
Constitution of the Lithuanian Workers Literature Society, (Organized Sept. 20, 1915).

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Organization's Name.

This organization's name is Lithuanian Workers Literature Society (LWLS).

LWLS Purpose.

1) The Lithuanian Workers Literature Society sets as its purpose the publishing of such writings which would raise throughout the masses of workers class consciousness, socialistic intellect, and solidarity, and otherwise broaden the boundaries of their knowledge ... by publishing books from belle-lettristic literature and various other branches of learning. This society will, however, mostly concern itself with the publication of writings scrutinizing and thoroughly embracing the problems of the workers — writings scrutinizing problems of scientific socialism in theory and practice.

2) The LWLS will also by all manner of means endeavor to broaden the knowledge of workers by arranging speeches, literature evenings, theaters, and establishing libraries.

3) With the LWLS there is established a Scholar's Fund into which members make payments of their own free will and according to their means. LWLS groups, upholding the above mentioned fund, collect offerings and arrange various entertainments, the profit or part of which is allotted to the upholding of the fund.

4) The LWLS will give financial support from said fund to those scholars who have actively supported the movement of the working class. The Central Committee and the Literary Committee will determine to whom support will be given.

Rules and Regulations of LWLS.

1) This organization enacts or amends its rules by referendum, majority rules.

2) The organization's Central Committee, Literary Committee, and organ are elected every year by referendum.

3) Committeemen of the Central and Literary Committees can be only those who are members of the Lithuanian Socialist Federation of America, or members of the Socialist Party, and who have been members of the LWLS or LSF not less than one year.

4) The Central Committee, Literary Committee, and every group has the privilege to give suggestions and to make motions for the organization's welfare. Before the motion is voted on, it must be seconded during the period of 60 days by at least 5 groups.

Groups and Members.

1) The LWLS is composed of groups and individual members. It takes five members to form a group.

2) The Group elects its chairman, secretary, financial secretary, and librarian.

3) Groups should hold their meetings once a month.

4) Order of the meetings:

(a) Opening of the meeting.

(b) Election of the chairman.

(c) Reading of the minutes of last meeting.

(d) Initiation of new members.

(e) Reports of the various committees.

(f) Reading of letters and other correspondence.

(g) Payment of membership dues.

- (h) Unfinished business.
- (i) New suggestions for the interest of the group and public.
- (j) Welfare of the circuit.
- (k) LWLS business.
- (l) Adjourned.

5) Anyone who agrees with LWLS principles and purposes can become a member of said organization.

6) Members can be transferred from one group to another by furnishing the transfer credentials to the group he is about to join. The group will forward said credentials to the Central Secretary.

7) All the books published by the LWLS are sold to its members for half price.

8) Individual members from places where groups do not exist can belong to the LWLS; otherwise he can belong as an individual member to the LWLS only with the permission of the local group and Central Committee.

9) The dues of the individual member is \$1.10 a year.

10) Libraries and educational societies are admitted to membership of LWLS for \$1.00 a year.

11) More than two groups of the LWLS can organize LWLS circuits. The circuit will frame its own rules, not conflicting with the LWLS constitution.

12) It is a duty of every group and member to support by all possible means only those educational and cultural organizations whose purpose is to spread class consciousness among the workers.

Members or groups supporting groups of an adverse nature, i.e. such organizations that are opposed to the organized socialist movement, may be suspended or expelled.

P.S. A Person who is opposed to the organized socialist movement among Lithuanian workingmen cannot be a member of this society.

Dues.

1) Every member pays into the society's treasury \$1.00 a year.

2) To cover various expenses, groups have the power to assess their members.

3) The society's fiscal year begins January 1st and ends December 30th. Therefore all members must pay

their dues up to December 30th, no matter when the member has joined the society or when he has paid his dues.

4) Irrespective of what part of the year the new member may have joined the LWLS, they are entitled to get one copy of each book that was published by LWLS during that year.

5) Members who are residing beyond the boundaries of the United States pay \$1.10 a year to the LWLS treasury.

6) All books published by the LWLS and given to its members are bound. The expenses for the delivery of the books to the members are paid by the LWLS.

7) Books published by LWLS consisting of less than 100 pages will not be bound, but will be given to the members as such.

8) All members should pay their dues to the society's treasury at the beginning of each year, as when books are published they will only be sent to those who have paid their yearly dues. Those who are not in good standing will not receive copies of published books until they have paid their dues to Central.

Duties of the Officers of the Groups.

1) The chairman of the group shall safeguard the interest of the group, keep the charter, guide the group within the laws and regulations of the LWLS, and see that the other officers discharge their duties.

2) The secretary will keep the book of protocols (minutes), carry on necessary correspondence, and keep a list of members and their addresses.

3) The financial secretary will collect membership dues, distribute books received to the members, and will send in his report to the LWLS organ every six months.

