



Bylaws Revision: TL;DR

The short version. The Chapter's bylaws have not been seriously updated since 2016. The revision aligns the Chapter with what National DSA now requires, fixes the compliance gaps behind the 2025 Tennessee dissolution and the wrong fiscal year on its federal filings, and adds a member focused organizing role. Members vote the whole package up or down twice, in July and August.

The biggest changes

- A fifth officer, the Steward, owning member onboarding, retention, political education, and turnout.
- A real procedure for electing National Convention delegates, which national requires and the current bylaws lack.
- Protected rights to form caucuses and factions and to openly criticize Chapter and national policy.
- A Steering Committee of the five elected officers only; branch, committee, and Youth Section chairs may speak and propose business but not vote.
- The National DSA Code of Conduct incorporated, with Harassment Grievance Officers under the 2025 Unified Grievance Policy, separate from elected officers.
- Strong member due process and a clear discipline ladder: the Steering Committee may warn, mediate, or require training; only the membership may suspend or expel.
- A four tier document system, Bylaws then Codes then Rules then Policies, with a Compliance Code and compliance calendar, so a missed filing can never again dissolve the Chapter.
- A calendar year fiscal year matching the Tennessee charter, with the budget adopted before the year starts.
- Robust vacancy and emergency procedures drawn from the 2025 to 2026 leadership and corporate crisis.

How the vote works. A majority of those present and voting at two consecutive meetings, the July Convention and the August General Meeting (ordinary quorum six); one yes vote alone adopts nothing. If both pass, the bylaws take effect when the August result is announced. Officers elected in July take office August 1, 2026; the Steward and Harassment Grievance Officers are elected in August, first terms ending July 31, 2027.