

Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) is the largest socialist organization in the United States. We believe that the economy and society should be run democratically to meet the needs of the many, not the few.



A better world is possible. Join us!

How to Get Involved:

- 1. Become a DSA member at [dsausa.org/join](https://dsausa.org/join)
- 2. Come out to our actions and meetings
- 3. Follow us for updates at [quadcitiesdsa.org](https://quadcitiesdsa.org)

Disclaimer: The views in this publication are not necessarily representative of QCDSA's democratically-decided positions (except where noted), but represent the diversity of thought of our membership.

# The Quad-City Worker



A quarterly publication of the  
Quad Cities Democratic Socialists of America

# ***Starbucks Strike Support***

by Andrew D

On a frigid, blustery Christmas Eve, the workers at the Starbucks on 53rd St & Elmore Ave in Davenport stood defiant at the busy intersection. Workers at hundreds of stores organized under Starbucks Workers United had been on strike since December 20th, and now it was these workers' turn. The workers did not stand alone, though: for they had the socialists.

From the first unionized store in 2021, DSA has been on the frontline of supporting the budding Starbucks union drive, with many members serving as lead organizers of shops across the states. QCDSA had been supporting this very store in Davenport since they unionized earlier that year, building solidarity with the workers through their organizing journey. Starbucks has been negotiating with the union for their first contract, but the company had offered a measly 2% pay bump. As socialists, we understand that workers run the world, therefore, their wage should reflect it. So, the union chose to start rolling strikes at one of the most profitable times of the year for the company.

In order for the strike to be successful we reached out and mobilized our members to the picket line, staffing the picket line with a DSA member from start to finish. We brought food, handwarmers, and good vibes to the picket line. We promoted a GoFundMe for a strike fund, raising over \$1800 for Iowa Starbucks workers to replace their lost wages during the strike.

But don't take it from me, here's what some of our members had to say:

*"As soon as I walked up to the picket line at my local Davenport Starbucks, I was greeted with warm smiles, hand warmers, offers for snacks and water, and a sign to hold in solidarity. I had amazing conversations with the fellow picketers, and was amazed to see the support for union organizing shown by the cars honking their approval*

# ***My Existence is a Sword***

by Morgan Hadassah

I crave peace yet conflict finds me  
Adversity tempers my quality  
I am dragged from battle to battle  
My shine dulled red and left chipped

I long to be reforged into a plow  
Tilling the fields instead of felling foes  
But right now my blade is double edged  
Cutting flesh deeply both ways

I desire to be sheathed for good  
Never to be carried from war to war  
Left to rest away from the gore  
A soul at peace her shine restored

Sometimes I fear my existence is a sword  
That simple being brings about strife  
My visage steers hate in others hearts  
Until families are torn at the seams apart

I sow division where I dare to walk  
Drawing hatred to me like the growing  
dark

I just wish to rest in my lover's arms  
Lies about my existence cause great harm

Highlights from health insurance/care companies 2024 third quarter

Public Earnings Results:

- UnitedHealth Group returned over \$9.6 billion to shareholders through dividends and share repurchases and had revenues of \$100.8 billion
- Elevance Health returned over \$3.1 billion to shareholders through share repurchases and had revenues of \$44.7 billion
- Cigna had revenues of \$63.7 billion
- HCA Healthcare had revenues of \$17.487 billion
- McKesson had revenues of \$80.9 billion
- CVS Health had revenues of \$95.4 billion



*and flashing peace signs and waves out their windows. About halfway through, the manager of a neighboring chain food store came by and dropped off bags of fresh made food for everyone picketing. It got me thinking, what if all these stores on these corners got together to demand more. What if we all felt this feeling, of how powerful and joyous we are in solidarity.” - Ajooni S*

*“As a rank-and-file member of a union that has existed in my shop since before I was even born, it was inspiring to see and stand with workers who are fighting for a first contract of their own. With all the reactionary things going on around us, it's great to see revolutionary spirit in our own backyard. I am proud to be part of an organization like QCDSA that walks the walk and shows up to support workers in any way we can!” - Kelly R*

Support the workers by visiting [sbworkersunited.org](https://sbworkersunited.org), and check with QCDSA for any future labor actions.



