

CONSTITUTION OF THE PROLETARIAN PARTY OF AMERICA

Revised by convention June 1, 1928

ARTICLE ONE

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be: The Proletarian Party of America.

Section 2. The emblem of the party shall represent a circle with an open book and a lighted torch upright thru the center of the book with "Proletarian Party" indcribed on the outside edge of the circle.

ARTICLE TWO

Section 1. Every person resident of the United States age sixteen years and upwards who has severed his or her connections with all other political parties and political organizations shall be eligible to membership in the party.

Section 2. No person holding an elective office by gift of any political organization other than the Proletarian Party shall be eligible to membership in the Proletarian Party. 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. Civil service positions are excepted from this rule.

Section 3. All persons joining the Proletarian Party shall be vouched for by a member of the party in good standing and shall sign the following Pledge:

"Application for Membership"

"I, the undersigned having severed connections with all other political organizations, and accepting the revolutionary principles of International Communism, do hereby apply for membership in the manifestoes, platform and constitution."

Section 4. Every applicant shall be placed on probation for three months during which time he or she will have a voice but no vote in party affairs, except in the instance of a new local.

Section 5. Any member who moves to another town or city shall transfer his card to the local in that town or city within thirty days and if no local exists there he shall within thirty days make application to the national office for membership at large.

~~Section 5. Any member who moves~~

Section 6. The dues of members shall be at least fifty cents per month. Locals shall purchase dues stamps from the national office at twenty five cents each. Dual stamps shall be purchased in the same manner as dues stamps at the same price of fifty cents per month for husband and wife. All dues shall be receipted for with stamps issued by the national organization. All stamps shall be paid for in advance.

Section 7. Any eligible person living in a locality where no local exists may apply to the national secretary for admission to membership. If accepted on payment of not less than one months dues he or she shall receive a card as member at large. The dues of members at large shall be fifty cents per month payable to the National secret

ARTICLE THREE

Section 1. The duties and powers of the National executive Committee shall be, (A) To represent the party in national and international Affairs.

(B) To call national conventions by referendum vote of the party and in case of emergency to call a special convention of the party by a majority vote of the committee.

- (C) To make reports of the membership and conditions of the Party organization to the National convention with recommendations thereon.
- (D) To perfect and strengthen the organization and promote the propoganda of Scientific Socialism.
- (E) To formulate the rules and order of business of the national convention of the party not otherwise provided for by the constitution and subject to amendment and adoption by the convention.
- (F) To receive dues and reports from party organizations.
- (G) To conduct the national referendum in the manner provided by the 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 party bulletin.
- (J) To print in the party bulletin a specific statement of all moneys expended for printing leaflets and books with titles and authors of the same.
- (K) To maintain in connection with the national office such bureaus as may be necessary.
- (L) The national office shall each month furnish the locals with form blanks questioning the locals as to their various activities and conditions; study classes etc.

Section 2. The National executive Committee, as required by the Federal "Corrupt Practices Act" shall elect a permanent chairman who shall serve without salary.

Section 3. The committee shall formulate its own rules of procedure not inconsistent with the provisions of the constitution.

Section 4. Meetings of the National executive Committee shall be held at such time and place as the committee may determine.

Section 5. Members and officers of the National executive Committee shall be subject to recall by the membership of the party through referendum.

Section 6. The location of the national headquarters shall be determined by the National executive Committee.

Section 7. No funds of the national organization shall be appropriated by the National executive Committee for any purpose not directly connected with the work of the party as outlined in the manifesto and program.

Section 8. The national office mailing list of locals and branches and of subscribers shall not be given out to anyone outside the membership, nor shall they be given to members and party officials at any time except for the purposes of organization, propoganda, or the renewal of subscriptions. The national office shall have the power to refuse mailing lists of subscribers or members to anyone.

ARTICLE FOUR

Section 1. The executive Secretary shall be elected at the same time and in the same manner as the national executive committee and shall be ex-officio member of the 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 bulletin all important official reports and announcements, a monthly report of the financial affairs of the party, a summary of the condition of the membership of the several states and territorial organisations, the principal business transacted by the national office, and such other matters pertaining to the organisation of the party as may be of general interest to the members.

ARTICLE FIVE

Section 1. Each local shall be entitled to one convention delegate for each 25 members or fraction thereof, and one additional delegate for each additional 25 members or fraction (major) thereof.

Section 2. The railroad expenses of delegates and national officers shall be paid from the national treasury.

Article Six

Section 1. Five or more persons may organize a local by signing application blanks issued by the national office.

Section 2. Charter and other supplies shall be furnished new locals by the national secretary.

Section 3. Each local shall send to the national secretary each month a report of its numerical and financial standing, together with a report of propoganda work done.

Section 4. Each local shall send to the national secretary at the end of each year a list of the new officers for the ensuing year and a brief general report of its conditions.

