

# ORGANISATIONAL FUSION DOCUMENT

1. The fused organisation will be called the Workers Socialist League with a constitution as drafted and circulated separately. It will have a weekly 16 page sponsored paper and a theoretical journal titled Workers Socialist Review. In addition it will have the youth paper, women's paper and regular pamphlets on women's oppression.

2. FINANCE. We have worked out a rough budget for the fused organisation and on the basis of this propose the following dues structure.

25p per week or £1 a month minimum; plus 5p in the pound for every one pound take home pay above £200 per month after allowances, and less than £400 a month; and 25p in the pound for every pound above £400 a month.

Allowances: adult dependent £140; dependent child £70; car £70; telephone £15. (Comrades married to non-members have the option of calculating on two-thirds of the combined income of self and spouse, without the £140 deduction). There is a separate form for more details.

Paper Sales. Every member will be required to sell and pay for a minimum of ten papers a week. (The minimum for broad group supporters is six papers a week). All WSL members will be broad group supporters, but the establishment of local groups will be at the discretion of the appropriate party body.

Broad group supporters pay a minimum contribution of £1 a month and 20p for the wageless. League members who are active in the local groups will be required to pay a minimum broad group contribution of £3 per month (60p for wageless). This is to give a lead in fighting for higher contributions from the other broad group supporters.

The broad groups will have a separate financial structure.

Method of Payment. Late or irregular payment of dues, paper money and contributions damages our activity and means that time and effort is used up in chasing up money. All members are therefore expected to pay their dues through bank standing orders, and if necessary members must open a bank or giro account for this purpose (except in the case of low payment, particularly from the unemployed).

We will fight in the broad groups for them to pay their dues by group standing order and several groups do this already.

Fund Raising. The fund target in the paper will be about £2,000 a month. Most of this will be made up by contributions and a part of our dues. But a substantial part - £300 per month, at least - must be raised from non-members and not supporters.

Special Fund. We will launch the paper with a £10,000 Special Fund drive by Xmas. This is to provide new premises in London and new equipment.

## 3. PARTY STRUCTURE.

A) National Committee. The fused NC will be the highest body between conferences. It will meet every 2 months for two days. It will have 52 members. The fused EC with 12 members will meet every two weeks and will be responsible to the National Committee. The Organising Committee, with 6 members, will meet as frequently as necessary and is responsible to the EC and NC. A parity sub-committee of the NC shall be responsible for work amongst women.

B) Party Workers. There will be 11 party workers. This will include editorship of the paper, the magazine, national organisers, international and financial responsibilities. They will comprise the existing WSL and ICL party workers plus an additional WSL comrade as an industrial organiser and an additional ICL comrade as an organiser in Scotland. (Also one of the youth organisers should be from the SYL). The exact responsibilities of party workers will be the responsibility of the new NC.

C) Commissions. Commissions on international work and other areas of work. They will be open to interested members and responsible to the NC. Each commission will have a steering committee of NC members appointed by the NC. Precise details of commissions to be worked out by the incoming NC.

D) Area Committees. There will be area committees made up from one or two delegates from each branch. Each area committee will elect a secretary/organiser. The following comrades have been appointed to convene the first meeting.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Convenor</u>	<u>Notes.</u>
SCOTLAND	Cale	
NORTH EAST (Sunderland, Durham, Teeside)	TS	North-East area is seen as an objective, not immediately realisable.
YORKSHIRE (Bradford, Leeds, Hull, Rotherham, Sheffield)	GF	
NORTH WEST (Merseyside, Manchester, Runcorn, Winsford, Stoke)	Appleyard	
MIDLANDS (B'ham, Coventry, Nuneaton, Nottingham, Leicester, Northampton)	PF	Area as one unit subject to review at each NC, with a view to earliest possible division into East and West Midlands.
SOUTH WALES & SOUTH WEST (Cardiff and Bristol)	Lewis	
OXFORD-SOUTHAMPTON (including also Basingstoke)	TH	Area subject to discussion by existing Oxford Area Committee.
LONDON (incl. Cambridge, Welwyn, Macaulay Chelmsford, Brighton, Guildford, Tunbridge Wells)		Convenor subject to detailed allocation of work among National Organisers.

