

Resolution: Building for 2020 and Beyond

By Paul Krehbiel and Harry Targ, amended by Janet Tucker, 8/21/2020

The Historic Role of CCDS

CCDS emerged out of the swirl of changes in the socialist world, in the US and abroad, that took place in the early 1990's, marked by the end of the Soviet Union in 1991. Members from a variety of organizations and political tendencies met in a conference in Berkeley, California in the summer of 1992. It was agreed there that a new democratic and socialist organization was needed and after two years of organizing, the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism was created at a founding convention in Chicago in 1994. The organization was to be multi-racial, multi-tendency, and was to fight to end worker exploitation, white supremacy, patriarchy, imperialism, and the marginalization of youth, in a way that would lay the foundations for socialism. CCDS was from the founding convention an organization of action, education, coalition building, and the promotion of left-unity. CCDS members, who were overwhelmingly grassroots activists in virtually every progressive movement would work to build those movements and the conditions to build the democratic and socialist left. CCDS developed the political strategy of building a Progressive Majority among the American people. CCDS also saw itself as an organization that would help build a larger and broader and more united left that had formidable political clout, and was intimately linked to many progressive mass organizations and movements which would challenge capitalism and lay the foundation for socialism. We also have done excellent educational work, with the Socialist Education Project, and numerous publications: The Mobilizer, Left Links, Dialogue & Initiative, On-line University of the Left, and a number of books and leaflets. Our educational work makes its greatest contribution when it's linked with our activism and grassroots organizing, and helps advance the political consciousness of those we work with. We believe that CCDS has made unique contributions to the left, and continues to do so.

CCDS Today: What is our Future?

CCDS made important contributions in helping to build the Progressive Majority. However, many CCDS members were and are so involved in building mass organizations and progressive movements, that a contradiction too often arose where more attention was given to this mass work, and efforts and time allotted and problems in building CCDS resulted in inadequate progress. That dynamic, coupled with various changes in the political climate in our country, for both good and bad developments, and the aging of our membership, led to a decline in members and resources, and a reduction in diversity, racially and regarding age. This, in turn, led to a discussion leading up to our last convention in 2016 about the future direction of CCDS.

Resolution:

Whereas, CCDS is an organization that strongly advocates and works for the intersectionality of class, race and gender, and seeks to build multi-racial, working-class, feminist, and multi-generational organizations and political movements; and

Whereas, CCDS makes unique contributions to the movement and people's struggles – one of which is by having a good balance between initiating and supporting bold, radical ideas and action, while also working with broad strategic center forces to build the Progressive Majority and move the political agenda and momentum to the left; and

Whereas, CCDS is informed by Marxism and the Marxist tenet of the necessity of combining theory and practice; and

Whereas, CCDS seeks to expand our effectiveness and contribute to building a stronger Progressive Majority as the central task to stop the right, make progress, and create the conditions to fight for socialism, and

Whereas, CCDS seeks to create a stronger and more effective and united political left, including developing joint projects with other organizations and movements, working in coalitions, creating a federation, creating fraternal ties, and/or consummating a merger with one or more organizations based on the fulfillment of benchmarks within a well thought-out and agreed upon process;

Therefore, be it Resolved:

1. That CCDS continue to exist as a membership organization; and
2. That CCDS continue to build itself, following the guidelines set by our CCDS Goals and Principles statement and our history; and
3. That we protect CCDS's unique contributions to the movement and people's struggles. One of which is that CCDS has uniquely a good balance between initiating and supporting bold, radical ideas and action, while also working with broad strategic center forces to build the Progressive Majority and move the political agenda and momentum to the left.