

## Proposal C – Definition of membership

### ARTICLE 4

**Problem:** When dues were returned after their temporary hiatus, they were returned as “sustaining members”. This left a generic “member” status, which is used later in the bylaws. We also have people who donate, but don’t sign the pledge, yet there is currently no name for this scenario. Today’s bylaws grant membership to someone getting gear from LP Store, or even potentially some event fees, as any \$25 donation is considered “good enough”. The National office created an overlapping \$25 membership that entitles people to LP News but nothing else and has no membership pledge requirement, creating confusion especially around the time when convention delegate counts are calculated.

**Solution:** Call those who sign the pledge a “signatory member”. Give those who donate but don’t sign the pledge an official “status” of “dues-paying member”. Clarify that a “sustaining member” is someone who is both a signatory and dues-paying member. Exclude donations that have a gift attached from qualifying unless the total amount donated without a gift exceeds \$25. Prohibit the National office from creating confusingly-similar levels of membership.

**Benefits:** Clarity on membership levels. Easier to amend dues. Easier to amend requirements to be on a committee elsewhere in the bylaws.

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p><b>ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Members of the Party shall be those persons who have certified that they oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals. Membership begins when certification is recorded by the National Committee.</li> <li>2. The National Committee may offer life memberships and must honor all prior and future life memberships.</li> </ol>	<p><b>ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <del>“Signatory members” of the Party</del> shall be those persons who have certified that they oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals. Membership begins when certification is recorded by the National Committee.</li> <li>2. <u>“Dues-paying members” shall be those persons who:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <u>During the prior 12 months have donated, or have had donated on their behalf, an amount of at least \$25 excluding any event fee or any good or service</u></li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><b>ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. “Signatory members” shall be those persons who have certified that they oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals. Membership begins when certification is recorded by the National Committee.</li> <li>2. “Dues-paying members” shall be those persons who:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. During the prior 12 months have donated, or have had donated on their behalf, an amount of at least \$25</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

<p>3. The National Committee may create other levels of membership and shall determine the contribution or dues levels for such memberships.</p> <p>4. "Sustaining members" are members of the Party who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. During the prior 12 months have donated, or have had donated on their behalf, an amount of at least \$25; or</li> <li>b. Are Life members.</li> </ul>	<p><u>provided in return for that donation; or</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. <u>Are "life members"</u>. The National Committee may offer life memberships and must honor all prior and future life memberships.</li> </ul> <p>3. <u>c.</u> The National Committee may create other levels of membership, <u>which are not confusingly similar, provided that all membership levels require signatory membership,</u> and shall determine the contribution or dues levels for such memberships.</p> <p>4. <u>3.</u> "Sustaining members" <del>are members of the Party</del> <u>shall be those persons who: are both Dues-paying and Signatory members of the Party:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>a. During the prior 12 months have donated, or have had donated on their behalf, an amount of at least \$25; or</del></li> <li><del>b. Are Life members.</del></li> </ul>	<p>excluding any event fee or any good or service provided in return for that donation; or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Are "life members". The National Committee may offer life memberships and must honor all prior and future life memberships.</li> <li>c. The National Committee may create other levels of membership, which are not confusingly similar, and shall determine the contribution or dues levels for such memberships.</li> </ul> <p>3. "Sustaining members" shall be those persons who are both Dues-paying and Signatory members of the Party.</p>
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**SPONSORS:** Ken Moellman

If the first part passes:

**Proposal #** \_\_\_\_\_

**ARTICLE 5, ARTICLE 8, ARTICLE 10**

**Problem:** When dues were returned after their temporary hiatus, they were returned as “sustaining members”. This left a generic “member” status used in Articles 5, 8, and 10. Convention bodies lack the ability to know if someone is even a member of the national party before voting to elect them to a committee. The requirement to be a Sustaining member has been inconsistently applied to various committees. Any person who signs the pledge can get full contact information for any of our delegates.

**Solution:** Use “sustaining member” instead of the generic “member” in Articles 5, 8, and 10.

**Benefits:** Delegates know they’re voting for sustaining members. Someone who randomly signed the pledge in 1974 and hasn’t contributed a dime since can’t end up on a committee.

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p><b>ARTICLE 5: AFFILIATE PARTIES</b></p> <p>2. The National Committee shall charter state-level affiliate parties from any qualifying organization requesting such status in each state, territory, and the District of Columbia (hereinafter, state). Organizations which wish to become state-level affiliate parties shall apply for such status on a standard petition form as adopted by the National Committee, which petition shall be signed by no fewer than ten members of the Party residing in the appropriate state. Affiliate party status shall be granted only to those organizations which adopt the Statement of Principles and file a copy of their constitution and/or bylaws with the Party Secretary.</p> <p><b>ARTICLE 8: JUDICIAL COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>1. The Judicial Committee shall be composed of seven members elected at each regular nonpresidential convention and any five members shall constitute a quorum. No</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 5: AFFILIATE PARTIES</b></p> <p>2. The National Committee shall charter state-level affiliate parties from any qualifying organization requesting such status in each state, territory, and the District of Columbia (hereinafter, state). Organizations which wish to become state-level affiliate parties shall apply for such status on a standard petition form as adopted by the National Committee, which petition shall be signed by no fewer than ten <u>sustaining</u> members of the Party residing in the appropriate state. Affiliate party status shall be granted only to those organizations which adopt the Statement of Principles and file a copy of their constitution and/or bylaws with the Party Secretary.</p> <p><b>ARTICLE 8: JUDICIAL COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>1. The Judicial Committee shall be composed of seven <del>members</del> <u>sustaining members of the Party</u> elected at each regular nonpresidential convention and any five</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 5: AFFILIATE PARTIES</b></p> <p>2. The National Committee shall charter state-level affiliate parties from any qualifying organization requesting such status in each state, territory, and the District of Columbia (hereinafter, state). Organizations which wish to become state-level affiliate parties shall apply for such status on a standard petition form as adopted by the National Committee, which petition shall be signed by no fewer than ten sustaining members of the Party residing in the appropriate state. Affiliate party status shall be granted only to those organizations which adopt the Statement of Principles and file a copy of their constitution and/or bylaws with the Party Secretary.</p> <p><b>ARTICLE 8: JUDICIAL COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>1. The Judicial Committee shall be composed of seven sustaining members of the Party elected at each regular nonpresidential convention and any five members shall</p>

