

Constitution of the South Central Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

ARTICLE I Name and Affiliation

This organization shall be known as the South Central Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO with its jurisdiction in Dane, Columbia, Dodge, Iowa, Jefferson, and Sauk counties, Wisconsin, and its headquarters in Madison, Wisconsin. It is chartered by and affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) in accordance with the terms of the Certificate of Affiliation granted by the AFL-CIO, and the Rules Governing AFL-CIO Area Labor Councils and Central Labor Councils. This Federation shall maintain affiliation with the State AFL-CIO body.

ARTICLE II Objectives

Section 1. The objectives of the Federation shall be to secure united action of all Locals affiliated with the AFL-CIO; to protect, maintain and advance the interests of labor and of its affiliates; to extend unionism; to promote collective bargaining; and to increase public understanding of the labor movement.

Section 2. To propose, support, and promote legislation favorable to and to oppose legislation detrimental to the interests of workers and organized labor.

Section 3. To encourage workers to register and vote, to exercise their full rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and to perform their rightful part in the political life of the local, state, and national communities.

ARTICLE III Membership and Representation

Section 1. The South Central Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, shall be composed exclusively of such of the following organizations within Dane, Columbia, Dodge, Iowa, Jefferson, and Sauk counties, Wisconsin, as shall conform to this constitution and the rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto. Any organizations not affiliated with the AFL-CIO, or with an affiliate of the AFL-CIO, or any organization that has been suspended or expelled by a parent body affiliated with the AFL-CIO or by the AFL-CIO, shall not be admitted or allowed to retain membership. Organizations eligible for membership are:

- a. local unions of national and international unions and organizing committees affiliated with the AFL-CIO and local unions chartered directly by the AFL-CIO;
- b. local councils chartered by the Trade and Industrial Departments of the AFL-CIO;
- c. joint boards, district councils, and similar subordinate organizations which are duly chartered by an affiliate of the AFL-CIO; and
- d. a union retiree club, or where two or more clubs exist, a union retiree council
- e. constituency groups.

Section 2. a. Local unions affiliated with this Federation shall be entitled to the following number of delegates (and an equal number of alternates):

Unions having 50 or fewer members – 2 delegates.
Unions having 51 to 100 members – 3 delegates.
Unions having 101 to 250 members – 4 delegates.

Unions having 251 to 500 members – 5 delegates.
For each additional 500 members or major fraction thereof – 1 delegate.

Representation shall be computed on the basis of the average number of members on which per capita tax was paid for the preceding six calendar months.

Unless expressly stated otherwise, all references to delegates in this Constitution apply to alternates as well when they are serving in place of absent delegates.

b. Local councils, joint boards, district councils, union retiree clubs/councils, and constituency groups as specified in Section 1 of this Article, shall each be entitled to one delegate and one vote.

c. Union Labor News shall be allowed two fraternal delegates and the AFL-CIO Community Services Liaison shall also be a fraternal delegate. Fraternal delegates shall be allowed to speak at Federation meetings, but they shall not be allowed to vote.

Section 3. No person shall be eligible to serve as a delegate unless he/she is a member of a local union affiliated with this Federation. No national or international representative shall be a delegate unless he/she is a member of a local union affiliated with this Federation.

Section 4. Only unions in good standing with the AFL-CIO, national or international unions are eligible for membership. No individual shall be eligible to serve as an officer, member of the executive board or committee or other governing body of, or any other committee of, or as a delegate from, or as a representative, agent or employee of this Council who consistently pursues policies and activities directed toward the achievement of the program or purposes of authoritarianism, totalitarianism, terrorism and other forces that suppress individual liberties and freedom of association. No person shall be eligible to serve in any of the aforementioned capacities who holds a salaried position or any other position of administrative or executive authority in a union, or any subordinate branch of a union, which is unaffiliated with or has been suspended or disaffiliated from the AFL-CIO.

