

INTERNATIONAL UNION  
CONSTITUTION  
of the  
Laborers' International Union  
of North America

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As Amended by the 25th Convention  
September 19-22, 2016

## PREAMBLE

*We, the members of the Laborers' International Union of North America, believing that we are endowed with the inalienable natural right to provide for our existence and that of our families, and further believing that we have the right to band with others who have a common or mutual interest in the protection of these natural rights, in a proper and lawful manner, do hereby adopt this as the Constitution of the Laborers' International Union of North America.*

## ARTICLE I

### **Title and Authority**

Section 1. This Organization shall be known as Laborers' International Union of North America, and shall consist of the members of Local Unions affiliated with, and subject to the laws, rules, regulations, policies, practices and lawful orders and decisions of the said International Union, and shall not be dissolved while there are five good-standing affiliated Local Unions objecting to its dissolution.

Section 2. The supreme authority of the International Union shall reside in the members in Convention assembled through representatives of their own choosing, by election of delegates as hereinafter provided. In the interim period between Conventions, this authority shall reside in the General Executive Board.

## ARTICLE II

**Objects and Powers**

## Section 1. OBJECTS:

It shall be the object of the International Union:

(a) To unite under its banner all persons engaged in work within its jurisdiction as hereinafter defined, for their mutual benefit, aid and protection;

(b) To promote or establish appropriate wages, fringe benefits, training, hours of employment and working conditions for all such workers;

(c) To secure recognition by employers and the public of the workers' right to engage in collective bargaining;

(d) To promote the development and maintenance of health, welfare and on-the-job safety practices and such educational and staff training programs among its affiliates and members as would best effect a full knowledge of their rights, responsibilities, welfare and interest;

(e) To promote, foster, develop and advance the skills, efficiency, and working knowledge necessary, of such workers;

(f) To promote, foster and develop programs which advance the social utility and efficiency of the industries employing its members;

(g) To promote industrial peace and develop a more harmonious relationship between employees and employers;

(h) To promote a harmonious relationship between this Organization and other organizations in the Labor Movement, as would best effectuate the welfare and interest of the members;

(i) To strive for effective programs which would improve, advance, and increase the opportunities for employment;

(j) To promote a better understanding by government and the public of the aims and objects of this Organization and the Labor Movement as a whole;

(k) To engage in legislative and other activities to promote, protect and advance the physical, economic and social welfare of the workers and all people;

(l) To effectuate the philosophy of Samuel Gompers, of supporting our friends and defeating our enemies through such means as registration, voting, political education and citizenship activities involving the members, their families, and their friends;

(m) To engage in such research and educational activities as may be appropriate or necessary;

(n) To engage in legal activities appropriate for the defense and advancement of the interests of the International Union, its affiliates and their officers and membership;

(o) To promote and protect the trade jurisdiction of this International Union;

(p) To promote better understanding and improve the conditions of life of the laboring peoples of all countries;

(q) To establish a retirement program to maintain solidarity and to provide social and recreational opportunities for retirees; to publish information concerning and soliciting support for the Union's programs and policies; and to bring the special problems of retired members to the attention of the Union;

(r) To organize the unorganized.

## Section 2. POWERS:

(a) The powers of this International Union are legislative, executive and judicial;

(b) As the sovereign authority it has the power to issue charters to Local Unions, District Councils, Regional Organizing Funds and other subordinate bodies; and to define their powers and craft or territorial jurisdiction; to revise, amalgamate or revoke existing charters; and to govern, discipline, regulate or supervise these subordinate bodies as hereinafter provided;

(c) It is authorized to decide all questions relating to the rights, privileges and obligations of members and subordinate bodies of

this International Union, as such rights, privileges and obligations are hereinafter provided;

(d) It is authorized to establish, declare, decide and enforce all matters of policy for and in behalf of itself, its subordinate bodies and members. It is also authorized to establish, declare and enforce such rules, regulations and orders or decisions that are incident to, or necessary to administer the provisions of this Constitution. Its orders and decisions on all such matters shall be final, binding and conclusive;

(e) When the International Union is not in Convention assembled, its executive and judicial powers are vested in the General Executive Board and the officers as hereinafter provided.

