
National Constitution of the Socialist Party.

As Amended by the National Convention at Cleveland, April 29-May 2, 1922.

Published in *The Socialist World* [Chicago], v. 3, no. 8 (Aug. 1922), pp. 10-16.

Preamble.

The Socialist Party of the United States is the political expression of the interests of the workers in this country, and is part of the International working-class movement.

The economic basis of present day society is the private ownership and control of socially necessary means of production, and the exploitation of the workers, who operate these means of production for the profit of those who own them.

The interests of these two classes are diametrically opposed. It is the interest of the capitalist class to maintain the present system and to obtain for themselves the largest possible share of the product of labor. It is the interest of the working class to improve their conditions of life and get the largest possible share of their own product so long as the present system prevails, and to end this system as quickly as they can.

In so far as the members of the opposing classes become conscious of these facts, each strives to advance its own interests as against the other. It is this active conflict of interest which we describe as the class struggle.

The capitalist state, by controlling the old political parties, control the powers of the state and uses them to secure and entrench its position. Without such control of the state its position of economic power would be untenable. The workers must wrest the control of the government from the hands of the masters and use its powers in the upbuilding of the new social order, the Cooperative Commonwealth.

The Socialist Party seeks to organize the working class for independent action on the political field, not merely for the betterment of their conditions, but also

and above all with the revolutionary aim of putting an end to exploitation and class rule. Such political action is absolutely necessary to the emancipation of the working class, and the establishment of genuine liberty for all.

To accomplish this aim of the Socialist Party is to bring about the social ownership and democratic control of all the necessary means of production — to eliminate profit, rent, and interest, and make it impossible for any to share the product without sharing the burden of labor — to change our class society into a society of equals, in which the interest of one will be the interest of all.

As subordinate and accessory to this fundamental aim, it supports every measure which better the conditions of the working class, and which increases the fighting power of that class within the present system.\

Article I — Name.

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Socialist Party, except in such states where a different name has or may become a legal requirement.

Article II — Membership.

Section 1. Political action within the meaning of this section is participation in elections for public offices and practical legislation and administration work along the line of the Socialist Party platform to gain control of the powers of government in order to abolish the present capitalist system and substitute the Cooperative Commonwealth.

Section 2. Every person, resident of the United States

of the age of twenty-one years and upward, without discrimination as to sex, race, color, or creed, who has severed his connection with all other political parties and political organizations, and subscribes to the principles of the Socialist Party, including political action and unrestricted political rights for both sexes, shall be eligible for membership in the party.

Section 3. No person holding an elective public office by gift of any party or organization other than the Socialist Party shall be eligible to membership in the Socialist Party without the consent of his state organization; nor shall any member of the party accept or hold any appointive public office, honorary or remunerative (Civil Service positions excepted), without the consent of his state organization. No party member shall be a candidate for public office without the consent of the city, county, or state organization, according to the nature of the office.

Section 4. A member who desires to transfer his membership from the party in one state to the party in another state may do so upon the presentation of his card showing him to be in good standing at the time of asking for such transfer and also a transfer card duly signed by the secretary of the local from which he transfers.

Section 5. No member of the party in any state or territory shall under any pretext interfere with the regular or organized movement in any other state.

Section 6. All persons joining the Socialist Party shall sign the following pledge:

Application for Membership in the Socialist Party

“I, the undersigned, recognizing the class struggle between the capitalist class and the working class, and the necessity of the working class organizing itself into a political party for the purpose of obtaining collective ownership and democratic administration and operation of the collectively used and socially necessary means of production and distribution, hereby apply for membership in the Socialist Party and enclose \$_____ for dues. I also subscribe for *The Socialist World* for the period of my membership forty-

eight cents of each year’s dues paid by me, being for subscription to the publication.

“I am opposed to all political organizations that support and perpetuate the present capitalist profit system and I am opposed to any form of trading or fusing with any such organizations to prolong that system.

“In all my political actions while a member of the Socialist Party I agree to be guided by the constitution and platform of that party.

“Upon the acceptance of my application for membership in the Socialist Party, I promise within three months, whenever possible, to make application for citizenship.”

Article III — Management.

Section 1 (a). The affairs of the Socialist Party shall be administered by the National Executive Committee and national officials, the National Conventions, and the general vote of the party.

