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# Constitution of the Young People's Socialist League.

Adopted by 1st National Convention — Chicago, May 1-4, 1919.

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## Preamble.

The Young People's Socialist League of America calls upon all young people who are interested in the emancipation of the working class from the chains of wage slavery to join its rank and through it and its associated organizations of the International Socialist Movement, to work for the overthrow of the present capitalist system in all its social and economic ramifications, and for the establishment in its stead of a worldwide socialistic cooperative commonwealth.

We call upon the youth of America to join with us in exerting every effort and making every needed sacrifice toward the realization of these aims.

## Article 1. Name.

*Sec. 1* — This organization shall be known as the Young People's Socialist League of the United States of America; affiliated internationally with the Young People's Socialist Leagues of the world.

## Article 2. Object.

*Sec. 1* — The object of this organization shall be to draw into a compact body all young people interested in the emancipation of the working class from wage slavery; whose foremost and primary function shall be to train them in the principles of International Socialism; to assist in the work of socialist propaganda and political activity; to provide means for their intellectual and physical development; and to become a center for social intercourse.

## Article 3. Membership.

*Sec. 1* — Any person between 15 and 30 years of age, regardless of sex, color, race, or creed, is eligible for membership.

*Sec. 2* — That any one member who has been a member, and has reached the age limit (30), may retain his or her associate membership in the YPSL, with a voice but no vote.

*Sec. 3* — Any member who desires to transfer his membership from the League in one state to the League in another state may do so upon the presentation of his card showing him to be in good standing at the time of asking for such transfer and also a transfer card duly signed by the Secretary of the local League from which he transfers.

## Article 4. Management.

*Sec. 1A* — The affairs of the Young People's Socialist League shall be administered by the National Convention, the National Committees of the League, and the general vote of the membership.

*Sec. 1B* — The National Convention shall be held bi-annually on May 1st of the odd numbered years.

## Article 5. National Committee.

*Sec. 1A* — The National Committee of the League shall consist of the State Secretaries of the Leagues in all organized states, or such other persons as the members of the League in the state shall elect by referendum vote, and one additional member for ev-

ery 500 members in good standing in such state or territory. For the purpose of determining the representation to which the state is entitled, the National Secretary shall compute at the beginning of each year the average dues paying membership of such state for the preceding year. The National Committeeman, in voting, shall cast the number of votes equal to the good standing membership he represents, as evidenced by the average dues stamp sale.

*Sec. 1B* — All unorganized states shall be entitled to one National Committeeman at large, if the good standing membership totals more than 100, and the election of the Committeeman shall be under the supervision of the National Secretary, and shall be through referendum.

*Sec. 2* — In all organized states, one year's consecutive membership in the League and the Socialist Party shall be necessary to qualify anyone for membership in the National Committee of the League or its subcommittees. In all unorganized states, one year's consecutive membership in the Socialist Party shall qualify anyone to be eligible for the same office.

### **Article 6. National Secretary.**

*Sec. 1* — National Secretary of the Young People's Socialist League, who shall also serve as Director of the Young People's Department of the Socialist Party, shall be nominated by the League. Each League shall be entitled to submit its nominations, together with a statement, and evidence of the qualifications of their nominee, as well as a statement of acceptance. These names shall be submitted to a referendum vote of the League membership by the National Secretary of the League.

*Sec. 2A* — The term of office of the National Secretary shall be two years. Nominations are to be offered in time for election in January of odd numbered years, and the Secretary-elect is to take office on the first of July following.

*Sec. 2B* — The National Secretary shall not be eligible for re-election after having served two consecutive terms.

*Sec. 3* — The National Secretary of the League shall have charge of the organization of new leagues, the touring of speakers and organizers, the work of propaganda and education; he shall handle all corre-

spondence and detailed matters connected with the office; he shall receive, pay, and act as custodian of all league finances.

*Sec. 4* — The National Secretary shall be at all times subject to the direction of the National Committee of the League.

### **Article 7. State Organization.**

*Sec. 1* — The formation of all state or territorial organization, or the reorganization of state or territorial organizations which may have lapsed, shall be under the direction of the National Secretary in conformity with the rules of the National Committee of the League.

*Sec. 2* — It shall require 3 leagues or more, situated in as many cities or towns, with an aggregate membership of not less than 100, to form a state federation.