Section 5. Credentials for delegates must be signed by received from an authorized officer of the union or affiliated organization and must give the full name, address, email address, and telephone number of the delegate. When a delegate is replaced, the credentials must state the name of the delegate replaced unless the credentials include a complete list of all delegates and alternates.

Section 6. Delegates shall be seated after their credentials are received by the Federation. Any objection raised to a Delegate shall be investigated by the Executive Board, which shall report its findings at the next meeting. This Federation shall not reject credentials presented by a duly elected or appointed delegate who is eligible to be a delegate under the rules of the AFL-CIO.

Alternates shall be seated upon presentation of their credentials but may vote only in the absence of the regular delegate.

No credentials shall be received once a meeting has been called to order.

Section 7. Upon the acceptance of their credentials, delegates shall take the following obligation:

“I, _____, do pledge my word and honor that I will obey the rules and regulations of this Federation and to the best of my ability perform all the duties I may be called upon to perform as a Delegate to this Federation.”

Section 8. Visitors shall sign in with the Sergeant-at-Arms and shall be seated if there is no objection. If an objection is raised by a delegate, the Federation shall vote on the objection. The meeting may be closed to visitors by a majority vote of the Federation or upon direction of the chair. Speaking privileges may be granted to any person not a delegate to the Federation by a majority vote of the Federation or upon an absence of objection.

ARTICLE IV Voting

Section 1. A roll call vote shall be held on any pending question, including election of officers, upon demand of thirty percent (30%) or more of the delegates present from ten (10) local unions.

A motion for a roll call is in order until the chair has called for the vote on the question.

Section 2. The roll call vote shall be by per capita tax vote ~~and each local union shall be allowed one vote for each twenty-five (25) members or fraction thereof~~, based upon the average number of members on which per capita tax was paid for the preceding six calendar months, ~~provided each local union shall be entitled to at least one vote. The average membership of a local union affiliated for less than six months shall be determined by dividing the total number of members on which per capita tax was paid for all months affiliated by six.~~ Affiliated organizations other than local unions, as specified in Article III, Sections 1 and 2, shall be entitled to one vote.

Section 3. The votes of a local union shall be divided equally among all its accredited delegates present. Each delegate shall be entitled to cast only his/her assigned number of votes – except that to facilitate the calling of the roll one delegate may be designated to cast all of the votes of the delegates representing his/her local, provided that if any delegate shall challenge the correctness of the votes so cast the individual delegates of that local shall be polled.

Section 4. A roll call vote on elections shall be conducted by written or prepared ballots, provided each ballot clearly shows the delegate's name, organization, local number, and the number of votes the delegate is casting. The candidate receiving ~~the greatest number~~ a majority of the votes shall be declared elected. Such ballots shall become part of the records of the Federation and shall be preserved and available for examination by any delegate or officer of an affiliated organization for a period of not less than six months.

Section 5. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall maintain the official roll of delegates on a current basis. The Financial Secretary shall maintain the official list of the affiliates showing the average membership of each local union as established under these provisions.

Section 6. Wherever the Constitution or By-Laws indicates a vote, it means a vote of the delegates present at the meeting.

ARTICLE V Officers and Their Election

Section 1. The officers of this Federation shall be a President, a Vice President, a Recording Secretary (herein referred to as 'the Secretary'), a Financial Secretary, ~~a~~ Treasurer, a Sergeant-at-Arms, three Trustees, and Chapter Representatives who shall be delegates to this Federation and shall continue to be delegates to qualify as officers. Alternates shall not be eligible to serve as officers. These officers shall constitute the Executive Board. ~~Whenever the Federation shall so order, the offices of the Financial Secretary and Treasurer shall be held by the same person for the following year.~~

The members of the Executive Board shall be elected in even-numbered years for terms of two years or until their successors are elected and qualify, with the exception of the Trustees, who shall serve for three-year terms with one being elected each year.

Section 2. At the meetings at which nominations and elections are to take place, nominations and elections shall be a special order of business to follow "Communications" in the regular order of business.

Section 3. Nomination of officers, except Chapter Representatives, shall be opened at the December meeting and may be reopened at any time prior to the election in January by a majority vote.

