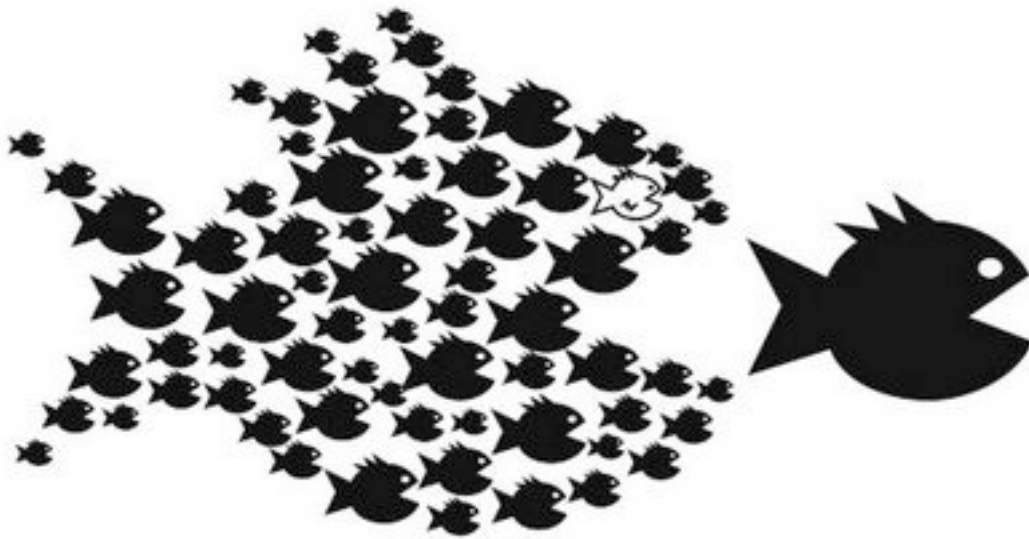


HOW TO ORGANIZE A LOCAL



ORGANIZE!

A Socialist Party USA Handbook

Table of Contents:

Introduction.....	3
Section 1- How to Start	
Organizational Requirements.....	4
Getting Organized.....	4
Section 2- Organizing Your First Meeting	
Organizational Meeting.....	6
Public Meeting.....	8
Section 3- Sustaining Your Local	
Building Infrastructure.....	10
National Resources.....	12
Running Local Meetings.....	13
Internal Dynamics.....	14
Conclusion.....	16
Appendices	
1- Daily Activity Checklist.....	17
2- Using Social Networking Sites.....	17
3- Important Contact Information.....	19
4- Model Press Release.....	22
5- Important Links.....	23

Introduction

How to Organize a Socialist Party USA Local

Locals are the lifeblood of any socialist organization. They are where we learn about politics, where we create our organizing plans and how our national organization is given life at the local level. By connecting members with concrete political organizing and useful educational efforts, Socialist Party USA (SP-USA) locals can increase in size and effectiveness. Each action we take to build the SP-USA should serve to strengthen our communities, make our worksites more democratic and inspire in people the hope that a better future is possible through grassroots political struggle. This is what our Locals do best.

Despite the importance of locals, organizing one may seem like a confusing process. This handbook is designed to take you step-by-step through the process of organizing and sustaining an SP-USA local. It includes details about the national organization's requirements and useful tips from people experienced with organizing for the SP-USA. Organizing takes some time and a lot of patience, but our locals are an essential part of making transformative political change possible.



Section 1

How to Start

Organizational requirements

Before getting to your organizing strategies, have a look at the national organization's requirements for locals. The SP-USA Constitution states that:

Local organizations may be chartered by the State Executive Committee, or the State Convention, upon the application of five or more members in an area. A copy of the completed charter application must be filed with the National Office.

The National Office can provide you with the proper forms to file for recognition. Your prospective local will need five members of the SP-USA and a list of officers.

Alternatively, where there is no state organization, or where the state organization is non-responsive or non-functional, the National Action Committee has the authority to charter local organizations.

For a list of relevant contact information see Appendix 3.