Section 1 (b). The National Executive Committee shall be composed of seven members, elected by the National convention at its annual sessions; not more than two shall be from one state. The committee shall take office immediately following its election and shall hold office until the next regular convention, and until their successors shall have been elected.

Section 1 (c). The National Executive Committee shall be elected by secret ballot. The convention shall first elect seven members who shall constitute the National Executive Committee.

Section 1 (d). The convention shall, by secret ballot, further elect seven additional members as alternates to the Executive Committee.

Section 1 (e). A majority vote of all the votes cast at the convention shall be required to elect either the members of the Executive Committee or alternates to the Executive Committee.

Section 1 (f). In case of a vacancy on the Executive Committee it shall be filled by one of the alternates in the order of the vote they received.

Section 2 (a). Members of the National Executive Committee may be recalled by a referendum of the members of the party.

Section 2 (b). A motion for the recall of any or all members of the National Executive Committee may be initiated by any one local, and shall require the seconds of locals with a membership of at least 10 percent of the total membership of the party, located in five different states.

Said motion may be accompanied by a statement of not more than 500 words.

Section 2 (c). A motion to recall any or all members of the National Executive Committee shall be open for seconds for not more than 90 days, and shall be published in the party bulletin.

Section 2 (d). If sufficient seconds are procured before the expiration of 90 days, the National Secretary shall send the referendum out immediately.

Section 2 (e). Motions for the recall of a member or members of the National Executive Committee failing to receive sufficient seconds during the time allowed for seconds shall be dropped and cannot be renewed again during the period of the service of the member of the committee.

Section 2 (f). In submitting ballots to a vote on the recall of any or all members of the National Executive Committee, the local initiating the motion, and the member or members who are to be recalled, shall have the right to submit a statement giving the reasons for the recall or in the defense as the case may be, such statements not to exceed 1,000 words. These statements to be submitted with the ballots for a vote.

Section 2 (g). If more than one member of the National Executive Committee is to be recalled each member shall have the right to submit a statement of not more than 300 words, such statement to be submitted with the ballots for referendum vote.

Section 2 (h). The time for voting on referendum for the recall of members of the National Executive Committee shall be 60 days from the time the ballots are

sent out from the National Office, and all state, local, or branch organizations must retain the individual ballots for at least six months and must send them either to the state or National Office when demanded.

Section 2 (i). Only members in good standing who have been in the party at least six months can vote on the recall of members of the National Executive Committee.

Section 2 (j). Referendum for the recall of members of the National Executive Committee shall not be submitted in the National Convention is to meet prior to, or within 60 days of the closing of the vote for the recall.

Section 3. Three years consecutive membership in the party shall be necessary to qualify for membership on the National Executive Committee and as executive officials.

Article IV — National Executive Committee.

Section 1. The duties and powers of the Committee shall be:

(a) To represent the party in all National and International affairs.

(b) To call National Conventions decided upon by referendum of the Party.

(c) To make reports of the membership and condition of the party organization to National Conventions, with recommendations thereon.

(d) To strengthen the organization, promote propaganda, and to establish regular organizations and lecture circuits.

(e) To formulate the rules and the order of business of the National Conventions of the party not otherwise provided for by this constitution, and subject to amendment and adoption by the conventions.

(f) To receive dues and reports from state organizations.

(g) To conduct the national referendums in the manner provided by this constitution.

(h) To supervise the work and transact all current business of the National Office.

(i) To print the minutes of its meetings in the official organ.

(j) To print in the official organ a specific statement of all moneys expended for printing leaflets and books, with titles and authors of same.

(k) To maintain in connection with the National Office such bureaus and departments as may be necessary.

(l) To supervise the activity of elected legislative representatives and party-owned newspapers.

Section 2. Members of the National Executive Committee shall be eligible to serve as organizers. Any member may be appointed lecturer on courses arranged by the National Office and may be given temporary assignment for special party work.

Section 3. The National Executive Committee, as required by the Federal Corrupt Practices Act, shall elect a permanent chairman who shall serve without salary.

Section 4. The Committee shall formulate its own rules of procedure, not inconsistent with the provisions of this constitution.

Section 5. Meetings of the National Executive Committee shall be held at least once every three months, except by unanimous consent.

Section 6. The National Executive Committee shall be the custodian of all party property.

Section 7. The location of the National Headquarters shall be determined by the National Executive Committee.