The General Executive Board may exercise legislative power when, in its opinion, it deems it necessary to conform to or comply with law; or when, in its judgment, the exercise of such power is deemed necessary, proper and appropriate. It may exercise this power for the purpose of new legislation or to amend the Constitution of the International Union or the Uniform Constitutions of affiliated Local Unions or District Councils provided that any such new legislation or amendment shall automatically be subject to ratification by the delegates to the next General Convention of the International Union. In the exercise of legislative authority other than as above specified, the General Executive Board may submit any legislative proposal to the membership, by referendum.

If any Article, Section or part thereof of the International Union, Uniform Local Union, or Uniform District Council Constitutions should be held invalid by operation of law, the remainder of such Constitution or the application of such Article, Section, or part thereof to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it has been held invalid, shall not be affected thereby;

(f) It shall have the authority to take such action as may be necessary, appropriate and proper to preserve this International Union as an institution;

(g) It shall have the authority to take such action as it may deem necessary, appropriate, and proper to assist the governments of the

United States, Canada and elsewhere in the protection and conservation of the general welfare of the peoples of such countries;

(h) It shall have the authority, in behalf of itself, and/or its affiliated Local Unions, District Councils, Regional Organizing Funds and other subordinate bodies, to affiliate or disaffiliate with any federation, or state, area, county or local labor organizations as, in its judgment, it deems proper;

(i) When deemed beneficial or necessary and in the best interests of the International and its subordinate bodies, it shall have the authority to amalgamate or merge with other labor organizations under such terms and conditions which, in its judgment, it deems appropriate, and to make such amendments to the Constitutions as may be necessary to effectuate the merger or amalgamation. Any such amalgamated or merged body is subject to deamalgamation or expulsion after notice and hearing when it shall be deemed beneficial or necessary and in the best interests of the International, its affiliates and its members;

(j) In order to promote and conserve the welfare and interest of the International Union and its subordinate bodies, it shall have the authority to take such action as, in its opinion, it may deem beneficial or necessary to carry out the objects and purposes of the Organization.

(k) To make donations and contributions, including contributions to the Laborers Charitable Foundation; and

(l) To take all such other action as may tend to conserve, promote and foster good will and public support for the welfare and interest of this International Union, its affiliates and members.

## ARTICLE III

### **Jurisdiction**

Section 1. (a) The territorial jurisdiction of the International Union shall include the United States of America and Canada and their Possessions, Territories, Protectorates and Instrumentalities and such other areas as may further the purposes and objects of the International Union;

(b) The trade jurisdiction of this International Union shall in-

clude all work recited in the original charter grant from the American Federation of Labor in 1903 and that work subsequently granted by the American Federation of Labor in 1912; and all the jurisdiction acquired by mergers and amalgamations with the Compressed Air and Foundation Workers International Union, the Tunnel and Subway Constructors International Union, the International Union of Pavers, Rammermen, Flag Layers, Bridge and Stone Curb Setters and Sheet Asphalt Pavers, the Journeymen Stone Cutters Association of North America, the National Postal Mail Handlers Union and all work granted by the decisions of the American Federation of Labor and its affiliated Departments and as a result of decisions of public and private tribunals; and as a result of trade or area practice or subsequent mergers; as a result of organization and collective bargaining agreements; as historically and traditionally exercised by the International Union, including the Industrial, Health Care and Public Service Sectors, and as outlined in the Manual of Jurisdiction declared and promulgated by the General Executive Board.

## ARTICLE IV

### Headquarters, Label and Seal

Section 1. The headquarters and general office of the International Union shall be located in the City of Washington, District of Columbia; there shall also be established and maintained by the International Union such regional and subregional offices as, in the opinion of the General Executive Board, may be necessary, expedient or advisable for the purpose of carrying out the executive functions of the International Union as well as the service to affiliated subordinate bodies and members.