Getting Organized

Count your numbers

The first step in organizing an SP-USA local is to count your numbers. Find out how many people would immediately be interested in joining or how many people are already members of the SP-USA. Think especially about activists who may be organizing in single-issue campaigns, such as healthcare, anti-war or economic justice and/or those on your worksite or at your school. They might already be interested in participating in a broader socialist political project. Equally important are those who have directly experienced the oppressions of capitalism but may not have experience as organizers. Offer the Socialist Party USA as a space to acquire the skills necessary to create a better world based on the values of cooperation, compassion and self-determination.

Contact the National Office or a Nearby Local

Once you have looked around locally, send an email to or call the National Office and ask whether there are any current members of the SP-USA in your immediate area. You might be pleasantly surprised to find either members or people who have contacted the organization in the past. Nearby locals may have gone through a similar process of organizing and may be able to offer practical advice as well as resources, such as handbill

and pamphlet templates, sample by-laws and a copy of “Rusty’s Rules,” a document that offers a guide to holding a good meeting.

Find a Place to Meet

Socialist locals meet in all kinds of places – member’s homes, community centers, libraries, coffee houses and even the back table at a fast-food restaurant. Be sure the space is safe, easily accessible by public transportation, accessible to people with disabilities and, preferably, free. Consider a space that is also child-friendly. Your local should be an organic part of the community and children should be welcome. A box of crayons and a few sheets of drawing paper can go a long way towards sending the message that our movement is based on solidarity. The best space is one that can be used on a consistent basis so people begin to know where to find a socialist meeting.

Start Talking to People

Start talking. Attend any local demonstrations or political speeches in your area. Talk to folks on your worksite. Get an idea of what people in your area care about – ask questions and listen more than talk. Then, take a look at the SP-USA program. Find issues that intersect with ideas that concern people locally. Whether it is unemployment, healthcare, the war or environmental justice, socialists have something useful to contribute to the discussion.



Section 2

Organize Your First Meeting

There are two options for your first meeting. If you have enough people who are already members or who wish to join immediately, then hold an organizational meeting where members and those who are interested are invited. If you are organizing alone or with only a couple of others, organize a public meeting on a topic of interest. Here is information on both types of meetings.

Organizational Meeting

The organizational meeting gives structure to the local's organizing efforts. Eventually, different members may be working on different projects, so the organizational meeting is needed to keep other members informed. Items like official resolutions, new organizing projects and the next movie showing are discussed at organizational meetings. All of the basics of a meeting are necessary – an agenda, a chairperson, an agreed upon system of voting and someone willing to take minutes.

Introductions

Don't assume that everyone knows each other. Begin each meeting with introductions. Have each person say their name, position in the local if they have one, and for new people, how they heard about the meeting. Consider also doing an ice breaker activity if the majority of people have not met, like asking people what their favorite food or TV show is. Don't forget to have a sign-in sheet available.

Agenda

Make sure that people agree on the agenda. Note the date, time, and location of the meeting on the agenda. Make the first item "additions and approval of the agenda." While approving, you may also want to put a time-limit on the length of the meeting. We recommend that meetings last no longer than one hour and a half in order to not overtax participants. List the items you will discuss in the meeting. Be sure to include, at the end, plans for the next organizational meeting.

Officers

Part of the structure required by the national is an officer's list. Officers include a chairperson, a secretary and a treasurer. You may wish to elect "temporary officers" in meetings prior to receiving approval from the National and then hold new elections upon approval.

Chairperson

You may choose to have this person act as chair for local meetings or rotate the duties between people. The chair keeps the meeting orderly, ensures that the agenda is advanced and that the meeting is run democratically.

Treasurer

Since fundraising is usually an important part of a functional local, be sure to elect a responsible person as treasurer. The treasurer will handle the local's funds and should provide periodic reports to local organizational meetings. (See Page 11 for more information on finances)

Voting System

Be sure to agree on a system of voting. Some locals use majority rule, others consensus (100% agreement) and others mix the two – looking for majority on some issues or consensus on others. Whatever system you choose, be sure that people agree on it, understand it and that new people are informed of the process.

Minutes

Minutes are the notes taken during the meeting. You may choose to have very formal minutes or a more informal style. Whatever you choose, make sure that your notes are easily understood and accessible by all members. A typical officer's list includes the position of Secretary; you may want to make this person responsible for taking and distributing minutes.