Section 8 (a). No funds of the National Organization shall be appropriated by the National Executive Committee for any purpose not directly connected with the propaganda of Socialism and the struggles of labor. No more than \$100 shall be appropriate to any one organization other than a subdivision of the party; and no application for financial assistance coming from locals or other subdivisions of the state organizations shall be entertained unless they have the endorsement of the state organization.

Section 8 (b). The Committee shall not have power to appropriate funds, except for the current expense of

the National Office, unless the party has sufficient funds on hand to meet all outstanding obligations, or unless the regular income will in the natural course of events cover such appropriation before the end of the current year. The committee shall make no appropriations, directly or indirectly, for the support of any paper or periodical not owned by the National Office.

Section 9. The National Office mailing lists of locals and branches and of subscribers shall not be given out to anyone outside the membership, nor shall they be given to members for private purposes. Appropriate portions of them may be given to members and party officials at any time for purposes of organization, propaganda, and renewals of subscriptions.

Section 10. The national membership dues as provided in this constitution shall be \$1.50 per year, 48 cents of which is for one year's subscription to *The Socialist World* and 36 cents of which is for expenses of the national convention, and shall be so applied by the Executive Secretary.

Article V — Executive Secretary.

Section 1. The Executive Secretary shall be employed by the National Executive Committee. He may be removed at any time by the committee or by referendum vote of the membership. He shall give bonds in the amount fixed by the committee. His compensation shall be fixed by the National Executive Committee.

Section 2. The Executive Secretary shall have charge of all affairs of the National Office, including the employment of necessary help subject to the direction of the National Executive Committee. He shall supervise the accounts of the National Office and its departments.

Section 3. The Executive Secretary shall cause to be published in the official organ of the party all important official reports and announcements; a monthly report of the financial affairs of the party; a summary of the conditions and the membership of the several state and territorial organizations and language federations; the principal business transacted by the Na-

tional Officials; and such other matters pertaining to the organization of the party as may be of general interest to the membership.

Article VI — Representatives in Congress.

Section 1. Members of Congress elected on the ticket of the Socialist Party shall submit reports of their actions in Congress to the National Conventions.

Section 2. In the support of measures proposed by the Socialist Party, they shall carry out instructions which may be given by the National Conventions, the National Executive Committee, or by a general referendum of the party.

Section 3. In all legislative bodies, as Congress, State Legislatures, Boards of Supervisors, or Town Councils, Socialist Party members shall organize into a group separate and apart from all other parties. They shall elect a chairman and in the support of all measures definitely declared for in the platforms of the party, they shall vote as a unit.

Article VII — Conventions.

Section 1. There shall be a National Convention of the Socialist Party each year.

Section 2. The date and place of the National Convention shall be fixed by the National Executive Committee.

Section 3. The representation at regular National Conventions shall be one delegate from each organized state having a membership of 1,000 or less, and one additional delegate for every additional thousand members, or a major fraction thereof based upon the sale of dues stamps during the year preceding the National Convention.

Section 4. In presidential years the National Convention shall be composed of 200 delegates to be apportioned among the states in the following manner:

One from each state and the remainder in proportion to the average national dues paid by the organization of such states during the preceding year.

Delegates to the National Convention must be resident members of the state from where they present credentials, and must be members of the Socialist Party for at least three years.

Section 5. Railroad fare, including tourist sleeping car fare of delegates to and from conventions, and a per diem of five dollars to cover expenses, shall be paid from the National treasury from a special convention fund to be created by setting aside three cents for each dues stamp sold by the National Office.

Section 6. Delegates to the national convention shall be elected by referendum vote of the members.

Section 7 (a). The election of delegates to the national convention shall, wherever possible, be completed not later than thirty days preceding the convention and the respective state secretaries shall furnish the Executive Secretary with a list of accredited delegates immediately after said election.

Section 7 (b). At the time and place set for the opening of the national convention, the Executive Secretary shall call the convention to order, and shall call the roll to ascertain the number of uncontested delegates, and they shall permanently organize the convention.

Section 8. The national convention shall have the power to nominate candidates for President and Vice President, to adopt a national platform, and to transact such other business as the convention may see fit. Vacancies on the national tickets shall be filled by the National Executive Committee.

