
Constitution of the Socialist Party of St. Louis: Adopted August 26th, 1901

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Article I.

Section 1. The unite of organization and the working basis of the party shall be the ward branch.

Section 2. Any five persons subscribing to the platform of the Socialist Party at adopted by the Indianapolis convention July 30, 1901, may form a ward branch.

Section 3. Socialists residing in two or more wards may combine to form one branch.

Section 4. Wherever there are five members of the party organization residing in one ward which is united with another ward or wards, they may withdraw to form a separate branch for their own ward, provided there still remain five members in good standing in the branch from which they withdraw.

Article II.

Section 1. Branches may make such subdivisions and provide for such committees as they deem necessary to carry on their work, within their own jurisdiction, provided that such provisions shall not be in violation of the principles of the national platform or the Socialist Party or this constitution.

Article III.

Section 1. The officers of the branch shall be a recording secretary, a financial secretary, ward organizer, a literature agent, and a chairman.

The chairman shall be chosen at each meeting. All other officers shall be elected at the first meetings in January and July of each year.

Section 2. Each branch shall hold at least one meeting each week.

Section 3. New members may be admitted upon application by a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting, provided they have signed the application hereinafter provided for. But no person shall be admitted as a member who is not present at the meeting at which he is to be voted upon.

Section 4. Any member of a branch may be expelled or suspended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a regular meeting, at the instance of a member of good standing, provided he shall have had written notice of the charges preferred against him, and he shall be entitled to a trial upon them

All charges so preferred shall be read at at least two regular meetings before a vote is taken. Provided that an appeal shall be allowed through the CCC to the party at large.

Section 5. Branches may make such bylaws as they deem necessary. Provided they do not conflict with this constitution.

Section 6. It shall be the duty of each member of the branch to aid in all honorable ways in the propaganda of the principles of the Socialist Party and to assist building up the party organization.

Section 7. Any member who shall absent himself from four consecutive meetings of his branch, or shall neglect or fail to perform any duty assigned to him by the branch, without giving a reasonable excuse therefore, shall stand suspended until excused by a majority vote of the members present at a regular meeting, and he shall not be entitled to vote on any question in the branch or on any referendum while he stands suspended.

Article V. [sic.] City Central Committee.

Section 1. The officers of the party shall be a committee, a secretary, and an editor of the official organ.

Section 2. The City Central Committee shall be composed of the organizers of the respective ward branches and shall meet once each week.

Section 3. This committee shall have general supervision over the work of agitation, organization, and education within their jurisdiction and shall provide speakers for the different branches when re-

quested by the branch, and shall have charge of the party work in all unorganized wards, and shall push the work of organization in the unorganized wards as rapidly as possible.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of each member of the City Central Committee to attend all meetings of said committee and to report back to his branch at its next regular meeting all acts and recommendations of the committee.

Section 5. When the delegate from any branch or his alternate fails to attend two regular meetings of the committee in succession, then his branch shall be notified by the secretary of the CCC, and if a representative from that branch is not in attendance at the next regular meeting of the committee after the receipt of such notice by the branch, then such branch shall stand suspended and not be entitled to vote on any party question or referendum until a representative is sent to the CCC.

Section 6. Neither the City Central Committee nor any branch shall have the power to endorse any candidate for office on any capitalist party ticket, nor on any other ticket, nor shall any candidate for public office on the ticket of the Socialist Party be allowed to accept the endorsement of any other party.

Section 7. No member of the party shall be nominated for political office who has not been a member in good standing for at least six months.

Section 8. No member of the party shall accept any appointment to office from any capitalist party or official except when the appointment is made solely on account of merit shown in a competitive examination. Provided that said appointment is not on any armed force in the service of the capitalist class.

Section 9. The City Central Committee shall have power to act in any matter not especially reserved to the branches, or delegated to the state or other committees, and shall call all nominating and other conventions, submit all referendum votes when ordered to do so by the proper authorities, and shall arrange all general agitation meetings within their jurisdiction.

Article VI. [sic.]

