

The Constitution of the Workers Democracy Party

I. THE WORKER'S DEMOCRACY PARTY (WDP)

The WDP is a democratic, internationalist working class organization dedicated to revolutionary change, by which we mean the abolishment or overwhelming subordination of global capitalism, to the needs of humanity and nature.

II. ON THIS CONSTITUTION

This constitution operates at the utmost authority for the Worker's Democracy Party (WDP).

1. Amendments

Amendments to this constitution or the Party Principles document can be made using a simple majority of all party chapters worldwide, every chapter consisting of nine or more individuals must be represented in order to pass an amendment.

2. Constitutional Violations

Constitutional violations are always grounds for expulsion of members from party chapters and thereby the party itself, worldwide, pending a motion followed by a simple majority vote of that chapter.

III. DUES

The WDP is a dues paying organization, part of membership's good standing which allows them to vote is that they submit at least five dollars per month to the party, more if they can afford it.

IV. DEMOCRACY/DECISION MAKING

All general meeting decisions are to be made by democratic, simple majority vote wherein all present members in good standing have the opportunity to make their voice heard, and where all present members in good standing have one single vote. Nonmembers may not vote. Votes are cast by raising a membership card, this card cannot be transferred and must be kept in good standing.

V. PERMANENT POSITIONS

1. Sergeant at Arms (SA)

A. The SA calls meetings to order and calls for volunteers for the temporary positions of chair and secretary.

B. The SA position is not transferable and violation of this office's duties is grounds for expulsion from the party. The SA must also resign from the party in order to leave their position and they may have their membership reinitiated only through the regular process of membership initiation.

The Constitution of the Workers Democracy Party

C. At least one SA *must* attend every meeting and no votes should be had without the presence of the SA.

D. At General Meetings, SAs must *always* check and stamp membership cards at the door for good standing and observe each vote. The SAs are the only members who may intervene to stop a vote and only for the due to violation of the integrity of the vote (and for no other reason whatsoever), such as... (a) non-members attempting to vote. (b) Members attempting to vote who are in poor standing. (c) Any individuals attempting to, at any time before or during the vote – through physical force or malicious intimidation – prevent a member from or force a member to vote.

E. The other duties of the SA are, to the best of their ability, to exclude members of law enforcement and management from all meetings and to ensure no phones or other recording devices are present at members only meetings or at WDP actions.

F. The SA must make sure to faithfully issue and rescind membership cards based on membership participation.

G. The SA must and collect dues which must be transferred to the treasurer.

2. Treasurer

A. Each chapter must elect a treasurer to be in charge of the chapter's bank account. The treasurer must maintain complete transparency of funds and must be able at any meeting to produce an account of all expenditures and income upon request of any party member at any WDP meeting.

B. Expenditures are only permitted to accompany actions or projects made as motions and then passed by majority vote by party members.

C. The treasurer must also faithfully collect dues at each meeting from the SA and deposit them to the chapter's account immediately after each meeting.

VI. RULES FOR MEETINGS

1. Meeting Duration

Meetings must never exceed an hour and a half and are intended to last an hour or less.

Meetings are *not* the place of prolonged discussion. Discussion must be had by all interested members *before* or *after* the official meeting time.

2. Temporary Positions

A. Two volunteers are required to start a meeting: Chair and Secretary. These are temporary positions which last only the duration of a particular meeting.

The Constitution of the Workers Democracy Party

B. The Secretary is in charge of recording and stating faithfully which motion was brought in which order and thereby which motion is next up for vote.

C. The Chair is responsible for making sure the meeting proceeds in a fair and orderly way, and that it stays to one hour.

D. The Secretary and chair of each week are jointly responsible for getting the word out to other chapters of any national or international actions which can involve other chapters, which passed a vote at their chapter.

E. It is the responsibility of the Secretary to precisely keep track of discussion time. If a discussion reaches the ten minute mark during a meeting, it is the Chair's responsibility to put forth a motion to postpone the vote until the end of the meeting, or the next meeting if time runs out. It is the responsibility of the Secretary to second this motion, no vote is needed to postpone if the motion is made at or after the ten minute mark of the discussion during a meeting.

3. Meeting Time and Date

A. Meetings are to be weekly and consistently recur at the same time and date.

B. Meeting time and date must be decided at general meetings and this information must be clearly stated and very easily accessible for all members as well as--in the case of public meetings only--the public.