To be eligible for nomination, delegates must be present or must qualify by filing written or oral acceptance prior to or at the time of nominations meeting. ~~An election committee shall be appointed after the initial nomination process.~~

Section 4. Elections shall take place at the January meeting. An election committee shall be appointed, if needed. A roll call vote shall be held upon demand of thirty percent (30%) or more of the delegates present from ten (10) local unions, if more than one candidate is running for the office.

~~To be eligible for election, delegates must be present or must qualify by filing written acceptance prior to or at the election meeting.~~ Each officer, at the time of his/her election and at all times during his/her the term of office, shall be a duly accredited delegate from an affiliated organization. If ~~he/she~~ an officer ceases to be a delegate, the office ~~he/she holds~~ held shall thereby become vacant; and a special election as elsewhere provided for in this Constitution shall be held to fill the vacancy.

The officers shall be installed at the January meeting after the election has been held and shall assume their offices on February 1.

Section 5. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for an office, there shall be a runoff election between the two highest vote-getters. This runoff shall occur at the same election meeting. A motion for a roll call vote is in order prior to a runoff election; such a motion is required in order to conduct a roll call vote on the runoff.

Section 6. Except in the case of Chapter Representatives to the Executive Board, not more than one delegate from the same local union, nor more than two delegates from different locals of the same national or international union, shall be eligible to hold office at the same time.

Section 7. In the event an election results in a violation of Section 6 of this Article, the person involved who is elected to the office with the highest rank shall be declared elected and another election shall be held for the other office or offices affected. For purposes of this section, the rank of officers shall be determined by the order named in Section 1 of this article. In case the violation involves candidates for Trustee, the rank among the Trustees shall be determined by the number of votes received.

Section 8. No delegate shall be eligible to be an officer unless the local union or affiliated union organization he or she represents has been in continuous affiliation with this Federation for twelve months immediately preceding the election, the per capita tax of the local union or the annual affiliation fee of the union organization is in good standing, and the delegate is in good standing with his/her local union or affiliated union organization on election day.

Any full-time representative of an international union shall not be eligible for office.

Section 9. Before entering upon the duties of their respective offices, the newly elected officers shall be installed and take the following oath of office:

"I, _____, do hereby sincerely pledge myself faithfully to perform the duties of my office as required by the Constitution and By-Laws of this Federation and the AFL-CIO and to bear true allegiance to this Federation and to the AFL-CIO. I will deliver to my successor in office all books, monies, and other property of the Federation that may be in my possession at the close of my official term. To all of this I solemnly promise and pledge."

Section 10. Should any officer be absent ~~himself/herself~~ from three consecutive meetings without valid excuse, the office may be declared vacant by action of the Federation. Said officer shall be notified in writing of the action.

Vacancies may be filled by an election at the next meeting of the Federation, and all delegates shall be notified in writing.

ARTICLE VI Duties of Officers

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of this Federation and of the Executive Board and conduct the same according to parliamentary rules, appoint all committees, enforce a due observance of the Constitution and By-Laws, and see that all officers and committees perform their respective duties faithfully. He/she shall sign all official documents, and he/she shall be, ex-officio, a member of all committees.

Section 2. The Vice President shall discharge the duties of the President during the absence or disability of that officer and shall assist the President in the discharge of his/her duties at the President's request.

Section 3. The Recording Secretary shall keep an accurate account of the proceedings of the Federation. ~~He/she shall sign all necessary documents and credentials.~~ In the absence of both the President and Vice President, ~~he/she~~ the Secretary shall call the meeting to order and ~~call for the election of~~ appoint a temporary chairperson for the meeting.