Section 5. No local or members thereof shall fuse or cooperate in any manner with any other political organization without permission of the national executive committee.

Section 6. The business meetings shall be held separate from the general propoganda meetings and shall be attended by members only.

Section 7. Every local must conduct study classes as part of its activities and every member must attend a study class unless excused by the executive committee of the local.

Section 8. The officers of a local or branch shall be: a Recording Secretary: Financial Secretary: Treasurer: Organizer; Literature agent, and such other officers as they may deem necessary; to be elected at the first meeting in December of each year and to hold office one year beginning January 1st. The recording Secretary shall conduct all correspondence and order due stamps except in cases where locals elect a Corresponding secretary.

Section 9. The executive Committee of a local shall consist of a recording secretary, financial secretary, organiser, and as may additional members in good standing as the local may see fit. Said Committee to act for locals in emergencies when rank and file action is not possible. If a regular executive Committee is not elected, the regular officers of the local shall be considered as constituting the committee.

Section 10. The national secretary should be immediately informed of election of new officers.

Section 11. Locals may adopt such by laws as they see fit provided same are not in conflict with the national constitution.

ARTICLE SEVEN DISCIPLINE

Section 1. All members must provide themselves with copies of the constitution, manifesto and program of the party and endeavour to familiarize themselves with the same.

Section 2. (a) Every member must attend one business meeting out of every three of the branch or local unless submitting good reasons. In case of failure he or she shall be suspended for a period decided upon in each case by the local. At the end of the specified time he can apply for reinstatement.

(b) A member three or more months in arrears with dues or assessments, either national or local, shall be automatically suspended and must as officer or an any committee. Such member cannot vote or participate in discussions at party meetings. However, no one shall cease to be a member if the local receives satisfactory reasons of inability to keep such dues or assessments paid up to date.

Section 3. Every member must participate in all the activities of his local such as attending meetings, spreading propaganda, literature etc.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of all party members to join the trade union to which they are eligible.

Section 5. Any member violating the provisions of the constitution may be suspended or expelled.

Section 6. No member may be disciplined except upon written charges a copy of which shall be presented to the accused. He shall have at least one weeks time in which to prepare his defence. The locals to which he belongs shall elect a ~~trial~~ committee of three members which shall hear all evidence, make a complete record of same and transmit it to local together with the committee findings and recommendations, all of which shall be subject to review by the local which shall render its decision as to the guilt and penalty, said decision on appeal of the accused to be subject to revision by the national executive comm.

Section 7. The national executive committee may revoke the charter of any local violating the provisions of the national constitution. No charter shall be revoked however without the local being given a hearing by the national executive committee which shall ascertain the facts before final action is taken, provided that the local be given right of appeal at the next conventional. Members of expelled locals who have taken no part in such violations may reorganize, become members at large, or become members of any other local.

Section 8. The National executive committee may revoke the charter of any local having less than five members in good standing for three consecutive months. Remaining members of such locals may become members at large or members of any other local.

Section 9. The Party shall sell no literature not in keeping with the Principles, either nationally or locally, or the organization.

Article Eight.

Section 1. Referendums shall be taken at the request of not less than fifteen per cent of the total party membership

Section 2. The expense of the referendum shall be covered by the national treasury.

Section 3. A request for referendum shall be transmitted to the executive secretary who shall give it publicity in the party bulletin.

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Section 4. All propositions or other matters submitted for referendum shall be presented in the party bulletin or in special circulars without preamble or comment by the mover and shall be held open sixty days for amendments and discussion in the party bulletin before being counted by the national executive committee at the end of which time, all votes in prior to the time of expiration shall be counted.

Section 5. All pre-reports on individual referendum ballots shall be signed by the financial secretary, corresponding secretary, and organizer of the local.

Section 6 All referendums shall be decided by individual ballot.

Section 7 All members in good standing shall be entitled to vote, the term "good standing" to mean that the member has paid dues to within three months of the date of veto, provided that no member shall be denied the right to vote because of inability to pay dues on account of sickness or unemployment. All members three months in arrears for dues shall be notified by local secretaries before their names are removed from the rolls.

Section 8 Members joining the party after any measure has been presented and submitted for vote shall not be entitled to vote on the same.

Section 9. All national officers may be recalled on account of incompetency, or carelessness in their respective offices as follows, National Secretary and the members of the National executive Committee by referendum of the general membership

Article Nine. Party Press

All papers and periodicals speaking in the name of the Proletarian Party of America shall be party owned and controlled.

Article ten Organizers

All organizers of the Proletarian Party of America shall be employed under the direction of the national executive committee. The national secretary shall furnish organizers with standardised expense books.

Article Eleven.

Section 1. In case of emergency funds may be raised by the sale of special assessment stamps.

Section 2. Financing of the national office shall be taken care of by special weekly taxation of each local according to its ability to raise funds; this ability to be determined by the national executive committee.