

Candidate Statement, Virginia Franco

My politics began as a student at San Diego State University (SDSU); prior, had participated in Feminist issues before the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision. Later, I joined in a women's study group.

At SDSU, I took classes with socialist and Marxist faculty. Those studies influenced my life. I traveled to Nicaragua and El Salvador during the U.S. Contra War - as a member of the Teachers' Committee on Central America. I joined the New American Movement (NAM); later merged with the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee to form DSA - centering my political activity, since.

My activities in DSA have varied; served two terms in the DSA National Political Committee (NPC); am currently a board member of the tax exempt DSA Fund. For years, San Diego DSA was the only chapter on the west coast; my job was to communicate with at-large members to encourage them to organize chapters. My biggest success was in Los Angeles, where I helped to re-start a chapter that had basically disappeared.

I am a point of contact for folks who contact DSA via the national website; our home, a meeting site in-between general meetings for DSA and other progressive groups. I am a link to progressive movements; participate at San Diego City council meetings to share progressive issues with DSA; also, order T-shirts for the chapter. I am connected to the SD California Nurses Association (CNA); and with Herb Shore, held a Webinar for the DSA Health Care Action.

DSA San Diego Steering Committee Candidate Questionnaire, Virginia Franco

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 heartily agree with the above statement

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

Yes. I have found the time for years, and will continue to do so as long as possible.

Why did you join DSA?

DSA expressed in its organizational form my political beliefs better than any alternative, and continues to do so.

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)?

San Diego Maquila Workers Solidarity Network, Women Occupy San Diego, Unity Through Diversity Network, Sierra Club, San Diego Teachers Association Retired , (NEA affiliate), NAACP

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

Single Payer Health Care, electoral politics, Local and National Socialist Feminist Working Group,

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

Opening opportunities for new members, to engage in the activities of the chapter.