

# **MICHIGAN LABOR HISTORY SOCIETY CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

(Adopted as Amended at the Annual Meeting May 14, 2014)

## **I. NAME**

The name of this organization is the Michigan Labor History Society.

## **II. PURPOSES**

A. The purpose of the Michigan Labor History Society is to foster interest, education, understanding, and research regarding the contributions made by the working men and women of Michigan, and to encourage the production of visual and written materials on the topic, with special emphases on contributions made by women and minority workers.

B. The Society will publicize through educational and public events, which the Society will promote and help coordinate, events and activities that would be illustrative of the conditions of working life throughout the state's history, and those which celebrate and commemorate activities of Michigan workers, their unions, and their organizations.

C. The Society supports endeavors of professional archival institutions in Michigan to collect, preserve and make available to researchers original source materials relating to the history of Michigan workers and their organizations.

## **III. MEMBERSHIP**

A. All persons and/or institutions interested in labor history are eligible for membership in the Society.

B. There are four classes of membership:

1. Individual membership: open to any individual other than those eligible and opting for membership categories (2),(3) or (4), and interested in the purposes of the Society.

2. Full-time students, retired or unemployed workers: open to those who are full-time students, retired, or out of work at the time dues are payable.

3. Contributing or sustaining membership: open to individuals or institutions that are able to offer extra dues support beyond the other membership categories dues amounts.

4. Institutional membership: open to academic institutions, trade unions,

retired workers' organizations, and other organizations approved by the Board of Directors. Such organizations may be represented through a designated individual at Society functions, with one vote.

C. A person or institution gains membership in the Society by stating an interest in labor history and by tendering a dues payment in the amount fixed for the category of membership sought. All members in the Society have equal rights and responsibilities as members, although dues of members in the three membership categories may differ.

D. A person or institution retains membership in the Society by supporting and acting in accordance with the purposes of the Society, and by tendering dues annually in the amount fixed for the applicable category of membership. The Treasurer may drop from membership in the Society any person who has failed to tender dues within six months after payment is due.

#### **IV. GOVERNMENT**

A. The Society is governed by the membership; and between business meetings, by its Executive Board.

B. The Executive Board is composed of three co-chairs (or their designees), a secretary, a treasurer, and four (4) at-large board members. All vacancies occurring on the Board in the interim between tri-annual election meetings will be filled at the next business meeting of the Executive Board, for which due notice will be given. Only the co-chairs (and/or one designated Executive Board member) and the Treasurer have powers and responsibilities regarding expenditure of funds by the Society; no other Board member may be held liable in the event of mismanagement of Society funds.

C. The Secretary keeps the minutes of the Executive Board and membership meetings, and handles or assists in maintaining the correspondence and records of the Society. The minutes of the meetings of the Society and of the Executive Board shall be distributed to all Board members and to any other Society members requesting them.

D. The Treasurer is responsible for safekeeping the Society funds and maintaining adequate financial records.

1. The Treasurer deposits all funds received by the Society in a reliable financial institution in the name of the Society; maintains a list of members; collects dues; and renders an annual report and such other reports as the Executive Board may, from time to time, require.

2. Funds are paid out by numbered checks. All checks must be co-signed by two (2) of the following officers: a Designated Co-Chair, the Treasurer, and/or a designated Executive Board member.

## **V. ELECTIONS**

A. The officers and Executive Board shall be elected tri-annually at the regularly scheduled membership meeting of the Society.

B. Procedures:

1. Notice of the tri-annual meeting and election shall be sent at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting to all members.

2. A three (3) member Nominating Committee, appointed by the officers, shall present a slate of candidates at the election meeting.

C. Other nominations may be made from the floor of the meeting

D. All candidates for office, who are not in attendance at the election meeting, must have on file with the Secretary, a written and signed document expressing their acceptance of nomination and willingness to serve if elected.

## **VI. DUES**

A. Dues for gaining and retaining membership in the Society shall be payable annually for the fiscal year (January 1 to December 31) in the amount set by the Executive Board.

B. Members in arrears for more than six months after payment is due, may be dropped from membership.

## **VII. MEETINGS/ QUORUMS**

A. Membership meetings shall be held at least annually during the first half of the calendar year.

1. Notice of such meetings will be sent to the registered membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting date.

2. A quorum shall consist of all members, who are present and voting, who were registered at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

B. The Executive Board meetings shall be held at least quarterly at the call of the co-chairs.

1. The officers shall be given at least ten (10) days advance notice of such meetings.

2. The Executive Board will act by majority vote of those

members present and voting.

## **VIII. COMMITTEES**

The Society shall have the following standing committees:

### **A. Program Committee:**

1. Shall be responsible for arranging suitable programs for the Society and its meetings.
2. Shall meet at least quarterly, or as called by the officers or its chair.

### **B. Labor Legacy Project**

1. Shall oversee and make recommendations for the additions and/or upkeep of the Project on Hart Plaza in Detroit.
2. Shall meet as needed, as called by the officers or its chair.

**C. Special committees:** may be established by the officers to undertake additional projects, i.e.

1. Establishing the historic validity of sites.
2. The marking of those historical sites
3. The arranging of historical tours.
4. The needs and interests of the Society as there are dictated.

## **IX. RULES**

All rules and procedures not covered in the Constitution and By-laws will be referred to and governed by the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

## **X. EXCLUSIVELY EXEMPT PURPOSES**

**A.** This organization is formed exclusively for exempt purpose within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

**B.** No part of the net earnings of the Society shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the Society shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payment and distributions in

furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

C. Upon the dissolution of the Society, the officers after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the organization, shall dispose of all of the assets of the organization exclusively for the purposes of the organization in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

## **XI. AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the Society by a two-thirds vote of those members present and voting at a meeting at which such amendment is to be considered. Written notice of such meeting, and the amendments to be considered, must be sent to each member's last known address, as provided by the member to the Treasurer, at least thirty (30) days prior to such meeting.