Section 2. The seal of this International Union shall be:



This seal shall constitute and be the official label of this International Union and all of its affiliated bodies, with such other descriptive language as the General Executive Board may determine.

## ARTICLE V

### **Conventions and Representation**

Section 1. A regular Convention of this International Union shall be held once every five years during the months of September or October of the Convention year.

The opening date and the city in which the Convention shall be held, shall be decided by the General Executive Board in a time and manner that affords an opportunity for proper reservations and arrangements to be made.

Section 2. The General Secretary-Treasurer shall, not later than the 30th day of the month of April of the Convention year, mail to each affiliated Local Union and District Council in good standing, a Convention Call, advising them of the opening date of the Convention and the city where the Convention is to be held. The Convention Call shall also specify the number of delegates that each Local Union is entitled to elect as its representatives to said Convention; such delegates to be elected in accordance with the provisions herein provided.

Section 3. The Convention shall be composed of members of the General Executive Board and the legally elected delegates of such Local Unions and District Councils as are in good standing at the time of the Convention and for a period of at least six months prior thereto. The members of the General Executive Board shall by virtue of their office serve as accredited delegates to the Convention and be entitled to all the privileges of duly elected delegates, but shall not be permitted to vote for officers unless they are permitted by law to do so. The designation of the members of the General Executive Board as delegates shall not affect the number of delegates to which their respective Local Unions shall otherwise be entitled. No delegate shall be entitled to a seat in the Convention unless in good standing when elected and at the time of the Convention.

If a duly elected delegate is unable to attend the Convention, the Local Union or District Council may send a substitute in place of the regular delegate, provided the substitute has been selected and named by the Executive Board of the Local Union or District Council. The Secretary of the Local Union or District Council shall then certify to the Credentials Committee of the Convention such selection, indicating the name and membership card number of the substitute and the date of the meeting when the selection was made. Such substitute shall possess all of the qualifications required of a regular delegate. If the Credentials Committee accredits such substitute as being entitled to a seat at the Convention, such substitute may participate in all of the business of the Convention except in the business of the nomination and election of officers, or as to resolutions pertaining to dues and per capita taxes.

A Local Union or District Council that is not in good standing at the time of the Convention shall have no standing or rights at the Convention.

Section 4. (a) Each Local Union in good standing and having a total membership of at least 300 members, shall be entitled to representation as follows: one delegate for each 300 members, determined by dividing the total membership by 300 and rounding up only for any excess of 0.5 or greater, provided, however, that any Local Union having a total membership of less than 300 shall have its membership combined, for the purpose of election of Convention delegates only, with that of another Local Union designated by the General Executive Board or General President. Local Unions so affected shall be so notified by the General President not later than April 30 of the year in which a regular Convention is to be held. The total membership shall be the average membership for the twelve months ending December 31 of the year immediately preceding the Convention. Each District Council in good standing, and representing 3,000 members or more, shall be entitled to two delegates; all other District Councils in good standing shall be entitled to one delegate.

Delegates selected from the Mail Handlers Division shall be entitled to vote for the nomination and election of candidates for all International Union officers.

Section 4. (b) The elected Business Manager of each Local Union of more than 300 members, and each District Council, and the elected President of each Mail Handler Local Union of more than 300 members shall be a delegate ex officio to any Convention convened during their term of office. For Local Unions and District Councils having more than one delegate, the Local Union or District Council may choose prior to the nomination of officers to designate the elected President or Secretary-Treasurer, but not both, as a second delegate ex officio. Any officer entitled to serve as a delegate ex officio from both a Local Union and District Council shall be deemed to be a delegate from the Local Union. A Local Union or District Council under supervision shall not have delegates ex officio.

Mail Handler Local Unions having more than one delegate may choose prior to nominations to designate either the elected Vice President or the Treasurer, but not both, to serve as a second delegate ex officio.

