
Constitution of the Communist Party of America:

Adopted by the Third Convention, Feb. 1921.

(As published in *The Communist*, v. 2, no. 18 (New Series), March 1, 1921, pp. 6-7).

Article I. Name and Purpose.

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Communist Party of America, Section of the Communist International.

Section 2. It is the organization of the revolutionary vanguard of the proletariat. Its purpose is to educate, direct, and lead the working class of America for the conquest of political power; to destroy the bourgeois state machinery; to establish the dictatorship of the proletariat in the form of Soviet Power; to abolish the capitalist system and to introduce the Communist Society.

Article II. Emblem.

Section 1. The emblem of the Communist Party shall be an outline figure of the earth, with a flag across the globe bearing the inscription "All Power to the Workers"; and around the figure of the earth, in the margin, the words "Communist Party of America, Section of the Communist International."

Article III. Membership and Dues.

Section 1. Every person who accepts the principles and tactics of the Communist Party of America and the Communist International; who submits to the party discipline and agrees to engage actively in the party work shall be eligible to membership.

Section 2. No person whose livelihood is gained by exploiting labor shall be eligible to membership in the Communist Party of America.

Section 3. No person who is a member or supporter of any other political organization shall be ad-

mitted to membership.

Section 4. Applicants for admission as members shall be vouched for by two persons who have been members of the Party not less than six consecutive months, except in newly organized groups in new territory. Acceptance of the applicant shall be determined by the Branch Executive Committee.

Section 5. Special group captains shall be placed in charge of probationary groups. They shall be appointed by the Branch Executive Committee.

Section 6. Applicants for membership shall pay one dollar initiation fee (to be remitted to the [group organizer??]) and all dues and assessments during the probationary period.

Section 7. Each member shall pay 60 cents per month as dues, and all assessments.

Section 8. Dues shall be collected in return for stamps; a sufficient contingency supply being once furnished to all subdivisions of the Party, down to the groups; and further stamps being furnished only to replace those actually sold and paid for.

Section 9. Federations shall make returns to the Central Executive Committee of forty cents for each dues payment collected by the tenth of each month; retaining 20 cents for themselves.

Section 10. Federation branches shall purchase stamps and make returns through federation channels.

Section 11. Special emergency assessments may be levied by the Convention, by the Central Executive Committee of the Party, or by the Federation Executive Committees (subject to the approval of the CEC). No member shall be considered in good standing unless he pays all such assessments.

Section 12. Members unable to pay dues and assessments on account of sickness, unemployment,

strikes, or for similar reasons, shall be granted exemption upon application to the Branch Executive Committee. Group organizers shall include such requests in their reports, and Branch Organizers shall report all exemptions granted every time they make their remittances for dues.

Section 13. Members who are two months in arrears in payment of dues and assessments shall be dropped from membership, unless within one month after notification by the Group Organizer he places himself in good standing.

Section 14. Branch Executive Committees shall have the right to issue to their members transfers to all Party units.

Article IV. Form and Units of Organization.

Section 1. The Communist Party is an underground, illegal organization. It is highly centralized, with the convention as its supreme body and the Central Executive Committee acting as such between the conventions.

Section 2. The basic units of the Party organization shall be groups of approximately ten members, and, whenever possible, not less than five.

Section 3. Groups of the same language within a city or locality shall form a Branch. Branches shall consist of not more than ten groups each.

Section 4. Branches within a locality shall form a Local. Locals shall consist as nearly as possible of ten Branches each, and shall be formed wherever there are more than one Branch within a locality. Single branches in isolated localities with connect directly with their sub-district.

Section 5. Sub-districts consist of all Locals and isolated Branches within a territory prescribed by the District Executive Committee.

Section 6. All Sub-districts within a prescribed territory shall form a District. The limits of Districts are determined by the CEC. Districts and Sub-districts shall be organized within industrial sections regardless of political boundaries.

Article V. Conventions.

Section 1. The Convention is the supreme body of the Party, and shall be called by the CEC at least

once a year.

Section 2. Emergency Conventions, with all the powers of regular Conventions, shall be called by the CEC, upon its own initiative whenever conditions demand, or upon the demand of three District Conventions representing at least 25 percent of the total membership of the Party.

Section 3. Emergency District Conventions shall be held upon the demand of not less than 50 percent of the membership of the District as expressed through the regular Party channels.