4. Quorums

Quorums may be set by individual chapters as they see fit, although it is recommended that chapters agree on a quorum as one of their first motions and adjust it accordingly as membership grows. Discussion may be had in lieu of a meeting, but no motions may be heard without this quorum.

5. Voting by Proxy

Members may not vote by proxy.

6. Members only Meetings

A. One additional meeting per month should be held for party members only, which is not to be accessible to the public. This meeting is intended for any potential more sensitive internal party or chapter affairs.

B. Phones or recording devices of any kind whether audio or visual are *absolutely not permitted at party only meetings or in party only meeting places while any party business is being discussed.* Recording is not permitted at any party meetings, public or private.

The Constitution of the Workers Democracy Party

C. Nonmembers are not to participate in discussions preceding party only meetings. The SA must ensure that an hour before as well as after the meeting the meeting space is clear of both nonmembers and any recording devices such as cell phones.

VII. MOTIONS

1. First Come First Serve

Motions are to be heard and voted upon in the order they are made. There are three possible exceptions... Three motions take precedence over all other motions and their precedence over each other follow this order: (1) Emergency motions (where there is an imminent threat of bodily harm to WDP members or members of the broader community) (2) Motions made to recall an action group leader (3) Motions made to expel a party member. (4) Motions made to initiate new members.

2. Standing

You can only bring forth a motion or vote on a motion if you are a member in good standing. Motions and votes are both made by raising the red membership card.

3. Template

Motions are to proceed basically as follows:

The Sergeant at Arms (SA) must be observing. Member A raises their card and declares their intent to make a motion. They are called on by the meeting Chair. Member A gives a succinct, brief explanation of what their motion is and if applicable, what it will cost the party's treasury. The Chair calls for a second. Member B raises their red card and declares that they second the vote. The Chair calls the motion to a vote: "All members in favor raise your red cards..." both the Chair and Secretary make their own counts and corroborate one another. "All members against..." both the Chair and Secretary make their own counts and corroborate one another. The Chair: "Can the SA verify the authenticity of this vote" The SA: "yes" or "no." The Chair: "The motion passes (or fails)."

4. Delayed Motions

Motions will be heard on a first come first serve basis. If and only if the member is present in the current week, motions submitted during or immediately after the previous week's meeting--but for which there was not enough time to be voted on--will be heard first, unless rescinded by that present member who put forth the motion the previous week.

5. Multiple Motions

A member can put forth one motion per meeting on the first come first serve rule. If a member has multiple motions the rest of their motions must wait until all other members have made their motions, but any one member can make as many motions as time allows.

The Constitution of the Workers Democracy Party

6. FUNDS

If the member bringing forth the motion is requesting party funds they must make the amount requested a part of the motion, otherwise it will be assumed they are not requesting any funds and none will be issued.

VIII. MEMBERSHIP

1. Discrimination

Membership is open to all regardless of identity: membership discrimination based on race, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, sex or gender is not to be tolerated. Members must treat one another, and members of the public, with respect.

2. Class

A. New members are welcome and encouraged who are either working class of all identities therein or working professionals and students of all identities therein, who possess no hiring or firing authority, whatsoever, over workers.

B. Individuals outright not permitted to membership under any circumstances include: any members of law enforcement whatsoever, anyone currently employed in a management or supervisor position, anyone who owns either a business with more than one employee or a property which generates them income from rent. In addition, members of supremacy or separatist identity/hate groups or organizations such as white power organizations are outright banned without exception from membership. For shorthand: no cops, landlords, capitalists, fascists, or managers. Enforcement of these exclusions is the responsibility of the SA.

3. Eligibility

A. Membership eligibility is based on participation and dues payment. You are eligible for membership if and only if the SA can verify to the best of their ability that (a) you have arrived on time and stayed for the entirety of at least three consecutive public meetings (b) participated at least once in discussion (c) have paid five dollars in membership dues for the current month (d) that you are not a cop, landlord, capitalist, fascist or manager.

A1. For verification of your initial eligibility you must have received a white card and had it stamped three times, once at each meeting, by the SA.