Section 4. ~~The Financial Secretary-Treasurer, in conjunction with the President, shall oversee the work of the bookkeeper, shall report local union affiliation status to monthly delegate meetings, and shall also present monthly financial statements at delegate meetings. shall keep an accurate account of all financial business of the Federation, give proper receipts for all money received, and pay it as soon as possible to the Treasurer, taking his/her receipt. He/she shall notify all local unions in arrears and report automatic suspensions to the Federation. He/she shall be bonded in accordance with the AFL-CIO policy for bonding. He/she shall maintain a current list of all affiliates showing the average membership of each local union as established under these provisions. The Financial Secretary shall discharge the duties of the Treasurer during the absence or disability of that officer.~~

~~Section 5.~~ The Treasurer shall receive all monies from the Financial Secretary. He/she shall draw all checks, which shall be made to order of the payee. He/she shall keep a correct account of all money received and expended, give a financial report at the regular monthly meeting for the preceding month, and give a full report at the end of his/her term. At the expiration of his/her term of office, he/she shall turn over to his/her successor all property in his/her possession belonging to the office. He/she shall submit his/her books to the Trustees whenever requested to do so. He/she shall deposit all funds of this Federation in a responsible financial institution. He/she shall be bonded in accordance with the AFL-CIO policy for bonding. ~~The Treasurer shall discharge the duties of the Financial Secretary during the absence or disability of that officer.~~

Section 65. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall have charge of the doors. ~~He/she~~ shall report the number of delegates present at each Federation meeting, the number of visitors, and the number of local unions represented by the delegates present. ~~He/she~~ The Sergeant-at-Arms shall maintain the official roll of delegates and alternates and shall keep attendance records of all delegates and alternates.

Section 76. The Trustees shall examine semi-annually, or more often if they desire, the financial records of the Federation and report their condition to the Federation. If any discrepancies occur, the Trustees are to notify the Executive Board immediately for action.

Section 87. Chapter Presidents shall chair chapter meetings. Chapter Representatives to the Federation Executive Board shall serve as liaison between the Federation and the Chapter.

Section 98. The officers of this Federation shall be the Executive Board, and they shall transact all necessary business between meetings of this Federation and shall make a report to the Federation. They shall meet as required or at such meetings as called by the President.

Section 109. The Federation shall not be responsible for any press, radio, television, or other communications that are not released by the Federation President ~~or Recording Secretary.~~

ARTICLE VII
Quorum and Meetings

Section 1. Ten delegates representing ten local unions affiliated with this Federation shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting. A quorum for Executive Board meetings shall consist of a majority of Board members.

Section 2. Regular meetings of this Federation shall be held on the third Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise ordered by a regular meeting. Meetings shall be called to order promptly at the hour set.

Section 3. A special meeting may be called by a majority vote of any regular meeting, or by a majority vote of the Executive Board, or shall be called by the President on written request of at least ten delegates from ten affiliated local unions.

Notice of a special meeting must be mailed ~~by the Secretary~~ to all delegates at least five days before the date of the meeting. Such notice must state the time and place of the meeting and the nature of the business to be brought before it. No business except that stated in the call shall be transacted at a special meeting except by unanimous consent.

ARTICLE VIII
Chapters

Section 1. Except for Dane County, each county within the Federation may, upon the recommendation of the Executive Board and approval of the Federation delegates, form a county Chapter.

Section 2. Each Chapter may enact Chapter by-laws consistent with the Federation's, elect a Chapter President, Recording Secretary, and Representative to the Federation Executive Board, hold meetings of Federation delegates and alternates from local unions who live or work within the Chapter's geographic jurisdiction, and make recommendations to the Federation for its consideration.

Section 3. Two or more counties may form a single Chapter if approved by a two-thirds vote of the delegates in each of those counties.

ARTICLE IX
Revenues and Expenditures

Section 1. The funds for support of this Federation shall be derived from a per capita tax on the membership of affiliated local unions of \$.55, payable on or before the 15th day of the following month.

Affiliated organizations other than local unions, which desire to affiliate with the Federation in accordance with Article III, Section 1, shall pay an annual fee of \$25 at the time they affiliate. The annual fee for succeeding years shall be due on the first anniversary month each year thereafter; and if not paid by the first of the succeeding month after it is due, the organization shall be deemed in arrears.

