
Report of Proceedings of the Executive Committee of the Workingmen's Party of the US [Chicago — August 6, 8, 11, 18, 1876]

Published in *The Labor Standard* [New York], vol. 1, no. 21 (Sept. 2, 1876), pg. 4.

Abstract of Minutes.

First meeting at Silver Leaf Grove [Chicago], Aug. 6th [1876].

The Committee constituted itself according to the Constitution, and the following Party officers were elected:

Philip Van Patten, corresponding secretary; J.C. Pfeiffer, recording secretary; William Jeffers, financial secretary; H. Stein, treasurer.

Resolved, minutes of each meeting of the Executive shall be kept in the German and English languages by the recording and corresponding secretaries.

Resolved, Comrades Pfeiffer and Van Patten are appointed a Committee to have membership cards and constitutions printed — the number of each being limited to 10,000 — of which 7,000 constitutions should be printed in German and 3,000 in the English languages. This committee was given authority to use their own discretion as to materials and arrangements. Thorsmarck was instructed to have a limited number of cards and constitutions printed in the Scandinavian language.

Resolved, that the corresponding and recording secretaries be instructed to draw up an address to the Party and submit same at the next meeting.

Meeting Aug. 8th [1876] jointly with the Committee on Administration of the Party Organ *Vorbote*. Treasurer's bond was fixed at \$250.00. Manager's bond was also fixed at \$250.00. The officers of the Committee on Administration were then elected.

Meeting Aug. 11th [1876]. Resolved, to hold regular meetings of the Executive Committee of the WP of US on Friday evening of each week at 130 W. Lake St. [Chicago].

Arrangements were made for calling special meetings of the Executive, when necessary. The corresponding secretary [Van Patten] was instructed to publish a notice in the Party Organs calling upon all branches of the party to complete their organization under the new regulations and send in full lists of members' names with occupation of each. Also to notify the corresponding secretary as to the number of cards and constitutions needed by each branch.

Meeting Aug. 18th [1876]. A communication from the Social Democratic Printing Association, stating that said Association was now printing (by order of the late Congress [Philadelphia: July 19-22, 1876]) 5,000 constitutions in connection with the same pamphlets containing report of the proceedings of the Congress. It was therefore resolved that but 5,000 constitutions should be printed in Chicago, as the New York pamphlets will be amply sufficient for the present.

The secretaries were directed to complete the address to the Party, writing the same in unison. A committee of the Socialistic Trades Unions was then received. They desired information as to the method of organizing Trades Unions under our Party Constitution. The Committee not having official copy of the report of proceedings of the late Congress was unable to take action in the matter. The secretary [Van Patten]

was instructed to call a special joint meeting of the Trades Unions Committee and the Executive Committee as soon as the report of the Congress is received. It was decided that membership cards and constitutions will only be issued to the sections when called for and the exact number desired is stated.

A communication from Dr. Stiebeling of New York was read, said comrade having offered to assist the Party Organs, the *Arbeiter-Stimme* and the *Labor Standard* in the capacity of Assistant Editor — his services being given gratuitously. The Committee instructed the secretary [Van Patten] to forward the communication to the editors of those papers for their approval, after which decisive action may be taken.

The secretary was instructed to order of the pamphlets being printed in New York 2,000 German and 1,000 English copies and to order all those not needed in New York to be sent to our Committee.

The secretary was instructed to send a condensed report of the proceedings of the Executive Committee up to date to Party Organs for publication.

The secretaries were then instructed to draw up an address to the Workingmen's Parties of Europe, giving them an account of the progress of Socialism in the US and also sending them the report of the late Congress in connection with the Platform and Constitution adopted at said Congress.

The secretary was instructed to keep on file all numbers of the Party Organs as fast as issued.

The secretary was authorized to have an official seal-stamp made for the use of the Executive.

The treasurer's bond was fixed at \$100 and it was resolved that all sums in excess of this amount shall be deposited in some bank vault — subject to the order of the treasurer and one other member of the Committee, and who must both be present or coincide with the withdrawal of any part of said funds.

A true copy.

Philip Van Patten,
Corresponding Secretary.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2011. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.