Section 9. All national platform, amendments of platforms or constitution, and resolutions adopted by any national convention shall be submitted to a referendum vote of the membership:

(1) Upon request of the membership through initiative provision of this constitution; or

(2) Upon the specific request of delegates numbering at least one-fourth of the delegates voting on such measure. Such request for submission to referendum to be made before the adjournment of the convention.

One-fourth of the regularly elected delegates shall

be entitled to have alternative paragraphs submitted at the same time. Such alternative paragraphs signed by one-fourth of such delegates shall be filed with the Executive Secretary not later than one day after the adjournment of the convention.

Section 10. Any matter referred to the membership by convention shall not be in effect until approved by the referendum vote of the membership.

Platforms and resolutions shall take effect upon adoption. Amendments to constitution shall take effect sixty days after being adopted.

Agenda Committee.

Section 11. The National Executive Committee shall formulate the Agenda for the party convention. The Committee shall issue a call for resolutions and suggestions four months before the convention, allowing one month for filing the same with Committee. After preparing a preliminary Agenda based upon the material received at the expiration of the allotted time, the Committee shall send it to the subdivisions of the Party for amendment and revision, allowing one month for the same. Upon receipt of revisions, the Committee shall prepare a final draft of the Agenda which shall be sent to the party subdivisions and submitted to the convention.

Article VIII — State Organizations.

Section 1. The formation of all state organizations or the organization of state organizations which may have lapsed shall be under the direction of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. No state may be organized unless it has at least ten locals or an aggregate membership of not less than 200, but this provision shall not affect the rights of states organized prior to the adoption of this constitution. When the membership of any state averages less than 150 per month for any six consecutive months the National Executive Committee may revoke the charter of the state.

Section 3. The platform of the Socialist Party shall be the supreme declaration of the party, and all state and

municipal platforms shall conform thereto. No state or local organization shall fuse, combine, or compromise with either the Democrat or Republican parties, or endorse candidates nominated by either of those parties.

Section 4. State organizations of the party may cooperate with organizations of Labor and working farmers within their state in independent political action, but such cooperation must in all cases be on the following conditions:

(a) the term "independent political action" as herein employed shall be understood to mean the nomination and election of candidates by a party of workers and farmers organized in express opposition to the Republican and Democratic parties and excluding participation in the primaries of such parties as well as voting for their candidates in public elections.

(b) That in any form of political cooperation the independence and integrity of organization and official political standing of the Socialist Party be fully preserved.

(c) The political programs and platforms adopted for such joint political action shall not be inconsistent with the platform and declaration of principles of the Socialist Party.

(d) That all cooperation of Socialist state organizations shall be subject to approval by the National Executive Committee.

Section 5. No member of the Socialist Party shall participate in the primaries of the Democratic or Republican parties, nor vote for or advocate voting for any candidate other than those nominated, endorsed, or recommended by the Socialist Party.

Section 6. In states in which there is one central organization affiliated with the party, the state organizations shall have the sole jurisdiction of the members residing within their respective territories, and the sole control of all matters pertaining to the propaganda, organization, and financial affairs within such state; provided such propaganda is in harmony with the constitution of the party; and provided also that the National Office may route organizers and lecturers direct through any state as a part of a regular organization and lecture circuit if the cooperation of the State Com-

mittee cannot be secured. Their activity shall be confined to their respective organizations, and the National Executive Committee, its sub-committees, or officers shall have no right to interfere in such matters without the consent of the respective state organizations.

Section 7 (a). The State Committee shall make monthly reports to the Executive Secretary concerning their membership, financial condition, and general standing of the party.

Section 7 (b). During the months of January and July of each year, or at any other time required by the Executive Committee or by this constitution, the state secretaries shall furnish the Executive Secretary a list of all locals affiliated with their respective state organizations, together with the number of members in good standing, and the name and address of the corresponding secretary of each local. Refusal, failure, or neglect to comply with this section shall subject the state organization to suspension from the Socialist Party and deprive such state organization of participation in the affairs of the Socialist Party, and shall be a forfeiture of the right to representation in the National Executive Committee, the conventions, and congresses of the party.

Dues.