Section 4. Elections to the convention shall begin in the Groups. Each Group shall elect one member to the Branch electors meeting, which shall elect delegates to the Local electors meeting. Branches that are directly connected with the Sub-district shall send their electors to the nearest Local. Representation in the Local, Sub-district, and District electors meetings, and in the convention of the Party shall be fixed by the convention call issued by the Central Executive Committee.

Section 5. Branch, Local, Sub-district, and District Organizers of the Party shall attend the electors meetings of their respective units, and shall have voice but no vote, unless elected as delegates themselves.

Section 6. Sub-district and District electors meetings may elect as their delegates members of the Party from any unit outside of their territorial divisions.

Article VI. Central Executive Committee.

Section 1. Between the meetings of the convention, the Central Executive Committee, elected by the convention, shall act as the supreme body of the Party.

Section 2. The CEC shall consist of nine members, who shall have the right of co-optation.

Section 3. Candidates for the CEC must have been members of the CP of A, or of a party affiliated with the Communist International, for two consecutive years, or since the organization of the Party.

Section 4. Members who are not delegates to, or not present at the convention, must be supported by not less than four delegates, when nominated for the CEC.

Section 5. The identity of the CEC members shall not be made known, either by themselves or by those present at the convention.

Section 6. Upon presentation and investigation of charges against a member of the CEC, he may be suspended from the CEC by a majority vote, pending investigation. He may be expelled by a vote of not less than seven members. The accused CEC member shall not vote.

Section 7. The CEC shall elect the Executive Secretary of the Party, the Editor and two other members of the Editorial Committee, and the Technician of the Party; also International Delegates as required, who shall work under the direct control of the CEC.

Section 8. The Technician of the Party shall work in conjunction with and under the supervision of the Executive Secretary.

Section 9. The Party Editor shall carry on his work in conjunction with the Editorial Committee. The Editorial Committee shall have power between the meetings of the CEC to decide questions of policy and expression in the Party press and literature, in conformity with the decision of the CEC.

Section 10. The CEC shall call conferences with District Organizers and Federation Secretaries, or representatives of the Federation Executive Committees as often as necessary.

Section 11. The CEC shall make a monthly financial report to the membership.

Section 12. A complete audit and accounting of all Party funds shall be made once every six months. The Auditing Committee shall consist of three members elected by the convention. No member of the CEC and no paid Party official shall be a member of the Auditing Committee. Complete report of the Auditing Committee shall be made to the membership within one month after the completion of its work.

Article VII. District and Subordinate Units.

Section 1. The CEC shall appoint District Organizers for each district.

Section 2. District Organizers shall appoint Sub-district Organizers, subject to the approval of the Central Executive Committee. The District Executive Committee shall consist of the Party District Organizer and Sub-district Organizers, and Federation District Organizers. It shall work under the direction of the Party District Organizer.

Section 3. District Organizers shall make complete

reports to the District Executive Committee as to the general Party work in his district. He shall transmit and carry out the instructions and decisions of the CEC. He shall make remittances, financial statements, and reports to the CEC at least once a week. He shall submit financial statements to the membership in his district at least once a month.

Section 4. Sub-district Organizers shall make remittances, financial statements, and reports to the District Organizers each week.

Section 5. Federation District Organizers shall make financial statements and reports to the district executive committee at least once a month.

Section 6. The Sub-district Executive Committee shall consist of the Sub-district Organizer and Local Organizers, or directly connected Branch Organizers of the Party, and the Federation Sub-district Organizers. Sub-district Organizers shall call meetings of the Sub-district Executive Committees twice a month. They shall make complete reports to their committees and transmit and carry out the decisions and the instructions of the CEC, the District Organizer, and the District Executive Committee.

Section 7. The Local Executive Committee shall consist of the Branch Organizers, and the Local Organizer, appointed by the Sub-district Organizer subject to the approval of the District Executive Committee. Branch Organizers shall be elected by the Group Organizers. They shall work under the direction of the Local Organizer and shall meet at least once a week.

Section 8. The Branch Executive Committee consists of the Branch Organizer and the Group Organizers within the Branch. The Branch Executive Committee shall meet at least once a week. Group Organizers (captains) shall be Party members at least six months. Branch Organizers shall have been Party members at least one year.

Section 9. Executive Committees of the various Party units have the authority to act within their jurisdiction subject to decisions of higher Party units.

Section 10. Each Group shall meet at least once every week, under the direction of the Group Organizer (captain), who shall make a complete report to his Group on all party work, on the activities of his Branch, and of all other Party units.

Article VIII. Federations.

Section 1. Language Federations are integral parts of the Communist Party of America and are subject to the dictatorship and control of the Party.

