

Chicago DSA Communications Working Group Mission Statement and Bylaws.

Passed by Communications Working Group membership on 04/23/2018

1. Mission Statement

To build and maintain the various lines of communication, both external and internal, of Chicago DSA.

2. Leadership Committee

- a. The Working Group is led by an elected leadership committee made up of two co-chairs and an undetermined number of team leaders. The leadership committee is responsible for the overall strategy and direction of the Communications Working Group beyond the work done in the various communications teams. They are strongly encouraged to work together as comrades to come up with well thought out, unanimous decisions.
 - i. Elections for the leadership committee should be held every August.
 - ii. Only one of the co-chairs may be a white cis-male.
 - iii. Co-chairs are elected with a popular vote by Communications Working Group membership for a term of 1 year.
 1. This rule is voided in the instance of the CDSA Executive Committee voting to make a communications position on the EC, in which case the co-chairs will be elected in a chapter wide election.
 - iv. Co-chairs are limited to two consecutive terms in office.*
 - v. There are no requirements with regards to the race or gender of the team leaders but members of marginalized communities are encouraged to run for leadership positions.
 - vi. Team Leaders are elected with a popular vote by Communications Working Group membership for a term of 1 year.
 - vii. Teams may have more than one team leader elected to the committee if that accurately represents the team's size, influence, and leadership structure.
 - viii. When there is a valid reason for one, an Interim Team Leader may be added to the leadership committee by a vote as outlined in section 3.
 1. An Interim Team Leader's term will last until the next leadership committee elections in August.
 - ix. If the need arises for a Treasurer, Secretary, Education officer, or similar position to be added to the Comms Committee, they will have the same voting power, election process, and term limits as a Team Leader.

3. Voting

- a. For any major decision affecting the Communications Working Group, if a unanimous decision by the leadership committee can't be reached, a vote should be held by the committee.

- i. In the event of a tie in this vote, the co-chairs will make the final decision.
 - 1. If the co-chairs are undecided, the vote should go to working group membership.
 - ii. At any point leading up to the vote, the co-chairs can agree to transfer a committee vote to working group membership.
 - iii. At any point leading up to the vote, $\frac{1}{3}$ of the committee members can transfer a vote to working group membership.
 - iv. For a committee vote to be valid, all members of the leadership committee must either vote or choose to abstain.
 - b. If a financial decision is being discussed that involves a purchase greater than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Working Group's funds, this decision should be passed to a working group membership vote.
 - i. If $\frac{1}{4}$ of the funds is less than 250\$ this rule is void.
 - c. The leadership committee should make their decision making process as transparent as possible and, whenever prudent and realistic, open discussion to the wider working group membership.
 - d. Quorum for a vote among working group membership is set at $\frac{2}{3}$ the average attendance of the last three monthly working group meetings.
 - i. Attendance numbers shall be posted on all meetings minutes.
 - e. At working group meetings, a vote on a communications related issue or decision may be called by any member of the working group if they have the written or verbal support of $\frac{1}{2}$ of the current working group quorum.

4. Meeting Process:

- a. Communication Working Group meetings should all be run with Feminist Process.
- b. A progressive stack should be utilized by the meeting's facilitators to elevate the voices of people from marginalized communities.
- c. Co-chairs and any other member facilitating a meeting should be intentional about using welcoming and accessible language that's not overly entrenched in socialist theory and jargon.
- d. Bottom-lining actions that need to be taken by members before the next meeting is encouraged.

5. Conflict Resolution/Harassment policy:

- a. In the instance of harassment being reported within the Communications Working Group, the Harassment Policy and Grievance Process adopted by DSA in resolution #33 at the 2017 National Convention should be used.
 - i. If, at some point in the future, CDSA were to develop its own harassment policy, this may also be used.
- b. Co-chairs and Team Leaders should be intentional about letting members know about the various options and paths they can take when harassment or other conflicts arise