Jurisdiction of the Local

Think carefully about the geographical space your local claims. If you claim a space that is too small – The Socialist Party of Walnut St. – it will stifle your ability to grow. Alternately, claiming a vast expanse – The Socialist Party of the Northeast United States – will make meeting in person difficult and prevent collective decisions and action. Be sure to consult the National Office when thinking about the area you wish to organize in.

Goals for Organizational Meeting

The goals of your first organizational meeting should be two fold. First, at the end you should aim to have worked out the way in which your local will run internally. This includes, as mentioned above, elected positions, voting systems, etc. It also includes a plan for submitting the proper paper work to the state party, National Action Committee or National Office to have your local chartered. All of this might not be done by the end of your first meeting. If it is not, you should, at least, have a plan on how to achieve these goals. In other words, if you have decided on an election procedure, but you have not had the chance to vote for elected positions, a plan should be in place to carry out the vote.

The second goal should be a plan to start organizing. If your members are already involved in organizing projects, this may mean simply discussing strategy inside those

projects. However, it also means organizing outward oriented activities for your local, such as public meetings. Once you have the agreed upon the internal processes of the local, the sooner you start engaging in organizing the better. Pick a date for a public meeting, think about a coalition your local might want to join, or the campaign you wish to initiate. There will be more on this in the next section and in section 3, Sustaining Your Local.

These two goals will mostly be the same two goals for all organizational meetings once your local is formed. You will always be working on both organizing the local and organizing the community.

Public Meeting

Public meetings help locals contribute to the community. These meetings can take the form of holding public discussions on critical issues, sponsoring left-wing speakers and showing progressive movies. Sometimes, you will want to examine a local issue of concern, while other times you may wish to bring a national campaign or perspective to your local area. Either way, the following tips are essential in order to organize a successful meeting.

Use National Resources

If you are close enough to the national office or another local, contact them. They may be able to send a speaker with expertise on a particular issue to speak at your meeting, or the national may be able to provide you with enough information for you to be the speaker at the meeting. For instance, the national just produced a Healthcare Organizing Packet that was designed to allow members to speak with authority about the healthcare reform movement.

Decide Democratically

Make sure that you involve the greatest number of people in the decision about what public meeting to hold. Ideally, you would do this at an organizational meeting. However, if you haven't organized the local yet, you could also gather people together for a planning meeting to throw out ideas and come to a decision.

Make a Flyer/Email Announcement

To make the meeting a success, you will need to spread the word. Flyers, email and phone lists are key resources. A flyer can be made using Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, PageMaker, Inkscape, Open Office or even Word. Keep it simple and direct. Include all important information, such as the date, time and transport directions. The less "wordy" the better. The same goes for email announcements. Be sure to utilize the electronic resources listed on page 17.

Outreach

Post your flyer everywhere. Areas with high foot traffic, such as coffee houses, supermarkets, universities and transport hubs, are key. Organize phone banking for really important meetings. Turn outreach into a way to involve more people in the organizing. Also, you might try getting some space in a local newspaper or community radio station. Be aggressive and advertise broadly!

The Meeting

The general structure of the public meeting is to have a member chair the event, have the speaker present and then do a Q&A. If you are showing a movie, be sure to have someone welcome the crowd, introduce the activities or ideas of the new group and facilitate the discussion afterward. Be sure to allow time for questions, as they are a key participatory part of the meeting. Think about your follow-up meeting before this meeting and announce it at the end. Be sure to collect everyone's contact info on a sign-up sheet – names, phone numbers, home and email addresses. The best way to do this is to ask people to “sign in.” Try to have quality personal conversations with people who seem interested.

If the public meeting goes well, try to have an organizational meeting to form the local. Or, have another public meeting with the goal of organizing the local soon.

Goals For The Public Meeting

Here again, there should be two goals. The first goal should be to create a space where knowledge about the given issue is shared and people can openly discuss and learn about the issue. Ultimately, the purpose of this is to help build a campaign around the issue so that people both involved and not involved with the party can organize together to make the world a better place.

