

Candidate Statement, Tristan Slougher

I'm running for steering committee to both continue and deepen my involvement with the DSA here in San Diego. I've been involved with DSA in SD for over a year now and have been helping as part of the temporary steering committee, the education committee and the Jacobin reading group. I hope to continue learning from all of you while helping develop our chapters socialist identity and continue our growth.

DSA San Diego Steering Committee Candidate Questionnaire, Tristan Slougher

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, with what I consider an important addendum that reform is ultimately not enough.

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

Yes, but full disclosure there is a high probability I will not be in San Diego for an entire term were I elected. Sadly, I'd say it is unlikely I will be in San Diego for even another year.

Why did you join DSA?

Following my time in the ISO I was looking for an organization with a different direction. I was in contact with a number of DSA members in the nation for a couple years while living in Champaign, IL. When I arrived in San Diego I immediately looked up the DSA here and saw the great potential both nationally and locally from DSA with a strong core of veteran members in San Diego and the influx of new members that was beginning at that time.

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)?

I do not hold office nor am I a member of any other organization. My time with the International Socialist Organization certainly influenced my identity greatly, both my political education and understanding of the role of an organizer. But ultimately feel many orgs are tied down by a reliance on duplicating what has worked in other historical places and periods but aren't necessarily appropriate for the 2017 United States, a non-revolutionary period by any measure but with the potential for major openings.

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

Internal political education and, with enough growth, work on providing local social services to engage the community with tangible engagements.

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

We must ensure appropriate amount of debate time for decisions by utilizing communication options besides in-person meetings as much as possible to not limit members involvement due to their schedules.