4. Initiation

A. Once you have been verified by the SA and had your white card stamped three times, a motion must be made by a party member other than the SA to initiate you into the party. You must state your agreement with the WDP Constitution and Principles and as long as there is a second and there are no objections, you are a member and the Sergeant at Arms must issue you a red card which you must keep in good standing by attending at least three meetings per

The Constitution of the Workers Democracy Party

month (where one must be the membership only meeting) and having your card stamped by the SA. If there are any objections to your membership at all, or you do not receive a second at the time of your motion for initiation, you are not permitted to be a member.

4. Revocation

If you do not stay in good standing you will not be allowed to vote. If you are in poor standing for more than three consecutive months the SA must revoke your membership card and may do so without a vote.

5. Expulsion

A. Members may be expelled from the party by a simple majority vote. Cause for expelling a member can stem from very serious ethical concerns or from any constitutional violations whatsoever.

B. It is absolutely inexcusable to motion to expel a member over a mere disagreement or over personality conflicts.

IX. PROCESSES (aka ACTIONS or PROJECTS)

1. Process vs. Decision

A. Processes (aka actions or projects) are distinguished from decisions--which take place exclusively at general meetings whereas processes take place exclusively outside of these meetings. Processes are not to be undertaken democratically. After a democratic decision has been made by a motion followed by a majority vote at a general meeting it may put a process underway.

B. Any process is not intended to be permanent, it's action group must exist to accomplish a limited goal and then the action group must dissolve and along with it, the leader's authority.

C. Processes include but are not limited to - Protests - Workplace unionization efforts - The creation of Party affiliated worker owned cooperatives - Membership recruitment drives - Community support programs (such as a breakfast program) - Eviction resistance actions - Campaigns to run members for political office - Community defense actions - Community reappropriation actions - Boycotts - Community/Party political education initiatives - Illegal immigrant shelter and protection programs - Community or Party legal defense initiatives.

2. Action Groups

A. An action group consists of all members responsible for executing a process (action or project).

The Constitution of the Workers Democracy Party

B. General meetings have final and absolute authority over the persistence of extant action groups. General meetings can dissolve them at will or remove their leaders at will, although, meetings cannot direct the activity of action groups.

C. Action groups are to be formed right after the meeting at which it's corresponding motion was passed. Action group leaders must be elected by the action group at this first action group meeting.

D. Action groups are run by centralized leadership and hierarchy of command. Action group members are responsible for their own subordination to the chosen leader's decisions. Being a member of an action group *while* practicing insubordination to its leadership (including the leader's delegated subordinate leaders) is cause for expulsion from the party pending a majority vote which may only be brought as a motion by the democratically elected action group leader at a general meeting.

E. Members may of course choose whether or not to join the action group of their own free will, and they may leave the action group at any time without consequence by stating their immediate intention to resign or join in the presence of the leader and at least one other witness who is a member of the WDP. Leaders have full authority as to whether or not to remove or allow entry of members into or out of their action group, but they cannot bar members from leaving or force them to join.

F. Leaders may be recalled at any general meeting, by majority vote, for any constitutional violations or for incompetently pursuing their action.

G. Making a recall motion at a general meeting does not constitute insubordination. Voicing dissent at any time, does not constitute insubordination. Insubordination is an action where a member of the party fails to follow commands either negligently or intentionally.

3. Protests and Other Actions

Phones and other recording devices are not permitted at actions organized by the WDP where these recordings might be used as evidence either in a court of law or as means by which any malicious or foolish party might jeopardize the recorded (inadvertently or intentionally) member's well-being. Enforcement of this is the responsibility of the SAs.

4. Emergency Actions

Emergency action groups are the only action groups which can be formed outside of general meetings. They are to be reserved for emergencies *only* and are intended to be temporary and can be permanently dissolved by the general body at a weekly meeting. They are democratic only in the sense that all members present must agree on a leader by simple majority. Emergencies meriting an emergency action group are defined by: (a) imminent bodily harm to

The Constitution of the Workers Democracy Party

party or community members which could be stopped, responded to or ameliorated by immediate collective response (b) imminent existential harm to the party or party chapter itself as an institution.

X. PARTY AFFILIATED WORKER OWNED COOPERATIVES (PAWOC)

1. Definition

PAWOCs are democratic workplaces owned, operated and managed by the workers thereof. All workers must own equal shares in the company, there must be no other shareholders. See Richard Wolf's Democracy at Work project for guidance and inspiration.