The second goal is to build the party. If this is your first meeting, and you are trying to form a new local, the public meeting is a great way to raise interest in the party. Show that the new local is doing good work that relates directly to local needs and that it is a democratically-run organization. This will attract people to the party. Hopefully, by the end of this meeting you will have enough people interested that you will be able to hold an organizational meeting. Remember, don't be too heavy handed; be clear that the local organized the event and that it intends to organize around the issue, but be open and flexible, this will attract members and sharpen your campaign. Don't be afraid to ask people who seem interested, if they want to participate in the local.

Like with the organizational meeting, these two goals will more or less be the same for all public meetings. You will want to share knowledge and organize around the issue. Doing so will attract people to the party.

Section 3

Sustaining Your Local

Now that your first meeting has been a success, it is time to keep things rolling. If your paperwork has been approved, you can begin to organize as a local. If not, you can create an informal “socialist organizing committee” until you have the five members necessary to file for official status. Either way, here are some steps that will help you sustain your political work.

Building Infrastructure

It is vital that people know that the local or your organizing project exists. Word of mouth is crucial, but you should also have an electronic presence.

Contact Lists

Make sure that you keep a thorough contact list of everyone you meet. This list should include names, email addresses, phone numbers, and addresses. You may want to divide the list into two sections, one for members and one for “contacts.” Programs such as Open Office or Microsoft Excel can be useful tools for maintaining and organizing this list. Included in this list should be the contacts that you have already gathered and continue to gather at your meetings. You should also be committed to gathering the contact of each new person you meet as you organize. The larger your contact list is, the more broadly you will be able to publicize your events. Your contact lists will also enable you to remain in contact and cooperate with other activists working in your area.

Email

Open an email account in the name of the local. Make the name easily identifiable – if you are in Nome, Alaska make the email name nomesocialists@gmail.com or something just as clear. Load all of your email contacts from the meeting into this account. Use the list function to make mass emailing easier. Be sure to place your email addresses in the BCC column in order to respect the privacy of those who have given you their email and to prevent your list from being used by someone else.

Archive System

Develop a method to keep records for your local in both the physical form and online. Google offers a free service called Google Documents that allows for electronic archive and access by multiple users. Be sure to save important documents like your sign-up sheet and any templates you may have.

Mailing Address

Be sure to set up a Post Office Box address for the local. One of the officers should be charged with the duty of picking up your mail periodically. Your P.O. Box will be

essential for communication with the national, as well as to prove to institutions like banks that you exist as an organization.

Bank Account/Treasury

The local may decide to open a bank account to deal with funds that are raised and other donations. Be careful to examine the terms of the account closely. Fees and minimum balance requirements can eat away at hard-earned funds. Though it varies from bank to bank and state to state, you will probably be required to open the account as an unincorporated association or organization. To do so, you will likely need to file for an Employer Identification Number (see the link for EIN info below). You can do this over the phone or by downloading a pdf form. Unless you collect a large amount of contribution, you will not have to file tax forms with the federal government. If you sell merchandise, states might require sales tax collection. If the local decides to run someone for elected office, it is vitally important that funds collected and used for electoral campaigning are separated out, through the creation of a Political Action Committee, from funds used for local organizing. Please contact your state government for the appropriate forms.

Website

Websites are an important way for new people to connect to the local. A blog from a site like blogger.com can easily be converted into a website, or you can use Google Sites. Contact the national office to arrange an online training session on how to create and maintain a website. Your website needs a new entry at least once a week, and someone needs to be in charge of updating the “Upcoming Events” section. Keep your content fresh. *The Socialist WebZine* is updated weekly, so you can always post something new on your site.

Other Media

You may want to create a newsletter for your local to encourage members to write and to spread the news about your campaigns. Turn your address list into a mailing list and keep your contacts and members updated on the local’s activities. You can use the same programs you use to make flyers to create the newsletter. Check with your local post office for information on bulk mailing rates to reduce your postage costs.

Press Release

Media outreach is a useful way to draw attention to your political organizing. An effective press release can both attract a reporter and educate the general public. Be sure to send your release to the media via email and fax and post it to self-publishing sites, such as Indymedia (see link below), activist email lists and social networking sites. See Appendix 4 for a model press release.