Section 8. Until such time as the national membership shall total 25,000, the State and National dues paid by members of the Socialist Party shall be 25 cents per month, of which 12-1/2 cents shall be paid to the National Organization and 12-1/2 to the State Organization; when the membership reaches 25,000 or more the dues shall be 20 cents per month, of which the State and National Organizations shall each receive 10 cents; when the membership reaches 50,000 or more the dues shall be 15 cents, of which the State and National Organizations shall each receive 7-1/2 cents; provided that local and branch organizations may charge such local and branch dues in addition to the State and National dues provided for in this section as may be decided upon by the respective local and branch organizations; and provided further that while the State dues shall in no case be less than is

provided in this section that nothing in this section shall prohibit the State Organizations from increasing the state dues by action of the membership of the respective states.

(a) In those states where no State Organizations exist the locals and branches shall pay the State dues as provided above to the National Organization.

(b) The dues of members at large in unorganized states shall be 50 cents per month.

(c) Only dues stamps issued by the National Executive Committee shall be affixed to members' dues cards as valid receipts for the payment of dues.

Section 9. The National Office shall also issue to the state secretaries exempt stamps, both regular and special, free of charge, to be used by party members temporarily unable to pay dues on account of unemployment caused by sickness, strikes, lockouts, or any other condition not within their control.

(a) Any member desiring to use such exempt stamps shall make application therefor to the financial secretary of his local organization, and such application shall be passed upon by such organization. Exempt stamps shall be issued only to members in good standing who have paid dues for at least three months and who are by the same action exempt from the payment of dues to the state and local organization. The number of exempt stamps shall not exceed 10 percent of the total number of stamps obtained by the respective state organizations. The acceptance of exempt stamps by any member shall in no way disqualify such member from any rights and privileges of party membership.

(b) The National Office shall also issue a double perforated stamp to the state secretaries to be sold at the same rate as the regular dues stamps.

One half of each stamp to be affixed to the membership card of the husband and the other half to that of the wife. Husband and wife desiring to use such stamps shall make application to the financial secretary of the local and such application shall be passed upon by such organization.

Section 10. All state organizations shall provide in their constitution for the initiative, referendum, and imperative mandate.

Section 11. No person shall be nominated or endorsed by any subdivision of the party for candidate for public office unless he is a member of the party and has been such for at least two years, except with the consent of the state organization. But this provision shall not apply to organizations which have been in existence for less than two years.

Section 12. When a controversy exists in a state organization, the Executive Secretary shall continue to pay dues stamps to the Secretary recognized by him before such controversy is officially brought before him, until a state referendum has decided otherwise. He shall take no action except on petition of 10 percent of the locals (but not less than three locals), which must be located in different localities, appearing on the last official list filed with him by the State Secretary at least three months prior to controversy, and then only if there is doubt as to who is State Secretary. The individual signed ballots in such referendum shall be sent to the Executive Secretary.

Article IX — International Secretary and Delegates.

Section 1. The National Convention shall elect an International Secretary who shall serve until the next convention and until his successor is elected.

Section 2. The National Executive Committee is empowered to elect delegates to International Conferences.

Section 3. The International Secretary and International Delegates must have been members of the party for at least three years at the time of their election. The expense of the delegates and a per diem equal to the per diem fixed for the delegates to the National Convention shall be paid from the National Treasury.

Article X — Foreign Speaking Organizations.

Section 1. Five branches of the Socialist Party working in any other language than English shall have the right to form a National Federation under the supervision of the Executive Secretary and the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The constitution of such National Federation shall provide for the seating upon the National Executive Committee of a member to be selected by the National Executive Committee of the party. Such member shall have a voice but no vote in all proceedings of the committee and shall make a report thereon to the Executive Secretary of the party.

Section 3 (a). Such National Language Federation shall have the right to elect an officer known as Translator-Secretary, who shall be conversant with his own language as well as the English language, and whose duty it shall be to serve as a medium of communication between his federation and the National Organization of the Socialist Party.

Section 3 (b). The headquarters of the Language Federations shall be the National Office of the Socialist Party, and no Federation shall be permitted to have offices anywhere else.

Section 4. When such National Language Federation shall have at least 1,000 members, their Translator-Secretary shall be entitled to necessary office room in the National Headquarters, and to such salary from the National Office as may be decided by the National Executive Committee of the party. Such Translator-Secretary must be at least three consecutive years a member of the party except when his federation has not been affiliated with the party that length of time. When any Language Federation is reduced to less than 1,000 members, the rights of that Language Federation to office room and salaries shall be suspended at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Section 5 (a). Language Federations shall pay to the National Office the same monthly per capita as paid by the state organizations, receiving in exchange therefor dues stamps. They shall also pay through the Translator-Secretary to the regular state and county or city organization 50 percent of the dues paid by the English-speaking branches.

