
Circular to All Locals, Branches, and Young People's Socialist Leagues from Alfred Wagenknecht, July 29, 1919.

A document in the Socialist Party of America papers, Duke University, microfilm reel 9.

July 29, 1919. August 30th.

To all Locals, Branches, and
Young People's Socialist Leagues.

Comrades:—

This letter is addressed to you by the new National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party. It is a most important letter. It should receive the attention of your organization at once.

As you probably know, the national constitution ended the term of the old National Executive Committee on July 1st [1919]. The new National Executive Committee met in Chicago on July 26 and 27, reversed the actions of the old committee in its attempt to wreck the party, reinstated all expelled state organizations and suspended federations — more than 35,000 members in all — and renewed the call for an Emergency National Convention, to be held August 30th, for which the party membership cast an overwhelmingly favorable vote.

It is the success of this national convention with which this letter mainly concerns itself. The party membership demands a convention. It demands that our party nationally declare its allegiance to the Third International. The former old National Executive Committee tried to sidetrack a national convention. It may yet attempt to usurp power and postpone the convention called for

The new National Executive Committee, regularly elected by the national membership, will not permit a postponement of this convention, nor will it permit interference by the former National Executive Committee or the former National Secretary. Do not let either of them fool you in this matter. The National Convention will be held on August 30th in Chicago. The new National Executive Committee will take charge of this convention. It will see to it that the mandates of the membership are obeyed.

And so we write you to give the new National Executive Committee financial support. Delegates' fares must be paid. Funds derived from the sale of special national assessment stamps will not wholly cover this expense. If you are for the control of the party by the membership; if you are against the autocratic acts of the former National Executive Committee; if you are for a party in sympathy with the Bolsheviks of Russia and the Sparticans of Germany and the Communists of Italy, France, and England; then give your financial support at once to the new National Executive Committee elected by you. The new National Executive Committee will assure the convention by assuring all delegates their mileage.

Vote a goodly sum out of your treasury. Make a loan to the new committee. Circulate the enclosed blank among your members right now and ask them to give generously.

Please let us hear from you very soon with a substantial remittance. Help finance this convention so that the membership may again rule the party.

Yours in Comradeship,

A. Wagenknecht,
Executive Secretary Pro Tem.

Edward Lindgren, Louis C. Fraina,
C.E. Ruthenberg, Marguerite Prevey,
Fred Harwood, William Bross Lloyd,
L.E. Katterfeld, Kate Sadler Greenhalgh,
H.M. Wicks,
of the new National Executive Committee.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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