

**Notice of General Assembly Membership Meeting
of the Society of Socialist Studies, June 8, 2020
(11 am Pacific, 12 Mountain, 1 pm Central, 2 pm Eastern, 3 pm Atlantic, 3:30
pm Newfoundland)**

Dear Society members,

As you are all acutely aware, the Covid-19 Pandemic has changed nearly everything. We are no exception. We have already informed you of our decision to cancel our annual conference on 'Socialist perspectives on racial capitalism, colonialism and anti-blackness'. We are still saddened that we will not experience the exciting and important programme our Conference Organising Committee was putting the finishing touches on when the Pandemic hit. Since then, the Federation has cancelled Congress 2020 in its entirety.

However, we must hold the annual GAMM, which is both constitutionally prescribed and necessary for the Society's business, including elections to positions falling open. So we are holding it virtually. Technical details of how to join the meeting will follow.

Our [Constitution](#) stipulates, under Section 5.c, that the 'General Assembly will meet in a Membership Meeting at each Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences in which the Society for Socialist Studies participates'. Given that, we propose to call our virtual meeting as a 'Special Membership Meeting' under Section 5.e. At its start, we propose to call a vote on an Authorising Resolution (see Proposed Agenda) to convert the meeting into the General Assembly Membership Meeting (GAMM) in the exceptional circumstances. And given that uncertainties beginning in the middle of March prevented us from sending out the Call for Nominations for open executive positions by 31 March (stipulated in section 6.c of our constitution), the proposed resolution will also validate the later Call for Nominations.

We hope you agree that this is the most logical way around a provision that did not foresee our current situation. Any misgivings you have can, of course, be raised with us before the proposed meeting and/or debated before the vote on the above-mentioned first motion of our planned meeting.

At this point, we are sending you this Notice of the GAMM, and the following documents, which can be accessed by clicking the links below:

1. [Proposed Agenda \(with Authorising Resolution\)](#)
2. Notice of certain [proposed constitutional amendments](#), some addressing the contingencies of the present Pandemic, and others addressing previous GAMM debates about the structures of the SSS and its work;
3. A [call for nominations](#) to positions on the executive falling open this year and to the 5 proposed new seats on the executive, for elections to be held if the constitutional amendments proposing these seats pass;
4. An initial [list of nominees](#) for existing and proposed vacant positions (short biographies to follow)

As you will see in the Proposed Agenda that we also plan to have a discussion about the role of socialists and of our Society in the present pandemic, the public health, economic and political transformations it has wrought and the challenges it has posed. A great many of us and, we reckon, you, have been exercised about the matter and we look forward to a robust and thorough discussion with some practical lines of action emerging from it, whether they be modest or grand.

Membership Renewal

As always, the GAMM and other Membership Meetings are open to all members in good standing: that is, those with membership for 2020.

The new virtual format has the potential to permit greater participation and attendance at this GAMM and future GAMMs, which we hope to supplement with a virtual element. We hope you will take the time to join this pioneering meeting to realise this potential.

We would also like to urge you all to [renew your memberships](#). Most of us renew our memberships at or before Congress. Since that did not happen this year, it is vital for the work of the Society that you renew your membership.

Membership is more than a requirement for our meeting: it also a terrific investment. In keeping with the Society's best traditions, we are moving into new relationships, research, and activist engagement. Our website and journal are livelier than in recent memory.

Our membership system uses a sliding scale. To encourage participation, our rates for students, the retired and the low-waged is a mere \$10 per annum. The standard rate is \$40 and we urge those of you who can afford it to pay higher memberships, particularly if you can be reimbursed for them through your professional development funds and/or make a donation, for which we issue a charitable receipt for tax purposes.

Meeting format

The meeting will use the Zoom platform. It is widely used for large and medium-sized meetings, as well as teaching during this crisis. It is simple to use. With full participation from the floor and links to an electronic voting system, we expect to have a robust meeting with voting with a show of hands and secret ballot as needed.

Well before the meeting on June 8, paid-up registered members will receive instructions for joining and participating, together with a second reminder. You will join the meeting on the day itself with a simple password we will share with registered participants.

Looking forward to a well-attended and energetic meeting,

Yours sincerely,
Jamie Lawson, Secretary