
Constitution of the Workers Party of America.

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Article I — Name and Purpose.

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be THE WORKERS PARTY OF AMERICA. Its purpose shall be to educate and organize the working class for the abolition of capitalism through the establishment of the Workers' Republic.

Article II — Emblem.

Section 1. The emblem of the party shall be the crossed hammer and sickle with a circular margin having at the top, "Workers Party of America," and underneath, "Workers of the World, Unite."

Article III — Membership.

Section 1. Every person who accepts the principles and tactics of the Workers Party of America and agrees to submit to its discipline and engage actively in its work shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Applicants for membership shall sign an application card reading as follows:

"The undersigned declares his adherence to the principles and tactics of the Workers Party of America as expressed in its program and constitution and agrees to submit to the discipline of the party and to engage actively in its work."

Section 3. Every member shall join a duly constituted branch of the party if such exists in the territory where he lives. Applicants living in territories where the Workers Party of America has no organized branch may become members at large.

Section 4. All applicants for membership must be endorsed and recommended by two persons who have been members for not less than three months. An applicant must be present in person when his application is acted upon.

Section 5. Applications for membership shall not be acted upon finally until one month after presentation. In the meantime the applicant shall pay initiation fees and dues and shall attend all meetings. This rule shall not apply to charter members of new branches nor those who make application to the newly organized branches during the first month.

Article IV — Units of Organization.

Section 1. The basic units of organization of the Workers Party of America shall be:

(a) The Branch, to consist of not less than five members.

(b) Members-at-Large, who shall be connected with the nearest district organization.

(c) Such special forms of local organization as may be authorized by the Central Executive Committee.

Section 2. Two or more branches in the same city shall form a City Central Committee. The City Central Committee may also include branches in adjacent territory.

Section 3. The Central Executive Committee is empowered to designate the boundaries of the district organizations (which may include more than one state or parts of states), such boundaries to be fixed with regard to economic rather than state divisions. For the

purpose of carrying on parliamentary activity, the City Central Committees and branches in any state shall constitute the state organization. The entire supervision of this activity shall be assigned by the Central Executive Committee to the district organization best equipped for this purpose.

Article V — Administration.

Section 1. The supreme body of the Workers Party of America shall be the Convention of the Party.

Section 2. Between conventions the Central Executive Committee elected by the convention shall be the supreme body of the Party and shall direct all the activities of the Party.

Section 3. The administrative power of the district shall be vested in the Annual District Convention.

Section 4. Between District Conventions the administrative powers of the district shall be vested in the District Committee elected by the District Convention. District organizers appointed by the Central Executive Committee shall be members of the District Committee and carry on their work under its supervision.

Section 5. The City Central Committee shall consist of delegates elected by the branches. Every branch shall have at least one delegate. The City Central Committee shall elect a secretary, executive committee, and such other officers as may be found necessary. The District Executive Committee reserves the right of approval of secretary.

Article VI — Conventions.

Section 1. The Convention is the supreme body of the Party, and shall be called by the Central Executive Committee at least once a year.

Section 2. Emergency conventions, with all the powers of regular conventions, may be called by the Central Executive Committee or upon demand of District Organizations representing 40 percent of the membership.

Section 3. The number of delegates to the National Convention shall be determined by the Central Executive Committee. Delegates shall be apportioned to the districts according to membership based upon average dues paid for the period of four months prior to call for the convention. The districts shall apportion the number to be elected by city conventions on the same basis.

Section 4. Delegates to the national convention shall be elected by district conventions. Branches in organized cities shall elect delegates to a city convention which in turn shall elect the delegates to the district conventions. The number of delegates to which each branch is entitled shall be decided by the City Central Committee according to membership as above. When there is no city central organization the branch shall elect delegates directly to the district convention.

Section 5. City and district secretaries and organizers shall attend the conventions of their respective units and shall have a voice but no vote unless elected as delegates themselves.

Section 6. City and district conventions may elect as their delegates members of the Party from units outside their territorial divisions.

Section 7. At the same time that the call for the convention is issued the Central Executive Committee shall submit to every branch for discussion the Agenda and other propositions that are to come before the convention. At least sixty days before the Convention the Party Press shall be opened for discussion of important Party matters. District Committees may submit propositions to be included in the Agenda.