With respect to Local Unions combined for the purpose of achieving 300 members, the Business Manager of the larger Local Union, if that Local Union has more than 300 members, or for Mail Handlers the President shall have the option of serving ex officio, in which case said delegate shall lack a vote in the election of officers or on any proposal that would increase member dues. Alternatively, an ex officio delegate from the Local Union of more than 300 members shall have the option of standing for election as a regular delegate from the combined Local Union.

Section 5. The Credentials Committee shall, prior to and during the Convention, be authorized to examine, pass upon and determine the validity of the credentials of the various delegates, as submitted by their Local Unions or District Councils. The Committee shall report its findings to the Convention and recommend the seating of those delegates that it has accredited.

Section 6. Any member aggrieved by the nominations process in that member's Local Union Convention delegate election or any District Council delegates aggrieved with the nominations process in that delegate's District Council Convention delegate election

must mail the protest directly to the General Secretary-Treasurer of the International Union at LiUNA Headquarters within three business days of the nominations meeting. Any member aggrieved by the conduct of the election of Convention delegate(s) from that member's Local Union or any District Council delegate aggrieved by the conduct of the election of delegate(s) from that delegate's District Council must mail the protest to the General Secretary-Treasurer of the International Union at Headquarters within ten business days after the election. In the event that nominations and elections have been combined pursuant to Article V, Section 9(e) herein, protests of the nominations or elections must be mailed within three business days of the election. The General Secretary-Treasurer shall acknowledge such protest and refer the protest for review and decision as a nomination or election protest under International Union Constitution, Article VIII, Section 2(a-vii).

Section 7. If, after a member has been duly elected as a delegate to a Convention, such member is convicted of dishonesty, dual unionism, having worked in violation of established Union wages, hours and conditions, attempted secession, or other similar offenses, after filing of charges, due notice and proper hearing before a Trial Board, such conviction shall invalidate and deprive such member of the right to be seated as a delegate to the Convention.

Section 8. A majority of the delegates accredited and seated shall constitute a quorum.

Section 9. (a) Any member of a Local Union is eligible to be a delegate of the Local Union provided such member shall have been a member in good standing for at least two years in the International Union and for at least two years in the Local Union immediately prior to nomination and is current in the payment of dues and possesses such other qualifications as are required by Article V of the Uniform Local Union Constitution for the election of Local Union officers. However, in a Local Union chartered less than two years before the Convention, any member is eligible to be a delegate provided such member shall have been in good standing for at least six months in the International Union and for at least six months in the Local Union immediately prior to the Convention and is current in the payment of dues and possesses such other qualifications as

are required by Article V of the Uniform Local Union Constitution for the election of Local Union officers. No newly-chartered Local Union or District Council shall be entitled to representation at the Convention if that Local Union or District Council has not held its charter for a period of at least six months immediately prior to the Convention;

(b) Each Local Union, including Local Unions under supervision but not those under trusteeship, shall nominate and elect delegates to the Convention of the International Union by secret ballot, after receipt of the Convention Call from the General Secretary-Treasurer, in such number as is specified in the Convention Call, not earlier than the month of May nor later than the 30th day of June of the Convention year; self-nominations shall not be allowed. Each nomination shall require a second.

(c) After receipt of the Convention Call from the General Secretary-Treasurer, each Local Union shall arrange for the conduct of a nomination meeting. No less than fifteen days prior to said nomination meeting notice thereof shall be mailed by the Secretary-Treasurer of the Local Union to each good standing member at his last-known address and such notice shall list the number of delegate positions to be filled and the time and place of such meeting. If, following the close of nominations and prior to the election, it is discovered that one or more of the nominees is unqualified to run, that person shall be disqualified. Further nominations to fill the position of the disqualified nominee shall be accepted if, but only if, the disqualification brings the number of nominees below the number of delegates allocated to the Local Union. If, at said nomination meeting candidates for the position of delegate are unopposed, the nominees shall be declared duly elected.

