

## Candidate Statement, Chad Golston

To My Fellow Comrades:

In this new era, the challenges we face are great. But, DSA is great as well. I know this personally, because back in March, a young, blonde friend of mine sent me a Facebook event invite, and I couldn't go! However, that next month, she sent another invite that would change my life. That April Sunday led me to a group of San Diegans ready to change the world that welcomed this Arkansas boy with open arms.

I know the past few months have seen a tidal wave of unprecedented change, fear and frustration. But what I've witnessed this very local do in response is rise to the challenge. And I've been honored to be a part of that rise.

When it comes to helping lead this group of vibrant individuals that believe in ideals like healthcare for all, fairness in immigration and a more just government, I intend to not only continue building upon what **WE** have ambitiously begun together, but I will listen to you and continue to fight for what **we** want to see in our community.

No, I am not perfect.

But I am a man of integrity that believes in equality, fairness, love for one another and to quote the great spiritual teacher, Ram Dass, that "**we're** all just walking each other home."

I will be your voice. I will be your ear.  
Let's move forward, DSA.  
Let's get each other home, comrades.

Solidarity Forever ,  
Chad E. Golston

## **DSA San Diego Steering Committee Candidate Questionnaire, Chad Golston**

Democratic Socialists believe that both the economy and society should be run democratically to meet human needs, not to make profits for a few. We are a political and activist organization, not a party; through campus and community-based chapters DSA members use a variety of tactics, from legislative to direct action, to fight for reforms that empower working people.

Do you agree? If no, explain.

*Absolutely!*

Will you have the time and energy to make a significant commitment to the Steering Committee given the other commitments in your life?

*Absolutely. The ability to meet digitally helps to make sure that if I can't be there in person, I will definitely work to make sure I can still telecommute when able.*

Why did you join DSA?

*I joined because I saw a group of people that shared my disenchantment with the current state of our partisan politics and demanded something different from the American left. I saw DSA as a viable alternative of like-minded individuals that were not only hungry for change, but willing to stand and fight for it.*

What other organizations do you belong to or have belonged to that influence your identity as an activist/organizer? Do you currently hold office within any other organization(s)? If yes, which organization(s)?

*SDPA - No official office, just a committee chair.*

If elected to Steering Committee, what are some areas upon which you'd like to focus?

*Outreach, structure/bylaws, helping to establish caucuses/working groups for AfroSocialists/POC and Libertarian Socialists, Implementing a welcome committee and a solid template for retention that potentially entails welcome packets/emails, followup phone calls, surveys and newsletters, Implementing printed information (platform) on agendas*

What ideas do you have to ensure that Steering Committee decisions are made democratically?

- *Continuing progressive stack with speaking precedence given to minorities.*
- *Encouraging a comradely atmosphere in all aspects of our meetings, working groups and events we participate in.*
- *Requesting hearty amounts of feedback from all members by pushing more forum-style meetings (Pass The Mic!)*