
Memo on Branch Membership Status in WPA Dist. 9 to Executive Secretary C.E. Ruthenberg in Chicago from DO9 Clarence Hathaway in Minneapolis, November 19, 1924.

Document in the Comintern Archive, RGASPI f. 515, op. 1, d. 322, ll. 11-15.

Nov. 19, 1924. Not registered.

C.E. Ruthenberg,
1113 W Washington Blvd.
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Comrade:

I am beginning to check back on the branches in my district. I find that with the industrial registration, the monthly report cards, and the Federation dues refunds that I can get a very good check on the activity and responsibility of some of my branches. In putting these three things together I get some rather interesting results which I am passing on to you for solution. I wish you would take this matter up with the various Federation secretaries and see if they can do anything from their offices to make these figures balance a little better. The following are the branches together with their deficiencies:

Arthyde, Minn. Finnish.

Monthly report: March — 20 members.
Last dues payment: February — 6 Regular dues, 20 Dual.
Not registered.

Bovey, Minn. Finnish.

Report: April — 22 members.
Last dues payments: May — 16 Dual.
Registered.

Brainerd, Minn. Finnish.

Report: September — 7 members.
Last dues payments: February — 20 Dual.

Brimson, Minn. Finnish.

No report.
Last dues payments: March — 20 Regular, 20 Dual.
Not registered.

Chisholm, Minn. Finnish.

Regular monthly reports show 82 members.
Last dues payments: May — 20 Regular, 30 Dual.
Registered.

Cloquet, Minn. Finnish.

Last report: May — 45 members.
Not registered.

Cromwell, Minn. Finnish.

October report — 37 members.
Last dues payment: May — 14 Regular, 20 Dual.
Registered.

Duluth, Minn. Finnish.

October report — 50 members.
Last dues payments: July — 40 Regular, 20 Dual.
Registered.

Duluth, Minn. Scandinavian.

No report.
Last dues payments: July — 20 Regular.
Not registered.

Ely, Minn. South Slavic.

Report: April — 15 members.
Dues payment: July — 8 Regular.
Registered.

†- Hathaway seems to have become District Organizer in D9 [Minneapolis] in the summer of 1924, circa July, replacing Norman Tallentire, who was moved to serve as District Organizer in D12 [Seattle].

Florenton, Minn. Finnish.

No reports.

Last dues payments: April — 12 Regular, 8 Dual.

Not Registered.

Gilbert, Minn. Finnish.

Report: September — 15 members.

Dues payments: July — 30 Regular.

Registered.

International Falls, Minn. Finnish.

Report: March — 17 members.

Dues payments: April — 10 Regular, 20 Dual.

Not registered.

Ironton, Minn. South Slavic.

No Report.

Last dues payments: February — 7 Regular.

Not registered.

Mahtowa, Minn. Finnish.

No report.

Last dues payments: June — 10 Regular, 10 Dual.

Not registered.

Markham, Minn. Finnish.

No report.

Last dues payments: May — 20 Regular.

Not registered.

Minneapolis, Minn. Jewish.

Reports for Aug., Sept., and Oct. show 23 members.

Last dues payments: September — 20 Regular dues.

Only 23 Regular and 10 Dual purchased previously throughout the year making an average membership paid for of about 6.

Registered.

Minneapolis, Minn. Lettish.

Report: September — 7 members.

Dues payments: April — 20 Regular.

This being the only stamps purchased throughout the year giving them an average of less than 2 members paid for.

Registered.

Minneapolis, Minn. Scandinavian.

Report: September — 12 members.

Last dues payments: June — 20 Regular, 10 Dual.

This being the only stamps purchased during the entire

year, giving them an average membership paid for of about 4.

Not registered.

Minneapolis, Minn. Ukrainian.

Report: September — 27 members.

Dues payments: September — 20 Regular.

Total dues payment throughout year including Regular and Dual — 130. Giving them an average of about 126 members.†

Registered.

Nashwauk, Minn. Finnish.

September report — 11 members.

Last dues payments: May — 20 Regular, 20 Dual.

Registered.

Nashwauk, Minn. South Slavic.

No monthly reports.

Last dues payments: July — 5 Dual.