(d) In the event there are more candidates than delegate positions to be filled, a secret ballot election shall be conducted and the membership shall determine and fix the date on which the election shall be held and the place and hours during which the polls shall remain open. The Secretary-Treasurer of the Local Union shall mail a written notice to the last-known address of each member in good standing, informing the member of the date, place and time of election and the number of delegates to be

elected; such notice to be mailed not less than fifteen days prior to the date of election.

(e) The nomination and election of Convention delegates shall be conducted as part of the nomination and election of Local Union officers for Local Unions conducting officer elections in the same calendar year as the Convention. The order of nominations set forth in Uniform Local Union Constitution, Article VI, Section 1(g), shall be followed after which the nominations for Convention delegates shall be conducted. The conduct of the election itself shall be as provided in Uniform Local Union Constitution, Article VI, Sections 3 and 4.

Upon the decision of its Executive Board, a Local Union may conduct its nomination and election of Convention delegates separately from its regular election of officers. In that case, the Executive Board of a Local Union may determine to conduct the nomination and election of delegates to the Convention at the same meeting. A written notice shall be mailed to each member in good standing at his last-known address at least fifteen days before said nomination and election meeting, indicating the number of delegate positions to be filled and the date, time and place of the nomination and election meeting. The conduct of the election itself shall be as provided for in Article VI, Sections 3 and 4 of the Uniform Local Union Constitution.

(f) The nomination and election of International Union delegates may be combined with the nomination and election of Local Union officers at the discretion of the General President.

(g) The delegate(s) to the International Union Convention shall be elected by the District Council in accordance with the provisions of Article VI of the Uniform District Council Constitution from among its Local Union delegates. Any person serving as a Convention delegate from their Local Union shall not be eligible for nomination or election as District Council Convention delegate.

Section 10. The General Secretary-Treasurer shall furnish to each Local Union and District Council blank original and duplicate credentials in such number as hereinabove provided.

After receipt of said credentials, the Secretary-Treasurer shall fill in the names of the duly elected delegates to the Convention and shall sign both the original and duplicate credentials; the President shall countersign said credentials.

The duplicate credentials shall then be forwarded to the General Secretary-Treasurer by the Secretary-Treasurer of the Local Union not later than the 30th day of June of the Convention year or seven (7) days after the election or re-run election of Convention delegate(s) and by District Councils not later than the 30th day of August of the Convention year or seven (7) days after the election or re-run election of Convention delegate(s).

The original credential shall then be delivered to each duly elected delegate. Each delegate shall register with the Credentials Committee in order to be duly accredited and entitled to a seat in the Convention and as such delegate, shall be entitled to cast one vote.

The General Secretary-Treasurer shall have the option of providing for the electronic registration and credentialing of Convention delegates if he determines that it would be appropriate and efficient to do so.

Section 11. A per diem allowance and transportation to duly elected delegates who are accredited and seated and who attend all sessions of the regular Convention shall be in such amount as is established by the General Executive Board of the International Union and shall be paid out of the Convention Fund.

Section 12. The Order of Business and Rules of a Convention shall be considered by the Convention Committee on Order of Business and Rules, after which it shall prepare its report and submit same to the Convention, at the opening thereof, for adoption.

Section 13. All resolutions submitted for consideration of a Convention must be sent to and be received by the General Secretary-Treasurer at the Headquarters of the International Union in Washington, D.C., not later than thirty days immediately preceding the opening date of said Convention.

All resolutions must be filed in duplicate and must be signed by a

duly elected delegate to the Convention.

Section 14. The Committees of the Convention, except as herein otherwise provided, shall be composed of nine members, or such greater number as determined by the General President, and shall be as follows:

Committee on Credentials and Audit

Committee on Order of Business and Rules

Committee on Organizing and Capital Strategies

Committee on General President's Report (the Committee on the General President's Report, in addition to those matters historically assigned to the Committee, shall be assigned matters previously assigned to the Committee on the General Executive Board's Report).