Section 8. Delegates to the National Convention shall be paid railroad expenses and a certain amount per diem to be determined by the Central Executive Committee.

Article VII — Central Executive Committee.

Section 1. Between Conventions the Central Executive Committee shall be the supreme body of the Party and shall direct all its activities.

Section 2. The Central Executive Committee shall consist of seventeen members elected by the Convention. The Convention shall also elect seven alternates, to fill vacancies in order of vote. When the list of alternates are exhausted the Central Executive Committee shall have the right of cooptation.

Section 3. The Central Executive Committee shall elect the Executive Secretary and Chairman of the Party, and all other officers.

Section 4. The Central Executive Committee shall appoint District Organizers and all national officials. It shall create sub-committees for the proper direction of its activities.

Section 5. The Central Executive Committee shall make a monthly report of the Party activities and of Party finances, itemized by districts.

Section 6. The Central Executive Committee shall divide the country into districts in accordance with Article IV, Section 3, provided that the boundary lines of the districts shall not be changed within a period of four months prior to the national convention.

Section 7. A complete audit and accounting of all Party funds shall be made every six months.

Section 8. All press and propaganda activities shall be under the full control of the Central Executive Committee.

Article VIII — District and Subordinate Units.

Section 1. The Central Executive Committee shall appoint District Organizers for each district.

Section 2. Every district organizer shall make complete reports to the District Executive Committee as to the general Party work in his district. He shall submit and carry out the instructions and decisions of the Central Executive Committee. He shall make remittance and financial statements regularly to the Central Executive Committee and shall also submit financial statements to the membership in his district at least once a month.

Section 3. District conventions shall be held within thirty days of the national convention. The district convention shall elect six members to the District Executive Committee.

Section 4. These six members, together with the District Organizer, who shall be a member of the District Executive Committee with a voice and vote, shall supervise the activities of the district and shall regularly submit the minutes of their meetings to the Central Executive Committee. All actions of the District Committee are subject to review by the Central Executive Committee.

Section 5. The District Executive Committee shall determine the boundaries of the city locals.

Section 6. The City Central Committees shall consist of delegates representing branches in accordance with their relative memberships. Each branch shall be represented by at least one delegate. The City Central Committee shall have supervision of all activities in the local and shall make regular reports of its work to the District Executive Committee.

Section 7. The City Central Committee shall elect a City Executive Committee, consisting of from 5 to 7 members, which shall act for the City Central Committee between meetings.

Section 8. The Branch shall consist of members, as provided in Article III, Section 1. It shall elect an executive committee, branch organizer, delegates to the City Central Committee, and such other officers as may be considered necessary.

Article IX — Language Sections.

Section 1. Members speaking a common language other than English may organize into a "Language Branch."

Section 2. Language branches of the same language, with an aggregate membership of at least 400, shall be formed into a Language Section. There shall be only one section in each language, and all language branches must affiliate with their respective language sections.

Section 3. All language branches shall be integral parts of the party structure in their localities, and shall perform and carry out all Party functions and obligations.

Section 4. Shortly after Party Conventions, national language conferences shall be held. Those conferences shall formulate plans for education and propaganda in their respective languages, subject to the approval of the Central Executive Committee. All actions of these conferences shall be in strict conformity with decisions of the Party Convention and the Central Executive Committee. Expenses of these conventions shall be borne by the language sections.

Section 5. The language section conference shall elect a bureau to administer its affairs and a suitable number of alternates. The bureau shall elect the editors and officers and shall supervise all activities of their respective language sections, subject to the approval of the Central Executive Committee.

Section 6. The Central Executive Committee shall have the right to disapprove the members elected by the conference to the language bureaus and fill such vacancies from among the alternates.

Section 7. The Central Executive Committee may appoint a fraternal member to every language section executive committee with voice but no vote.

Section 8. The bureau shall have the right to appoint district language section organizers subject to the approval of the Central Executive Committee. All organizers shall work under the supervision of the Party District Organizers in the various districts.

Section 9 (a). National Language Bureaus shall translate and transmit all statements, circulars, and communications addressed to the membership by the Central Executive Committee within one week after their receipt.

