

CONSTITUTION

of the

Industrial Workers of the World
.... Club

of Australasia & New Zealand



Established in 1907 under 1905 Preamble.



SYDNEY :

The People Printery, 16 George Street West,

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Name.

1. The name of this organisation shall be "The Industrial Workers of the World Club of Australasia and New Zealand."

Objects.

2. (a) The objects of the Industrial Workers of the World Club shall be as set forth in the I.W.W. Preamble as hereunder stated:

Preamble of the I.W.W.

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace as long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people and the few, who make up the employing class have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until all the toilers come together on the political, as well as on the industrial field, and take and hold that which they produce by their labor through an

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economic organisation of the working class, without affiliation with any political party.

The rapid gathering of wealth and the centring of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands make trades unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class, because the trades unions foster a state of things which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping to defeat one another in wage wars. The trades unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These sad conditions can be changed and the interests of the working-class upheld only by an organisation formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry or in all industries, if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Therefore, without endorsing or desiring endorsement of any political party, we unite under the following constitution.

(b) To bring together all persons in agreement with the principles of Industrial Unionism based upon the above Preamble; the holding of regular Club meetings for the purpose of propagating the principles of industrial unionism by discussions, public meetings, publishing and distributing literature; and, finally, to assist in bringing about a Congress for the purpose of launching the I.W.W. Union in Australasia and New Zealand.

Headquarters.

3. The Headquarters of the Industrial Workers of the World Club shall be at the Queen's Hall, Pitt Street, Sydney, or any other place which shall be decided upon by the National Executive Committee.

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Membership.

4. The membership of the Industrial Workers of the World Club shall consist of persons pledged to support and advocate the principles and objects contained in the aforementioned Preamble. Any Member acting contrary to the principles contained in the Preamble shall be liable to expulsion. Persons desirous of becoming members of the I.W.W. Club shall be proposed and seconded by two members of said Club at a duly constituted meeting, but before the names of such person or persons can be submitted to the vote of the meeting they must first have answered in the affirmative the questions contained in the application forms for membership, and signed same, pledging their adherence to the Preamble and principles of the I.W.W.

Persons resident in localities where no Section of the I.W.W. Club exists may become members at large by application to the nearest Section thereof, or applying directly to the National Secretary, and signing the application forms provided for that purpose.

Subscriptions.

5. The subscription to the I.W.W. Club shall be sixpence (6d.) per month payable in advance. Unemployed members, or those partially employed, or who for any other reasons may be unable to contribute same, shall be exempt from payment thereof. Sections shall have power to impose levies upon section members for local purposes.

Unfinancial Members.

6. Any member in arrears failing to communicate with the Secretary of the Section in which he (or she) may be enrolled shall, at the expiration of six (6) months, have his or her name expunged from the membership roll, and cease to be a member thereof.

Interchange of Membership Cards.

7. Members of Sections in any part of the Commonwealth leaving one State for another shall be enrolled as full Section members in any part of the six (6) States of the Commonwealth or New Zealand on production of membership card. This rule also applies to members producing cards of membership from any I.W.W. Section or Union in the world constituted under the foregoing Preamble.

Government.

8. The Industrial Workers of the World Club shall be governed by a National Executive, State Executive, and Section Management Committees; and its officers consist of a National Secretary, National Treasurer, State Secretary, State Treasurer, and Section Secretary-Treasurers.

National Executive Committee.

9. The National Executive Committee shall consist of five members of Sydney Sections of I.W.W. Club, with a corresponding member representing each State, the latter to have the right to initiate business for the National Executive Committee; and, if present at any meeting thereof, entitled to speak and vote thereat. The National Executive Committee shall be elected annually by a ballot of the whole of the membership of the I.W.W. Club. Corresponding members shall be elected by the State Executive from amongst its members.

National Secretary.

10. The National Secretary shall be elected annually by ballot of the whole of the membership of the I.W.W. Club at the period of election of the National Executive Committee. He shall be subject to removal by a majority vote of the membership of the organisation taken at the request of the N.E.C.

Duties of National Secretary.

11. The National Secretary shall receive, answer, and file all correspondence on behalf of the National Executive Committee. He shall record in a book kept for that purpose the minutes of each meeting of the said National Executive Committee, and receive reports, etc., from State Executive Committees. He shall hand over all moneys received by him on behalf of the I.W.W. Club to the National Treasurer at each meeting of the National Executive Committee and receive a receipt for same. He shall be a member ex-officio of the N.E.C. with all the privileges of membership thereof.

National Treasurer.