Committee on General Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Committee on Constitution and Law

Committee on Resolutions

Committee on Organization and the Future

Committee on Grievances, Adjustments and Appeals

Committee on Tri-Funds

Committee on Welfare and Pension

Committee on Legislation and Political Action

Committee on Canadian Affairs

Committee on Apprenticeship

Section 15. The General President shall, before the opening of the Convention, appoint the Committee on Credentials and Audit, the Committee on Order of Business and Rules, the Committee on Constitution and Law and the Committee on Resolutions. Committee appointments shall be made at such time as the General President may deem necessary.

Section 16. The Committee on Credentials and Audit shall con-

sist of three Convention delegates. After appointment and upon notice from the General President, this Committee shall go to the Headquarters of the International Union and examine the financial records and securities of the International Union and prepare its audit report for submission to the Convention.

#### Section 17. SPECIAL CONVENTIONS:

(a) A Special Convention may be held upon order of the General Executive Board of the International Union when, in its opinion, it deems it necessary, advisable and expedient to hold such Convention;

(b) If and when a Special Convention is ordered by the General Executive Board, such Special Convention may deal only with such matter or matters as are stated by the General Executive Board as the purpose for holding the Special Convention;

(c) In the event a Special Convention is ordered, then the General Executive Board is authorized to set and fix all dates dealing with and relative to the holding of such Convention and the city in which the Convention shall be held;

(d) The provisions under this Article dealing with Convention matters shall apply to Special Conventions insofar as they are applicable;

(e) When such a Special Convention is to be held, the General Executive Board shall determine the number of Committees necessary to properly handle the matter or matters to be considered and acted upon by said Special Convention;

(f) The General Executive Board shall also fix and determine the number of delegates to be appointed by the General President to function as members of such Committee, or Committees.

## ARTICLE VI

### **Officers**

Section 1. The officers of this International Union shall be a General President, a General Secretary-Treasurer, thirteen Vice Presidents at Large and, on an ex-officio basis, the President of the Mail Handlers Division, also known as the National Postal Mail

Handlers Union. The President of the Mail Handlers Division shall serve as a member the General Executive Board solely by virtue of that office and shall not be subject to the provisions of Article VII of this International Union Constitution. In the period between Conventions, the General Executive Board shall have the power and authority to increase or decrease the number of Vice Presidents beyond those provided for herein if such action is taken to further a legitimate and proper object of the International Union. In the event such action is taken, the General Executive Board shall fill the position by appointment and shall select a member who possesses all of the qualifications required of an officer of the International Union. All Vice Presidents shall have the same duties, powers, authority and responsibility as described in Article X of this Constitution.

Section 2. Except in the case of a filling of a vacancy by death, resignation or otherwise, these officers shall be elected in accordance with terms of Article VII of the International Union Constitution; and upon election shall serve for a term of five years, beginning upon their election at said Convention and until their successors have been duly installed.

Section 3. These officers shall constitute and be members of the General Executive Board.

Section 4. A candidate for office shall be required to be and have been in good standing in the International Union for a period of at least three years; to be a lawful permanent resident and shall be lawfully employable under the laws of the United States or Canada, and to be a duly accredited delegate to the Convention.

Section 5. In the case of a vacancy occurring by reason of death, resignation or otherwise, the vacancy shall be filled by action of the General Executive Board of the International Union. In the event of a vacancy in the office of General President, the General Secretary-Treasurer shall inform the members of the General Executive Board that a vacancy in the office of General President exists, and shall convene a meeting of the General Executive Board for the purpose of filling the vacancy. The General Executive Board shall select one of the then members of the General Executive Board to serve as General President of the International Union for the unexpired term.

In the event of a vacancy in any other office, the General President shall inform the members of the General Executive Board of such vacancy and convene a meeting of the General Executive Board for the purpose of filling the vacancy. The General Executive Board shall select a member who possesses all of the qualifications required of an officer of the International Union to fill the vacancy and to serve for the unexpired term.