E) Party Names. League members who are members of the mass party should have party names and use them whenever names are needed in writing inside the organisation (minutes, letters, circulars, IB etc)

F) TILC. The WSL is affiliated to the Trotskyist International Liaison Committee and recognises its commitment to lend political and material resources to the building of TILC as a democratic centralist international tendency.



## OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

### 1. As James P. Cannon argued:

"For the proletarian revolutionist the party is the concentrated expression of his life purpose, and he is bound to it for life and death. He preaches and practises party patriotism, because he knows that his socialist ideal cannot be realised without the party. In his eyes the crime of crimes is disloyalty or irresponsibility towards the party. The proletarian revolutionist is proud of his party. He defends it before the world on all occasions. The proletarian revolutionist is a disciplined man, since the party cannot exist as a combat organisation without discipline. When he finds himself in the minority, he loyally submits to the decision of the party and carries out its decisions, while he awaits new events to verify the disputes or new opportunities to discuss them again."\*

Slow-moving, bureaucratic, social-democratic organisations require-- and depend on--only a token level of activity from their members. A revolutionary organisation must be the opposite. To have the strength for the hard struggles it must wage, and to have the political sharpness and clarity it needs, it must have a high minimum level of activity and commitment from all its members.

2. At the same time, our perspective is not an all-out six-month dash from now to the revolution. And if we are to build a workers' organisation, our pace of activity must not be such as to pull comrades away from all normal social contacts.

Thus activity is organised so that its normal pace can be kept up without exhaustion and overstrain, and (so far as is possible) to accommodate comrades' difficulties, special interests, etc. We do not demand superhuman energy from comrades, still less superhuman abilities, but only a basic commitment and sense of responsibility to revolutionary politics.

3. The basic minimum activity expected of all members is:

\*Regular attendance at and participation in:

- your League branch and any League committees you belong to;
- your local broad group (if one exists);
- your union branch and workplace union activity;
- your mass party and/or its youth section.

You should not miss any meetings or activities of these unless the branch or branch organiser has agreed to it. Where there is a clash of meetings, League meetings have priority unless your branch or committee decides otherwise.

\*Regular sales of the paper at work, to individual contacts, and at your labour movement meetings. Every comrade is required to sell a minimum of ten papers a week.

\*Basic financial commitments (dues and contributions).

Conscientious fulfilment of all obligations to the labour movement. If you take on a delegacy or an officership in your union branch, or if you promise your League branch you will do a particular task, you must do it conscientiously.

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\*Where it reads 'he', 'his', etc., 'she', 'her' etc would equally apply.

(2)

4. You are also expected to abide by majority decisions, and decisions of elected leading committees, in the League, even if you think they are unreasonable or wrong. (You also have the right to argue to change the decisions).

You must be willing to discuss all your political activity in the League branch and committees, and accept the majority decisions. No freelancing!

5. Comrades from middle class backgrounds have a special responsibility in our fight to build a revolutionary workers' organisation. They must adapt themselves to a working class orientation. Our branch meetings should be meetings that workers feel comfortable in, and comrades from middle class backgrounds should contribute to that by disciplined behaviour and by being willing to learn from workers rather than lecture them.

6. All revolutionary activity depends on convincing people. In every area of work, comrades should seek out people who are interested in the paper or willing to discuss with us--and try to develop discussions, cooperation in practical work, etc. Without this, routine labour movement activity can become an empty formality.

7. A revolutionary must try to educate those around him or her; s/he must also educate himself/herself and regard attendance at party educationals as central to this.

Much of revolutionary politics cannot be learnt from books, but only by activity in the class struggle. Book-learning is, however, important too. Studying Marxism should be as important a regular activity as attending your union branch.

8. For the League to do what it needs to do, many activities are necessary over and above the bedrock work laid out in points 3 to 7. But such activities (taking on elected offices within the League or within the labour movement, extra paper sales, special campaigns, etc.) are discussed and allocated by the branches on the basis of who is available, willing and able to do them. It is unusual for such extra activities to be made a matter of discipline, rather than done voluntarily out of commitment.

However:

a) It is a basic matter of revolutionary responsibility that once you have volunteered to do a job, you do it.

b) Full national mobilisations of all members may be required as a matter of discipline for certain demonstrations, etc.

c) It is an essential part of being a revolutionary that you are willing to make an extra effort when a major struggle is on, e.g. a big strike in your area.

9. Members are obliged to consult the organisation about any changes of job or place of residence, or about taking on a job when leaving school or college.