12. A National Treasurer shall be elected as provided for in Rule 9 re-election of National Secretary, and subject to removal as therein provided. He shall receive all moneys paid to the National Secretary on behalf of the N.E.C., giving a receipt for same, and shall deposit in a bank approved of by the N.E.C. all moneys exceeding the sum of £3. He shall be a member ex-officio of the N.E.C. with all the privileges of membership thereof.

Powers of National Executive Committee.

13. The National Executive Committee shall exercise a supervising control of the general business of the I.W.W. Club, and have full power and authority over its official organ and guide the policy of same; shall interpret all rules and constitution in cases of dispute; issue Charters for the formations of Sections in Australasia and New Zealand when applied for under this Constitution, and have the right of cancellation of same when circumstances warrant such action; have power to appoint all organisers, issue a call to Sections for Finance when necessary, and furnish annually a report covering the work of the year.

The N.E.C. shall also issue calls to I.W.W. Club members for nomination of members for the National

Executive Committee, and shall also issue ballot papers re election of same to the various Sections in the Commonwealth and New Zealand, and shall appoint scrutineers to examine and declare result of such ballot. Ballot papers to be issued at least six (6) weeks prior to the election. The National Committee shall meet at least once in each month.

Sustentation.

14. For the maintenance of the National Executive Committee a Sustentation Fee of one penny (1d.) per paying member per month shall be paid by each Section.

For the maintenance of the State Executive Committee a sustentation fee of 1d. per paying member per month shall be paid by each Section.

Vacancies.

15. Vacancies occurring on the N.E.C. shall be filled by the members next in order of ballot at previous election

State Executive Committee.

16. The State Executive Committee shall consist of five members elected by ballot of members of sections within any State, or New Zealand, and shall be elected annually. Vacancies thereon shall be filled as provided for National Executive Committee.

Powers of State Executive Committee.

17. The powers of State Executive Committee shall be the supervision, subject to this constitution, and the interpretations of National Executive Committee thereon, of the general business of the organization in the State, apply for and receive from National Executive Committee charters for the formation of Sections within the State, and shall furnish a report covering the work of the movement at least every

six (6) months. It shall also issue a call to State Sections for nominations of members of the State Executive Committee, and shall issue ballot papers re the election of same, to the various State sections, and shall appoint scrutineers to examine and declare result of such ballot. Ballot papers to be issued at least 21 days before the election.

State Secretary.

18. The State Secretary shall be elected annually by a ballot of the whole of the members of the Sections within the State, at the period of the election of State Executive Committee, and shall be subject to removal by a majority vote of the said members. He shall be a member ex-officio of the State Executive, with full privileges of membership thereof.

Duties of State Secretary.

19. The State Secretary shall receive, answer, and file all correspondence on behalf of State Executive Committee. Keep a record of minutes of all meetings thereof, and hand over all moneys received by him on behalf of the S.E.C., to the Treasurer, and obtain a receipt for same. He shall furnish a report of the work within the State every six months (6), to the N.E.C., and carry out the instructions of the State Executive Committee.

State Treasurer.

20. The State Treasurer shall be elected annually, and subject to removal as provided for in Rule 16. re election of State Secretary. He shall receive all moneys paid to the State Secretary on behalf of the State Executive Committee, and give a receipt for same. He shall deposit, in a bank approved of by the S.E.C., all moneys exceeding the sum of £3. He shall be a member, ex-officio, of the State Executive

Committee, with all the privileges of membership thereof.

Management Committee.

21. Each section shall elect, half-yearly, a Committee of Management, comprising five (5) members, the duties of which shall be to arrange meetings, and may appoint speakers thereat, subject to approval of the State Executive Committee; shall receive, sell, or distribute literature, approved of by the N.E.C.; investigate all charges preferred against any member of members, and report thereon to Section; shall forward a report covering the work of such Section, and furnish a list of membership thereof, to the State Executive Committee every half-year, and shall meet at least once in each month.

Section Secretary-Treasurer.

22. Each Section of the I.W.W. Club shall elect half yearly, from amongst its members, a secretary-treasurer, whose duties shall be to receive and answer all correspondence on behalf of Section, furnish report to the State Executive Committee every three (3) months, and a list of membership every six (6) months and carry out instructions of Management Committee. He shall account for all moneys received and disbursed by him in connection with said Section.

23. No member shall be eligible for nomination for **Qualification for Officers and Members of Committees** any National or State Executive Committees, or any other official position in a Section, unless six months a member of the I.W.W. Club.

Section Meetings.

24. Each Section shall meet fortnightly (when practicable), but one business meeting at least shall be held in each month.

Formation of Sections.

25. Sections may be formed in any centre composed of persons subscribing to the principles of the Preamble of the I.W.W., upon application to the N.E.C., through the State Executive Committee, for a charter and affirming their allegiance to the principles contained in the Preamble; such application to be signed by at least five (5) persons. The N.E.C. may, on receipt of such application, forward along a charter and declare the Section established.