All officers appointed to fill vacancies as herein provided shall serve as provisional officers until the next regular election at a Convention and until their successors have been duly installed.

Section 6. The officers and provisional officers of the International Union shall, by virtue of such office, be delegates at large to all Conventions and shall be entitled to all the rights of a delegate to the Convention, except the right to vote for officers unless they are permitted by law to do so.

#### Section 7. SALARIES:

The salary of the General President shall be five hundred sixteen-thousand, six hundred and ninety-seven dollars and sixty-one cents (\$516,697.61) a year; the salary of the General Secretary-Treasurer shall be four hundred, ninety-six thousand, seven hundred and forty-five dollars and forty-five cents (\$496,745.45) a year; the annual salary of each Vice President and the salary of the President of the Mail Handlers Division as an ex-officio member of the General Executive Board shall be set at fifty-seven thousand, nine hundred and sixty-three dollars and seventy cents (\$57,963.70) a year. The General President, with the concurrence of the General Secretary-Treasurer, between Conventions is authorized to increase the aforesaid fifty-seven thousand, nine hundred and sixty-three dollars and seventy cents (\$57,963.70) in annual salary for Vice Presidents to account for the increase in the cost-of-living, such adjustment not to exceed the percentage of increase in the National Consumer Price Index published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor or based upon other factors deemed appropriate by the General President.

The General President and General Secretary-Treasurer shall each be provided with the use of accommodations purchased or

leased by the Union when such officers are in the City of Washington, District of Columbia, in connection with the performance of their duties and responsibilities.

The General Executive Board, between Conventions, is authorized to increase the salaries, benefits or other compensation of the General President or General Secretary-Treasurer to account for the increase in the cost-of-living, said adjustment not to exceed the percentage of increase in the National Consumer Price Index published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor or based upon other factors deemed appropriate by the Board.

The officers shall receive such benefits and compensation, other than salary, as are provided other staff personnel of the International Union or are authorized for such officers by the General Executive Board and shall be entitled to receive awards for their services. The officers shall be reimbursed for all expenses incurred in connection with the performance of their duties and responsibilities.

Travel expenses may also be provided for an officer's spouse who accompanies the officer when the officer travels in connection with the performance of official duties and responsibilities.

Section 8. If a Local Union of which an officer of the International Union is a member becomes suspended for any reason, such officer shall then have the right to transfer membership into any other good-standing Local Union of the International Union.

## ARTICLE VII

### **Election**

Section 1. Except in the case of a filling of a vacancy caused by death, resignation or otherwise, the officers except as otherwise provided, shall be elected as set forth herein.

Section 2. No later than the second Monday in July in any year in which a regular Convention is to be held, members wishing to seek the office of General President, General Secretary-Treasurer, or Vice President, shall declare their intention in writing to the

General Counsel or to such other official designated by the General President, indicating the office sought. The declaration must be received in writing at LIUNA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. no later than 4:15 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. The General Counsel or such other official designated by the General President shall determine the qualifications of such individual to hold such office pursuant to Article VI, Section 4 of the International Union Constitution as of July 30 of such year. No person may declare the intention to seek more than one of the above offices. Once the General Counsel or such other official designated by the General President has declared the individual to be qualified to hold office, no such individual shall be stricken from the ballot for any reason, including the unavailability or unwillingness of the individual to seek office unless the General Counsel or such other official designated by the General President shall approve such request to withdraw.

Section 3. No later than August 5 in any year in which a regular Convention is to be held, the General Counsel or such other official designated by the General President shall furnish to each person appearing to hold the necessary qualifications the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all relevant delegates.

Section 4. In order to stand for election, a candidate must be nominated by two duly elected delegates at the Convention, one delegate to make the initial nomination and another to second the nomination.

Section 5. The members of the General Executive Board shall be elected by secret ballot of the delegates to the Convention, with the exception of the President of the Mail Handlers Division, who is an ex-officio member of the Board. The election will be held prior to the close of the regular Convention.