2. Revenue and Reciprocity

A small portion (at least 3%) of revenue generated by PAWOCs must be transferred to the WDP in order for the company to maintain its party affiliation. In return the PAWOCs can call on the party for assistance in any way they wish.

3. Eligibility

PAWOCs must, in this order (1) provide employment and thereby a living wage to its workers (2) perform a socially useful task (3) perform this task in as environmentally sustainable manner as possible.

4. Relationship

A. PAWOCs are not under command from the party at all, the Party can only either grant or rescind affiliation with and thereby assistance from the party. Non-affiliated Worker Owned Cooperatives (WOCs) are not entitled to any assistance from the WDP although they are considered comrades in the fight for socialism as long as they satisfy (1) (2) and (3) in section "2." article "X." above.

B. The WDP – PAWOC relationship is an alliance. Assistance from the WDP to the PAWOC can take any form, but suggested methods include: the WDP can recruit members of the party or public to work for PAWOCs, can call community boycotts against competing capitalist companies, can help poach quality workers from competing capitalist workplaces, and it can run federal, state and local representatives to pass legislation favoring WOCs.

XI. PARTY AFFILIATED LABOR UNIONS (PALU)

1. Revenue and Reciprocity

A small portion (at least 3%) of revenue generated by PALUs must be transferred to the WDP. In return the PAWOCs can call on the party for assistance in any way they wish.

2. Eligibility

The Constitution of the Workers Democracy Party

PALUs must, in this order (1) provide employment and thereby a living wage to its workers (2) make their workplace as environmentally sustainable as possible. (3) make the products of their labor as socially beneficial as possible.

4. Relationship

A. PALUs are not under command from the party at all, the Party can only either grant or rescind affiliation with and thereby assistance from the Party. Non-affiliated Unions are not entitled to any assistance from the WDP although they are considered comrades in the fight for socialism as long as they satisfy (1) (2) and (3) in section "2." article "XI." above.

B. The WDP – PALU relationship is an alliance. Assistance from the WDP to the PALU can take any form, but suggested methods include but are not limited: The WDP can provide strike support of all kinds to the union rank and file, can run pro-union politicians for office, can organize community support initiatives during strikes, or turn scabs and other picket line crossers away, or bring community and media attention to employer abuses/negligence.

XII. RUNNING PARTY AFFILIATED CANDIDATES (PACs) FOR POLITICAL OFFICE

1. ELIGIBILITY

A. All candidates must vow to uphold party principles and constitution and must remain in good standing in order to keep their party affiliation.

B. Candidates political status in government does not in any way shape or form change their political status within WDP decision making (they still just have one vote).

C. Candidates for government office or office holders can still be kicked out of the party or the affiliation between the candidate and the party may be broken by a simple majority vote within the relevant party chapter.

E. WDP Candidates must run on an independent 3rd party ticket.

2. NOTE

The WDP is and must be a direct action party first. Running candidates for office can be important as a method of building leftwing and party power, but it is not the primary function of the WDP.

3. DEMOCRATS

The WDP does not officially endorse non-affiliated candidates and we absolutely do not door knock or propagandize on behalf of democratic candidates. We look for allies anywhere we can find them -- and will pragmatically work with anyone, especially progressive Democrats -- to achieve our goals, but generally speaking, all Democrats are collaborators and Republicans be damned.

The Constitution of the Workers Democracy Party

XIII. CHAPTERS

1. New Chapters

- A. The first motion of any party chapter is to elect one permanent Sergeant at Arms who is in charge of protecting the integrity of the voting process (more SAs are permitted if absolutely necessary).
- B. The Party Principles document, plus this constitution's ratification by total consensus of prospective new chapter members (two or more) is *all* that is required for the initiation of a new chapter.
- C. Every chapter needs to immediately create an email address using an encrypted email service and get that contact information out to all chapters.

2. RULES FOR CHAPTERS

- A. Only one chapter per locality.
- B. Chapters do not respond to any central command besides this constitution. Each chapter has authority over itself and no other chapters and its decisions must be made democratically and internally.
- C. The goal of each chapter is international revolutionary change, by which we mean the abolishment or at least overwhelming subordination of global capitalism, whichever comes first.

IV. PROHIBITIONS

Party members shall not, while acting as such, perpetrate violence against any person where that violence does not constitute defense of the self or of the defenseless against an imminent threat to safety thereof.