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Authorizing Central Bodies to Allow Allied Retiree Organizations Designated by the Executive Council to Affiliate or Otherwise Participate

Submitted by the Executive Council

Article XIV, Section 1 of the Constitution describes the organizations that are eligible to affiliate or otherwise participate in state and local central bodies. [Note that separately proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 1 would amend this article to cover area as well as state and local central bodies.]

Under this provision, central bodies “shall be composed exclusively of locals of [affiliated] national and international unions and organizing committees..., directly affiliated local unions, local central bodies within the geographical limits of the state and regional bodies, and such other subordinate bodies and constituent entities as the Executive Council may determine are eligible for affiliation or other participation.”

In many parts of the country, particularly as they are more actively seeking to work in coalition with the labor movement’s natural allies, state federations have wished to offer state chapters of allied retiree organizations representation or other forms of participation enjoyed by other affiliates. And, while the inclusion of “constituent entities” in the provision as it now stands is arguably broad enough to cover certain retiree organizations, this amendment would

explicitly give the Executive Council authority to extend eligibility to state chapters of the Alliance for Retired Americans, as this new organization increasingly seeks to work in coalition with the labor movement on a number of critical issues of mutual concern.

Therefore, the Executive Council proposes the following amendments:

ARTICLE XIV

STATE AND LOCAL CENTRAL BODIES

Sec. 1. Central bodies subordinate to the Federation may be chartered upon a city, state or other regional basis as may be deemed advisable by the Executive Council and shall be composed exclusively of locals of national and international unions and organizing committees, affiliated with the Federation, directly affiliated local unions, local central bodies within the geographical limits of state and regional bodies, and such other subordinate bodies, ~~and~~ constituent entities and allied retiree organizations as the Executive Council may determine are eligible for affiliation or other participation.