
Call for a Special Convention of the Communist Party of America.† [December 1920]

A typeset leaflet, specimen in the Comintern Archive, f. 515, op. 1, d. 33, l. 27.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNIST
PARTY,

Dear Comrades:—

In accordance with the decisions of the Second Congress of the Communist International and its Executive Committee, the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party issues this call for a Special Convention.

Purpose.

This Convention is necessary to bring our program and tactics in perfect conformity with the decisions adopted and policies determined upon by the Communist International, especially as enunciated in the various theses and the conditions for affiliation.

It is also called for the purpose of carrying out the instructions of the Executive Committee of the Communist International for accomplishing unity with the United Communist Party. The time limit set by the International permits of no delay in the issuance of this call. Unity negotiations with the UCP are still pending. When the final agreement will have been reached, the delegates elected on this call will be delegates to the Joint Convention.

Representation.

Each group shall elect one representative to its Branch Electors meeting, and furnish him with a

certificate stating the number of good standing members in the group.

Each Branch shall elect its representatives to the Local Convention (at least one) at the rate of one for every 25 (or major fraction) of its good standing members.

Each Local shall elect its representatives to the Sub-District Convention at the rate of one for every 50 (or major fraction) of its members.

Each Sub-District shall elect its representatives to the District Convention at the rate of one for every 100 (or major fraction) of its members.

Districts will be apportioned representation in the National Convention on the basis of dues actually paid.

Groups or Branches that are connected to sub-districts directly shall be combined by District Committees to make up 50 (or major fraction) members, and so elect representatives directly to sub-district convention.

Elections.

Elections in groups shall be completed by Dec. ____, and elections to District Conventions by Dec. ____ (dates known to District Organizers).

Local, sub-district, and district organizers shall attend the conventions of their respective districts and shall have voice but no vote, unless elected as delegates. (Constitution, Art. IX, Sec. 4).

They shall certify all credentials.

Sub-district and District Conventions may elect

†- According to information in the Communist Party's *Highlights of a Fighting History: 60 Years of the Communist Party USA* (New York: International Publishers, 1979), pg. 491, the Extraordinary Third Convention of the CPA took place in Brooklyn, New York in February of 1921. The actual dates and specific location of the event have never been published, so far as is known. The gathering lasted ten days and was attended by 30 voting delegates and 7 fraternal delegates.

as their delegates members of the party from any unity outside of their territorial division. (IX, Sec. 5).

At all stages of the elections alternates shall be elected in the same manner and proportion as delegates. Candidates shall be designated by their Party pseudonyms only, and the results of the elections shall not be made known outside of each particular electors meeting or convention.

Branches and Locals outside of the established districts shall take part in the elections to the National Convention through the districts nearest to them.

Assessment.

To cover the expenses of the National Convention and the railroad fares of the District Conventions, each member shall pay a 25 cent assessment, which shall be brought to the branch meeting by each group representative, and to the sub-district and other bodies by the respective delegates.

Agenda — Basis for Discussions.

A. Conditions for Affiliation to the Communist International.

B. Theses of the Second World Congress of the Communist International.

1) The Communist International.

2) Role of the Communist Party in the Proletarian Revolution, including Parliamentarism.

3) Trade Unions.

a) Communist Nuclei;

— in the Unions.

— in the Shops. (now called the “Communist Party Shop Committees”).

b) Shop Committees.

c) Industrial Unionism and Syndicalism.

C. Organizational Problems.

1) Role of Language Federations in the Communist Party of America.

2) Legal Workers Organizations.

Central Executive Committee,
Communist Party of America.

Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.

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