Section 5 (b). The Translator-Secretary shall pay monthly to the respective state secretaries the quota of all monthly dues paid by the branches of his federation in the state. The State Secretary shall forward the

county dues to the respective country secretaries, wherever there is an organized county.

Section 5 (c). Any Language Federation failing to remit dues for any state or local organization for three months is subject to suspension by the National Executive Committee.

Section 5 (d). The National Executive Committee shall have power to audit the accounts of the Language Federations and furnish reports to the state organizations.

Section 6 (a). Branches of Language Federations shall be an integral part of the county and state organizations and shall be governed by the constitution and bylaws of the respective state and local organizations.

Language branches not affiliated with a federation of their respective language shall work in harmony with such federation, restricting their work within the territorial jurisdiction of such branches. In no case, however, shall such branches indulge in or permit their members to carry on work against the interest of the federations or the party. Federations shall not be permitted to organize additional branches within the territorial jurisdiction of branches not affiliated with them except with the consent of the state organization.

The charter of any Language branch not affiliated with a federation that condones or conducts work aiming at the destruction of a federation shall be revoked by the state organization in accordance with the method of procedure provided by the constitution of the state organization. When the charter of such branch is revoked, such of its members who will agree to refrain from similar objectionable work in the future shall be organized in a new branch. But no member of a branch the charter of which has been revoked shall be denied admission to the new branch, if a statement is signed obligating himself to work in harmony with the provisions of this section.

Section 6 (b). A Language Federation, if its constitution so provides, may, with the approval of the National Executive Committee of the party, exclude for cause any of the branches or locals affiliated with it. Such excluded locals and language branches shall lose only the rights and privileges dependent upon affiliation with the federation. They shall continue to

be an integral part of the county and state organizations, until such time as the exclusion has been approved by the county and state organizations.

Members of a federation cannot be suspended or excluded from the party by the federation or by any of its subdivisions, the power to suspend or expel members from the party being vested exclusively in the county and state organizations. The accused members shall be accorded a fair trial in the manner provided by the country and state constitutions or local bylaws.

Section 7. All propaganda work of the Language Federation shall be carried out under the supervision of their executive officers according to the bylaws of the federations. Such bylaws must be in conformity with the constitution of the Socialist Party.

Section 8. Each Translator-Secretary shall submit a monthly report of the dues stamps sold during that period to the National and State offices, and to all local and county offices in cities and counties where branches of their federation exist. He shall also make a monthly report to the Executive Secretary showing the financial condition of the federation, the kind of literature published and the amount sold during the month, and the nature and extent of propaganda and organization work carried on.

Section 9. The National Party shall not recognize more than one federation of the same language.

Section 10. Each national federation shall be entitled to elect one representative to meet with the National Executive Committee of the party. Such representative to have a voice but no vote in all proceedings of the committee. Each national federation shall also be entitled to elect one fraternal delegate to the National Conventions of the party; provided that such delegate shall have a voice but no vote. He shall receive railroad fare and per diem from the party the same as regular delegates.

Article XI — Socialist Parties in Insular Possessions.

Section 1. Socialist Party organizations in the insular possessions of the United States desiring to affiliate

with the Socialist Party of the United States must be admitted as an integral part of the Socialist Party by subscribing to the constitution and platform of the Socialist Party in all their activities conforming to the principles of the party.

Section 2. They shall pay a per capita tax to the party equal to one cent per month for each member in good standing.

Section 3. They shall be entitled to one delegate to the National Conventions of the party, but the expense of such delegate shall be paid by the party in the respective colony or insular possession.

Article XII — Young People's Socialist League.

Section 1. The work among the young, between the ages of 14 and 25, in the national field shall be under the [control?] and direction of the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party.

Section 2. The organization work within the states shall be conducted by the various divisions of the Young People's Socialist League under the supervision of the respective state organizations of the party.

Section 3. The National Executive Committee shall issue a voluntary assessment stamp which shall be sold for twenty-five cents. The money received from the sale of these stamps shall be used for the issuance of a YPSL bulletin or for other purposes designed to build up the YPSL in the various states.

