

ARTICLE VII. Convention

Sec. 1. Place, Date, and Call. A convention of the LWV-VA shall be held biennially in the odd-numbered years at a time and place to be determined by the board of directors. A first call to convention shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues and ILOs and to the chairs of member-at-large units at least six weeks before the date fixed in said call. Thereafter the board may advance or postpone the opening date of the convention by not more than two weeks. A final call giving the exact time and place of the convention shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues and ILOs and to the chairs of member-at-large units at least thirty days before convention.

Sec. 2. Composition. The convention shall consist of:

- a. delegates chosen by the members of local Leagues in the number provided in Sec. 4 of this Article;
- b. the presidents of local Leagues and chairs of member-at-large units or an alternate in the event the president or chair is unable to attend;
- c. the members of the board of directors of the LWV-VA;
- d. LWV-VA off-board committee chairs with portfolio; and
- e. one delegate chosen by the board of each ILO.

Sec. 3. Delegates' Qualifications and Voting. All delegates shall be voting members of the League. No delegate shall be entitled to more than one vote and absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. Delegates of local Leagues that have failed to make a reasonable effort to meet the fiscal year's per member payment to the LWV-VA shall be denied voting privileges. The convention shall be the sole judge of whether a delegate is qualified to vote.

Sec. 4. Representation. The members of the LWV-VA who are organized into local Leagues or member-at-large units in the Commonwealth of Virginia shall be entitled to voting representation in the convention as follows: the members in each local League or member-at-large unit shall be entitled to two delegates; when a local League membership reaches 25 voting members, it shall be entitled to one additional delegate; thereafter one additional delegate shall be authorized for each additional twenty-five voting members or major fraction thereof belonging to said local League. The official membership count shall be determined by national office records of voting members as reported to the national office in the membership count of the year in which the convention is held.

Sec. 5. Powers. The convention shall consider and authorize for action a program; elect officers and directors, the chair and two members of the nominating committee; adopt a budget for the next fiscal year; give guidance to the board on program and methods of work; and transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Sec. 6. Quorum. Thirty percent of the possible number of voting delegates other than the members of the state board shall constitute a quorum provided that a majority of local Leagues are represented.

ARTICLE VIII. Council

Sec. 1. Place, Date and Call. A meeting of the council shall be held biennially, approximately twelve months after each convention at a time and place to be determined by the board of directors. A formal call giving the exact time and place of the council shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues and ILOs and to the chairs of member-at-large units **at least six weeks before a council meeting.** In the event of an emergency, the board may call a special council meeting.

Sec. 2. Composition. The council shall consist of the presidents of local Leagues and the chairs of member-at-large units or an alternate in the event the president or chair is unable to attend; **one delegate** chosen by each local League and member-at-large unit; the members of the state board; and one delegate chosen by the board of each ILO.

Sec. 3. Delegates' Qualifications and Voting. All delegates shall be voting members of the League. Delegates of local Leagues that have failed to make a reasonable effort to meet the fiscal year's per member payment to the LWV-VA shall be denied voting privileges. The council shall be the sole judge of whether a delegate is qualified to vote.

Sec. 4. Powers. **The council shall give guidance to the board on program and methods of work; adopt changes in the program, if recommended by the board, following the procedures described in Article X;** adopt a budget for the next fiscal year; and transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Sec. 5. Quorum. Ten delegates, other than the members of the state board, shall constitute a quorum provided that a majority of local Leagues are represented.

ARTICLE X. Principles and Program

Sec. 1. Principles. The governmental Principles adopted by the national convention and supported by the League as a whole constitute the authorization for the adoption of program.

Sec. 2. Program. The program of the LWV-VA shall consist of action to implement the Principles and those state governmental issues chosen for concerted study or concurrence and action by the convention **or, if recommended by the board, the council.** Information on governmental issues designed for member information and education may be prepared and disseminated by the board at any time.

Sec 3. Program Adoption.

- a.** LWV-VA committees and task forces, local League boards, and voting members of the LWV-VA may make recommendations for new issues for study, amendment or elimination of current LWV-VA positions, or concurrence with a new support position. **Recommendations must be submitted to the state board at least three months before convention or council.**
- b.** Any such League board, LWV-VA study committee, task force or voting member shall send to the board accompanying background information on the issue proposed for study, concurrence, amendment or action, including the timing, need and importance of the issue for

study or action, and the rationale for seeking the proposed form of obtaining member agreement.

- c. The board shall consider all properly submitted recommendations and formulate a proposed program, which shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues and ILOs and to the chairs of member-at-large units at least four weeks before convention or, if the board recommends, the council.
- d. The convention or council shall adopt or amend the program proposed by the board by a majority vote of those present and voting.
- e. A program recommendation properly submitted by the deadline but not proposed by the board may be adopted by the convention only if its consideration is ordered by a majority vote of the convention and the proposal receives approval by a three-fifths vote of the convention delegates present and voting at a subsequent session of the same meeting.

Sec. 4. LWV-VA Program Support Positions. After the LWV-VA board approves new or amended positions for inclusion in LWV-VA program, they become the LWV-VA's positions and the basis for action on the issue. Changes to the positions may be made by the convention or council according to the procedures and limitations described in this Article.

Sec. 5. Program Action. Local Leagues may act only in conformity with, not contrary to, the positions taken by the LWVUS or the LWV-VA. Action on state governmental matters on the basis of local positions should be undertaken only after consultation with the state board. Members may act in the name of the LWV-VA only when authorized to do so by the state board.

SHERRY'S SUMMARY:

LWV-VA Program may be adopted at Convention and at Council. Procedures differ in that at Council, **only board recommended program items may be considered**; whereas, at Convention, board recommended items are considered (and adopted by majority vote), along with **any [not-recommended] item that has been moved for consideration and subsequently adopted by three-fifths vote** of the Convention. Program adopted at Convention is for a biennium (two years), but may be amended at Council, if board recommends and delegates approve. In other words, only board-recommended items are to be considered at Council; **any item** may be considered at Convention, if procedures outlined in Section X of Bylaws are followed.