Section 2. Affiliated unions shall pay per capita tax on their actual dues-paying membership as shown in their reports to their international union. In case of dispute as to the number of members on which per capita tax is to be paid, the Union concerned shall make such reports available to the Financial Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 3. A union withdrawing affiliation in the Federation shall be charged per capita tax to the last day of the month in which official notice of the withdrawal is received.

Section 4. Any union four months in arrears in the payment of per capita tax to the Federation

shall be notified in writing of this fact ~~by the Financial Secretary~~. Any union six months in arrears shall be automatically suspended unless the Federation by a two-thirds vote grants a further extension of time to the union.

The Financial Secretary-~~Treasurer~~ shall report all automatic suspensions to the Federation at the first meeting following such suspensions.

The Federation shall have the power to suspend or expel any organization affiliated with it upon conviction, after charges, notice, and hearing, under procedures of Article XI, of having engaged in conduct or a course of activity hostile or contrary to the best interests of this Federation or contrary to its Constitution or By-Laws.

Section 5. Unions, which have withdrawn or have been suspended, may become re-affiliated by a majority vote of the Federation upon payment of all arrearages due to the Federation at the time of withdrawal or suspension, except that under special circumstances the Federation may reinstate a union by mutual agreement approved by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present at a meeting.

Section 6. a. Before or during November of each year, the Executive Board shall set up a budget on which the Federation shall operate for the next fiscal year beginning January 1, ~~next~~.

The budget shall include all estimated revenues and appropriations for each category, which can be forecast with some certainty.

b. The Executive Board shall present the tentative budget at a hearing of which delegates shall have five days' notice. Any delegate may present facts pertinent to the budget or discuss any item at the hearing.

The budget shall be presented to the Federation for approval at the regular meeting in December.

~~c. Parts of the budget, which pertain to allowances, and expenses of officers shall be adopted prior to their election.~~

~~d. During a year for which a budget has been adopted, expenditures covered by budget appropriations need not be presented to Federation meetings for approval; but the financial reports provided for herein shall, in addition to itemizing expenditures, indicate from what appropriation each was made and the balance of each fund remaining unexpended.~~

~~e. The budget shall include an emergency fund from which all expenditures not properly coming under any other budget classification shall be made.~~

~~f. On recommendation of the Executive Board, a budget may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present at any meeting of the Federation.~~

Section 7. a. All expenditures of the Federation shall be made by check, signed by two of the following officers: President, Vice President, or Financial Secretary, ~~or Treasurer~~.

b. All bills not included in the regular budget shall be approved by a majority of the Executive Board or by vote of the Federation.

ARTICLE X Committees and Their Duties

The standing committees shall be the following: Education and Publicity, ~~Organizing and Local Union Support, Legislative,~~ Committee on Political Education (COPE), ~~Entertainment and Recreation, Card and Label,~~ Labor Day, Community Services, and Veterans' Affairs, ~~Civil Rights and Women's Issues, and Health and Safety.~~

The size and number of the committees and their duties shall be determined by the Executive

Board with approval of the Federation. All voting members of standing committees shall be delegates or alternates to the Federation, except that only delegates may be members of the COPE Committee.

The Federation may create ad hoc committees as needed.

The Executive Board shall constitute the Ethical Practices Committee.

ARTICLE XI Trials

Section 1. Any member who has sufficient reason to believe that a delegate has violated the Constitution or By-Laws shall specify his/her complaint in writing and file it with the Secretary. A trial committee shall be elected by a regular meeting following a majority vote of the Federation that the complaint is substantial enough to warrant a trial. The committee shall consist of seven delegates from different local unions, none of which shall be ones with which either the accuser or accused is affiliated.

Section 2. The trial committee shall give all parties concerned at least a week's notice of the time and place of the trial. At the trial, each party shall be permitted to present evidence and to be represented by himself/herself or others designated by him/her.

Section 3. As soon as the trial is completed and the committee has made its decision, it shall report to the next regular meeting of the Federation its recommendation. The committee shall report its recommendation to the delegate(s) and union(s) concerned prior to this Federation meeting. The Federation shall then act and report its action in writing to the union(s) and delegate(s) concerned.