## ***Material Allyship***

by Morgan Hadassah

Ways to support trans people:

- 1) Ask trans people what they need. Performative allyship only goes so far.
- 2) Emotional support; listening, respecting, and just being a friend to the trans people in your life can go a long way.
- 3) Stockpile reproductive hygiene products. Helps both cis women and trans mascs/nonbinary people who have uteruses. Recommend medium flow tampons and pads. Sterile, unused reusable menstrual cups are also good to have on hand. I recommend keeping plan b on hand as well.
- 4) Provide weather appropriate clothes to places like Clock Inc. If you are providing refuge to a trans person take them to Clock Inc. or thrifting for weather appropriate clothes.

5)Offering assistance with legal transition.

**Note to trans people:** due to the recent executive order you should only apply for a passport when you have state based documents showing that you are your gender. And after you've switched social security number info over to your current gender.

6)Speak with your state and federal legislators and let them know you are opposed to their anti trans positions or in support of their pro trans positions.

7)Assist with transportation to appointments.

8)Make your home a refuge sanctuary for displaced trans people fleeing from anti-trans laws in other states. The same is true for cis women and immigrants. Given that you may live in a red state as well you could simply be a waypoint in between them and the area they are trying to go for legal protection.

9)Get involved in local lgbtq efforts to make your local area more safe for queer folk.

10) Assist with the purchase of binders and other shapewear. This requires a certain degree of comfort with the trans person in question because shapewear needs to be properly sized to be effective.

11)If you are comfortable giving shots, some trans people are needle adverse and can get a lot out of having someone else stick them.

12) Stock up on 1 ML Luer-Lock syringes, 21G x 1" needles( used for drawing from vials), 25g x 5/8" needles( used for injecting) and alcohol wipes. You can find all the needle supplies on Amazon or pharma websites in 100 piece quantities. Alcohol pads come in 100 to 200 piece quantities. Also, sharps containers. A cleaned detergent container and any other thick, hard plastic container can be used in place of official sharps containers. Mark with tape and Sharpie that the container is a sharps container and wrap the lid tight with duct tape.

13) Stocking up or helping them stock up on hrt.

Note: due to T being a scheduled controlled substance, helping Trans mascs is assisting them buying early refills out of pocket. A friend I knew would draw multiple shots worth from their t vials and then vacuum seal and refrigerator their filled syringes for a later date.

## ***Health-scam***

**by B. Maloney**

Americans continue struggling to improve labor laws, create well-paying jobs, and improve health outcomes within our healthcare systems. Largely responsible for this struggle is for-profit healthcare and corporate monopolies, who through their endless greed have positioned themselves in opposition against the American people.

The lack of antitrust laws being utilized to dismantle these monopolies and absence of the enforcement of regulation to private sector power within the health industry is nefarious. The government has proven itself incapable of protecting citizens against oppression from corporate gluttony. Non-elected groups that create health industry policy and behavior have a dominant interest in profit and little responsibility to public health. Ruthless and devastating in approach, the goal appears to be profit by any means necessary. They measure success by shareholder returns, funneling as much money as possible into their own pockets. It is extremely telling that for the health industry, success is not measured by expanding quality and lifesaving care without barriers to all citizens.

The for-profit health insurance industry is obscenely cumbersome, costly, and cruel to the people it pretends to serve. In a sector as impactful and critical as healthcare, it is unconscionable to continue to allow companies to uphold and design systems that profit from medical debt and bankruptcy. Making money off of denying claims for lifesaving procedures is violent. Profiting from medical debt and bankruptcy is violent. Benefiting from exorbitant medical costs and creating high rates of homelessness is violent. Allowing power and billions of dollars to be consolidated in the hands of a few is violent.

Violence is a lucrative business in America, and it comes at our expense. Together, Americans can defeat corporate violence and ensure everyone has access to care. We need Medicare for All, we need to abolish the private health insurance industry: no one should have to pay for healthcare.