

WHAT DOES THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION DO?

The ISO is building a socialist alternative in a world of poverty, oppression, and war. Our organization participates in many different struggles for justice and liberation today, while working toward a future socialist society, free of all exploitation and oppression, and built on the principles of solidarity and democracy.



THE
INTERNATIONAL
SOCIALIST
ORGANIZATION

We are the largest revolutionary organization in the US, with branches in about 60 cities across the country and connections to other socialists around the world. We organize in the here and now against injustice and for reforms that will benefit the working class and oppressed—against war, racism, sexism, and ableism; for LGBT rights, for immigrant rights, for environmental justice, and more. These struggles are important in their own right, but they are also building blocks for a movement to achieve a socialist society.

At our meetings and in our publications, we discuss the political issues and movements of today, along with the rich history of past struggles from below and the ideas of the Marxist tradition dedicated to achieving socialism. We take self-education very seriously as a tool to help us be better organizers at a time when we desperately need to both fight the right and rebuild independent left-wing political organization.

We meet in Seattle every Tuesday at 7pm at the Common Good Cafe

(Downstairs at the University Temple United Methodist Church), 1415 NE 43rd St., Seattle, WA 98105

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ISO?

1. **Political Agreement:** Members are in agreement with the organization's basic politics. These politics are outlined in *Where We Stand: The Politics of the International Socialist Organization* and explained more fully in *The Meaning of Marxism*, by Paul D'Amato (available from haymarketbooks.org). We organize a 4-part Intro to the ISO study & discussion series on the *Where We Stand* packet to acquaint new people with our politics and approach to organizing.
2. **Organization and Activity:** By joining, members commit themselves to building the organization; participating in building local movements; as well as reading, financially supporting, and selling Socialist Worker newspaper (independently and through organized tabling).

In Seattle we meet every Tuesday at 7pm. It is vital that members attend these meetings on a weekly basis as that is where our decisions are made and carried out democratically. All members join a working group to collectively participate in a local movement or to build the ISO. The activities of our branch seek to develop the knowledge and organizing skills of each and every member as well as those of other activists and potential activists who are not in the ISO.

Socialist Worker (SW) is the main publication of the ISO and its leading public face aside from members themselves. Members attend bi-weekly tabling to sell SW and do outreach for the ISO. Additionally members buy "5-for-me's" —five SWs at the beginning of the month that they keep on their person to sell to those around them at work, school, and in their community. SW is a crucial tool that helps forge a concrete relationship with those looking for socialist ideas. Selling the paper and promoting the website identifies the people who are interested in the organization and puts us in a tangible, face-to-face relationship. In addition, ISO members gain from conversations with SW readers because the process of ongoing political engagement with nonmembers helps members learn to articulate our politics more effectively to those outside the organization.

3. **Financial Commitment:** Members agree to pay monthly dues to the national organization, according to its sliding scale dues structure. Seattle members also pay local dues (10-20% of national dues) to cover local operational expenses (paying for meeting spaces, posters, photocopies, subsidizing member child care, etc.). Any member with particularly difficult financial circumstances may negotiate their rate of local dues payment with the branch treasurer. We also hold fund-raising activities to help finance branch activities—yard sales, book sales, parties, etc.

HOW DO I JOIN

1. The starting point for joining is participation in the **4-part Intro to the ISO study series** to discuss *Where We Stand: The Politics of the International Socialist Organization* and the *Members' Toolkit*. These meetings precede our Tuesday branch meetings from 6-7pm. If you have a time conflict alternate arrangements can be made. Information and sign-up sheets for the study series is available at all our meetings, or you can email info@seattleiso.org for more info.
If you have completed the study series and have basic agreement with the political program of the ISO, we hope you will join us!
2. Fill out the **Automatic Dues Withdrawal Form** and submit, with a voided check, to the Membership Organizer.
3. **Meet with the Membership Organizer** to discuss committee involvement, contributing to the branch's work, continuing political reading and discussion, reading and selling SW, local dues, and other details.

SEATTLE ISO BRANCH

www.pugetsoundsocialists.org

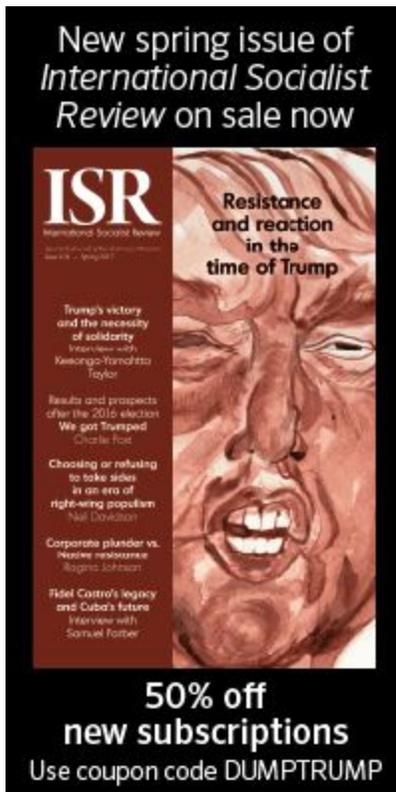
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