Section 4. Any final decision of a local central body in a matter requiring a hearing within the central body under these rules may be appealed to the President of the AFL-CIO within 30 days after the decision appealed from. The decision of the President may thereafter be appealed to the Executive Council. Any such appeal shall be filed in writing with the Secretary-Treasurer within 30 days after notice of the action being appealed. Appellants shall have the right to appear before the Executive Council in support of their appeal. The decision of the Executive Council may be further appealed to the next succeeding convention of the AFL-CIO. Such further appeal shall be filed in writing with the Secretary-Treasurer at least 30 days prior to the opening of the convention. The appellant shall have the right to appear before any appeals committee of the convention and, except in the case of an individual appellant, shall have the right to appear before the convention. An individual appellant shall have the right to appear personally before the convention itself only with the consent of the convention.

During any such appeal, the original decision of the local central body, or of the President, or of the Executive Council, as the case may be, shall remain in effect unless reversed, modified, or temporarily stayed.

ARTICLE XII AFL-CIO Constitution Governs

All trade union questions not covered by this Constitution shall be governed by the Constitution of the AFL-CIO or by the Rules Governing AFL-CIO Area Labor Councils and Central Labor Councils Local Central Bodies.

ARTICLE XIII Amendments

A proposed amendment to the Constitution must be submitted in writing at a regular meeting by ten (10) accredited delegates from at least five (5) different local unions or by the Executive Board. Copies of the proposed amendments shall be available at the first reading of the amendments. The

amendments shall then be read at this regular meeting and then lie over until the next regular meeting, when the amendments may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present, subject to the approval of the President of the AFL-CIO.

ARTICLE XIV
Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order—Revised shall govern this Federation in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the rules regularly adopted by this Federation.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I Order of Business

1. Call to order
2. Roll call of officers.
3. Reading of new credentials and seating of delegates
4. Reading of minutes—including those of meetings of the Executive Board
5. Communications
6. Nominations and elections, a special order of business when need arises. See Article V,
Section 2.
7. Reports of officers.
8. Reports of standing and special committees.
9. Reports of union representatives to other boards and committees.
10. Unfinished business
11. New Business
12. Reports of Unions
13. Discussion of political and economic questions
14. Good and welfare of Federation
15. Adjournment

ARTICLE II ~~Parliamentary Rules of Order~~ Resolutions

1. ~~All meetings of the Federation shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Orders~~
2. ~~All resolutions shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary for presentation to the Executive Board for its recommendation. If the resolution is to be used in letter form to be distributed to individuals or organizations, no list of affiliates or individuals shall be used except by permission of the Federation delegates and an appropriate officer of each affiliate, or in the case of individual's names, the individual's permission. Any resolution introduced which covers subject matter that is not in the jurisdictional area of this Federation shall not be acted on by this Federation, in accordance with the AFL-CIO Constitution and the Rules Governing AFL-CIO Local Central Bodies Rules Governing AFL-CIO Area Labor Councils and Central Labor Councils.~~

ARTICLE III Notices

Each delegate to the Federation shall furnish, and keep registered with the Secretary, an address to which all notices may be sent. If no such address is registered, the office or address of the secretary of the delegate's local shall be deemed the address of such delegate.

ARTICLE IV Paid Representatives

If the Federation has a paid staff position, the President shall hold that position, with wages and benefits determined as part of the regular budget process. The Federation may establish additional staff positions with selection procedures, duties, and pay to be determined at the time ~~the position is~~ established of hiring.

ARTICLE V Suspension or Removal of Officers

This Federation may suspend or remove any officer or member of the Executive Board on written charges, notice, and hearing in accordance with Article XI of this Constitution for violation of the Constitution of the AFL-CIO, the ~~Rules Governing AFL-CIO Local Central Bodies~~ Rules Governing AFL-CIO Area Labor Councils and Central Labor Councils., or the Constitution and By-Laws of this Federation, or for conduct unbecoming a Federation officer, misappropriation of funds, malfeasance in office, or neglect of duty.

