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# Constitution of The Federated Press League

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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, to support The Federated Press in the field as an expression of this principle, and to assist in every possible manner in the development and extension of the work of The Federated Press. The objects of The Federated Press as stated in its bylaws 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 abso-

lutely without bias for or against the principles of the several groups represented by the membership.

### **Article III — Membership.**

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

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.

Charters shall be issuable to existing organizations which desire to obtain the status of Local Councils. Such organizations shall pay into the Treasury of the League the usual dues for each of its members.

### **Article IV — Organization and Representation.**

The League shall consist of local groups organized in each community under the title of Local Councils, and each Local Council shall be designated by a number. Where local conditions make it advisable, several Local Councils may be organized in the community.

The officers of The Federated Press League shall be a President, a Vice-President, for each state, territory, and province, an Executive Secretary, and a Treasurer, which officers shall constitute the General Council of the League. The General Council shall choose from its membership an Executive Board of 9 members, of

which the President shall be the presiding officer. All officers shall be elected for terms of one year.

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

The Executive Board of the League shall be empowered to issue and revoke the charters of the Local Councils.

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.**

Meetings of Local Councils shall be held at least once a month. The officers of the Local Councils shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and such committees as may be necessary. The officers shall be charged with the performance of the usual duties assigned to such officers and shall hold office for the period of one year.

In all the proceedings of the Local Council each member shall be entitled to cast only one vote.

#### **Article VI — Initiative, Referendum, and Recall.**

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.

On referendum each Local Council shall have only one vote.

#### **Article VII — Revenue.**

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

Regular members	\$ 5.00
Contributing members	10.00
Semi-weekly mail service members	25.00
Daily mail service members	50.00
Editorial members	75.00
Sustaining members	100.00
Endowment members	500.00
Life members	1,000.00

The Treasury balance of each Local Council shall be limited to 5 percent of the revenue and the remainder of the revenue shall be remitted to the Treasurer of The Federated Press League. The Treasury balance of the League shall be limited to 10 percent of the revenue of the League; the remainder shall be remitted to the Treasurer of The Federated Press each week.

#### **Article VIII — Amendments.**

This constitution may be amended at an 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 League on referendum.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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