Section 2. Shortly after Party conventions, language federations shall hold annual conventions, which shall elect their executive committees, subject to the approval of the Central Executive Committee of the Party.

Section 3. Federation Executive Committees shall consist of not more than seven members, who shall have the right of co-optation.

Section 4. The minutes of the Federation Executive Committee shall be regularly submitted to the CEC of the Party.

Section 5. Federation bylaws and decisions of their conventions shall conform to the Communist Party program and constitution and shall be submitted to the CEC of the Party for approval.

Section 6. Federation Executive Committees shall appoint their District Organizers for each District of the Party.

Section 7. Federation Executive Committees shall translate and issue to their membership all statements, circulars, and communications addressed to the membership by the CEC of the Party, within one week after their receipt.

Section 8. Federations shall make financial returns to the Party CEC by the tenth of each month. They shall make a complete financial report to their membership and to the CEC of the Party once a month.

Section 9. Each Federation shall issue an underground official organ in its respective language, under the control of the Federation Executive Committee, to be published at least once a month. The general policy of the Federation official organ shall be under the control of the CEC of the Party. Federations may publish books and papers under the general supervision of the CEC of the Party.

Section 10. All Language Branches shall join and become part of their respective Federation. There shall be only one Federation of each language. No Federation shall be formed with less than 250 members.

Article IX. Discipline.

Section 1. All members and units of the Party shall

maintain and enforce strict Party discipline. All decisions of the governing bodies of the Party shall be binding upon the membership and subordinate units of the Party.

Section 2. The following offenses shall be deemed breach of Party discipline: 1) Violation of the fundamental principles of the program and constitution of the Party; 2) Refusal to accept and carry out the decisions of the Party; 3) Wilfully to block and disrupt Party work and the cooperation of the various Party units; 4) Knowingly and unnecessarily to endanger the underground work of the Party; 5) In any way to betray the Party trust.

Section 3. Formal charges and investigation shall be required in all cases. Upon presentation of charges the accused members or units may be suspended pending investigation.

Section 4. Branch Executive Committees shall have the right to expel a member subject to the approval (not to take effect pending approval) of the Party Sub-district Executive Committee having jurisdiction.

Section 5. Groups may be expelled or reorganized by their respective Branch Executive Committees subject to the approval of the Sub-district Executive Committee having jurisdiction.

Section 6. Branches may be expelled or reorganized by their Sub-district Executive Committee subject to the approval of their District Executive Committee.

Section 7. A Local or a Sub-district may be expelled or reorganized by the District Executive Committee subject to the approval of the CEC.

Section 8. Districts may be expelled or reorganized by the CEC subject to the approval of the Convention.

Section 9. Sub-district Executive Committees may take up charges against any member, Group, or Branch in their Sub-district. District Executive Committees may take up charges against any member or unit in their District.

Section 10. Federation Executive Committees shall have the power to expel any member and expel or reorganize Branches or Groups of their Federation, subject to the approval of the CEC of the Party.

Article X. Party Press and Propaganda.

Section 1. The CEC shall publish the official un-

derground organ of the Party, which shall be issued at least once a month.

Section 2. The CEC shall issue a Party bulletin which shall be distributed to the membership free of charge.

Section 3. Literature issued by the Party shall be under the supervision of the Editorial Committee and under the control of the CEC.

Section 4. No subdivision of the Party, except Federation Executive Committees, may publish papers or books without the permission of the CEC. Over their own signature, Locals may issue leaflets dealing with matters in their locality, subject to the approval of the CEC or such District Committee as may be so empowered by the CEC.

Section 5. All legal and illegal Party press and publishing machinery, including Federation press and establishments, shall be unconditionally and fully subject to the Party, in general to its CEC or such other Party units as may be expressly authorized by the CEC.

Section 6. Editors of all central organs of the Party, including legal and Federation organs, shall constitute the Board of Party Editors, which shall function for the unification of policy and expression in the Party press, and to keep them always in conformity with the principles, policies, and decisions of the Party.

Section 7. No members of the Party shall contribute articles or editorials of a political or economic nature to the bourgeois press, except by permission of the CEC of the Party.

Section 8. The CEC shall provide for the organization of classes for the training of propagandists, and study classes in the various Party units for the education of the membership in Communist theory and tactics.

Section 9. The CEC shall provide for the organization of Communist Party nuclei, composed of CP members only, in the shops, in the unions, and in other workers organizations; within the army and navy, and ex-soldiers organizations.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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