ARTICLE VI Committee Limitations and Committee Chairpersons

1. No committee shall commit the Federation financially or otherwise without authorization of the Federation.

2. The President shall appoint a temporary chairperson of each committee until such time as the committee elects its own chairperson, with the exception of the Committee on Political Education, which shall always be chaired by the President. ~~The chairperson of other committees may be changed at any time with the approval of the Federation.~~

ARTICLE VII Committee on Political Education

1. (a) There shall be a standing Committee on Political Education (COPE) of the South Central Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, established pursuant to ~~Rule 29 of the Rules Governing AFL-CIO Local Central Bodies~~ the Rules Governing AFL-CIO Area Labor Councils and Central Labor Councils.

(b) The procedures to be followed by the Committee on Political Education in all matters shall be governed by the applicable ~~Rules Governing AFL-CIO Local Central Bodies~~ Rules Governing AFL-CIO Area Labor Councils and Central Labor Councils.

2. (a) The Committee on Political Education shall consist of the South Central Federation of Labor AFL-CIO Executive Board with the President as chairperson and the Treasurer as chief financial officer and representatives from the Building Trades, Industrial Trades, Service Trades, Printing Trades, and Government Employees based on the total membership of these groups as shown on the annual per capita tax report given in January to the Federation by the Financial Secretary. The following formula shall be used to determine the representatives on the Committee on Political Education.

1,000 members and under - 1 member
1,001 to 2,500 members - 2 members
2,501 to 4,000 members - 3 members
4,000 and over - 4 members

The COPE members shall be elected by caucus of Federation delegates from the respective unions in each group in May of even-numbered years and shall serve for two years unless otherwise replaced. No alternates shall be allowed to serve on COPE.

(b) The quorum required for meetings of the COPE shall consist of at least one third of the entire committee and this one third shall consist of committee members from at least three of the five groups.

(c) COPE may send candidates a uniform questionnaire on main issues or request candidates to appear before it for personal interviews.

(d) COPE may make recommendations for endorsement by a majority vote of the committee

members present to the South Central Federation of Labor AFL-CIO delegates. The committee may also request candidates to appear before the Federation delegates.

(e) The Committee on Political Education shall be the only SCFL body authorized to make recommendations concerning the endorsement or non-endorsement of candidates and ballot issues.

(f) The Federation delegates shall review recommendations of the Committee on Political Education and may make endorsements by a two-thirds vote as provided for in the ~~Rules Governing AFL-CIO Local Central Bodies~~ Rules Governing AFL-CIO Area Labor Councils and Central Labor Councils. All final actions to support or oppose candidates or ballot issues, and on recommendations to State COPE by the Federation, shall require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast. In the absence of a two-thirds majority - either to support or oppose or to recommend to State COPE - the Federation shall be neutral, except that the Federation shall support the final action of the National AFL-CIO and the State AFL-CIO on candidates and issues covered by the ~~Rules Governing AFL-CIO Local Central Bodies~~ Rules Governing AFL-CIO Area Labor Councils and Central Labor Councils.

(g) No COPE or Federation delegate shall have the authority to bind the Federation, endorse a candidate on behalf of the Federation, or speak for or on behalf of the Federation without first obtaining consent or approval of the Federation.

(h) After endorsement is made by the Federation delegates, no COPE Committee member shall act in any official capacity whatsoever, including identifying himself or herself as a member of the COPE Committee, on behalf of any non-endorsed political candidate or political matter. Upon violation of this section by any of these members, the Federation shall take action to expel, suspend, censure, or otherwise penalize the offending member for no longer than a one-year period.

(i) Unopposed candidates may be endorsed by the Federation.

3. (a) Action to support or oppose candidates and local ballot issues and to make recommendations to State COPE shall be taken at a regular or special meeting of the Federation.

