
Minutes of Meeting of Local Hudson County, NJ, held Sept. 28, 1919

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Meeting called to order at 2:55 pm by Organizer [Frederick A.] Schwarting.

James M. Reilly elected chairman and Edward H. Mead, vice-chairman. Hoffman and Hyman elected credentials committee.

Minutes of local meeting of July 13 [1919] adopted as read.

Motion carried that order of business be suspended and delegates to National Emergency Convention of Socialist Party, held August 30, be given the floor to report on the proceedings of the convention. Rose Weiss, Milo C. Jones, and Valentine Bausch made reports.

Comrade Weiss read a proposed statement to be addressed to the members of the Socialist Party expressing the attitude of the Socialists of New Jersey on party matters, policy, and tactics.

Jones stated that the State Office of the party was in debt to the extent of \$1,000, and requested the local to loan the State Committee \$200 or \$300. Also reported that the National Office is in debt for about \$5,000, New Jersey's share of which is approximately \$411. Jones also spoke of the intention of the State Office to issue campaign subscription lists to be circulated throughout the state, three-fourths of money collected to be retained by the country organizations for campaign fund or other purposes and one-fourth to be turned over to the state body.

Motion that various matters referred to in the reports of the delegates to the convention be laid over to new business.

Communications from Emil Ruppel stating that he had expended \$12.16 in connection with retransfer property belonging to himself and wife necessitated by filing of bond in replevin action for return of party literature seized by Jersey City police in 1918, and requesting reimbursement. Motion adopted that request be granted and financial officers directed to issue voucher for that amount to Ruppel.

Communication from Milo C. Jones announcing his election as State Secretary of the Socialist Party of New Jersey to fill vacancy caused by resignation of Fred Harwood, and announcing cooperation of comrades. Order received and filed.

Executive Secretary Schwarting submitted a written report of activities of his office, supplemented by oral statements that he had received from State Office a bill for \$166.86 payable to Socialist Publication Society for Debs leaflets and other printed matter, and that he had returned the bill with the information that this literature was not ordered by the county.

He specifically recommended that Union Hill German, West New York German, Secaucus German, 11th Ward Jersey City, Night Workers' branch, Women's No. 1 and No. 2, Hoboken 1, and Harrison German branches' charters be revoked on the ground that they had joined the "Communist Labor Party," and that those branches be requested by registered mail to return all property and moneys that belong to those organizations over to the Executive Secretary.

Motion that reports be received and recommendations be concurred in. Amendment offered that as to those branches which have officially notified the local of their severance from the party the report be concurred in, but as to those branches from which no official information had been received that they had joined the CLP a committee be elected to investigate the matter and report to next County Committee meeting. Amendment lost by vote of 10 to 18, after several members stated that they had reliable information all the branches mentioned had left the party and joined the CLP. *Motion carried.*

Motion that letter be sent to the Italian Interstate Federation of Socialist Party of New York and New Jersey requesting that all moral and financial support be given to the newly organized Bayonne Italian branch. *Carried.*

Motion that it is the sense of this local meeting that the Socialist Party of New Jersey issue the resolution submitted by Comrade Weiss; that the local endorse the same, and that copies thereof be sent to all branches affiliated with the local for discussion and action. *Carried.*

Motion that Executive Secretary [Schwarting] obtain as much as possible of the moneys collected on county campaign lists sent to branches, and that request of State Secretary [Jones] for loan be deferred to next County Committee meeting. *Carried.*

The meeting ratified the election of Schwarting as Executive Secretary to fill the unexpired term of [Louis] Berman.

Seats of Henry Petzolt and Louis Berman in State Committee, representing Local Hudson, were declared vacant, and Edward H. Mead and Frederick A. Schwarting were elected to fill their unexpired terms.

Motion that Executive Secretary [Schwarting] be instructed to communicate with State Office of party to inquire whether it has already purchased its allotment of the party's manifesto adopted at recent convention, and if not, then Executive Secretary be authorized to buy not more than 125,000 for distribution by the local. *Carried.*

Meeting adjourned 6:50 pm.

Fraternally submitted,

I.G. Koven,
Recording Secretary.

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The [Weiss] resolution referred to is as follows:

To the Members of the Socialist Party:

Now that the convention is over and that the choice rests on the rank and file to decide the path they shall follow in working for Socialism, the Socialist Party of New Jersey issues this statement to make clear its position. We are united in our desire to make the Socialist Party the party of revolutionary socialism as enunciated in the recent manifesto adopted by the convention, working for the complete overthrow of the capitalist system to be brought about by the education and organization of the workers on the political and economic fields.

We feel that a grave crisis has arisen in the history of the Socialist movement in America. We feel also that the Socialist movement is confronted with a great opportunity, calling for intelligent leadership. The waves of unrest now seething throughout the country as a result of the mad debauch of capitalist misrule can be crystallized into class-conscious political sentiment by proper education and guidance. It is the mission of the Socialist Party to furnish such education.

As a result of the recent events in the party and at the convention there is a danger that the advance of the Socialist

movement will be further hindered. We wish emphatically to protest at the manner in which the convention was conducted. The exclusion of the minority faction, the evasion of the issue as to the right of the National Executive Committee to revoke charges and suspend members at will, the holding of secret caucuses, and the passing of machine slates for the election of committees, the unwillingness to face the issues squarely, manifest tendencies which, if not checked, will give rise to a despotism within the party as dangerous and as undesirable as that prevailing in the capitalist parties.

Realizing the importance of preserving the organization which has been built up in this state after so many years of painful sacrifice, we therefore retain our affiliation with the Socialist Party, at the same time determined to place and keep the affairs of the party in the hands of representatives who shall serve the rank and file and who at all times shall be answerable for their conduct in office. We appreciate also that to accomplish that end it will be necessary for the rank and file to watch and work. We therefore declare our energies to the building up of a revolutionary Socialist movement, with an active and intelligent membership, determined, however, that unless the affairs of the party are conducted in a fair, open, and democratic manner to sever our affiliation. We feel that in many states the membership of the party is of the same opinion, and we therefore ask those comrades who are in harmony with these views to make them known in similar resolutions, giving them as much publicity as possible.

Socialist Party of New Jersey.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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