

P.O. Box 471 Cooper Station  
New York, N.Y. 10003  
October 24, 1977

TO ALL NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

On October 12 the National Executive Committee adopted the following motion:

"To recommend to the National Committee that the 'Call for the Seventeenth National Convention of the Young Socialist Alliance' be amended to read: 'Representatives from the chapters shall be as follows: one delegate for the first five members and one additional delegate for each additional five members or major fraction thereof (three or more members constituting a major fraction).'"

The attached chart indicates the approximate number of delegates that would be elected for the convention using a 1:9 delegate/membership ratio (as the convention call now provides), a 1:7 delegate/membership ratio (as was used in 1976), and a 1:5 delegate/membership ratio (as the NEC is proposing). This information was not available to NC members at the time the convention call was approved.

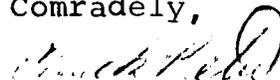
With a 1:9 ratio, a total of 59 delegates would be elected, and 12 chapters would be able to elect more than one delegate. With a 1:7 ratio, 64 delegates would be elected, and 14 chapters would be able to elect more than one delegate. With a 1:5 ratio, 86 delegates would be elected and 21 chapters would be able to elect more than one delegate.

At the NC meeting in August, emphasis was placed on the desire for a convention delegation small enough to allow full and democratic discussion. While it is true that with more delegates a smaller percentage will be able to speak under every point on the convention agenda, the NEC is now of the opinion that this fact is outweighed by the importance of electing a delegation that accurately reflects to the greatest possible extent the actual leadership of the YSA. Using a 1:5 ratio the total number of delegates elected will still be smaller than at several previous conventions, but about half of the chapters will be able to elect more than one delegate, which allows for more adequate representation.

After considering this proposal, NC members should re-

turn the attached ballot to the YSA National Office. Comrades who would like to discuss the proposal further should contact me as soon as possible. All ballots should be returned by November 15.

Comradely,



Chuck Petrin  
YSA National Secretary

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

I support the proposed amendment to the convention call.

I do not support the proposed amendment to the convention call.

Return to: YSA, P.O. Box 471 Cooper Station, N.Y., N.Y. 10003.

## CALL FOR THE SEVENTEENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE YOUNG SOCIALIST ALLIANCE

The National Committee hereby calls the Seventeenth National Convention of the Young Socialist Alliance to begin on Wednesday, December 28, 1977, in Detroit, Michigan, and to continue for five days (December 29, 30, and 31, 1977, and January 1, 1978).

### Agenda

The National Committee proposes the following agenda for the convention:

- Political Resolution and Reports
- Women's Liberation Work
- Antiracist Work
- Organization Reports
- Election of National Committee

### Preconvention discussion

Preconvention discussion is formally opened on September 15, 1977. The written discussion bulletin is open to all YSA members on the subjects listed on the agenda or others that they may wish to present for consideration of the YSA. As authorized by the YSA Constitution the National Executive Committee has set a deadline of the last business mail of December 15, 1977, for acceptance of preconvention discussion articles for the bulletin.

Chapter meetings shall be arranged for oral discussion of subjects listed in the agenda and additional topics to be determined by the chapters.

### Convention assessment

A convention assessment shall be levied to help cover the expenses of the convention, the payment of which is obligatory for every member. The amount of the assessment shall be determined by the National Executive Committee.

### Basis of representation

1. Representatives from the chapters shall be as follows: one delegate for the first nine members and one additional delegate for each additional nine members or major fraction thereof (five or more members constituting a major fraction).

2. Delegates are to be elected by the chapters in accordance with the actual number of members in good standing who have been admitted to the YSA prior to December 10, 1977, and who have paid their convention assessment. According to the YSA Constitution (Article III, Section 5), "Any member more than one month in arrears in dues ceases to be a member in good standing."

3. Chapters organized after December 10, 1977, except for those constituted through a division of an existing chapter, are entitled to send fraternal delegates to the convention.

4. Three or more at-large members in one locality who carry out joint activities in building the YSA are entitled to elect one fraternal delegate, subject to approval by the

National Executive Committee.

5. Members admitted to the YSA after December 10, 1977, are entitled to voice in the preconvention discussion, but no vote on resolutions or in the selection of delegates.

6. Members must be present and voting in person at the meeting when voting takes place on resolutions and the election of delegates. The only exception is for members whose absence is for a substantial reason, such as illness, work, or YSA assignment. In all such cases the votes must be submitted in writing and recognized by motion at the chapter meeting.

7. Members transferring from one chapter to another within the same local after December 10, 1977, must vote in the chapter from which they transferred.

### Proportional representation

In case of political differences defined by conflicting resolutions, the election of delegates in the chapters is to be on the basis of the vote on resolutions at the meeting at which delegates are to be elected. Members voting for a given resolution designate the delegate or delegates to which they are entitled on the basis of proportional representation laid down in this call. Abstentions in no case count as votes.

1. If there are two counterposed political positions, the delegates are apportioned between the majority and the minority in proportion to the vote each receives. The percentage of the vote received by the majority, multiplied by the number of delegates the chapter is entitled to, is rounded off to the nearest whole number to give the number of delegates going to the majority. The remainder are assigned to the minority.

2. If there are three or more positions, the positions that received too few votes to possibly get a delegate are eliminated first, beginning with the smallest. That is, if the percentage of the vote received by a position is multiplied by the number of delegates the chapter is entitled to and the result is "0" when rounded off, this position is not considered and its votes are subtracted from the total vote. After such positions have been eliminated, the delegates are apportioned to the remaining positions, beginning with the one with the highest vote. Using the new vote total, the percentage received by the position with the highest vote is multiplied by the number of delegates the chapter is entitled to and the result is rounded off to the nearest whole number to give the number of delegates going to this position. The same procedure is repeated with the position receiving the second highest vote, and so on, until all the delegates the chapter is entitled to have been apportioned.

After a division has been established, those voting each way will select in caucus their own delegation and report them to the chapter as a whole for acknowledgement. Where no division has taken place, the election of delegates will proceed normally by the chapter as a whole.

NUMBER OF DELEGATES

NUMBER OF MEMBERS NEEDED TO ELECT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS QUALIFIED TO ELECT\*

With a 1:9 ratio:

1	5 to 14	30
2	15 to 23	9
3	24 to 32	2
4	33 to 41	0
5	42 to 50	1

With a 1:7 ratio:

1	5 to 11	28
2	12 to 18	10
3	19 to 25	2
4	26 to 32	1
5	33 to 39	0
6	40 to 46	1

With a 1:5 ratio

1	5 to 8	21
2	9 to 13	8
3	14 to 18	9
4	19 to 23	2
5	24 to 28	1
6	29 to 33	0
7	34 to 38	0
8	39 to 43	0
9	44 to 48	1

TOTAL NUMBER OF DELEGATES ELECTED

1:9 ratio	59
1:7 ratio	64
1:5 ratio	86

\*Figures are approximate based on membership statistics as of August 15, 1977.