

ORGANIZATION MANUAL

of the

Young People's Socialist League OF THE UNITED STATES

To be read especially by all its members,
and by those who should be
within its ranks.

Published by

The Young People's Socialist League

803 West Madison Street
CHICAGO, ILL.

Price, Five Cents

YEAR 19**Jan.****Feb.****Mar.****April****May****June****July****Aug.****Sept.****Oct.****Nov.****Dec.****YEAR 19****Jan.****Feb.****Mar.****April****May****June****July****Aug.****Sept.****Oct.****Nov.****Dec.**

TRANSFER RECORD

Date Admitted

Date Withdrawn

League, City and State.....

Circle

Secretary

Date Admitted

Date Withdrawn

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Secretary

TRANSFER NOTICE

If you are to travel to another city, be sure to write the National Office first to find out the name and address of the Y. P. S. L. there. Before leaving your home town pay your dues to date and have your league secretary fill in the above record. A letter of introduction from active Yipsels and Socialists will also stand you in good stead. Be sure to visit the Y. P. S. L. Wherever you may wander, this book is your pass-port and Yipsels are always glad to greet a comrade from out of town.

Organization, Education, Solidarity,

C—O—M—R—A—D—E

Are We In It?

Well, I Guess!

Young People's Socialist League,

Yes! Yes! Yes!

The "yell" given above is a sort of national cheer of the Y. P. S. L. Though you go from one end of the country to the other the chances are that you'll hear it given in about the same way everywhere.

Organization — Education — Solidarity —these are big words and make a sort of swinging rhyme—but what do they mean? In order that they may be understood by every Yipsel their meaning is here explained. They should be engraven in the heart of every member, for they point the way to freedom for the working class.

ORGANIZATION—A word to conjure with. The great industries of today, the big cities, the mighty nations, the solar systems of the universe—all are living examples of just one thing—**Organization**. In the slow upward climb of Humanity's progress we have reached a stage where the battle of life is being waged between two organized bodies, that of the workers on the one hand, and that of the parasitical owning class of exploiters on the other. The young people must line up in the workers' organization if mankind is to go forward.

Not only in life's hard battle, but in play, sport, pleasure—in all the things that young people like to do—**Organization** is the keynote. You can't get along without it. If you want to play ball you cannot fill all eighteen positions on the two teams at once, and umpire and watch the game, too—it takes co-operation and **Organization**.

Organized into the Young People's Socialist League, you can do a great many things that you could not do alone—this is the fruit of **Organization**. And it is the duty of every member to contribute his and her share in building up that organization and extending its boundaries to the ends of the earth.

EDUCATION! It seems to call up pictures of millions of school children, countless libraries, colleges, pictures, playgrounds, parks, newspapers, and schools. It means

all of this and more; it alone is the safeguard of the liberties of a free people.

The proper Education disseminated among the workers would free them forever from the profit-taker's thrall. But the workers of today are not permitted to get very much education, nor do they always get the right kind. The schools are generally controlled by those hostile and unfriendly to the cause of labor, so The Young People's Socialist League is an absolute necessity to teach young and old the truths of life. Education must become widespread—both broad and deep—first within our organization, and then among the countless thousands who have not yet joined our ranks.

Education is the flame from which the torch of Liberty is ever kindled, and it is the duty of every member of the Y. P. S. L. to spread its light throughout the length and breadth of the land.

SOLIDARITY—The best of all! The warm handclasp of comradeship and the heartbeat in unison throughout the world: this is its message. It means working together, playing together, voting together, studying together; yes, and if need be, dying together. Great power lies dormant in the mighty numbers of the workers, but it will never be effective until they learn the meaning of true Solidarity.

Within the Y. P. S. L., too, it has a great mission. If properly taken care of it means

united action, warm and hearty co-operation, and a spirit of comradeship that will make league membership a joy and glory to all. Fun and frolic, work and study, love and unity—these things are the standbys of any league once its members have learned the lessons of **Solidarity**.

These three principles — **Organization, Education, Solidarity**—constitute the foundation of the **Young People's Socialist League**. Any new member, and any old one, too, who is not willing to make these his watchwords, is out of place among live, active "Yipsels." These three—activity, study, and unity—will make happier and better beings of all members of the **Y. P. S. L.**, and will insure the emancipation of the workers of all the world.

SOME OF THE DOINGS OF A GOOD Y. P. S. L.

B U S I N E S S—Short, well conducted, highly instructive business sessions, democratically managed in strict conformity with accepted rules of order. Details of routine handled by the executives, important matters controlled absolutely by the membership.

EDUCATION — Study classes, lectures, debates (within the league and with other organizations), good library facilities, and every encouragement for intellectual development.

PROPAGANDA—Spreading the principles of socialism, getting recruits for the Socialist Party, supporting the labor press, aid in the political and industrial battles of the workers; exclusive patronage of union-made products, and concern for the general welfare of the working class.

ENTERTAINMENT—Dances, hikes, outings, dramatics, athletic games and sports of all kinds—all the things in which young people are interested—and these in a manner just a little way ahead of the average crowd and its doings.

