Candidate Statement, Christopher Stirn

My name is Christopher Stirn and I am running to be a member of the SD DSA Steering Committee. I want to help make our chapter into an efficient organization that tackles the major problems in the San Diego region, by focusing on homelessness, immigration, and electoral politics.

With our ever expanding housing crises, I feel that the San Diego chapter can make actual lasting change that could serve as a framework for others to use. I propose our chapter begin with a three tiered approach, by first having members work with existing organizations such as habitat for humanity, secondly provide on the ground assistance to the homeless, and finally begin driving the political conversation towards the decommodification of housing in San Diego.

Also being on the frontline of the Trump administration's assault on undocumented people, we have a duty to be the vanguard for all people living in the San Diego region who are living under the threat of deportation. We must use both movement and electoral politics in order to do this.

Additionally I would like our chapter to begin using our already considerable and rapidly growing membership to drive candidates for political office left, through providing targeted and effective campaign support of candidates that share our values, in order to prove that we are a active and politically conscience group that must be not only given lip service to, but must whose ideals must be considered.

Thank you for your consideration.

DSA San Diego Steering Committee Candidate Questionnaire, Christopher Stirn

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.

-Yes I agree.

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

-No, I fully intend to support San Diego DSA

Why did you join DSA?
-After the 2016 elections, I became disillusioned with the neoliberal policies of the Democratic party and began researching a new place that would affect actual change in our society, which led me to the DSA. After doing more reading about their policies and positions I decided the take the plunge and sign up in March 2017.

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)?

-No, I am currently fully committing my time to help make the San Diego DSA into a beacon for other socialist movements in Southern California and the rest of the USA.

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

-If elected I would like the local chapter to begin focusing in earnest on the local issues plaguing San Diego, chiefly homelessness, immigration, and electoral politics. By tackling these issues we can help provide a framework for what works to other communities in the state, and more importantly help make life better for our neighbors.

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

-I would ensure full democratic participation of the rank and file membership by devolving as many important roles to non-steering committee members as possible, for example treasurer, the heads of working groups, and national convention representatives, in order to flatten the leadership structure. In addition, I would propose that all steering committee decisions must be ratified by a 2/3 majority of the rank and file membership. As well as that any proposal that is supported by at least 1/3 of the membership must taken under consideration by the steering committee, with a proposal to the general membership returned by the next general meeting.