic and make any serious claim that the SPUSA is not representative of this country, but merely representative of the Eastern seaboard, particularly New England – could they?

SPUSA Update

Socialist Party USA National Committee

List updated to reflect departure of Cde. Anita Zeidler and subsequent transfer of Beverly Brown to the list of full NC members.

Co-Chairpersons

Andrea Pason Jerry Levy

Co-Vice Chairperson

Nan Pfefferle Peter Moody

National Committee Member (in order of election)

Doris Lake	Bill Stodden
Sharin Chiorazzo	Greg Pason
Susan Dorazio	Steve Sears
Myrtle Kastne	Eric Chester
Alice Kelsey	Dwight Welch
Beverly Brown	Mark Luzietti

National Committee Alternates (in order of election)

Male	Female
Dan Jakopovich	Linda Randolph
Peter Diamondstone	Teresa Salo
Matthew Andrews	Kristin S.
Matt Erard	Emily Roth
Mwara Ngoima	
Jerry Stasny	

National Secretary
Greg Pason

National Treasurer
Jennifer Robbins

The Socialist Editor
Terry Williams

Archivist
Steve Rossignol

Socialist Party USA National Action Committee
The National Action Committee (NAC) is a body elected to decisions between National Committee Meetings.

The NAC is composed of the National Secretary, National Treasurer, Editor and the following members elected by the NC: Andrea Pason, Nan Pfefferle, Jerry Levy and Peter Moody.

Oregon Socialist 2007 Summer

S.P. Convention Nominates Moore and Alexander

by R. W. Tucker

At the Socialist Party National Convention in St. Louis, October 19-21, the delegates, voting by paper ballot, nominated Brian Moore of Florida for President and Stewart Alexander of California for Vice President.

This is an exceptionally strong ticket for a year that needs one. Moore has run in Florida several times as an independent peace candidate, and has accumulated a war chest of \$60,000. Alexander, an African-American, is a fund-raiser for the Peace and Freedom Party, and recently ran on their ticket for Lieutenant Governor. They were subjected to a long and intense Q and A session, so this time, no one can say we didn't know what we were getting. Moore defeated Eric Chester 25 to 20 on the third ballot.

The failed referendum to recall Walt Brown in 2004 left a heritage of intense acrimony that lasted three years (as I had warned!), but the convention was one of reconciliation, and we may now hope for some peace. Pennsylvania sent the names of three delegates, all male, and the credentials committee reduced us to one, because we lacked gender parity. I explained to them that we had no available women; of our female activists, two died, several had new babies, and two, Jessica and Heidi, had quit in disgust. A woman on the committee had the gall to say that this was because we were so "masculinist"! The reason they quit, of course, was because they could no longer stomach the nonstop acrimony, which did not start in Pennsylvania.

The convention lifted the suspension of Wisconsin. The Resolutions Committee voted in favor of a decision that all resolutions shall die after four years, unless re-enacted. But the convention did not have time for resolutions and referred them all to the National Committee. Still, this will likely pass, because

Greg Pason is tired of keeping track of innumerable old resolutions. If passed, it will apply to the 1982 anathema of SDUSA, now reformed as the Social Democratic Party of America with much the same politics as ours: dual membership will be legal. A number of us have taken out dual memberships; the SDPA remains available as an alternative in case the SPUSA returns to acrimony.

Andrea Pason of New Jersey and Jerry Levy of Vermont were elected co-chairs. Our own Peter Moody, in a nice consolation prize for being deprived of his delegate status, was elected co-vice chair, along with Nan Pfefferle of Wisconsin.

The new National Committee is a mixed bag. On the one hand, it includes Eric Chester and Susan Dorazio, classic troublemakers, who harrassed three editors in a row into resigning, and who now have taken over our publications. Also Doris Lake, wife of Peter Diamondstone (who was elected an alternate); they should have been expelled in 2004 for supporting the Workers World Party. But it also includes Walt Brown, Dwight Welch, Bill Stodden, Steve Sears, Anita Zeidler (Frank's daughter), Alice Kelsey, and Myrtle Kastner of Wisconsin: a clear majority of reasonable people, if they will only attend meetings. Time will tell.

"You're aware the boy failed my grade school math class, I take it? And not that many years later he's teaching college. Now I ask you: Is that the sorriest indictment of the American educational system you ever heard? [pauses to light cigarette.] No aptitude at all for long division, but never mind. It's him they ask to split the atom. How he talked his way into the Nobel prize is beyond me. But then, I suppose it's like the man says, "It's not what you know..." -Karl Arbeiter: former teacher of Albert Einstein

SPO
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