COMRADESHIP—A feeling of equality and good-fellowship among all members. This cannot be learned from books; it must be engraven in the heart of every "Yipsel." If you want your league to be worth while, be sure that its spirit of comradeship is warm and hearty. This is the very foundation of success, both within and without our ranks.

ALL THESE THINGS are done by the worth while, up-to-the-minute Y. P. S. L. Are they done by yours? Take stock of yourselves once in a while and see if you measure up to standard. It takes a certain amount of effort to hold to this gauge, but if you do the league will be a source of joy and pride to all its members, and it will attain a position of repute and standing in the community.

A MEMBER'S DUTY TO THE Y. P. S. L.

A PRIZE ESSAY

By F. E. LOUDY, Member Detroit (Mich.) Y. P. S. L.

The Y. P. S. L. is an educational organization. It should promote Comradship, teach Socialism, and raise the mental standard of its members to the highest possible level.

A member's duty to the league should be Service to the organization: service as an officer, a committee-man, or as a participant upon the programs. A member's first duty is to educate and train himself, so that he may be better equipped to fulfill the important obligations that may devolve upon him. If a member realizes the importance and significance of Socialism, it is his duty to give the best there is in him for the benefit of this important branch of the movement, the Young People's Socialist League.

In order that a clear, definite Socialist position may be spread among the present generation, it is necessary, it is the duty of every member, to induce his friends to join the organization and thus prepare society for the coming revolution.

From the ranks of the Y. P. S. L. will come the lifeblood that will diffuse through the Socialist movement, and give it the necessary stamina that is essential for its very existence. Therefore it is the duty of every member to study, think, and work, so that this movement of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

National Constitution Young People's Socialist League

ARTICLE I

Name

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the Young People's Socialist League of the United States of America.

ARTICLE II

Object

Section 1. The object of the organization shall be to draw into a compact body all young people interested in the betterment of the working class; to provide means for their intellectual and physical development, and to become a center for social intercourse, as well as for training them in the principles of International Socialism, and to assist in the work of Socialist propaganda and political activity.

ARTICLE II

Membership

Section 1. Any person between fifteen and thirty years of age, regardless of sex, color, race or creed, is eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. Any member upwards of twenty-one years of age who has been a member of the League for one year or more shall be urged to become a member of the Socialist Party.

Sec. 3. Any member who advocates crime, sabotage or other methods of violence as a means of the working class to aid in its emancipation, or any member opposed to the use of the ballot, shall be expelled from membership in the League.

Sec. 4. 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 IV

Management

Section 1. The affairs of the Young People's Socialist League shall be administered by a National Committee of the League and the general vote of the membership.

Sec. 2. The National Secretary of the League shall receive and pay all moneys of the League.

ARTICLE V

National Committee

Section 1. The National Committee of the League shall consist of the state secretaries of the League 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 every 500 members in good standing in such state or territory. 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. 2. Two years' consecutive membership in the League and in the Socialist Party shall be necessary to qualify for membership in the National Committee of the League or its sub-committees, except in these states where the League has been organized for less than two years. One year's membership in the Socialist Party shall be necessary in the states where the League has been organized for less than two years.

ARTICLE VI

National Secretary

Section 1. A 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 leagues. 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 his acceptance. The National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party shall select two or more nominees who in their judgment are qualified for the position. These names shall be submitted to a referendum vote of the league membership.

Sec. 2. 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. 2. The term of office of hte National Secre- have charge of the organization of new leagues, the touring of speakers and organizers, the work of propaganda, and handle all correspondence. He shall be subject to the direction of the National Committee.

ARTICLE VII

State Organizations

Section 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 National Secretary, in conformity with the rules of the National Committee of the League.

Sec. 2. No state shall be organized unless it has at least five circles, with an aggregate membership of not less than 100. When the membership of any state averages less than 100 members a month for six consecutive months, the National Committee of the League may revoke the charter of that state.

Sec. 3. In states where there is one central organization affiliated with the Young People's League, the state organization shall have the 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 policies of the Socialist Party.

Sec. 4. All actions of the state or local organization shall be in accordance with the national platform of the Socialist Party. Any state organization or local organization in an unorganized state, issuing declarations not in conformity with the platform of the Socialist Party, 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 organizations, together with the number of members in good standing, and the name and address of the corresponding secretary of each circle. Refusal or failure to comply with this section shall subject the state organizations to suspension from the Young People's Socialist League and deprive such state organization of representation on any committee of the national organization.

Sec. 6 (a). The state organization shall pay to the National Office every month a sum equal to two cents for each member in good standing within their respective states. Only dues stamps issued by the National Office shall be affixed to members' dues cards as valid receipts for the payment of dues.

Sec. 6 (b). 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, lockouts, or any other condition beyond their control.

Any member desiring to use such "exempt stamps" shall make application therefor to the Financial Secretary of the League, who shall use his discretion in filling such requests. "Exempt stamps" shall, however, be issued only to members who have paid dues for at least three months and who by the same action are exempt from the payment of local and state dues. The number of "exempt stamps" shall not exceed ten per cent 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 VIII

Referendum

Section 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 three state committees representing at least ten per cent of the entire membership on the basis of dues paid in the preceding year. A motion for referendum may be initiated by a regularly organized state committee or any circle.