Section 1. The *Missouri Socialist* shall be the official organ of the Socialist Party of the City of St. Louis and shall be under the management and control of the City Central Committee. All revenue de-

rived from the paper shall be paid to the secretary of the City Central Committee, and the expenses of the paper shall be paid out of the funds of the committee, but the secretary shall keep a separate account showing all the money derived from the paper and all expenses incurred on account of the paper. The paper shall be furnished to all members of the party in St. Louis in good standing.

Section 2. Each branch shall pay to the CCC on the first day of each month, 15 cents for each member in good standing.

Branches to collect their funds in whatever manner they see fit.

Provided that methods put into operation by the CCC for the collection of revenue shall be carried out as far as possible and provided further that no person nominated or elected to any public office shall be assessed on account of such nomination or election.

Section 3. Any branch being more than 30 days in arrears in its payments to the City Central Committee shall not be entitled to vote upon any referendum of the party or participate in party affairs until at least as much of the arrears as exceed \$1 shall have been paid.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the recording secretary of each branch to report to the City Central Committee the number of members in the organization as soon as the branch is organized according to the following plan, giving name, residence, occupation, age, ward precinct, and to report after each meeting the number of new members admitted, giving the same information as above. He shall also report the name of any member who may be suspended or expelled or who shall remove from the jurisdiction to some other ward organization. He will also report to the secretary of the branch under which jurisdiction the member would properly come, and the necessary change shall be made on the books of the branches and on those of the City Central Committee, and this member shall be regarded as transferred to the new branch.

Section 5. The secretary of the City Central Committee shall keep a full and complete record of the membership of the party according to ward.

Article VII. [sic.]

Section 1. The following shall be the form of application for organization of new branches:

We, the undersigned residents of _____ ward, of the city of St. Louis, state of Missouri, subscribing to the principles of

the Socialist Party adopted at Indianapolis, Ind., July 30, 1901, and desiring to aid in the organization of the working class and those in sympathy with it, into a political party with the object of conquering the powers of government and using them for the purpose of transforming the present system of private ownership of the means of production and distribution into collective ownership by the entire people, hereby make application to the City Central Committee of the Socialist Party of St. Louis for permission to form an organization in the _____ ward, and pledge ourselves to sever all connection with other political parties, and to assist in all honorable ways in the promulgation of the principles of the Socialist Party and aid in building up its organization.

Article VIII. [sic.]

Section 1. The officers of the City Central Committee shall be a chairman, secretary, and treasurer.

Section 2. The chairman shall be elected at each meeting.

Section 3. The secretary, who shall also be the business manager of Missouri Socialist and supervisor of organizers, shall be elected by the membership of the party every six months, on the second meetings of January and July of each year.

He shall not be a member of the Local committee. His duties shall be prescribed by the City Central Committee, except as herein provided for. He shall submit all referendums, regularly initiated, without comment within 10 days, and publish the result of such referendum in the next issue of official organ succeeding the tabulating of the vote.

Section 4. The treasurer shall be elected by the membership of the party to serve a term of six months, at the first meeting in January and June, succeeding the semi-annual election of ward organizers.

Section 5. The City Central Committee shall prepare a suitable membership card for use by the branches.

Article IX. [sic.]

Section 1. The editor of the official organ shall be elected semi-annually by the party membership at the second meeting in January and July each year.

Section 2. He shall be under the supervision of the City Central Committee, who shall provide for his compensation.

Section 3. The compensation of the business manager of *Missouri Socialist* shall be regulated by the City Central Committee.

Article X. [sic.]

Section 1. All nominations for secretary, treasurer, and editor of the official organ shall be made by the ward branches on the first meetings in December and June of each year, which nominations shall be published in the official organ.

Section 2. All meetings of the City Central Committee and of the ward branches shall be conducted according to Smith's Diagram of Parliamentary Rules.

Article XI. [sic.]

Section 1. This constitution may be amended by a referendum vote of the party members in St. Louis, provided the proposed amendment shall have been offered and read at at least two regular meetings of each branch, and shall have been published in the official organ before being voted upon.

Section 2. All acts of the CCC shall be subject to the approval or disapproval of the party membership by a referendum vote initiated by petition to the secretary of the CCC by five percent of the members of the party in the city, provided such action is taken within 30 days after the action appealed from.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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