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# Constitution of the Young Workers League of America:

## Tentative Draft.

### Basis for Organizing Branches of the YWL.

[circa March 1, 1922]

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#### **Article I. — Name and Purpose.**

*Section 1.* The name of this organization shall be the YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE OF AMERICA.

*Section 2.* Its purpose shall be to organize and educate the young of the working class to understand their true position in capitalist society, to work for the abolition of capitalism and to aid in the establishment of a WORKERS REPUBLIC — a government functioning through the power of the proletariat to the exclusion of all other classes — as the first step towards the establishment of an INTERNATIONAL CLASSLESS SOCIETY, free from all political and economic slavery.

#### **Article II. — Emblem.**

*Section 1.* The emblem of the YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE shall be a crossed hammer and sickle on a five-pointed star, surrounded by a circular margin, having at the top the words YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE OF AMERICA, and underneath the words CLARITY AND ACTION.

#### **Article III. — Membership.**

*Section 1.* All young people between the ages

of 14 and 30 shall be eligible for membership.

*Section 2.* Every applicant for membership shall have expressed his or her willingness to enter and abide by the rules and regulations of the organization, shall have paid the required initiation fee, and must be recommended by two members in good standing in the branch in which application is tendered.

*Section 3.* Every applicant to the organization must become a member of the study class conducted by the particular branch to which he makes application.

*Section 4.* Applicants for membership shall sign the following application card:

"I, the undersigned, being familiar with and having read the CONSTITUTION, MANIFESTO and PROGRAM of the YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE, do hereby acknowledge that I am willing to join in the activities of the YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE, and be bound by its rules and regulations, and affirm that I intend to take an active part in the function of the YWL."

*Section 5.* Every applicant for membership shall pay initiation fee and dues when application is made. Final acceptance for membership shall be made at the following meeting. This rule shall not apply to the charter members of a new branch nor to those who make application to the newly organized branches during the first month.

**Article IV. — Units of Organization.**

*Section 1.* The unit of the organization of the YWL shall be the BRANCH, consisting of not less than five members.

*Section 2.* Two or more branches in the same city shall form a City Central Committee. The City Central Committee may include branches in adjacent territory where no City Central exists.

**Article V. — Administration.**

*Section 1.* The Supreme body of the YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE OF AMERICA shall be the Convention of the League.

*Section 2.* Between conventions the National Executive Committee elected by the National Convention shall be the supreme body and shall direct all the activities of the League.

*Section 3.* The City Central Committee shall have the power to supervise the activities of the branches within its jurisdiction.

*Section 4.* Language branches of the League shall have the same relation to the City Central Committee as the English speaking branches.

*Section 5.* Language Propaganda Committees shall be appointed by the National Executive Committee (whenever it deems this necessary) to supervise the work amongst the foreign speaking youth. The Language Propaganda Committees are directly responsible to the NEC.

**Article VI. — Conventions.**

*Section 1.* The Convention is the supreme body of the YWL and shall be called by the National Executive Committee at least once a year.

*Section 2.* Emergency Conventions with all the powers of regular conventions may be called by the NEC or upon demand of organizations representing 40 percent of the membership.

*Section 3.* The number of delegates to the National Convention shall be determined by the

NEC. Delegates shall be apportioned to the City Central Committees according to membership based upon average dues paid for the period of three months prior to the call for the convention. Delegates to the National Convention shall be elected at a city convention, with proportional representation for all branches.

**Article VII. —  
National Executive Committee.**

*Section 1.* Between conventions the National Executive Committee shall be the supreme body of the League and shall direct all its activities.

*Section 2.* The NEC shall consist of seven members elected by the National Convention. The Convention shall also elect five alternates, to fill vacancies in order of vote. When the list of alternates is exhausted, the National Executive Committee shall have the right of selection.

*Section 3.* The National Executive Committee shall elect an Executive Secretary and all other officers.

*Section 4.* All press and propaganda activities shall be under the control of the NEC.

**Article VIII. — Discipline.**

*Section 1.* The NEC shall have the power to suspend or expel individual members, branches, or city organizations.

*Section 2.* No branch of the YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE shall have the power to expel a member, but it may suspend such member pending action of the City Central Committee, which shall have power to expel or suspend members recommended by branches for expulsion or suspension.

*Section 3.* Where no City Central Committee exists, branches have the rights of the city organization.

*Section 4.* Every member shall have the right of appeal, whether expelled or suspended, to the

next higher body.

### **Article IX. — Dues.**

*Section 1.* Each applicant for membership shall pay an initiation fee of 25 cents, which shall be receipted for by an initiation stamp furnished by the NEC. The entire sum shall go to the National Office.

*Section 2.* Each member shall pay 25 cents per month for dues stamps, which shall be sold to the CCC for 10 cents. The CCC shall sell the stamps to the branches for 15 cents, which in turn are to sell them to their membership for the full amount of 25 cents.

*Section 3.* Special assessments may be levied by the NEC or National Convention.

*Section 4.* Members unable to pay dues on account of unemployment, strikes, sickness, or for similar reasons shall upon application to their financial secretary be furnished with exempt stamps. The number of exempt stamps shall not exceed 15 percent of regular dues purchased by each City Central Committee, per month.

*Section 5.* Members who are two months

in arrears in payment of dues shall cease to be members of the YWL in good standing. Members who are four months in arrears shall be stricken from the rolls.

*Section 6.* No member shall be permitted to pay advance dues for more than three months.

### **Article X. — Meetings.**

*Section 1.* Every branch shall hold at least one business and one educational meeting a month.

### **Article XI. — Headquarters.**

*Section 1.* The national headquarters of the YWL shall be in the city determined by the Convention.

### **Article XII. — Qualifications.**

*Section 1.* Members of the NEC must have been members of the YWL for one year at the time of their nomination, or hold membership in any organization affiliated as a body within sixty days after the first convention.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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