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# Minutes of the Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Social Democratic Party of America: Springfield, MA — June 1, 1901

by Henry L. Slobodin

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Session of the National Executive Committee, SDP, June 1, 1901, at Springfield, Mass.

Comrade M. Hillquit in the chair. Absent: Leonard D. Abbott, excused; John C. Chase, without excuse. Minutes of the previous meeting read and approved.

On motion the question of the joint Unity National Convention was taken up. In view of the chance that the Chicago Board agreed to change the date of the convention to July 29, 1901, the National Executive Committee pursuant to the authority vested in it by the general vote, appoints July 29, 1901 as the opening day of the national convention to be held in Indianapolis, Ind.

On motion it was ordered that the following call be issued to the locals of the SDP.

## Call.

Comrades:—

By resolution of both factions of the SDP, a joint national convention for the purpose of effecting unity of the Socialist forces of the United States will be held on July 29, 1901, at the city of Indianapolis, Ind.

The following organizations are entitled to representation at the convention:

All locals of the SDP affiliated with the National Executive Committee whose headquarters are at Springfield, Mass. All branches of the SDP affiliated with the Chicago NEB. All sections

of the SLP. All Socialist State organizations recognizing the class struggle and the necessity of independent political action.

The basis of representation will be as follows:

1. Each local, branch, or section shall be entitled to as many representatives as the individual members thereof in good standing may select for that purpose, provided that each representative shall be entitled to one (1) vote for each member whose signature is attached to his credential, and provided further, that no member shall have his signature attached to more than one credential.

2. Locals not sending their own representatives may select those of other locals of the same state to represent them, provided that in each such case the representative shall hold the proper credential with the signatures of members attached as herein provided.

3. No member shall be qualified to serve as representative or be entitled to representation who has not been a member of the party at least 30 days prior to the opening of the convention.

4. All signatures of members attached to credentials shall be certified to by the chairman or secretary of their representative locals or subdivisions.

As the work of the convention will be of great importance to the future of the Socialist movement in this country, it is desirable that our party secure as full a representation at the same as possible, and with that end in view the NEC hereby prescribes the following methods of electing delegates:

1. The State Committee of each state shall at once take steps for the election of a delegate at large for the state. Such delegate shall be elected by the general vote of the members, or, where such vote is impractical, by the State Committee.

2. The State delegate shall receive the credentials of such locals within the state as do not elect their own delegates.

3. The State Committee may also give credentials to any member of the state organization applying for same with a view of going to Indianapolis at his own expense.

4. Locals shall at once call upon each member to sign a credential, the credentials to remain open for signature for at least thirty (30) days, so that every member may attach his signature. The name of the delegate may be inserted in the credential before or after the signatures are appended.

5. Every local may elect as many delegates as it chooses. Two or more locals may combine to elect a delegate.

6. If one or more locals elect one delegate, such delegate shall receive all credentials signed by the members of that local or locals.

7. If a local elects two or more delegates, the credentials signed by the members shall be divided among all delegates in such manner as the local chooses.

8. State Committees and locals are requested to inform the National Secretary [William Butscher] of the names and addresses of the delegates elected by them without delay.

**By order of the  
Provisional National Executive Committee, SDP,  
Springfield, Mass.**

The Committee on Arrangements [Leon Greenbaum, chairman] is instructed to request the Committee on Arrangements appointed by the Chicago Board to hold a joint meeting to issue invitations; to provide for hall; to provide for accommodations for delegates; to elect a chairman of the convention.

On motion a form of credentials was drafted and ordered to be printed and distributed to locals.

National Secretary was instructed to prepare a report for the convention.

On motion Comrade Butscher was appointed to represent the NEC at Indianapolis convention.

Reports received from National Organizers Charles Vail and Geiger.

Charters granted to the following new locals: Warren, O.; Bishop Hill, Ill.; Newport News, Va.; Springfield, O.; Providence, RI.

Agitation tours arranged for Comrades Geiger, [Silvio] Origo, and [John] Spargo.

On request it is ordered that the *Missouri Socialist* and the *Seattle Socialist* be placed on the list of party publications.

Local Cleveland, O. sends resolution that the immediate demands be expunged from the platform.

Local Springfield, Mass. informs the NEC that it has expelled Peter Hornstein for conduct unbecoming a Socialist.

Local Santiago, Cal. reports vote of spring elections.

Local Bristol, Conn. lapsed and Comrade Sweetland was admitted as member at large.

Income since last session, \$599.98; expenses \$604.68; cash on hand \$21.75.

Next session will be held July 6, 1901.

*Henry Slobodin,  
Recording Secretary*

*Edited by Tim Davenport*

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