*Sec. 3* — In states where there is one central organization affiliated with the Young People's Socialist League, the state organization shall have sole jurisdiction of the members residing within their respective territories, and the sole control of all matters relating to the propaganda, organization, and financial affairs within such states, provided such propaganda is in harmony with the declared principles of the Young People's Socialist league. In unorganized states, a central League shall have jurisdiction over all YPSL affairs within its territory, but this does not include the granting of a charter.

*Sec. 4* — All actions of the state or local organizations shall be in accordance with the principles of the Young People's Socialist League. Any state or local organization issuing declarations not in conformity with those principles, shall have their charters subject to revocation by the National Committee of the League.

*Sec. 5* — During the months of January and July each year, the State Secretaries shall furnish the National Secretary a list of all circles affiliated with their respective state organization, together with a list of names and addresses of their members in good standing, and of all officers of their organization. In unorganized states, the circle or central organization shall do the same. Refusal or failure to comply with this section shall subject the state organizations to suspen-

sion from the Young People's Socialist League, and deprive such state organization of representation on any committee of the national organization.

*Sec. 6* — In cities of unorganized states where a forming circle cannot obtain the consent of the existing League to organize, it may appeal to the National Committee of the League for a charter.

*Sec. 7A* — All organized states shall be known as state federations.

*Sec. 7B* — In any city where there is one Young People's Socialist League organization, it shall be known as the League.

*Sec. 7C* — In cities where there are more than one Young People's Socialist League organization, each of these shall be known as a circle, and the confederation of these circles shall be known as the League.

*Sec. 8* — The state organization shall purchase dues stamps from the National Office at 5 cents each. Only such dues stamps as issued by the National Office shall be affixed to members' dues cards as valid receipts for the payment of dues.

*Sec. 9A* — The National Office shall also issue to the state and local secretaries "exempt stamps" free of charge, to be used by League members temporarily unable to pay dues on account of sickness, strikes, lock-outs, or any other condition beyond their control.

*Sec. 9B* — The number of "exempt stamps" shall not exceed 10 percent of the total number of stamps obtained by the local or state organization at the time of the order. The acceptance of "exempt stamps" by any member shall in no way disqualify such member from rights and privileges of the League.

### **Article 8. Electing Delegates to National Convention.**

*Sec. 1A* — Every Circle, League, or State Federation shall be entitled to send as many delegates to the National Convention as they desire.

*Sec. 1B* — Each delegate shall cast as many ballots as the organization has members which he represents; the same to be determined by the average amount of dues stamps purchased by said organization during the 6 months preceding the call for the convention.

*Sec. 2* — For the purpose of determining the representation to which each state is entitled, the National Secretary shall compute at the beginning of each

calendar year the average dues-paying membership of such state for the preceding year.

*Sec. 3* — All State Federations and all Leagues in unorganized territory shall provide finances for their own delegations.

*Sec. 4* — The National Committee shall announce the location of the convention 3 months prior to the holding thereof.

### **Article 9. Delegates to International Congresses.**

*Sec. 1* — A delegate to the International Congress shall be elected by national referendum, unless lack of time prohibits; in which case, the National Committee may elect such a delegate.

### **Article 10. Junior Organizations.**

*Sec. 1* — The Junior Young People's Socialist League shall be recognized as a part of the YPSL of the United States, and shall be affiliated with the National Office.

*Sec. 2* — It shall consist of boys and girls between the ages of twelve (12) and sixteen (16) years inclusive.

*Sec. 3* — It shall be entitled to fraternal representation at all local, state, or national gatherings of the YPSL.

*Sec. 4* — It shall purchase dues stamps from the National Office at the rate of 2 cents per month per member.

### **Article 11. Application Cards.**

*Sec. 1* — All application cards and other organizations supplies essential for formation and maintenance of the Leagues shall be uniform, and shall be published by the National Office. These shall be prepared by the National Secretary under the direction of the National Committee. Any desired departure to meet local needs must have the consent of the National Committee. All application cards shall be printed in red.

**Article 12. Referendums.**

*Sec. 1* — Motions or resolutions to be voted upon by the entire membership of the League, including proposed amendments to the constitution, shall be submitted by the National Secretary to a referendum vote of the League membership, upon the request of circles or 3 state committees representing at least 10 percent of the entire membership on the basis of dues paid in the preceding year. A motion for referendum may be initiated by a regular organized state committee or any circle.

*Sec. 2* — Each motion and resolution shall be printed in *The Young Socialists' Magazine*, and remain open 90 days from the date of first publication, and if it has not then received the requisite number of seconds, it shall be abandoned. The vote on each referendum shall close 40 days after its submission.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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