Registered.

Hibbing, Minn. Finnish.

No monthly reports.

Last dues payments: July — 20 Regular, 20 Dual.

Not registered.

Orr, Minn. Finnish.

August report — 22 members.

Last dues payment: September — 10 Regular.

Registered.

Pine River, Minn. (Cloquet)

September report — 13 members.

Last dues payments: June — 9 Regular, 20 Dual.

These being the only dues payments throughout the year.

Not registered.

Saima, Minn. (Cloquet)

Last report: March — 30 members.

Last dues payments: July — 10 Regular, 10 Dual.

Giving them an average dues paying membership of 15 for the year.

Registered.

St. Paul, Minn. German.

Regular monthly reports show 12 members paid to date.

Last dues payments: March — 20 Regular.

Only 40 stamps purchased throughout year giving them

†- Throughout this document Hathaway fails to correctly round up fractions for average memberships paid. The effect is to slightly overstate the disparity between reported memberships of each branch and the dues actually paid.

an average of 4 members.
Registered.

St. Paul, Minn. Jewish.

August report — 16 members.
Last dues payments: July — 18 Regular, 2 Dual.
Giving them an average dues paying membership of 6.
Registered.

Sturgeon Town, Minn. Finnish.

Last report: October — 10 members.
Last dues payments: January — 20 Regular, 20 Dual.
Their report shows 10 members all paid up within one month on the basis of 60 stamps for the year.
Registered.

Toimi, Minn. Finnish.

Last report: April — 24 members.
Last dues payments: June — 20 Dual.
Not registered.

Wright, Minn. Finnish.

Last report: September — 9 members.
Last dues payments: April — 10 Dual.
These being the only dues stamps purchased during the year.
Registered.

Ahmeek, Mich. Finnish.

Last report: September — 16 members.
Last dues payments: July — 10 Regular dues.
Registered.

Defiance, Mich. Finnish.

No report.
No dues stamps.
No registration.

East Branch, Mich. Finnish.

October report — 14 members.
Last dues payments: February — 20 Dual.
Registered.
This branch reports regularly to the office here but apparently did not purchase dues stamps.

Eben Junction, Mich. Finnish.

Report: September — 26 members.
Last dues payments: May — 20 Regular, 10 Dual.
Not registered.
Average for year about 10.

Ewen, Mich. (Bruces Crossing) Finnish.

Last report: March — 9 members.
Dues stamps purchased: September — 20 Regular, 20 Dual.
Dues payments appear up-to-date. Cannot get any reply on reports or industrial registration.

Fire Steel, Mich. (Ontonagon) Finnish.

No reports.
20 Dual stamps purchased in October.
No industrial registration.
No reply.

Green, Mich. Finnish.

Regular monthly reports show 30 members.
Last dues payments: April — 20 Regular, 40 Dual.
Registered.

Herman, Mich. Finnish.

Report: October — 31 members.
Last dues payments: July — 20 Dual.
Total for year 105, showing average approximately 10 members.
Registered.

Iron River, Mich. Finnish.

Last report: April — 14 members.
Last dues payments: April — 20 Dual.
Total for year 90 — average 9.
Registered.

Marquette, Mich. Finnish.

No monthly reports.
Last dues payments: July — 10 Dual.
Total for year 100 — average 10. Impossible for District Office to get replies from this branch on anything sent out.
No industrial registration.

Michigamme, Mich. Finnish.

Last report: April — 31 members.
Last dues sales: April — 20 Regular, 20 Dual.
Total for year 180 — average 18.
No industrial registration.

Munising, Mich. Finnish.

Last report: October — 15 members.
Last dues payments: June — 10 Regular, 10 Dual.
Total for year 40 — average 4.
Registered.

Negaunee, Mich. Finnish.

Last report: March — 26 members.
 Last dues sales: May — 14 Regular, 14 Dual.
 Total for year 112 — average 11.
 No industrial registration; no replies on matters sent out by District Office.

North Ironwood, Mich. Finnish.

Last report: March — 30 members.
 Last dues payments: February — 6 Regular.
 Total for year 66 — average 6 [*sic.*]
 Not registered.

Paynesville, Mich. Finnish.

