
Constitution of the Friends of Soviet Russia

[Established Aug. 9, 1921]

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Article I — Name and Purpose.

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be “Friends of Soviet Russia.”

Section 2. Its purpose shall be to collect relief funds and supplies for direct transmission to Russian Soviet authorities as promptly as is consistent with effective wholesale purchasing and shipping, and otherwise to extend aid through friendly acts to the Workers’ Soviet Republic of Russia, basing all appeals upon distinctly working class interests.

Article II — Membership and Affiliation.

Section 1. Membership in the Friends of Soviet Russia shall be entirely through membership in affiliated organizations.

Section 2. Working class organizations and local and language conferences of such organizations may become affiliated with the national organization by declaring their adherence to two principles; namely, (1) a working class appeal, and (2) direct transmission of relief through the Soviet authorities, by actively participating in the work of the national organization and by sending all funds collected for relief through the national organization and according for such funds fully in the manner prescribed by the National Executive Committee, provided, however, that such affiliations shall be subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee.

Article III — National Conferences and Headquarters.

Section 1. A national conference shall be held annually in the headquarters city, in which each affiliated conference shall be entitled to one delegate and one vote.

Section 2. The headquarters shall be located in such city as the National Executive Committee may designate, subject to the veto of the annual national conference.

Article IV — The National Executive Committee.

Section 1. The general control over the affairs of the Friends of Soviet Russia shall be vested in a National Executive Committee of 7 regular and 3 alternate members residing within attending distances of the headquarters city, who shall serve for 1 year or until their successors shall have been elected.

Section 2. The National Executive Committee shall be elected by the annual national conference, provided, however, that when the list of alternates shall have been exhausted, the National Executive Committee shall have the power to fill the vacancies.

Article V — The Executive Officers.

Section 1. The executive officers of the or-

ganization shall consist of a Permanent Chairman, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, to be elected by the National Executive Committee.

Section 2. The Permanent Chairman shall preside at meetings of the National Executive Committee and over the annual national conferences. He must be a member of the National Executive Committee.

Section 3. The Secretary shall have direct charge of the national office, its secretarial department, shall have full and proper accounts kept of all incoming and outgoing funds, and shall order all expenditures of funds by the Treasurer.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall have custody over and be responsible for all funds held by the national organization and is authorized to endorse and otherwise negotiate checks and other negotiable paper in the name of the Friends of Soviet Russia and to sign and issue checks or other drafts upon the funds of the organization when countersigned by the Secretary. He shall have audits of all accounts made by a Certified Public Accountant at least once a month and shall issue monthly statements thereof for publication in the press.

Article VI — Constitution of Affiliated Organizations.

Section 1. Affiliating organizations shall federate into “conferences” and coordinate their relief campaigns, adopting in each case a name or sub-title for the conference which will clearly indicate its affiliation with the Friends of Soviet Russia.

Section 2. Each local or language conference shall elect an Executive Committee and suit-

able executive officers upon the general model of the national organization who are to have charge of their respective and appropriate departments of work and each of whom shall be made and held responsible in the same manner as are the national executive officers.

Section 3. Each conference shall keep a full and proper account of all funds collected for relief and shall render complete statements thereof monthly to the national office upon suitable forms provided for that purpose by the national office; shall make no disposition of funds gathered for relief in any manner other than as publicly stated and avowed, and shall make the promptest possible remittal to the national office of all funds gathered for relief purposes. In the event of their failure to do so, the National Executive Committee shall be required to make public statement of the fact and expel the offending organization from affiliation.

Section 4. Each affiliated organization shall be responsible to the local or language conference, as the case may be, and to the National Executive Committee in precisely the same manner and extent as are the conferences to the National Executive Committee, as cited in the last above section and shall be subject to the same action on the part of their higher bodies.

Article VIII — Amendments.

Section 1. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by the National Executive Committee or one-third of the affiliated organizations and may be passed by a majority vote at any annual national conference.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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