Section 4. In those states having recognized state organizations of the YPSL, twenty cents from each assessment stamp sold within those states shall be paid to the respective state organizations of the Socialist Party.

Section 5. The various State Secretaries of the YPSL shall be chosen by the YPSL and approved by the Socialist Party.

Section 6. Members of the YPSL under twenty-one years of age must upon attaining the age of twenty-one become members of the Socialist Party or withdraw from membership in the League. No applicant

for membership in the YPSL between the age of twenty-one and twenty-five shall be admitted unless a member of the Party.

Section 7. Members of the YPSL who are also members of the Socialist Party shall be exempt from the payment of State and National party dues. The National Executive Committee shall issue a special dues stamp which shall be identical with the regular dues stamp except that there shall be printed thereon the words "Dual Membership — YPSL."

Such stamps shall be furnished to the State and Local organizations free of charge and shall be sold by the Local to the Branches for an amount equal to Local dues. Branch secretaries shall sell such stamps to their members *only* upon presentation of a paid up membership card in the YPSL, for an amount equal to the combined dues of the Branch and Local.

Section 8. The branches of the YPSL shall be under the jurisdiction of the City, County, or State organizations of the Socialist Party, and must in all cases work in harmony with the constitution and platform of the City, County, or State organizations of the Party.

Section 9. Every State, City, and County organization of the Party shall elect at least one member to represent the Socialist Party in the respective State, City, and County organization of the YPSL. Such party representative to have a voice and vote in all affairs concerning the YPSL.

Section 10. Every State, City, and County organization of the YPSL shall elect at least one member to represent the YPSL in the respective State, County, and City organizations of the Socialist Party. Such representative to have a voice and vote in all affairs concerning the YPSL.

Section 11. The YPSL shall pay monthly to the National Office a sum equal to five cents for each member in good standing within their respective states, for which they shall receive dues stamps or other valid receipt for dues. Only dues stamps issued by the National Office shall be considered as a valid receipt for dues.

Section 12. The State Secretaries of the YPSL shall issue a quarterly report to the National Secretary of the YPSL concerning the membership, financial condition, and general standing of the Circles in their respective states. Said reports to be published in Party or YPSL bulletin.

Section 13. The YPSL shall be entitled to one delegate, having a voice but no vote, to the National Convention of the Socialist Party. Said delegate shall receive railroad fare and per diem from the Party the same as regular delegates.

Section 14. The National Director of the YPSL shall conduct referendum for the election of the fraternal delegate to national conventions of the Party.

Article XIII — General Provisions.

Section 1. Motions or resolutions to be voted upon by the entire membership of the party shall be submitted seriatim by the Executive Secretary to the referendum vote of the membership upon the request of Locals as follows:

(a) On amendments to Constitution, upon request of Locals representing at least 8 percent of the membership.

(b) On recall of any or all members of the National Executive Committee, upon request of Locals representing at least 10 percent of the membership, located in at least five different states.

(c) On all other actions, upon request of Locals representing at least 5 percent of the membership.

(d) The term "Local" as herein used shall mean a local or a branch of a local, but not a body composed of delegates from branches or locals. The term "membership" shall mean the entire membership on the basis of dues paid in the preceding year.

Section 2. Each motion and resolution shall be printed in the official bulletin and remain open ninety days from the date of first publication, and, if it has not then received the requisite number of seconds, it shall be abandoned. The vote on each referendum shall close sixty days after its submission.

Section 3. Referendums shall be submitted without preamble or comment. But comment not to exceed 200 words both for and against may accompany the motion when printed.

Section 4. Only members of the party in good standing and who have been members of the Socialist Party for at least six months can vote on national referendums. (Ballots for national referendums shall contain a line where members can state their length of membership in the Socialist Party).

Section 5. Any officer who attempts to interfere with the processes of the membership shall be expelled from office.

Section 6. Whenever a motion, resolution, or an amendment has been regularly initiated and passed upon by the party membership, another motion that conflicts with the same shall not be considered for at least six months.

Section 7. No motion for referendum on suspension of national conventions will be permitted within six months preceding the conventions.

Section 8. Delegates to International, National, State, and Local Congresses and members of executive and other governing committees of the Party, in National, State, and local organizations must be citizens of the United States, and in continuous good standing in the party for at least three years provided such organizations have been organized for such time.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2005. • Free reproduction permitted.