Last report: April — 34 members.
 Last dues payments: September — 20 Regular, 30 Dual.
 Total for year — 225, average 22.
 No industrial registration.

Pelkie, Mich. Finnish.

Last monthly report: September — 18 members.
 Last dues payments: June — 8 Regular, 16 Dual.
 Total for year — 96, average 9.

Ramsay, Mich. Finnish.

Last monthly report: October — 56 members.
 Last dues payments: September — 20 Regular dues.
 Total for year — 110, average 11.
 Not registered.

Rock, Mich. Finnish.

Last monthly report: May — 12 members.
 Last dues payment: April — 20 Regular, 10 Dual.
 Total for year — 30, average 3.†
 Registered.

Rudyard, Mich. Finnish.

Last monthly report: April — 18 members.
 Last dues payments: May — 10 Regular, 10 Dual.
 Total for year — 90, average 9.
 Registered.

Tapiola, Mich. (Chassell) Finnish.

No monthly reports.
 Last dues payments: April — 20 Regular, 10 Dual.
 Total for year — 40, average 4.
 No industrial registration.
 Impossible to get reply from communications sent by district office.

Trenary, Mich. Finnish.

Last monthly report: October — 17 members.
 Last dues payments: June — 20 Regular, 20 Dual.
 Total purchased — 60, average 12. [*sic.*]
 Registered.

Wasa Siding, Mich. (Wainola) Finnish.

Last report: August — 7 members.
 Last dues payments: April — 16 Dual.
 Total for year — 32, average 3.
 Registered.

Bloomville, Wis. (Gleason) Lettish [Latvian].

No monthly reports.
 Last dues payments: June — 2 Regular dues.
 Total for year — 7 Regular dues.
 No industrial registration.
 Impossible for District Office to secure any replies from this branch.

Brantwood, Wis. Finnish.

No monthly reports.
 Dues payments: September — 12 Regular dues, 6 Duals.
 Total for year — 154, average 15.
 No industrial registration.

Eagle River. Finnish.

Last monthly report: May — 7 members.
 No dues payments for year.
 No industrial registration.
 Impossible to secure replies from branch.

Marengo, Wis. Finnish.

Last monthly report: May — 16 members.
 Dues payments for year average 16 members but it seems to be impossible to get an industrial registration from this branch through the District Office.

Owen, Wis. Finnish.

Monthly report for July, August, September, and October shows 48 members.
 Last dues payments: June — 10 Regular dues.
 Total for year — 310, average 31.
 Registered.

Phelps, Wis. Finnish.

No monthly reports.
 Last dues payments: September — 10 Regular, 30 Dual.
 Total for year — 150, average 15.

†- This indicates that Hathaway counts Dual stamps as 1 member in this report — whereas in reality they represented paid dues on 2 individuals, a married couple. A correct calculation of average paid membership should count Dual stamps as 2.

No industrial registration.
Impossible for District Office to secure replies from this branch.

Vaino, Wis. (Brule) Finnish.

Last monthly report: August — 45 members.
Last dues purchased: July — 40 Regular, 60 Dual.
Total for year — 380, average 38.
No industrial registration.

Wentworth, Wis. Finnish.

Last monthly report: March — 17 members.
Last dues payments: April — 4 Regular, 20 Dual.
Total for year — 88, average 8.
No industrial registration.

You can see from the above summary that there is a wide discrepancy between the membership reported to the District Office and the membership that is actually paying dues to the Federation Secretaries. Do the Federation Secretaries receive a copy of the monthly reports sent in by the District Organizers to the National Office? It seems to me that a considerable portion of this can be overcome. It also seems as though the branches at present look upon their Federation as the only connection to the Party and pay very little attention to the matters sent out from the District Office. You will notice that many branches appear to be corresponding regularly with their Federation Secretaries but fail to make any report to the District Office. They ignore the question of industrial registration and otherwise fail to function as a unit of the district. Strenuous steps should be taken to overcome this situation. I would suggest that you take this matter up with the Federation Secretaries at once and insist on something being done to remedy the matter.

Hoping for an early reply, I am,

Fraternally yours,

C.A. Hathaway,
DO Dist. #9

CAH/HT

Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport.

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