

# The Iowa Socialist

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## Convention Proceedings

[Below will be found a synopsis of the proceedings of the national convention up to the time we go to press.]

The national convention of the Socialist party of the United States was called to order by National Secretary Wm. Mailly, at Brand's Hall, Chicago, Sunday morning, May 1, shortly after 10 o'clock.

Nearly every delegate elected to the convention was present when the meeting was called to order.

"Before calling for the election of temporary officers for the convention," said Secretary Mailly, "which I believe will be the next thing in order, I will state that I am glad to be able to announce to the convention that the comrades of Wisconsin have presented to the Socialist party for the use of the chairman during this convention and succeeding conventions, this gavel, in the name of the Socialist party of Wisconsin."

The secretary exhibited a beautiful silver gavel, and the presentation was greeted with enthusiasm.

"The next thing in order is the election of temporary chairman and temporary secretary, after which the election of the committee on credentials and committee on rules of order, if the convention sees fit, shall be elected. Nominations for temporary chairman are now in order."

James F. Carey, of Massachusetts, was elected temporary chairman.

Charles Dobbs, of New York, was elected temporary secretary.

Delegates Garver, Hayes, Kronenberg, Titus, Floaten, Bistorius and Lee were chosen as the committee on credentials.

Comrades Work, Slobodin, Stedman, Gaylord, Taft, Penrose and Robbins were elected a committee on rules.

The credentials committee reported the following entitled to seats:

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| ALABAMA.            |                   |
| F. X. Waldhorst     |                   |
| ARKANSAS.           |                   |
| Wells LeFever       | Wm. Penrose       |
| CALIFORNIA.         |                   |
| J. L. Cobb          | N. A. Richardson  |
| P. Deutzman         | H. B. Weaver      |
| M. W. Wilkins       | Bertha Wilkins    |
| Paul H. Keller      | J. Stitt Wilson   |
| H. M. McKee         | C. W. Woodbey     |
| J. J. Patton        |                   |
| COLORADO.           |                   |
| Wm. Ash             | Guy E. Miller     |
| A. H. Floaten       | R. A. Southworth  |
| Ida Crouch-Hazlett  |                   |
| CONNECTICUT.        |                   |
| Cornelius Mahony    | Eugene Toomey     |
| IDAHO.              |                   |
| E. B. Ault          |                   |
| ILLINOIS.           |                   |
| B. Berlyn           | Thos. J. Morgan   |
| Sam Block           | J. E. Phelan      |
| Chas. L. Beckon     | D. M. Smith       |
| Jas. H. Brower      | Jas. S. Smith     |
| E. E. Carr          | A. M. Simons      |
| John Collins        | S. Stedman        |
| Wm. Dalton          | M. H. Taft        |
| A. W. Mance         | Ernest Unterman   |
| Theo. Meyer         |                   |
| INDIANA.            |                   |
| Wm. Barrett         | Matt Hollenberger |
| Eugene V. Debs      | James Oneal       |
| IOWA.               |                   |
| John W. Bennett     | Carrie L. Johnson |
| J. J. Jacobsen      | John M. Work      |
| KANSAS.             |                   |
| Mrs. E. G. Cogswell | Walter T. Mills   |
| Mrs. Luella R. Kray | Thomas E. Will    |
| bill                |                   |
| KENTUCKY.           |                   |
| Thomas McGrady      | A. L. Nagel       |
| LOUISIANA.          |                   |
| Wilbur Putnam       |                   |
| MARYLAND.           |                   |
| Wm. A. Toole        |                   |
| MASSACHUSETTS.      |                   |
| James F. Carey      | H. A. Gibbs       |
| Herman Brandt       | John J. Kelly     |
| J. A. Kaown         | A. B. Outram      |
| Geo. E. Littlefield | Dan A. White      |
| MICHIGAN.           |                   |
| Wm. L. Benessi      | J. H. McFarlan    |
| C. J. Lamb          | John A. C. Menton |
| MINNESOTA.          |                   |
| M. A. Brattland     | Nicholas Klein    |

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## The National Constitution

ADOPTED BY CHICAGO CONVENTION

### ARTICLE I—NAME.

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Socialist Party, except in states where a different name has or may become a legal requirement.

### ARTICLE II—MEMBERSHIP.

Sec. 1. Every person, resident of the United States, of the age of 18 years and upward, without distinction of sex, race, color or creed who has severed connection with all other political parties and who subscribes to the principles of the party is eligible to membership. Any person occupying a position, honorary or remunerative, by the gift of any other political party (civil service positions excepted) shall not be eligible to membership in the Socialist party.

Sec. 2. A member who desires to transfer his membership from a local in one state to a local 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.

### ARTICLE III—MANAGEMENT.

Sec. 1. The affairs of the Socialist party shall be administered by a national committee, its officers and executive committee, the party conventions, and the general votes of the party.

### ARTICLE IV—NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

Sec. 1. Each organized state or territory shall be represented on the national committee by one member and by an additional member for every one thousand members or major fraction thereof, in good standing in the party. For the purpose of determining the representation to which each state or territory is entitled, the national secretary shall compute at the beginning of each year the average dues paying membership of such state or territory for the preceding year.

Sec. 2. The members of this committee shall be elected by referendum vote of and from the membership of the states or territories which they respectively represent. Their term of office shall not be more than two years.

Sec. 3. The national committee shall meet in regular session in all even numbered years when no national conventions of the party shall take place. Special meetings shall be called at the request of a majority of the members of the committee. The dates and places of such meetings shall be determined by the national committee.

Sec. 4. Expenses of the national committeemen in attending meetings shall be paid from the national treasury.