4) The group's treasurer will look after the treasury and shall send dues to the Central. He must give up a bond on demand by the group.

5) The group's librarian must endeavor to distribute books published by LWLS by selling them, get subscribers for the LWLS organ, and circulate all other workingmen's literature.

6) In case of vacancy in the committee, the candidate who has received the next largest number of votes for that office shall assume the duties of the office.

Central Committee.

1) The Central Committee consists of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and Librarian, and is elected by referendum.

2) In case of vacancy, the candidate who has received the next largest number of votes for that office shall fill the vacancy until a new election is held.

3) The society's Treasurer and Librarian must each furnish bond according to the Central Committee's decision.

4) The Central Committee will appoint three trustees from the nearest groups to the Central to control the treasury.

5) The Central Committee of the LWLS shall receive compensation according to referendum. All the expenses incurred by the members of the Central Committee or Literary Committee in the interest of LWLS shall be paid from the central treasury.

6) The Central Committee with the Literary Committee will look after the organ, and also will concern themselves with the publishing of books after the manuscript is approved by the Literary Committee.

7) In case of necessity, the Central Committee shall communicate with other Lithuanian and foreign organizations.

8) The Central Committee has a right to appropriate not more than 2 copies of each publication for the libraries and educational societies.

9) The Chairman of the Central Committee signs all the charters issued to new groups, signs all the official papers issued in the name of the society, keeps the society's seal, and approves all documents and official correspondence by his signature.

10) The Vice-Chairman attends Central Committee sessions and in case of the Chairman's absence or resignation shall take his place and discharge the duties of the office.

11) The Central Secretary keeps the society's books, takes care of archives, gives out a yearly report through the organ, formulates referendums, and keeps the protocol book. The Secretary also signs his name on all official document issued by the LWLS, supervises the distribution of published books done by the librarian, and gives serial numbers to new groups and mails charters to them.

12) The Treasurer takes care of the LWLS trea-

sure and pays all bills which have been approved with a written order given bearing the signature of the Chairman and Secretary. The Treasurer's bond expenses are paid by the society.

13) The Trustees, according to their own agreement, make treasury revisions, but must notify the Central Secretary before doing so.

14) The Librarian takes care of all the books owned by the society and, upon receiving directions from the Central Secretary, dispatches them to the secretaries of the groups.

Literary Committee.

1) The Literary Committee consists of three members.

2) The members of the Literary Committee must be members of the LSF of A or of the SP and have been members of LWLS or LSF of A for at least one year.

3) The Literary Committee will receive manuscripts and after review will express their opinion of them.

4) The Literary Committee is responsible for the literary part of the publication and in agreement with the Central Committee decides as to the honorarium to be paid to the author.

5) In case of necessity, the Literary Committee will appoint one of its own members as editor, who will guide the society's interest in the organ.

Cancellation of Groups and Members.

1) Any member who has not paid his dues into the society's treasury for one year is cancelled, but the group may not expel him if he will give a good excuse, such as being out of work or another good reason.

2) A group or the Central has a right to expel members for conduct that would do an injury to the society.

3) Any member of this society who is opposed to the Socialist Party movement may be expelled from this organization by the group if the Central Committee approves the decision.

P.S. In case of disagreement between the group and the Central Committee as to the expulsion of the member or members, the case shall go before arbitra-

tors.

4) The Central Committee shall have the power to suspend any group that strays away from the course set, and may after an investigation expel it from the society. The group's property is then taken over by the LWLS and used to publish books.

Society's Principles.

1) The society's purpose is unchangeable.

2) The principal laws by which the society is governed can be modified only by a two-thirds vote of the members of said society.

3) In the event of the liquidation of the LWLS, all the society's property and books must be turned over to the LSF of A.

Referendum.

1) A motion made by the Central Committee, Literary Committee, or a group and seconded by at least five groups during the period of 60 days will go through referendum.

2) The Secretary of the Central Committee will have said measure announced in the organ. Discussions will follow for the period of 60 days. When this time has passed, the Central Secretary will furnish blanks for the referendum; said blanks must be re-

turned by the date set to the Central Secretary.

3) The Central Committee, Literary Committee, or any group can offer an amendment to said measure. Such amendment or amendments must be announced publicly in the organ. If such amendment is seconded by at least one group during the period of 30 days, said amendment and the measure will go through referendum.

Conventions.

1) The LWLS holds its conventions at the same time and place as the conventions of the LSF of A. An extra convention may be called by demand of the Central Committee or by groups if approved by referendum.

2) The Central Secretary will attend conventions and will have the same rights as delegates of the groups. His traveling expenses will be paid by the LWLS.

If the other members of the Central Committee and Literary Committee are attending a convention, the convention will decide as to granting them the rights of delegates and who will pay their traveling expenses.

3) Groups have the right to send their representatives to the LWLS conventions — one delegate from the group and one additional delegate for every 20 members of the group.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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