
Official Minutes of the General Committee of the Socialist Party of St. Louis, June 23, 1919

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St. Louis, Mo., June 23, 1919.

Adjourned meeting of the General Committee, Socialist Party of St. Louis, called to order at 8:15 pm by Chairman [George] Tourville. The following comrades were seated on credentials: Steve Witkay, Ward 8-9; William Ungerer, Ward 27 South; Rudolph L. Meier, Local Maplewood; Fred Kisslinger, Mabel Lennerth, Caroline Cornell, and Henry Eckhoff, YPSL [Circle] #1.

By motion a roll call was held, and showed the following delegates present (a number of other delegates came in after the roll call as noted under the caption of Delegates Present.):

Fluck, Unger, Skoven, Stutz, Witkay, Pfister, Brandt, Hoehn, Mueller, Gerdes, Wagner, Duerkop, Hellwig, Tourville, Aldrich, Grimm, Patterson, Braun, Messmer, Long, Koch, Hoffmeister, S'Renco, Hadwich, Hellberg, Forbeck, Hillmer, Eckhoff, Manes, Ebner, and Meier.

The chair appointed Phil Wagner as sergeant-at-arms.

The motion on the Hoehn statement as presented at the June 16th meeting,¹ as per order of the chairman, was read by the Secretary [William Brandt], the motion being as follows:

¹ "The Socialist Party of the United States — Its Work in Past and Present."

“That the statement as read by Comrade Hoehn be adopted as our position on the [Left Wing] controversy; that it be made part of the records and that copies of same be sent to our ward branches and to the Socialist press throughout the country.”

Discussion was then held upon the motion, Comrade Stutz leading in the discussion. Brandt was next speaker; after which Comrade Tschudin, a member of the 20th Ward Branch but not a delegate, was granted the floor and presented a written statement which was read, and in substance was as follows: That the statement be printed in pamphlet form and copy be sent to each party member, each member to be taxed 10 cents to cover cost of same; that a general membership meeting be held Monday, July 14th [1919], to discuss this statement; that at this July 14th meeting we also elect delegates to the National Convention. Comrade Tschudin was informed that our local could not elect the delegates, the entire state organization by referendum attending to this. The communication from Comrade Tschudin was then by motion received and filed.

Comrade Long was granted the floor; he made an amendment to the original motion, which was seconded, that the statement be read and taken up and voted upon seriatim. The amendment was lost.

Comrade Braun, as next speaker, made a motion to lay the matter upon the table. Motion was seconded, and a rising vote was taken on his motion. Motion was defeated by a vote of 10 in favor and 22 against.

Further discussion was then held on the question before the house, taken in part in by the following comrades: Patterson, Aldrich, Hoehn, Dorn, Norvell, Braun, Messmer, and S'Renco, after which long made a motion, seconded by Wagner, that the previous question be put. Motion carried.

The vote was then taken on the original motion to adopt the statement. A rising vote was taken, and the motion was carried by a vote of twenty-three (23) to ten (10).

By motion the meeting then adjourned at 11:30 pm.

W.M. Brandt,
Secretary.

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P.S. “Delegates Present” will be noted in next meeting’s minutes. Next meeting of the General Committee to be held Monday, July 7th.

Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport

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