

National and Regional SDS --

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National SDS is a loosely affiliated organization of more than 300 chapters, mostly on college campuses. There are more than 40,000 local members of SDS, and over 18,000 national members. National membership entails dues of \$5/yr., which includes ~~the~~ ^{cost} of receiving New Left Notes, the SDS newspaper published ~~weekly~~ ^{monthly}.

The National Office (NO) is located in Chicago. Its staff centers around three secretaries (national, interorganizational, and educational) elected at a National Convention held annually. In addition, three National Councils (NCs) are held each year, with delegates from each chapter.

NCs generally center around resolutions which serve as guidelines to local chapters. These resolutions are not binding locally, but the guidelines are sometimes followed. At the last NC, held a week ago in Boulder, Colorado, a proposal calling for regional and local demonstrations on election day was adopted.

SDS's general political position has evolved from opposition to the war in Vietnam to a general anti-imperialist perspective. We feel that racism is to a large extent institutional, caused by the society in which we live. SDS strongly opposes America's racism, and supports the right of blacks to self-defense.

Regional SDS consists of the chapters in Northern California--there are about fifteen. There has been very little coordination between chapters in the region, largely due to political differences over whether or not to delegate power to the REgional Council. The underlying disagreement was how and in what areas the different chapters could work together. Those who favored a strong region felt that there was ample room for agreement programatically, and that the outlying chapters such as Chico State and Fresno State would benefit from educational material which a region could provide. Others felt that the chapters were not yet developed enough to band together regionally.

There will be a Regional Council meeting on Saturday, Oct. 26 at 11 AM, rm. 271 Tresidder. It's an open meeting, but Stanford shouldn't have too many people there. The purpose of the meeting is for representatives of the different chapters to discuss what's going on and maybe come up with some ideas, not for one chapter to dominate.

The Regional Council is composed of two delegates from each chapter. Probable topics on Saturday will be election day strategy and how to make the region more cohesive.