Charges.

26. (a) On charges being made against a member (which must be in writing and signed by the individuals making same), the Secretary shall read the charges at the first business meeting; and the Section shall, without debate, elect an Investigation Committee of five (5), which committee shall furnish the accused with a copy of the charges, and shall proceed to investigate same without unreasonable delay, hearing the witnesses on both sides. A detailed report of the investigations of the committee shall be drawn up and laid before one of the next business meetings of the Section, the accused party being notified in due time to appear at same. The Section shall then decide the matter, and its decision be entered on the minutes. The minutes, and all papers concerning the investigation, shall be delivered to the Secretary for safe keeping. All decisions of the Section may, within two (2) months, be appealed from to the State Executive. (b) A two-thirds majority of members present at any business meeting shall be sufficient to expel, or suspend, any member. The State Executive shall immediately be notified of such action, and reasons for same. (c) No expelled or suspended member shall be accorded the privileges of the Section, unless reinstated by

the Section that expelled or suspended such member, or, if it has ceased to exist, by the State Executive. (d) No member shall resign pending investigation of charge preferred against him.

Groups.

27. Industrial Groups may be established within any industry, work-shop or factory, where not less than five members of the I.W.W. Club may be employed.

Literature.

28. All literature issued on behalf of the I.W.W. Club shall have the approval of the N.E.C., and have the signature of the National Secretary appended thereto, also name and address of secretary of local Sections. No Club or member thereof shall be empowered to issue, or cause to be issued, any literature until approval of by the National Executive Committee.

Voting.

29. No person shall be allowed to vote on any question who has not been a member of the I.W.W. Club for one calendar month.

Congress.

30. It shall be competent for the National Executive Committee to convene a National Congress of delegates from each State, for the purpose of considering the advisability of launching the Industrial Workers of the World Club Union, when Sections of the I.W.W. Club have been established in a majority of the States. Sections shall be entitled to the following number of delegates:—From 5 to 25 members, one delegate; from 25 to 50 members, two delegates; from 50 to 100 members and over, four delegates. No Section shall be entitled to more than four delegates.

A Congress shall be held annually during Christmas-tide, the place of meeting shall be decided by the N.E.C., which shall call the Conference together. The N.E.C. shall notify State Executive Committees to call upon Sections to forward to the National Secretary all business desired to be placed upon Congress Agenda paper at least two (2) months prior to meeting of said Congress.

Decisions of Congress.

31. The decisions of Congress shall not become law or be binding or operative until ratified by a vote of the general membership.

Members' Obligation.

32. (a) This section having adopted the Preamble of the I.W.W., no person shall be eligible to become a member who refuses to unreservedly (without any qualification whatsoever) accept the Preamble in its entirety, both in letter and spirit.

(b) It shall be a binding obligation on all speakers on behalf of the Section, to particularly advocate and defend that portion of the Preamble prohibiting the affiliation of the I.W.W. with any political party.

(c) That the Section has no power to alter or amend, in any shape or form, the Preamble of the I.W.W.

Alteration of Constitution.

33. This Constitution shall not be amended unless one month's notice has been given of such amendment to all Sections in Australasia. A Conference, elected in the manner set out in clause 14, shall be called for this purpose.

Order of Business.

34. Election of Chairman.
Reading of Minutes.
Initiation of New Members.

Financial Report.
 Passing of Accounts.
 Correspondence.
 Notices of Motion.
 Reports of Committees.
 General Business.

Debate.

1. All meetings shall be open at 8 p.m. (unless otherwise decided) and close at 10 p.m. (unless extension of time has been granted).
2. A chairman shall be elected each meeting from among the members present. He shall have full control of the meeting, declare all points of order, and his decision shall be final unless challenged by formal motion.
3. All motions must be moved and seconded before a discussion can take place on same. Unless other members rise to speak, or an amendment moved, the chairman shall put the motion to the vote.
4. Only one amendment may be taken at a time, but any number of amendments may be moved in succession. Not more than three (3) shall speak in succession either for or against any motion or amendment.
5. Each speaker to be limited to ten (10) minutes. No member shall speak more than once except in personal explanation. The chairman shall name the first person who rises to address the meeting.

6. It will be in order for any member to move and another to second at any time, that the debate close and the question be now put to the vote. The chairman shall immediately take a vote without discussion, and if a majority vote in favor, then the debate must be closed, and the question voted upon.

7. In cases of emergency, or importance, or the occasion warrants, the Standing Orders may be suspended by a majority vote of those present.

8. An extension of time may be granted to any speaker if a majority so decide.

