

1 Providing for the Operation of Area Central Labor Bodies

Submitted by the Executive Council

In 1999 the Executive Council adopted a statement endorsing the New Alliance program—a plan to reinvigorate, make more effective and further unify state and local central bodies. The 1999 Convention amended the Constitution in several respects to enable this program to flourish.

Through the New Alliance, national and local unions and the AFL-CIO have begun to join together in a voluntary process to create strong central bodies fully supported by every local union and fully capable of vigorously representing the interests of American working families at the state and local levels, where political, legislative and organizing battles increasingly are taking place.

The New Alliance is rebuilding the labor movement's state and local power by engaging the entire labor movement in a state—in full partnership with national unions and the AFL-CIO—in a process to reach consensus on central body roles, responsibilities and core programs; integrate national union and state and local central body priorities; restructure and re-map the union movement in our communities; and ensure sufficient resources for critical central body programs and activities by bringing about full participation and fair affiliation by all local unions.

Since the 1999 Convention, a key restructuring initiative in several states has been the creation of “area” labor councils or federations that either replace one or more existing central labor councils or coordinate the activities of a geographic cluster of those councils. In July 2001 the Executive Council adopted revised “Rules Governing AFL-CIO Area Labor Councils and Central Labor Councils” in part to authorize these area central bodies and define their structures and rules.

Article XIV, Section 1 of the Constitution authorizes the Federation, through the Executive Council, to charter subordinate bodies “upon a city, state or other regional basis,” and the Council’s chartering of area central bodies under the New Alliance program has implemented that authority. The proposed amendment would formally recognize the creation and operation of area labor councils and federations by inserting the word “area” in every reference to “state and local” central labor bodies that appears in the Constitution.

Therefore, the Executive Council proposes the following amendments:

Article II OBJECTS AND PRINCIPLES

3. To affiliate national and international unions with this Federation and to establish such unions; to form organizing committees and directly affiliated local unions and to secure their affiliation to appropriate national and international unions affiliated with or chartered by the Federation; to establish, assist and promote state, area and local central bodies composed of local unions of all affiliated organizations and directly affiliated local unions; and to establish and assist trade departments composed of affiliated national and international unions and organizing committees.

Article III AFFILIATES

Section 1. The Federation shall be composed of: (1) national and international unions that are affiliated with, but are not subordinate to, or subject to the general direction and control of, the Federation; and (2) the following categories of organizations that are subordinate bodies of the AFL-CIO subject to the kind and degree of

Federation direction and control provided for in this Constitution: (a) organizing committees; (b) directly affiliated local unions and national councils thereof; (c) state, area and local central bodies; and (d) trade and industrial departments.

Article IV CONVENTION

Sec. 4.(b) Each directly affiliated local union and each trade and industrial department shall be entitled to one delegate. Each state, area or local central body shall be entitled to one delegate. Directly affiliated local unions, with the approval of the President, may combine with other such unions within a reasonable distance to elect a single delegate to represent such unions.

Sec. 5. Each national or international union, organizing committee, directly affiliated local union, state, area or local central body and trade and industrial department shall be entitled to alternate delegates. Such alternate delegates shall meet the same eligibility requirements as apply to delegates, and they shall be elected or otherwise designated, and their names submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer, by the same dates as for delegates. An alternate delegate shall have no voice, vote or other standing at any convention unless and until he or she replaces a delegate.

Sec. 11.(e) All resolutions, constitutional amendments, appeals, petitions, reports and memorials submitted by a an area or local central body must first be approved at its regularly constituted delegate meeting.

Sec. 18. Questions may be decided by voice vote, show of hands or division, or, upon the request of 30 percent of the delegates present, by a roll call vote. Upon such roll call each delegate representing affiliated national or international unions, organizing committees and directly affiliated local unions shall be entitled to cast one vote for every member whom the delegate repre-

sents. Each state, area and local central body and trade and industrial department shall be entitled to one vote.

Article VIII SECRETARY-TREASURER

Sec. 4. It shall be the duty of each national and international union, organizing committee, trade and industrial department, state, area and local central body and directly affiliated local union to furnish the Secretary-Treasurer a copy of all official reports issued by them with a statement of their membership in good standing, and to furnish such additional statistical data in their possession relating to the membership as may be called for by the Secretary-Treasurer.

Sec. 7. The Secretary-Treasurer shall provide annually a financial statement of the Federation to all affiliated national and international unions, organizing committees, directly affiliated local unions and state, area and local central bodies.

Article X EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Sec. 16. The Executive Council shall be authorized by a two-thirds vote to: (i) adopt an ethical practices code that covers the executive officers and employees of the AFL-CIO and the state, area and local central bodies and to establish an appropriate enforcement system and appropriate sanctions for violations of such code; and (ii) require trade and industrial departments and national and international unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO to adopt and enforce within their own organizations ethical practices codes that are consistent with the AFL-CIO code and to establish appropriate sanctions for non-compliance with this requirement. In the event the sanctions provided for by the Executive Council include suspension from the AFL-CIO or from AFL-CIO office, that sanction may be imposed only by a two-thirds vote of the Council after an appropriate hearing.

Article XIV
STATE, AREA AND
LOCAL CENTRAL BODIES

Sec. 3. The Executive Council shall issue rules governing the conduct, activities, affairs, finances and property of state, area and local central labor bodies and providing procedures for the discipline, including suspension, trusteeship and expulsion of such bodies or suspension or expulsion of their officers. Such rules shall define the powers of the President, or his designee, with respect to disciplinary action against state, area and local central labor bodies and their officers. They shall provide for notice and hearing in all

cases in which such action is taken, but shall permit emergency action (including the authority to suspend officers and establish a trusteeship over such central labor bodies and their property) prior to hearing where in the opinion of the President the interests of the Federation so require. The rules shall further provide for appeals to the Appeals Committee of the Executive Council, and shall also provide that decisions appealed from shall remain in full force and effect pending such appeal.

Referred to the Constitutional Committee