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

(Reserve this space for pasting in amendments and other important business.)

RULES OF ORDER

All Y. P. S. L. meetings should be run according to regularly established rules of parliamentary procedure, as codified rules of parliamentary procedure should be taken, however, that these rules are used as helps rather than hindrances to the meeting. The best organized league is the one that can do the most business in the shortest time and with the least parliamentary friction. Do not make a shrine of parliamentarism. A spirit of good comradeship is worth more than a million points of order.

The national and international constitutions and platforms of the Y. P. S. L. and the Socialist Party are the highest law of the Yipsel movement. Next in order are the State and Local Yipsel By-Laws. Observe them always but do not make a fetish of the constitution. A constitution should never interfere with real Yipsel work, if the constitution interferes with your work—change the constitution.

While it is the duty of the chairman to preserve order, each member should consider himself a sergeant-at-arms to keep one person—himself—in order.

When a member wants to introduce some matter upon which the league should act, he should ask for the floor and make a motion. This should precede all discussion. The motion should then be seconded. It can then be amended, which must also be seconded. This amendment can also be amended but there it stops, the only thing that can follow it is a "substitute for the whole." The voting must begin with the last proposition offered and gradually work back to the original motion. When the voting begins further discussion is out of order.

Privileged Motions, that is, those which may be made at any time although motion of lower rank is before the house, in the order of their rank, are as follows:

- 1: To fix time for adjournment.
- 2: To adjourn (no time or place mentioned).
- 3: To call up the orders of the day.
- 4: To lay on table.
- 5: The previous question.
- 6: To postpone to a time certain.
- 7: To refer or commit.
- 8: To amend or substitute.

Matters of Course, on which the floor must be given, or which can be stated without waiting for recognition by the chair:

- 1: Point of order.
- 2: Point of information.
- 3: Call for orders of the day.
- 4: Call for division of the vote.
- 5: Point of personal privilege.
- 6: Point of no quorum.
- 7: Challenge to right to the floor.
- 8: Seconding a motion.
- 9: Withdrawal of motion.
- 10: Changing a vote.
- 11: Appeal from chair.

TABLE OF MOTIONS

MOTION TO	Debat- able	Amend- able	Recon- siderable	Vote Needed to Carry	Needs Second	Opens Main Question
Adjourn	No	No (1)	No	Maj.	Yes	No
Adjourn, to fix time to which to	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj.	Yes	No
Amend	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj.	Yes	No
Amend to amendment	Yes	Subst	Yes	Maj.	Yes	No
Amend the rules	Yes	Yes	Yes	%	Yes	No
Appeal from decision of chair	Limited (2)	No	No	Maj.	No	No
Commit, (same as refer)	Yes	Yes	No	Maj.	Yes	Yes
Debate, to close	No	Yes	Yes	$\frac{2}{3}$	Yes	No
Debate, to limit	No	Yes	No	%	Yes	No
Lay on table	No	No	Af. Not	Maj.	Yes	No
Objection to considering question	No	No	No	%	Yes	No
Orders of the day	No	No	Yes	Maj.	No	No
Point of order	No	No	No	Maj.	No	No
Postpone to time certain	Limited (6)	Yes	No	%	Yes	No
Postpone indefinitely	Yes	No	No	%	Yes	Yes
Previous question	No	No	No	%	Yes	No
Privilege	Limited (3)	Yes	Yes	Maj.	No	Yes
Reconsider debatable questions (4)	Yes	No	Af. Not	Maj.	Yes	No
Reconsider undebatable questions (4)	No	No	No	Maj.	Yes	No
Rescind (4)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj.	No	No
Special order	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj.	Yes	No
Suspend rules	No	No	No	%	Yes	No
Take from table	No	No	Af. Not	Maj.	Yes	No
Withdraw motion (5)	No	No	No	Unan.	Yes	No

Notes (1) unless organization has no regular time of meeting. (2) Only by appellant and chairman. (3) Limited to the raiser and those mentioned by him. (4) Can only be made by one who voted on the prevailing side of question. (5) Can only be made by mover (6) Limited to question of postponement.

YEAR 19

Jan.

Feb.

Mar.

April

May

June

July

Aug.

Sept.

Oct.

Nov.

Dec.

SPECIAL STAMPS

IT ISN'T THE LEAGUE—IT'S YOU

If you want to belong to the kind of a league
That's the kind of a league you like,
Don't go to pack your clothes in a grip
And start on a long, long hike.
You'll find elsewhere what you left behind,
'Cause there's nothing that's really new;
It's a knock at yourself when you knock the league—
For it isn't your league—it's you.

Real leagues are not made by those afraid
Lest somebody else gets ahead;
When everyone works and nobody shirks
You can raise your league from the dead.
And if while you make your personal stake
Your comrade can make one, too,
Your league will then be what you want it to be,
For it's never your league—it's you.