5. Between the sessions of the national committee, all its business shall be transacted by correspondence.

6. The national committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure not inconsistent with the provisions of this constitution.

### ARTICLE V.—DUTIES AND POWERS OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

Sec. 1. The duties of this committee shall be to represent the party in all national and international affairs; to call national nominating conventions and special conventions decided upon by referendum of the party; to arrange rules and order of business of national convention subject to the approval of the convention; to make reports to national conventions; to receive and pass upon all reports and actions of the executive committee.

Sec. 2. The national committee shall neither publish nor designate any official organ.

### ARTICLE VI.—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Sec. 1. The executive committee of the national committee shall be composed of seven members to be elected by the national committee, from the membership of the party, but no more than three members of the said committee shall be elected from one state. The term of office of the executive committee shall be one year.

Sec. 2. The executive committee shall meet at least once in three months. It shall supervise and direct the work of the national secretary, organize unorganized states and territories, receive semi-annual reports from the state committees, receive and pass upon the reports of the national secretary, and transact all current business of the national office, except such as are by this constitution or by the rules of the national committee expressly reserved for the national committee expressly reserved for the national committee or the general vote of the party.

Sec. 3. The executive committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure not inconsistent with this constitution or with the rules of the national committee.

Sec. 4. The executive committee shall transmit copies of the minutes of its meetings to all members of the national committee, and all its acts and resolutions shall be subject to the revision of the national committee.

Sec. 5. Between sessions of the executive committee all its business shall be transacted by correspondence.

### ARTICLE VII—NATIONAL SECRETARY.

Sec. 1. The national secretary shall be elected by the national committee; his term of office shall be one year. The national secretary shall receive as compensation the sum of \$1,500 annually.

Sec. 2. The national secretary shall have charge of all affairs of the national office subject to the directions of the executive committee, and the national committee. He shall receive the reports of the state organizations and of local organizations in unorganized states and territories. He shall supervise the accounts of the national office, and the work of the lecture bureau, the literature bureau and such other departments as may hereafter be established in connection with the national office.

Sec. 3. The national secretary shall issue to all party organizations in such a way as the executive committee may direct, monthly bulletins containing a report on the financial affairs of the party, a summary of the condition and the membership of the several state and territorial organizations of the principal business transacted by his office, and such other matters pertaining to the organization and activity of the party, as may be of general interest to the membership. Such bulletins shall not contain editorial comment.

Sec. 4. The national secretary shall be empowered to secure such help as may be necessary for the proper transaction of the business of his office.

Sec. 5. The national secretary and members of the executive committee may be removed from office at any time by a majority vote of the members of the national committee.

### ARTICLE VIII—THE LECTURE BUREAU.

Sec. 1. There shall be maintained in connection with the national office a lecture bureau for the purpose of arranging tours for lecturers on the propaganda of Socialism.

Sec. 2. The lecture bureau shall have no connection with the work of organization, and it shall have the right to make arrangements for the lecturers under its auspices with all state or local organizations of the party.

Sec. 3. The national committee shall establish a uniform rate of compensation for all lecturers and organizers working under its auspices.

### ARTICLE IX—THE LITERATURE BUREAU.

Sec. 1. The national committee shall also maintain in the headquarters of the party a department for the dissemination of Socialist literature.

Sec. 2. The literature bureau shall keep for sale to the local organizations of the party and others

a stock of Socialist books, pamphlets and other literature, and shall have the right, with the approval of the committee, to publish works on Socialism or for the purposes of Socialist propaganda, but this clause shall not be construed as authorizing the bureau to publish any periodical.

Sec. 3. The profits of the literature bureau shall go into the general funds of the treasury.

### ARTICLE X—CONVENTIONS.

Sec. 1. The regular national conventions of the party shall be held in all years in which elections for president and vice-president of the United States are to be held.

Sec. 2. Special conventions of the party may be held at any time if decided upon by a general vote of the party membership.

Sec. 3. The dates and places of holding such regular or special conventions shall be fixed by the national committee.

Sec. 4. The basis of representation in any national convention shall be by states, each state and territory being entitled to one delegate-at-large, and one additional delegate for every 200 members in good standing, provided, however, that no delegate shall be considered eligible unless he or she is a resident of the state from which the credential is presented.

Sec. 5. The railroad fares of the delegates in going to and coming from the place of convention shall be paid from the national treasury, and such expense shall be raised by a per capita assessment on the entire membership.

### ARTICLE XI—REFERENDUM.

Sec. 1. Motions to amend any part of this constitution, as well as any other other motions or resolutions to be voted upon by the entire membership of the party, shall be submitted by the national secretary to a referendum of the party membership, upon the request of twenty locals in five states or territories, or any smaller number of such organizations having a membership of at least 2,000 in the aggregate.

Sec. 2. Whenever a request for a referendum shall have been made as above provided, the national secretary shall forthwith cause the same to be published in the party press, and shall allow such question to stand open for forty-five days, within which time amendments may be offered thereto in the same manner in which an original request for a referendum is to be made, and at the close of the said period of thirty days, the original motion submitted to referendum, together with all and any amendments which might have been offered, shall be submitted to the vote of the party members, and such vote shall close forty-five days thereafter.

Sec. 3. All propositions or other matters submitted for a referendum of the party shall be presented without preamble or comment.

### ARTICLE XII—STATE ORGANIZATIONS.

Sec. 1. The formation of all state or territorial organizations or the reorganization of state or territorial organizations which may have lapsed, shall be under the direction of the executive committee, and in conformity with the rules of the national committee.

Sec. 2. No state or territory shall be organized unless it has at least ten locals with an aggregate membership of not less than 100, but this provision shall not affect

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