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# The Party Organization — 2: The Group Organizer.

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The functions of the basic organization of the party, the group, were discussed in the preceding article. The connecting link between the group and the next unit of the party organization is the group organizer elected by the group.

In addition to electing one of its members as group organizer the group should also designate an alternate to act in case the group organizer is unable to do so.

The group organizer and alternate should each keep a record of the names and addresses of all the members of the group. This record need not be kept in writing. The names and addresses of 10 persons can be easily memorized, thus eliminating the risk which is always part of written records. If the list is kept in writing it should be in such form as to be useless to outsiders. For the purpose of keeping a record of dues payments the members should be numbered.

The group organizer is charged with collecting from the members of his group the monthly dues. Under the party constitution each member must pay 75¢ dues per month, receiving as receipt a dues stamp, which is to be destroyed by the member. Dues cards are abolished. No advance payments are accepted and members who do not make regular payments must be excluded from the group after 3 months, unless nonpayment is due to unemployment or other disability. In such a case the group organizer reports the reason for nonpayment and the member is considered in

good standing.

The group organizer also collects special assessments and all other contributions to the party treasury. A financial report blank for group organizers is provided by the National Organization, which the group organizer should secure from his branch organizer and use in making his financial reports. The group organizer turns all funds he collects over to the organizer of the branch, taking a receipt therefor.

## **Propaganda Material.**

It is the duty of the group organizer to provide his group with all party propaganda literature and the official publications of the party.

He should find out from members of his group how many free propaganda leaflets each can distribute; how many copies of pamphlets, of *The Communist*, official organ of the party, and *The Class Struggle*, the monthly theoretical magazine,† he can sell, and place an order with the branch organizer, distribute them to the members of his group when received, and collect the money from these members when the literature is sold.

It is the duty of the group organizer to furnish each member of his group with one copy of the official organ of the party in the language that the member reads, free of charge. The Communist is now issued in English, German, Polish, Croatian, Russian, Jewish [Yiddish], Lithuanian,

†- The final issue of *The Class Struggle* was published in November 1919 by the Communist Labor Party. No issues were published under the auspices of the UCP.

Finnish, and Hungarian. The party is also issuing the Program, Constitution, and an appeal to the workers in Italian, Spanish, Swedish, and Lettish [Latvian]. When the necessary support develops *The Communist* will be issued in these and other languages.

The group organizer should not limit the literature for his group to the language the members speak. It will frequently happen that the members of an English, or Russian, or some other language group, will be in touch with workers speaking another language. It is the business of the group organizer to secure such literature as the members of his group can use advantageously in carrying on the work of propaganda and extending the party organization.

The group organizer should secure information from the branch organizer in regard to the new publications of the party, such as leaflets and pamphlets, and inform his group members about the available literature.

### **Organization Functions.**

The group organizer is the medium through whom the decisions of the party are transmitted to the membership. He should inform himself thoroughly about all decisions of the branch committee, the Sub-District Committee, the District Committee, and the Central Executive Committee of the party and bring these decisions before his group for the information of the members and discussion. In turn it is his duty to transmit to the higher bodies of the party the recommendations and criticism which the group may adopt.

Under the party constitution not more than 10 groups are constituted a branch, which is the organization unit above the group. The group organizers of the groups which are joined together as a branch constitute the branch committee. This

branch committee elects the organizer of the branch, who is the connecting link with the organization level higher.

### **General.**

Whether the group functions efficiently in carrying on the work of the party is largely dependent upon the group organizer. He can through his suggestions stimulate the work of the members of his group. He should familiarize himself with methods of propaganda in order that he can make such suggestions, endeavoring to increase the activity of the members in every way possible.

The National Organization will furnish a card for use of group organizers in ascertaining the occupation, place of employment, and union affiliation of the members of the groups, for the purposes of shop and industrial council organization.

There is still another way in which the group organizer can render service to the party. From time to time he will find among members of his group comrades who develop capabilities for work in the party organization as organizers, writers, and educators. The group organizers should bring such comrades to the attention of the party officials so that their ability may be utilized in the party work.

It will be clear from the foregoing that the group organizer occupies an important position in the party organization and that the most capable comrade in the group should be elected to that position. Every group organizer holds a position of trust and responsibility and he should endeavor to discharge his duties in such a way as to make the party organization function in the most efficient manner.

*Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.*

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