member of the National Committee may be a member of the Judicial Committee. The members of the Judicial Committee shall select the Chair of the Judicial Committee. The Judicial Committee shall take office immediately upon the close of the regular non-presidential convention at which elected and shall serve until the final adjournment of the next regular non-presidential convention. All Judicial Committee members shall have been Party members at least four years at the time of their selection. The remaining members of the Judicial Committee shall appoint new members if vacancies occur, such appointees to serve until the final adjournment of the next regular non-presidential convention. Should all Judicial Committee positions be vacant, an Intervening convention may fill such vacancies.

#### **ARTICLE 10: CONVENTIONS**

##### 2. Delegates:

- a. Delegates shall be required to be members of either the Party or an affiliate party. At all regular conventions delegates shall be those so accredited who have registered at the convention.
- b. Any federal or state law to the contrary notwithstanding, delegates to a regular convention shall be selected by a method adopted by each

members shall constitute a quorum. No member of the National Committee may be a member of the Judicial Committee. The members of the Judicial Committee shall select the Chair of the Judicial Committee. The Judicial Committee shall take office immediately upon the close of the regular non-presidential convention at which elected and shall serve until the final adjournment of the next regular non-presidential convention. All Judicial Committee members shall have been Party members at least four years at the time of their selection. The remaining members of the Judicial Committee shall appoint new members if vacancies occur, such appointees to serve until the final adjournment of the next regular non-presidential convention. Should all Judicial Committee positions be vacant, an Intervening convention may fill such vacancies.

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- b. Any federal or state law to the contrary notwithstanding, delegates to a regular convention shall be selected by a method adopted by each

constitute a quorum. No member of the National Committee may be a member of the Judicial Committee. The members of the Judicial Committee shall select the Chair of the Judicial Committee. The Judicial Committee shall take office immediately upon the close of the regular non-presidential convention at which elected and shall serve until the final adjournment of the next regular non-presidential convention. All Judicial Committee members shall have been Party members at least four years at the time of their selection. The remaining members of the Judicial Committee shall appoint new members if vacancies occur, such appointees to serve until the final adjournment of the next regular non-presidential convention. Should all Judicial Committee positions be vacant, an Intervening convention may fill such vacancies.

#### **ARTICLE 10: CONVENTIONS**

##### 2. Delegates:

- a. Delegates shall be required to be either a sustaining member of the Party or a member of an affiliate party. At all regular conventions delegates shall be those so accredited who have registered at the convention.
- b. Any federal or state law to the contrary notwithstanding, delegates to a regular convention shall be selected by a method adopted by each affiliate party; provided however,

<p>affiliate party; provided however, that only members of the Party as defined in these bylaws, or members of the affiliate party as defined in the constitution or bylaws of such affiliate party, shall be eligible to vote for the selection of delegates to a regular convention.</p> <p>5. Delegate List: Any Party member shall be provided, upon request and payment of copying and mailing costs, a list of the names and addresses of all delegates selected to attend and those who actually attended the most recent two conventions, with those who attended clearly identified, and all delegates / alternates selected to the upcoming convention, if available.</p>	<p>affiliate party; provided however, that only <u>sustaining</u> members of the Party as defined in these bylaws, or members of the affiliate party as defined in the constitution or bylaws of such affiliate party, shall be eligible to vote for the selection of delegates to a regular convention.</p> <p>5. Delegate List: Any <del>Party member</del> <u>sustaining member of the Party</u> shall be provided, upon request and payment of copying and mailing costs, a list of the names and addresses of all delegates selected to attend and those who actually attended the most recent two conventions, with those who attended clearly identified, and all delegates / alternates selected to the upcoming convention, if available.</p>	<p>that only sustaining members of the Party as defined in these bylaws, or members of the affiliate party as defined in the constitution or bylaws of such affiliate party, shall be eligible to vote for the selection of delegates to a regular convention.</p> <p>5. Delegate List: Any sustaining member of the Party shall be provided, upon request and payment of copying and mailing costs, a list of the names and addresses of all delegates selected to attend and those who actually attended the most recent two conventions, with those who attended clearly identified, and all delegates / alternates selected to the upcoming convention, if available.</p>
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**SPONSORS:** Ken Moellman

**MARK-UP LEGEND**

- In replacements, deletions precede additions.
- Deletions are in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.
- Additions are in blue bold underline.
- Per LPUS Bylaws, Article XVII, Section 1, the bylaws require a 2/3 vote to pass.

- Per RONR t8 #13, the convention special rules of order require a 2/3 vote with notice or a majority of the entire convention membership