(b) Notice that SCFL will consider endorsement of candidates or ballot issues shall be mailed by the Secretary to all delegates at least 5 days before the date of such a meeting. The notice shall specify the races or issues that will be considered. No action shall be taken on races or issues not specified on such notice except by unanimous consent.

(c) Endorsement questions shall be placed on the agenda of a Federation meeting upon the request of a majority vote of delegates at a previous Federation meeting, by majority vote of the Executive Board, by majority vote of the Committee on Political Education, or by written request of at least ten delegates from ten affiliated local unions. Such requests must be made at least six (6) days prior to the meeting.

(d) A motion to reconsider an endorsement or non-endorsement of a candidate or ballot issue may be made at the next Federation meeting provided two members who voted with the prevailing side make a written request to the Federation to place this issue on the agenda at least six (6) days prior to the meeting.

4. (a) COPE funds shall be placed in a separate banking account under the name of the Committee on Political Education and shall be signed by two of the following Federation officers: President, Financial Secretary, or Treasurer.

(b) The Federation shall request local affiliated unions to contribute for programs of education, registration, and get-out-the-vote through fundraising activities.

ARTICLE VIII

Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall begin on January 1.

ARTICLE IX

Donations

It shall be the policy of the Federation to make no donations.

ARTICLE X

Strikes

This Federation shall have no authority or power to order any local union or other organization to strike or to take a strike vote. This prohibition, however, shall not prevent the Federation from giving proper assistance to a local union or other organization with the approval of its parent body, so long as such assistance is not inconsistent with the objectives, principles, and policies of the AFL-CIO.

ARTICLE XI

Collective Bargaining

This Federation shall not take part in any collective bargaining activities or in any labor dispute involving any affiliated local union except upon the request or consent of the national or international union or organizing committee with which such local union is affiliated or, in the case of local unions directly affiliated with the AFL-CIO, except upon the request or consent of the President.

ARTICLE XII

Boycotts and Unfair Lists

This Federation shall not have the power or authority to originate a boycott or to initiate action to place an employer on an "unfair" or "do not patronize" list. All such action shall be taken only on written request of the aggrieved union or in response to an action by the AFL-CIO. When such action is requested by an aggrieved union, the Federation shall be governed by the following regulations:

(a) If the requested action is directed against an employer which has a contract or working agreement with any union or unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO, other than the aggrieved union, then the written consent of such other union or unions shall be required. If such consent is not given, no further action shall be taken by the Federation, except as authorized by the President or the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO.

(b) If the requested action is directly against an employer for a dispute arising within the area of the Federation and does not involve the contractual interests of other AFL-CIO unions, the Federation may take the requested action if, in its judgment, such action is warranted.

(c) If the requested action is directed against an employer for a dispute arising wholly outside the area of the Federation, no action shall be taken unless the local central body or state central body in whose area the dispute arose has first acted favorably on the request of the aggrieved union in keeping with applicable rules.

(d) If the requested action is directed against an employer for a dispute which is national or regional in scope, no action shall be taken by the Federation unless the national or international union involved has first secured the approval of the AFL-CIO.

ARTICLE XIII
Publications and Advertising

This Federation shall follow Rule 23 of ~~Rules Governing AFL-CIO Central Bodies~~ Rules Governing AFL-CIO Area Labor Councils and Central Labor Councils.

ARTICLE XIV
Lists

All lists of affiliates or members of affiliates in possession of the Federation shall be used exclusively in carrying out the authorized programs and work of the Federation and shall not be released to any person or organization for any other purpose unless such release has been duly authorized by the affiliate or affiliates involved. Officers of organizations affiliated with the Federation and delegates to the Federation from these organizations shall be entitled to access (at the place where records are kept and at reasonable times) to full information concerning the names and addresses of delegates and the number of votes of each affiliated organization, provided such requests are made with five working days' notice. Such local union officers, delegates, and alternates shall be permitted to examine and to obtain a copy of this information at no cost.

ARTICLE XV
Amendments

Amendments to these By-Laws can be made the same way as those to the Constitution proper (see Article XIII)