
Organization Rules of the Young Communist League of America (Adopted by the National Committee of the YCL) [circa March 1921]

A document in the Comintern Archive, f. 515, op. 1, d. 79, l. 3.

The organization of a permanent Young Communist League in this country has been definitely begun. The United Communist Party decided at its recent convention [2nd: January 1921, Kingston, NY] to take the initiative in this matter. It is making all arrangements and carrying out all the preliminary organization work, preparatory to calling the first national convention of the YCL.

While the convention will elect its own officials, determine all matters of policy, etc., the basic organization form will have to remain unaltered since the affiliation with the Communist International and cooperation with its party in this country remains, according to capitalist law, a crime punishable by long prison terms. This is why the YCL is likewise being organized illegally.

1. The name of the organization shall be the Young Communist League of America — Section of the Young Communist International.

2. The purpose of the organization shall be: The communist education of the young workers; active participation in the struggle to overthrow capitalism; (defense of the proletarian dictatorship and the workers soviets after the seizure of power); reorganization of labor; and the cultural development of the working youth along the lines of communist principles.

3. The organization units shall be the group, consisting of no more than ten members. The group shall elect its own group organizer, who

serves as the medium between the group and the next higher body, namely, the city central unit. The city central unit shall consist of all the group organizers in the city. Together with the city organizer and the Party advisor it shall have complete jurisdiction over the city organization, being responsible only to the National Committee of the Young Communist League.

4. Each city unit shall elect a delegate to act as fraternal delegate to the United Communist Party city unit in its vicinity. The United Communist Party shall likewise send a fraternal delegate to the YCL city unit.

5. The dues of the organization shall be 25¢ per month. An organization stamp costing 50¢ must be purchased by every person joining the organization. All dues and other payments must be made to the respective group organizer, who shall turn over same to the city organizer, who in turn will forward them to the National Committee of the YCL.

6. Every group shall function (1) as a study class; (2) as a propaganda body. In its first aspect, it must study (a) the Theses and Statutes of the Communist International (including theses on the Young Communist organizations adopted by the Executive Committee of the Communist International); (b) Program of the UCP; (c) special lessons sent to it by the National Educational Committee of the UCP. As a propaganda body, it must distribute all literature sent to it (legal and ille-

gal); it must win over the best elements from the Young Socialist Leagues, by showing them the futility of their present position; it must organize meetings and study classes of all kinds where it can spread the ideas of Communism to young and old; it must assist the UCP in its propaganda work.

7. Every individual and unit of the organization must abide by the decisions of the higher units. Breach of discipline will lead to expulsion from the organization.

8. Every member should purchase the official Party organ of the UCP [*The Communist*].

9. All members are urged to join the UCP as soon as they are eligible.

10. All units shall immediately begin discussing matters which they consider necessary to be taken up by the First National Convention of the YCL, which will be held in the near future.

11. Other rules necessary for the welfare of the organization will be submitted to the membership from time to time by the National Committee of the YCL.

National Committee of the
Young Communist League of America.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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