

Southern SDS

Convention Bulletin #1



2nd Southeast Regional Convention
June 1-3
Asheville, North Carolina

May 11, 2007

Friends,

At the first conference call for planning the 2nd Southeast Regional Convention, we decided to form a convention organizing committee. This committee is open to anyone who will join the calls and participate on a listserv to actively plan and build for the convention. We decided to publish updates on organizing the convention in a weekly bulletin—what you are reading right now! Hope you enjoy it. We hope you all will comment on what is being proposed on the Southern SDS listserv (southernsds@lists.riseup.net). We want to have as open and inclusive of a process as possible to make this convention a success. Please contact southeast-regional-sds-convention-organizing-committee@googlegroups.com to get involved in the conference calls and planning for this important convention.

In unity,

Chapin, UA Tuscaloosa
Kati and Doug, UNC-Asheville
Michael, UNC-Charlotte
Kosta, UNC-Chapel Hill

Call for the 2007 2nd Southeast Regional SDS Convention

Since it was reformed in 2006, Students for a Democratic Society has grown to over 250 chapters. SDS is leading the student antiwar movement— from Tacoma to New York, from North Carolina to Iowa, SDS has not only grabbed the headlines but has helped re-energize the Left.

This summer, SDS at the University of North Carolina - Asheville will be hosting the 2nd Southern SDS Regional Convention from June 1st-3rd. Come join us to educate and learn from each other, to discuss and debate issues of structure and organization, and to prepare for the National SDS Convention in July.

This convention is open to any student organization, not just those affiliated with SDS. We hope to leave knowing how to better communicate with one another, united and organized so we can build a strong student movement. The South, always presumed to be a bastion of reaction and a stronghold of conservatism, is rapidly turning against the war. There are already over 50 SDS chapters active from Florida to Virginia. Come in June to join the fight and unite with other SDS chapters in the South!

For more information visit <http://southernsds.wordpress.com>

Or contact southeast-regional-sds-convention-organizing-committee@googlegroups.com.

Minutes from Organizing Committee Conference Call 5/10/07
Notes by Chapin, UA Tuscaloosa

With only three weeks left until the Southeast Convention, the main tasks facing us are:

I. Publicity

- a. To put out a **call** to other southern chapters, as well as to other student organizations (such as those who participated in the March 20th Day of Action) who may not necessarily be affiliated with SDS, and also to contact chapters individually, by phone/email.
- b. To make a **flier** advertising the convention, and publicize it on the various listservs and on facebook. (Texas from SDS-Chapel Hill volunteered to design a flier).
- c. To write the follow-up **press release** after the convention to send out to local media.
- d. To set up a **website**, allowing for online-registration, etc. (Kosta from Chapel-Hill will speak to Tom Good about this).

II. Soliciting Proposals

- a. **Southeast Convention Bulletin:** 3-4 will be sent out before June 1st, containing notes from the organizing committee phone conferences, calls for proposals/facilitators/caucus organizers/, all thus-far submitted proposals, and other important updates, and will be in pdf format for convenience!
 1. The first will contain guidelines for how to submit proposals, how to sign up to the google-group, a call soliciting proposals, facilitators, caucus organizers, etc.
 2. The subsequent bulletins will list all additional proposals that have been submitted.
 3. The final will be more-or-less a "guide to the Southeast Convention," containing the logistical information (maps of Asheville, etc), the finalized schedule and agenda, and so forth. Please plan to bring a copy of this with you to the convention!
- b. We are asking for proposals on: **structure** (should there be a regional structure, and if so, what should it be?), **process** (voting, discussion process, agreement, etc), **workshops**, and **resolutions**.
- c. Chapin Gray from SDS-Tuscaloosa will be the point-of-contact. Proposals for workshops, structure, process, resolutions, and requests to be added to the google-group should be sent to chapinrose@gmail.com; her cell is 251.605.7780.

III. Finalizing the Convention Structure and Agenda

a. **Voting Rights:** The convention organizing committee is proposing that each chapter be delegated no more than two votes on a given issue.

b. **What constitutes agreement:** The convention organizing committee is proposing the following. We will strive for consensus, but in the case of disagreement we will hear two speak for and two speak against the proposal in question, then call for a vote. If super-majority (3/4 in favor) is not reached, we will have a second round of discussion, again hearing two for/two against. For the second vote, 2/3 majority will constitute agreement.

c. **Facilitator.** A call will be put out asking for volunteers. We need people with strong facilitation skills, who will not only call on people to speak, but will help sum-up and outline the discussion, who will make sure no one individual dominates discussion and that each chapter has a chance to speak, and who also pays careful attention to gender/race dynamics. It would be ideal to have two facilitators at once (one to keep track of hand-raising and one to moderate) for each of the three plenaries and also for the Friday night chapter report-backs. We are likely to have many people at the convention; for this reason, the convention organizing committee is proposing that we limit comments from specific individuals to no more than two comments per issue.

d. In the interest of time, UNC-Asheville SDS will draft an **agenda** based on the organizing committee's discussion and logistics on the ground. However, this will be an open process-- additions/revisions are welcome from all! The agenda should include: report-backs from, three plenary sessions, workshops (5, or more if there is a high demand), and space for queer, oppressed nationality, and women's caucuses.

e. A brief note on **plenaries:** the convention organizing committee is proposing **three** plenaries (plenaries: large meetings that all conference participants attend; that have open discussion on a particular theme and which aim to reach resolutions) More than likely, there will be one on Saturday in- between workshops that will begin initial discussion on regional structure (do we want a regional structure? If so, what kind?), and two on Sunday (one to formalize decisions on structure, another to pass resolutions that have been proposed).

Southeast Regional SDS Convention Organizing Committee Google-Group
(for those actively organizing for the conference):

[southeast-regional-sds-convention-organizing-
committee@googlegroups.com](mailto:southeast-regional-sds-convention-organizing-committee@googlegroups.com)

More general conversations about the conference should take place on
the Southern SDS discussion list:

southernsds@lists.riseup.net

Submitted Proposals (as of 5/11/07)

I. Workshops

1. Latin American Solidarity (Doug, UNC-Asheville)
2. The Iraqi Resistance and the U.S. Antiwar Movement (Kosta, UNC-Chapel Hill)
3. What is Consent? (UNC-Asheville)

II. Resolutions

1. To support the SOA Watch and to have a SDS presence at the upcoming demonstration against the SOA in Fort Benning, GA in November 2007. (Michael, UNC-Charlotte)

III. Structure

1. No proposals so far.

Attention: call for proposals, facilitators, and caucus organizers!

We need proposals (on structure, workshops, and resolutions) submitted as soon as possible! Please send a brief (1-2 paragraph) statement either outlining your proposed resolution, summarizing your proposed workshop, or describing your proposed structure. Include a title, your name, chapter, school/city, and contact info (phone/email).

We need volunteers with facilitating experience to moderate the plenaries.

We have space in the schedule for a queer, oppressed nationalities, and women's caucuses that have yet to be organized; if you are interested in taking on this task, or any of these tasks, please contact Chapin at chapinrose@gmail.com.