Twitter/Facebook

You may also want to have a Twitter/Facebook presence for your local or organizing project. See below for more information about using these social networking sites.

National Resources

Media

The Socialist WebZine publishes weekly and *The Socialist* six times a year. The *WebZine* welcomes reports on meetings that locals hold or events they are planning. In addition, a standard feature of *The Socialist* is reports from locals. Once you are published, you can use your report to publicize the local in your region by handing out the paper or sending the web link to your report to your contacts.

Flyer/Outreach Material

If you are in a pinch for a flyer for a meeting, want to distribute some SP-USA literature or sell some SP-USA merchandise, contact the National Office. You can get help with everything from flyer design to training on writing a press release.

What Should Your Local Be Doing?

Get Involved in Concrete Organizing

The key to successful SP-USA locals throughout the country is getting folks in the local involved in concrete political organizing. Theoretical discussions and educational activities are necessary, but they are not substitutes for actual organizing. Your organizing can happen in many places. Here are a few examples from other locals:

Worksite

Bringing democracy and justice to our worksites, through the development of working-class power on the job, is a key task for socialists. If you are in an unorganized workplace, one without a union, you can spearhead a union drive or assist your fellow workers in defending themselves. If your workplace is organized, you might initiate a campaign to democratize your union or get your union to practice social or political trade unionism by supporting broader issues such as the movement against war, for healthcare or a local community issue.

Community Organizing

Class struggle is not confined to our workplaces alone. There are a variety of ways socialists can generate and support community organizing that builds working class confidence while making the world a better place. Our locals have organized campaigns in support of everything from environmental justice to a HIV testing center to street mobilizations against budget cuts. In each, the technique is the same – find out what the community identifies as a problem and assist in developing a grassroots response to address it. You may also consider constructing mutual aid institutions, such as community gardens or Community Sustainable Agriculture programs. Be sure that this organizing is empowering – that it aims less toward providing services and more toward direct community involvement.

Student Organizing

Many student socialists find themselves divorced from either a worksite or community. Yet the organizing strategies from both of these places can be reproduced on campus. Students are under a nearly constant attack from tuition increases, fee increases and cuts in aid. Plus, there is plenty of labor on campus. Forming a student-labor coalition is often a great way to encourage rooted political activism. Socialists should be at the forefront of student mobilizations, while also offering radical ideas and a more expansive national project.

Study/Reading Groups

Another expectation that new members may have is receiving a basic education in socialist ideas. The time-tested way to do this is through study and discussion groups. Start off with the basics – short documents that clearly articulate democratic socialist positions. Whenever possible, try to connect your study activities with your organizing campaigns.

Don't Spread the Group Too Thin

Locals report they have been most successful when the group selects one or two political projects to work on collectively. This may mean not participating in other equally worthy events, but it will pay dividends in the long run as members learn how to work together, share skills and generate and sustain grassroots political campaigns.

Running Your Meeting

Each local should hold regularly scheduled organizational meetings.

Public Advertising

Locals have reported positive results from publicly advertising their local organizational meetings. New people may be attracted to such a meeting. On the other hand, once the organizing gets moving and members are working on different projects, you need a space to efficiently share info and make strategic decisions. Over time and through experimentation you will be able to create a balance between these two needs.

Outreach

Make sure that everyone knows about the time and location of the organizational meeting. Use a three-part approach. One week before the meeting send out an email or make a few phone calls. Follow-up with another email three days prior to the meeting. Then, call people the day before to make sure they know about the meeting. You don't want to be too pushy, but you do want to provide every opportunity possible for people to participate. Schedule meetings well in advance so that members can arrange work schedules and family responsibilities.

Voting

People who have not yet joined the SP-USA might turn up at organizational meetings. Non-members are restricted from voting and are not allowed to act as official representatives of the local or national party. One strategy that will allow locals to recognize the opinions of non-members at meetings is to count their votes as consultative votes. This will allow you to get a sense of the room, while also respecting the rights of members.

Robert's Rules of Order

Robert's Rules are suggested, but not required. Therefore, you may want to brush up on the parliamentary procedure outlined in Robert's Rules of Order. Stick to the bare-bones basics though – motion-making and seconding. Implementing the whole package will lead to a boring, bureaucratic meeting where little gets accomplished. Also examine “Rusty's Rules” for more tips on meeting process (see link on page 23) .

