

North NJ DSA Executive Committee Candidate Questionnaire - January 2021

Please use this form to submit your candidacy for one of the positions on our executive committee.

For full descriptions of all executive committee positions, please view our by-laws:

<https://north.dsanj.org/chapter-by-laws/>

Full Name *

Jodie Trzaska

Position you are running for *

Co-Chair

Why are you a member of DSA? *

I joined DSA as one of the 2016 Bernie Babies, when I discovered I was a socialist. But the truth is, I was a socialist well before I knew what it was. Raised by a queer mother on welfare, I was privy to all the demoralizing degradation that comes with being a part of the working and marginalized poor. Becoming a member of the DSA wasn't really a choice, but an imperative to fight for a better world. I am here because all we have is each other.

What will you bring to this Executive Committee position? *

Currently I am serving on the EC as the Engagement Coordinator. Some of the work I accomplished with many other incredible comrades this year (outside of engagement work) include: organizing and systematizing our chapter's google drive and resources to ensure posterity and retain institutional knowledge for future leaders, creating and managing our chapter google calendar, assisting in the creation of the Poli-Ed Committee and creating it's first curriculum, assisting in the creation of the Media Comms Committee to expand on our general media/info/propaganda abilities and create new leadership positions. Currently, I am assisting in the creation of our chapter's very first podcast. In addition, I've attended both the 2017 and 2019 National Conventions where I was able to gain a broader understanding of our big-tent org and how best to navigate our special landscape.

With these collaborative accomplishments in mind, I hope to bring to the position of Co-Chair both real world and organizational experience and a desire to move our chapter in the direction of greater equity, inclusion, transparency, and democracy. I believe each one of our members has a right to be here and to fully participate and pursue the kind of organizing that they are passionate about, regardless of their political tendency or given privileges. I'd like to work on making the EC decision making process more collaborative with the general membership and to support the amazing work that has been done over the past year, which I am so very proud to have been a part of. In my role of Co-Chair specifically, I hope to utilize my skills as a former high school biology teacher to enhance our chapter and EC meetings to improve effectiveness, efficiency, and engagement.

What is your vision for North NJ DSA and how will you work to achieve it? *

A growing org, and a growing chapter, contain as many challenges as it does joys. Over the past year I have learned that we still have some unanswered questions: How do we activate and engage a greater percentage of our "paper members"? How do we clear a path to becoming a "socialist organizer" for our new members, and keep them on that path? How do we become a multi-racial org not just for the working class, but of the working class? How do we make our organizing spaces accessible and equitable for all of our members? How do we harness the inherent capabilities of our existing members to be socialist organizers in their own communities and workplaces, and not just at our meetings? How can we reduce a sort of tyranny of the time privileged, by making access to organizing work more equitable for workers, parents/caretakers, and the disabled?

My vision for North Jersey DSA is to engage in the process of seeking out these answers together, while continuing to support the phenomenal organizing of our working groups and administrative committees. Our good work already speaks for itself.

If you could change one thing about our chapter, what would you change? *

We talk a lot about visions for our chapter and for the better world that is possible. These visions are bound to look different for each of us. Something I would change about our chapter is the willingness at the leadership level to make space for these various visions to all have a seat at the table. We don't have to agree, but we have to maintain good faith and a comradely environment if we are to survive. Every one of us deserves to be here, and has something special to offer. Part of making space for ideological diversity means allowing for more transparency in decision making processes. Too often as an EC we made decisions in in private settings, or by reaching a quorum without full EC attendance. In my commitment to radical democracy, the foundation on which our org stands, I intend to ensure our membership has clear access to, and participation in, leadership decisionmaking.

Is there anything else you'd like to share with fellow chapter members? *

I've had a couple of careers that help season my particular perspective. Spent time as an urban environmental planner (2006-2010), sex worker (2010-2014), teacher (2014-2017), and flight attendant (2018-now). Did a small documentary that appeared in some festivals, including the 2018 Anarchist Film Festival. Happy to talk about chapter stuff, movies, music, or etc with you any time:
jodie.trzaska@gmail.com.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms