

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
- 2. Come out to our actions and meetings
- 3. Follow us for updates at 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



Eclipse Hatred artwork by Roger Peet

**A quarterly publication of the
Quad Cities Democratic Socialists of America**

QCDSA Mutual Aid Distribution

Meagan R

It's January 10th, 2026, the morning of our Mutual Aid distribution event, and it's cold and windy outside of the Davenport Public Library. My fellow DSA members and I prepare the items we have spent the last few weeks fundraising and shopping for: coats, sweaters, socks, blankets, bus passes, boxes of food and hygiene items, and entertainment. Groups of unhoused people gather to wait in the biting wind while we scramble to get everything organized and displayed, some of them understandably on edge upon seeing items they needed that were limited in stock and therefore not guaranteed to go to them. More than once, an entire rack of coats gets blown onto the damp ground, and after struggling to find our tarp, we had to improvise, at one point using our own QCDSA banner to display some of the clothes so that the people receiving the goods could get clean and dry items. Some of the organizers cannot come due to illness and other circumstances, and some show up despite sub-optimal health just to get the event off the ground.

And yet, as the day goes on, the energy is surprisingly relaxed. Jovial, even. Over the next two hours, friendly conversation can be heard among DSA members and the unhoused comrades alike, old friends and acquaintances reuniting. Heather greets everyone upon arrival, asking their name and current home city as she assigns them numbers on post-its, a first-come-first-served system we employ to avoid confusion and maintain fairness. JJ pours people cups of hot chocolate and cup noodles, taking care to learn and use everyone's names and asking them about their life. Other members hold the racks of coats steady, organize clothing by size and gender, and display hygiene items for easy access. As people start picking through items they need, Heather shows me the homemade coloring books she put together before they are all taken. The pages full of vibrant images are put together in neat folders and carry uplifting messages. Besides the coloring books, we have copies of our zine and stickers providing education about us as an organization, which come in handy as multiple people ask how they can get a hold of us to give back when they are in a position to do so. Several express frankly that these events save lives.

As people pick through the items, taking some for themselves and for loved ones, sharing smiles and conversation, I feel warmed at what our community can do to help ourselves through difficult circumstances. Although there is joy in this revelation, there is also anger. Anger that the systems that be, far from normalizing this kind of collective action, actively exploit the working class and create the circumstances that lead to homelessness. Anger that, as good as it feels to have avenues of direct action, these events do not and cannot solve the issue of homelessness in the Quad Cities. I am

The Quad-City Worker Launches Video

Platform

QCDSA Communications and Political Education Committee

The Quad-City Worker is launching a brand new video platform, starting with a YouTube channel you can find at youtube.com/@qcworker.

This platform will be a new place for members to share a socialist perspective on the problems and opportunities that face the working class in our community.

We hope you will help us by submitting videos that describe relevant local news, explainers of our government's injustices, updates on the work the QCDSA is doing, and other things you hope will inform and mobilize.

YouTube Channel:



***Submit your video
or essay
here:***



TRANS SANCTUARY DAVENPORT

WHAT WE WANT

We want Davenport city council to pass a sanctuary ordinance protecting gender-affirming and reproductive healthcare: no government has the right to tell people what to do with their own bodies.

HOW WE'LL GET THERE

We're going to organize everyday working people and aligned groups in a coalition to fight for it. We need a mass movement against the far-right and for our democratic rights!



**SIGN UP TO HELP @
QUADCITIESDSA.ORG/TRANS**



angry, but anger, like joy, is energizing. For me, that energy is going straight back into organizing with the DSA. We cannot undo the ills of capitalism with any singular event or strategy, but working with my comrades on the Mutual Aid Distribution this month was a spot of light that will help me carry on another day.

If you want to get involved in our mutual aid efforts, you can start by joining the Mutual Aid Working Group meeting over Zoom on March 4th at 6PM.



The Cartographer Nation of Friends

by AJ M

The man claimed to be my friend,
he who had met me at that instant.
He crept alongside me, and behind,
sometimes even in the front of me,
I was reminded of Poe's story of the doppelganger
I started to believe in him

He managed my social engagements,
work life, home life, the entirety of life by the end.
He arranged my funeral, though I wasn't even dead.
He had drawn out every plot point in the narrative
till no one else listened to me,
till no one else seemed to care.

It wasn't until I visited the kingdoms of other families,
across the street and down the block
when I realized they had managers too.

These managers all got together
and played cards one night a week,
they traded trinkets, undisclosed boxes,
whatsits, and photo albums,
possessions of all sorts.

They migrated, traded, kept track
of all accounts, their statistics neatly compiled
in separate but equal binders, each
labeled for their jurisdiction, their territory.

They recorded everything: timelines and calculations,
import/export dramas and the latest culture and gossip pages.
Industries were run from our very houses,
and on through the ages,
just history recording itself through the
mindful maps of these 'Iowa nice' neighbors.



Ironical Cynicism's Dire End Note (Another Outro)

by AJ M

The band sings in an uplifting tone
about things that bore down on them
till nothing was left of the city but bones,

till skin shrieked in the wind,
tattered flags menacing the visitors
who could afford a way out.

We were there, we saw it all, it didn't
surprise any except those now stretching with
the insane delirium of holding on.



Ceiling's Eye View Upon a Mattress

by AJ M

I stay around for too long again
I listen to the same song
I think the same scene
ripe and real for adaptation
till it gets too old and rotten.
Floating eyes encircle the
cerebral barge
like pigeons.

I'm a performer spinning plates,
or handling rings from limb to limb.
I disappear in the whirl.

I am dancing again to the same melody,
recollecting a broken mirror's piece
obsessing over the movement, what was said,
the same words telling me about death
hushing me into a liquor-and-panic-induced coma.

My eyes open in terror:
Oh no, another day.



QCDSA's Trans Right Working Group fights for trans and queer people against far-right repression

by Andrew D. & CB C.

We're launching a campaign called Trans Sanctuary Davenport: we want Davenport City Council to pass an ordinance that protects people who are receiving or providing gender-affirming or reproductive healthcare.

At a time when the State of Iowa and the Federal Government are restricting the rights of trans people and denying them healthcare, along with further restricting access to abortion, we work to ensure that the third-largest city in Iowa will do whatever it can to protect bodily autonomy and not submit to external pressure.

Traditional party priorities are dramatically misplaced when it comes to trans rights. The Democratic Party is supposedly the thing that stands between us and fascist control of our bodies. However, their willingness to abandon marginalized groups means we are not willing to trust them with stakes as high as these and must demand they act for their residents. The rise of the far-right and the GOP's near-total control over Iowa's government have left the Democrats willing to abandon people. Too many prominent Democrats like California Gov. Gavin Newsom and Iowa's own Rob Sand have embraced far-right talking points around trans people, foolishly hoping that dabbling in right-wing cultural war issues will make the Democrats somehow more appealing. Trans community members are the sacrificial lambs in their quest for power.

As socialists, we're committed to building solidarity with all working people: an injury to one is an injury to all. We reject dabbling in hateful and exclusionary rhetoric to somehow win over voters. Instead, we're building a movement of working people and aligned organizations to fight for our rights.

We're not alone: we're doing this campaign as part of DSA's Trans Rights & Bodily Autonomy Campaign. We're working alongside DSA chapters who've been able to pass similar legislation in Columbia, MO, and Ithaca, NY. While we want an ordinance passed today, as part of DSA's political program Workers Deserve More, we want Medicare for All, a universal healthcare system free for anyone in the U.S. that covers gender-affirming care and abortions.

This fight is for Davenport, but we're part of a global movement for social and economic justice.