Regularity

The key to successful organizational meetings is regularity. Whenever possible, organizational meetings should be held in same location at the same time of the month. For example, everyone should know that on the 3rd Friday of the month the socialists meet at the coffee house. This will make it easier for new people to plug in and will make the functioning of the local more democratic. It is important to have continuity, so don't forget to plan your next organizational meeting at the end of each meeting.

Internal Dynamics of the Local

Share Skills

Members will develop certain skills in the process of setting up a functional local. Be sure that there is a mechanism to share these talents with other members of the local. Often times, this happens informally, but organizing a skill share is a great way to build camaraderie and increase the local's effectiveness. Think beyond yourself. Think about who can do your task if you are no longer able to. Share your skills with others.

Confronting Inequalities

Socialists are not immune to the biases that operate in capitalist society. We must, therefore, struggle to resist reproducing such inequalities in our organizing and in our locals. Be sure that your meetings are safe spaces where people can air grievances, even internal ones, and that your organizing is designed to combat multiple forms of oppression. Struggle together to become conscious of the negative effects of racism, sexism and homophobia. Create spaces for oppressed folks to take on leadership and fight for liberation. Your local will be far more potent for doing so.

Integrating New People

The SP-USA's Statement of Principles recognizes "the infinite preciousness of every woman, man and child." Our locals make this idea a reality by involving new people in their organizing efforts. Each person has something to offer the local. Sometimes they will strengthen existing campaigns, while other times they will bring new projects and perspectives to the group. The local needs to develop the ability to quickly integrate people and provide support for their new projects.

Social Dimension

Socialists do not exist on politics alone. Successful locals often include some form of socializing with their organizing. Parties, concerts, bar nights, potlucks and picnics all build camaraderie and will attract people who might not normally come to a meeting. We are not aiming to create a boring and bland socialist society, so try adding a little fun to your organizing.



Conclusion

Keep a Steady Pace

Going forward, try to maintain a steady pace of organizational and public meetings. Always keep an eye for new people to speak with and new issues to create concrete political organizing projects around. Divide labor to encourage democracy and avoid burnout. Learn to rely on each other, trust each other enough to act democratically and practice the kind of basic solidarity necessary to create a democratic socialist society.

A fully operational vibrant local cannot be built overnight. It is important to have a certain pessimism of the intellect and optimism of the will when it comes to socialist organizing. For every 10 people who might offer to volunteer only one may actually show up or 10 people might turn up after you hand out 1,000 flyers. Revel in the small victories, be persistent and seize opportunities when they appear.

Make sure that people in your community know that the SP-USA is there to struggle side-by-side with them in order to improve the lives of all working people. Make your local into an asset for your community, a point of struggle in your workplace and one small piece of the larger revitalization of radical politics in America.

The SP-USA is a multi-tendency democratic socialist organization. Our locals are the mechanisms to reach this lofty goal. Radical democracy is not only an abstract concept; it is the way we run our locals on a daily basis. By making our political work a part of the everyday life of working class communities, we will be better able to make real on the promise of creating a society based on equality, peace and justice. Build a Socialist Party USA local today!



Appendix 1- Daily Activity Checklist

- check the email at least once a day
- make sure the website is updated at least once a week
- Send out a Tweet
- Think about what meetings are coming up and how you can help promote them
- Reach out to one new person
- Post some flyers for an upcoming meeting

Appendix 2- Using Social Networking Sites

Twitter

Here is a basic introduction to Twitter. Twitter allows you to communicate both individually and to other communities. Twitter is kind of like Facebook, but at a faster pace. The more you update, the more attention you receive. Each entry is forgotten in 30 seconds, so keep them coming fast and furious. Witty political analysis and inane observations are equally welcome, since they all draw attention.

Just click in the box under “What’s Happening” and start tweeting. Hashtags (#) allow individual users to associate their messages with broader Twitter communities. Take this message for instance:

Socialist meeting in Nome next week #socialism #nome #alaska

Anyone who searches for the word socialism will then see your entry. Put as many hashtags as you can think of to spread your message more broadly.

