

Report on Recruitment in Cleveland and the Ohio Region by Marcia S.
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Stepped up recruitment work in Cleveland and the Ohio region has succeeded in recruiting 12 people in a week in Cleveland and over 23 people from Ohio campuses within the last month. Moreover, our prospects for further recruitment look good.

In Cleveland, during the final weeks of the Stapleton-Harris campaign, we realized that recruitment to the YSA, one of the major purposes of the campaign, was lagging. We had been running a series of introductory classes on socialism as a part of our recruitment activities but we had not reached significant numbers. We knew that there were potentially large numbers of young people interested in our ideas, but we had not met them yet. We felt that one of our problems was not being aggressive enough in asking people to join.

Syd had several opportunities to speak at assemblies and social studies classes on high school and college campuses with which we had had little or no contact. We took advantage of these opportunities by gearing the speeches toward recruitment to the YSA. At the close of each meeting an "I Want to Join the YSA" list was circulated.

Within 4 days 49 people had signed lists to join, including 18 high schoolers from an exclusive girls' school, 7 from a Catholic girls' high school and 6 at each of two college campuses where we had 2 comrades on one campus and none on the other. During the following week they were called, invited to the next YSA meeting and offered rides to the meeting.

16 people came to the next meeting during which there was a discussion of the organization of the YSA. 12 people signed a list reaffirming their desire to join. After the meeting we held a discussion with new members on how they might get involved in YSA activities.

Campus fractions are being set up on the various campuses to coordinate SMC work, sales and other activities. We are planning to hold discussions on socialism and YSA activities near each of the high school campuses where we will try to involve others who signed lists to join. This is important since many of our new comrades live in areas of the city where transportation often becomes a barrier to recruitment. Several leading comrades will be involved in going to speak at these meetings. As a result of our successes, we will continue to seek out speaking engagements at new high schools.

On the Case-Western Reserve campus we set up a series of dorm meetings which our contacts helped to plan and build. These informal, usually small meetings generated a lot of interest in the YSA. We plan to continue them using the convention documents as a basis for discussion, generating interest in the convention.

For the last two months Cleveland has had a regional organizer, Rich Finkel, going to campuses around Ohio, where he has helped to recruit 23 people and set up 3 new locals.

Rich began by answering back correspondence and inquiries about the YSA. He wrote to comrades and contacts in the region setting up a speaking tour on the topic "Revolutionary Change and the Student Movement." Where we had no contacts he would get some by setting up a literature table, taking a list of those who showed interest in the YSA and setting up future meetings.

At Ohio University we had one comrade. He and Rich put an ad in the school newspaper calling for a meeting of all those interested in forming a YSA. 30 people showed up and after an ad lib talk 12 people joined. There is now an active local of 13 at O.U.

At Miami University Rich recruited 2 people on his first visit. These comrades helped to set up an SMC meeting which drew 150 people. On his second visit 20 people came to a meeting after which 4 more joined. 3 Arab students, although officially prevented from joining, agreed to work closely with the YSA.

With the help of one contact, a meeting of 60 people was built on 3 hours' notice at the University of Dayton which is a commuter school. All of the participants agreed that socialism was good and 2 people were recruited.

At Ohio State University we had 3 comrades and, by personally visiting contacts and asking them to join, 5 more were recruited.

To help with the financial expenses incurred, several of the Ohio locals have pledged a sustainer of \$2 per member per month. Honorariums, like the \$50 from Antioch, and meetings with sympathetic professors, which raised \$30 at OSU, are the kinds of fund-raising which help pay expenses. Rich also sells Merit literature and uses the profit to help cover costs.

As part of the regional responsibilities Rich puts out a newsletter twice a month and keeps files of all local minutes, press releases and news articles. Rich also plans to travel to Kentucky, Western Pennsylvania and New York as part of his work.

We have found that there is a gap left by the demise of SDS which the YSA can fill. Rich has been able to recruit leaders of the antiwar movement and his talks have been received favorably on campuses.

To consolidate the gains made in the region and to draw in more contacts the Cleveland local will be hosting an Ohio YSA Regional Conference on December 6-7. At this conference we plan to launch the 1970 Ohio Socialist Campaign and make plans to build the YSA Convention.