
Constitution of the Federated Press League

(As revised by First Convention, Feb. 4, 1922)

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Several changes in the constitution of the Federated Press League were made at the recent Chicago convention [Feb. 4, 1922]. Obsolete sections of the old document were eliminated and several new provisions were added — among them a provision for an annual budget.

The constitution as amended follows:

Constitution of The Federated Press League.

Responsive to the wishes of many persons to become intimately affiliated in the work of The Federated Press and to become an effective force in the extension of its service and in the fortification of the principle of free journalism to which it is dedicated, The Federated Press League has been founded and the following constitution adopted:

Article I — Name.

The name of this organization shall be The Federated Press League.

Article II — Purposes.

The purposes of The Federated Press League shall be to defend the principles of the freedom of the press against all the forces which seek its destruction and to aid in the support and development of the labor press and of The Federated Press. The objects of The Federated Press as stated in the bylaws of the association and are as follows:

Being unable to obtain unbiased news service from the extant press associations, certain persons, owners of or representing newspapers and other publications, hereby unite in a mutual and cooperative organization for the collection and interchange of intelligence, telegraphic and otherwise, for publication in the newspapers or other publications owned or represented by them. Other owners or representatives of newspapers and other publications from time to time may be elected to membership in the association, subject to the conditions of these bylaws. This association is not to make any profit and is not to make or declare any dividends. It shall be the general policy of this association that its news service must be handled absolutely without bias for or against the principles of the several groups represented by the membership.

Article III — Membership.

Sec. 1. All persons over 16 years of age are eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. Existing organizations may affiliate with The Federated Press League by obtaining the approval of the Executive Board of the League and by paying into the Treasury of the League the dues required of individuals for Sustaining, Endowment, and Life memberships. Such organizations shall be permitted to send one delegate to the annual convention of the League.

Article IV — Organization and Representation.

Sec. 1. The League shall consist of local groups organized in neighborhoods or communities under the title of Local Councils. Charters shall be issued to a council upon the enrollment of 10 members.

Sec. 2. The officers of The Federated Press League shall be a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, and an Executive Secretary, who shall constitute the Executive Board of the league. The President of the league shall serve as presiding officer of the Executive Board. All officers shall be elected for terms of one year.

Sec. 3. The Executive Board shall be empowered to act for the league between annual conventions. The board shall have the power to fill vacancies between conventions. An editor for The Federated Press Bulletin shall be appointed by the board. The board shall also be empowered to issue and revoke the charters of the Local Councils.

Sec. 4. The annual convention of The Federated Press League shall be held simultaneously with the annual meeting of the members of The Federated Press.

Sec. 5. Each Local Council shall elect one delegate for each 50 members, or fraction thereof, to represent it at the annual convention of the League.

Article V — Local Councils.

Sec. 1. Meetings of Local Councils shall be held at least once a month.

Sec. 2. Each Local Council shall elect a Corresponding Secretary, who shall be instructed to keep in close touch with the central office of the national organization.

Article VI — Initiative, Referendum, and Recall.

Sec. 1. Whenever 5 or more Local Councils of the league request that The Federated Press inaugurate, modify, or abandon any policy or practice it shall be the duty of the Executive Board of the league to submit the request to the Secretary of the Executive Board of The Federated Press, who shall at once submit the proposal to a referendum vote of the Local Councils and to take such action as the result determines.

Sec. 2. Upon the request of 5 or mor Local Councils for the recall of any officer of the league, it shall be the duty of the Executive Board of the league to submit the question to a referendum vote of the Local Councils and to take such action as the vote determines.

Sec. 3. On referendum each Local Council shall have only one vote.

Article VII — Revenue.

Sec. 1. The following dues shall be required as an obligation of membership in a Local Council, payable in advance.

Associate Members	\$ 1.00
Active Members	5.00
Contributing Members	10.00

Semi-weekly Mail Service Members	25.00
Daily Mail Service members	50.00
Sustaining members	100.00
Endowment members	500.00

There shall also be a Life Membership in the league issuable to those contributing \$1,000 or more.

Sec. 2. Each Local Council may retain the first \$50 collected and thereafter the treasury balance of each Local Council shall be limited to 5 percent of the net revenue, the remainder of the revenue being remitted at least monthly to the Treasurer of The Federated Press League.

Article VIII — Appropriations.

Sec. 1. The estimated revenue for each year shall be appropriated by means of an annual budget authorized by a majority vote of the delegates present at each annual meeting. Additional appropriations or transfers of appropriations from one fund to another may be authorized in the interval between the annual meetings by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

Sec. 2. The Annual budget shall be prepared by the Secretary and Treasurer no later than Nov. 15 of each year and shall be submitted for approval to the Executive Board prior to Dec. 31 of each year.

Sec. 3. The executive officers of the league shall not be authorized to expend the funds of the league, except in accordance with these appropriations.

Article IX — Amendments.

This constitution may be amended at any annual convention of The Federated Press League by a majority of the delegates there present, or it may be amended by a majority vote of the councils of the league on referendum.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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