Individual users can then contact you directly. Let's say someone with account name johnsmith wants to ask you about the next local meeting. They could contact you like this (click on the @nomesocialists button on the right):

@nomesocialists hey when’s the next meeting?

You could reply to @johnsmith. Type in this:

@johnsmith hey! Next Friday, 1:00pm at the coffeehouse

These are the basics. It's nice because it is really about free association. Twitter is useful to draw attention to the local and even to coordinate actions and share information at large demonstrations. Find other SP-USA members on Twitter and follow their feeds.

Facebook

Facebook will allow you to create a slightly more ongoing relationship with its online “friends.” Officially, if you are a group you are supposed to set up a page and not an individual user account. Pages allow FB users to become fans of your organization. Promote your group broadly and try and accumulate as many fans as possible. The more you have, the wider the audience will be of those receiving your messages.

The idea with an organizational FB page is basically the same as your webpage. Keep the content fresh and have one person or a group of people checking it regularly. FB's event section is particularly useful for organizing purposes. Be sure to send out invites at least a week prior to the event.

FB also has organized groups. Generally the groups are used for single-issue causes or events. Groups are a great way to popularize the local's messages and events. Leave links in relevant groups that link back to your website or FB account.

Other Networking

Locals report positive results with advertisements on Meetup.com, via Craigslist, MySpace and through many other sites. The success of any one site is often determined by regional appetites. Experiment widely until you find the right formula for your local.

Networking Your Online Resources

Your local's entire online presence should work in some logical network. Whenever possible, different sites should be linked – users should be able to move easily from your Twitter to your website to your FB account. Think about how the different parts can relate with one another.

Do Not Get Lost in Cyberspace

Having an electronic presence can really help your organizing, but there is nothing better than a good old face-to-face meeting or a phone call. The computer is another level of mediation and, as a result, you may lose people in the mix. Keep a steady flow of person-to-person organizing and supplement it with your online presence