Section 9 (b). Language branches shall purchase their due stamps directly from their national bureau, which shall purchase due stamps from the Central Executive Committee at 30 cents each, and sell same to its branches at a price determined by the Language Sec-

tion conference. The branches to sell due stamps to members at 50 cents. The national office shall remit to the district organization 10 cents, and to the city local 5 cents for each stamp sold to language sections.

Section 9 (c). The National Language Bureau shall account to the Central Executive Committee regularly for all funds entrusted to it and shall make regular financial reports to the Central Executive Committee regarding all the institutions under its control. Its accounts shall be subject to the audit of the Central Executive Committee. Special assessments may also be levied by the National Language Bureaus on the membership with the approval of the Central Executive Committee.

Section 10 (a). Language Bureaus and Language Sections shall have no power to suspend, expel, or reorganize affiliations. All disciplinary powers are vested exclusively in the regular Party organization machinery.

Section 10 (b). Language Bureaus and Sections may recommend such suspension, expulsion, or reorganization to the party units having jurisdiction.

Article X — Discipline.

Section 1. All decisions of the governing bodies of the Party shall be binding upon the membership and subordinate units of the organization.

Section 2. Any member or organization violating the decisions of the Party shall be subject to suspension or expulsion by the organization which has jurisdiction. Charges against members shall be made before branches, subject to appeal by either side to the City Central Committee or to the District Executive Committee, where there is no city organization. Charges against a branch shall be made before the City Central Committee or before the District Executive Committee where there is no city organization. Decisions of the City Central Committee in the case of branches shall be subject to revision by the district organization. Charges against state or district organization shall be made before the Central Executive Committee.

Section 3. Each unit of the Party shall restrict its activi-

ties to the territory it represents.

Section 4. A member who desires to transfer his membership to another branch shall have a transfer card from the financial secretary or organizer of his branch. No branch shall receive a member from another branch without such transfer card and upon presentation of the card the secretary of the branch receiving same shall make inquiries about the standing of the member to the secretary issuing the card.

Section 5. All party units shall use uniform application cards, dues books, and accounting records, which shall be printed by the National Organization.

Section 6. Any suspended or removed member of the Central Executive Committee shall have the right to appeal in writing or in person to the next National Party Convention.

Article XI — Dues.

Section 1. Each applicant for membership shall pay initiation fees of fifty cents, which shall be receipted for by an initiation stamp furnished by the Central Executive Committee. The entire sum shall go to the National Organization.

Section 2. Each member shall pay fifty cents per month in due stamps, which shall be sold to the state or district organizations at 25 cents. State or District Organizations shall sell stamps to the City Central Committee and to the branches where there is no city central committee at 35 cents. The City Central Committee shall sell stamps to branches at 40 cents.

Section 3. Special assessments may be levied by the National Convention or Central Executive Committee. No member shall be considered in good standing unless he purchases such special assessment stamps.

Section 4. Husband and wife belonging to the same

branch may purchase dual stamps, which shall be sold at the same price as the regular stamps. Special assessments must be paid by both husband and wife.

Section 5. Members unable to pay dues on account of unemployment, strikes, sickness, or for similar reasons shall upon application to their financial secretary be furnished with exempt stamps. Provided that no state or district organization shall be allowed exempt stamps in a proportion greater than ten percent of its monthly purchases of regular stamps.

Section 6. Members who are three months in arrears in payment of their dues shall cease to be members of the Party in good standing. Members who are six months in arrears shall be stricken from the rolls. No member shall pay dues in advance for a period of more than three months.

Article XII — Headquarters.

Section 1. The National Headquarters of the Party shall be located in the city designated by the Convention.

Article XIII — Qualifications.

Section 1. Members of the Central Executive Committee, Executive Secretary, Editor, and all candidates for political office must have been (a) members of the party for two years at the time of their nomination, or (b) members of a charter organization, or members of any organization affiliating as a body within sixty days after the first convention.

Section 2. One year's membership in the Party shall be necessary to qualify for membership on the District Executive Committee; six months for city central delegates and officers, three months (in the branch) for branch officers. This section shall not apply to branch officers or city central delegates of new branches.

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