Appendix 3- Important Contact Information

National Office

Office Phone/Voice Mail – 212 982-4586

Cell Phone – 201 803-7574

e-mail – natsec@sp-usa.org

National Action Committee

Greg Pason, Nation Secretary – natsec@sp-usa.org, 201 803-7574

Jerry Stastny, National Treasurer - jemist@new.rr.com

Billy Wharton, co-chair – wawharton@yahoo.com, 718 869-2279

Andrea Pason, co-chair- andreapason@msn.com

Jim Sanders, vice co-chair - jimsanders954@yahoo.com

Diana Demers, vice co-chair -

State and Local Contacts

CALIFORNIA

Stewart Alexander - stewartalexander4paf@ca.rr.com

CONNECTICUT

Socialist Party of Connecticut

www.socialistpartyct.org SPCentralCT@gmail.com

FLORIDA

Socialist Party of Florida

www.myspace.com/spflorida

ILLINOIS

Chicago Socialist Party

www.chicagosocialistparty.org

INDIANA

Greater Indianapolis Socialist Party

bowrebecca@yahoo.com

KANSAS

Socialist Party of Kansas

www.sunflowersocialists.org

MASSACHUSETTS

Socialist Party of Massachusetts

www.socialistparty-usa.org/mass

Socialist Party of Boston

www.spboston.org

MICHIGAN

Socialist Party of Michigan

www.spmichigan.org spmi@spmichigan.org

Socialist Party of Marquette County

marquette@spmichigan.org

Detroit Socialist Party

www.spdetroit.org detroit@spmichigan.org

MINNESOTA

Central/Eastern Minnesota Socialist Party

www.spminn.org

NEW JERSEY

Socialist Party of New Jersey

www.njsocialistparty.org info@njsocialistparty.org

Socialist Party of Northern NJ

<http://www.njsocialistparty.org/northnj/> northnj@njsocialistparty.org

NEW YORK

Socialist Party of New York City

www.spnyc.org socialistpartynyc@gmail.com

Socialist Party of Central NY

<http://cnyreds.org>

OKLAHOMA

Greater Oklahoma City Socialist Party

<http://oksocialistparty.org/>

SOUTH DAKOTA

Socialist Party of South Dakota

sdspusa@gmail.com

TENNESSEE

Memphis Socialist Party

memphisocialist@yahoo.com

TEXAS

Socialist Party Texas

www.socialistpartyoftexas.org

VERMONT

71 Westminster Road

Putney, VT 05346

VIRGINIA

Socialist Party of Central Virginia

<http://sites.google.com/site/spcentralva/>

WISCONSIN

Socialist Party of Wisconsin

www.spwi.org

Socialist Party of South Central Wisconsin

PO Box 260216 Madison, WI 53726-0216



Appendix 4 – Model Press Release

For Immediate Release

[Title]

Socialist Party USA, NYC Local Calls for Swift Action by New York City to Combat Swine Flu Outbreak

[Date and Location] Wednesday, May 20, 2009 New York, NY - During his Tuesday, May 19th, 2009 press conference New York City Mayor, Michael Bloomberg urged New York City residents exhibiting Swine Flu symptoms to seek medical attention regardless of their immigration or health insurance coverage status. However, Mayor Bloomberg and the New York City Department of Health failed to address the medical bills the city's uninsured will incur by taking their advice. The Mayor fails to address the serious problems many residents face in accessing healthcare. The Socialist Party USA, NYC Local (SPNYC) calls on the Mayor and Department of Health to address the Swine Flu outbreak with swift actions that protect all New Yorkers. **[Quick Summary of the reason for the release – for an event be sure to include all the details right away] [main text that summarizes the problem, argument, issue or event – justify why this is important]**

The SPNYC calls for free distribution of all preventative materials, the opening of free testing centers at all NYC public hospitals, a moratorium on billing for all swine flu related medical care, and the free distribution of Tamiflu and other swine flue treatments. Enacting this plan will provide all New Yorkers with healthcare necessary to treat the Swine Flu. Combatting the Swine Flu is about treatment not just containment.

According to a New York 1 report, New Yorkers seeking testing for the Swine Flu have been turned away from New York City hospitals because currently only the Department of Health can administer Swine Flu tests. Instead, people are being urged to treat their symptoms as they would the typical flu-- with rest and fluids. This response, in conjunction with the countless New Yorkers not seeking medical attention due to lack of health insurance, does not adequately address the public health threat posed by the outbreak.

[pull-out quote from a representative of the local or state org – sometimes the media will not contact you, but will use your quote in a larger story so be sure to include one] “Access to healthcare is no problem for a billionaire like Michael Bloomberg,” says Billy Wharton, Chairperson of the Socialist Party of New York State, “for the rest of us hospital visits mean facing medical bills and debt. The seriousness of this outbreak requires that access to medical care be provided to all New Yorkers.” Therefore, SPNYC calls on the Mayor to respond directly to the threat by enacting a comprehensive public health initiative.

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[who is the entity making the release]

Socialist Party USA, NYC Local is a democratic socialist organization that believes that the vast wealth of society should be used to fulfill human needs.

Appendix 5 – Important Links

Socialist Party USA

<http://socialistparty-usa.org/>

The Socialist

<http://socialistparty-usa.org/socialist/>

Socialist WebZine

<http://socialistwebzine.blogspot.com/>

Faith and Socialism Discussion List

http://socialistparty-usa.org/mailman/listinfo/spfaith_socialistparty-usa.org

Socialist Party USA Email Lists

<http://socialistparty-usa.org/emaillists/>

Socialist Party Discussion Board

<http://socialistparty-usa.org/spboard/>

Rusty's Rules: How to Hold a Good Meeting

<http://www.iww.org/oldbranches/US/CA/lagmb/lit/meeting.pdf>

Employer ID Numbers

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=98350,00.html>

What to do if you are stopped by the police

http://www.aclu.org/drug-law-reform_immigrants-rights_prisoners-rights_racial-justice/know-your-rights-what-do-if-youre-

Twitter

<http://twitter.com/>

Tweet Deck

<http://www.tweetdeck.com>

Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/>

Meetup

<http://www.meetup.com/>

Going

<http://going.com/>

Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR) Media Contact List

<http://www.fair.org/index.php?page=111>

Indymedia (follow this national link to your local site)

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