In the event that there is no contest for any particular office, the Secretary of the Convention may declare the candidate to be elected upon motion duly made and adopted to do so.

Section 6. Any protest regarding the nomination and election of any International Union officer must be made prior to the induction of such officer.

## ARTICLE VIII

**General Executive Board**

Section 1. The General Executive Board of this International Union shall be composed of the General President, the General Secretary-Treasurer, the thirteen Vice Presidents at Large, on an ex-officio basis, the President of the Mail Handlers Division, also known as the National Postal Mail Handlers Union.

## Section 2. POWERS:

(a) Subject to review by the Convention it shall have authority and control over all of the executive and judicial powers of the International Union;

(b) The General Executive Board may exercise legislative power when, in its opinion, it deems it necessary to conform to or comply with the law; or when, in its judgment, the exercise of such power is deemed necessary, proper and appropriate. It may exercise this power for the purpose of new legislation or to amend the Constitution of the International Union or the Uniform Constitutions of affiliated Local Unions and District Councils provided that any such new legislation or amendment shall automatically be subject to ratification by the delegates to the next general Convention of the International Union. In the exercise of legislative authority other than as above specified, the General Executive Board may submit any legislative proposal to the membership, by referendum;

(c) It shall have authority and power to establish and promulgate such rules and regulations as, in its opinion, it believes or deems necessary to implement and carry out the intent of any provision of the International Union Constitution, the Uniform Local Union Constitution and the Uniform District Council Constitution. It may provide reasonable limitations, variances, tolerances and exemptions from the requirements of said rules and regulations as, in its judgment, it would deem appropriate and proper;

(d) It shall have the authority to interpret the provisions of said Constitutions and to review and pass upon interpretations of said Constitutions as may be made by the General President of the International Union, as hereinafter provided;

(e) It shall have the authority to review and pass upon the executive and judicial functions and acts of the Officers of the International Union;

(f) It shall have the authority to order the issuance of provisional or other charters to Local Unions, District Councils, Regional Organizing Funds or other subordinate bodies, specifying the territorial and craft jurisdiction to be allotted. The General President may appoint the officers of a provisional Local Union. The International Union may revoke, amend, merge, consolidate, or otherwise amend such provisional charter without notice or hearing;

(g) Upon notice and after hearing, it shall have the authority to revoke, consolidate or amalgamate the charters of Local Unions, District Councils, Regional Organizing Funds or other subordinate bodies and to define or revise their craft or territorial jurisdiction;

(h) It may for good cause, illness or disability, make such financial provision for an officer or employee of the International Union as it deems is warranted by the length and character of the service rendered to the International Union by the individual;

(i) It shall have the authority to submit or decline to submit referenda to the membership;

(j) It shall have the authority to levy such assessments as, in its opinion, it may deem necessary and adequate and each such levy shall be valid no longer than the next succeeding regular Convention;

(k) It shall have the authority and the right to formulate proposals, resolutions, etc., for submission and consideration of a Convention, at any time;

(l) It shall have the authority to designate the depositories for the funds of the International Union and to regulate the method of withdrawal by the General President and the General Secretary-Treasurer, and shall have the power and authority to establish the investment policy of the funds of the International Union and regulate the manner and method in which these investments shall be made;

(m) The General Executive Board and the officers of the Inter-

national Union shall be empowered and authorized to make such expenditures and payments out of the various funds of the International Union as, in their judgment, they deem proper and necessary to carry out the objects, purposes and policies of the International Union and to fulfill their duties and responsibilities as required by this Constitution;

(n) In order to promote and conserve the welfare and interest of the International Union, it shall have the authority to take such action as, in its opinion, it may deem beneficial or necessary to carry out the objects and purposes of this organization;

(o) It shall have the authority to require all officers, officials and members of the International Union and all its affiliates, to exercise every possible effort in the protection of the jurisdiction of the International Union, entrusted to their care;

(p) In the event of recurrence of national disputes with other labor organizations, the General Executive Board is authorized, either directly or through executive officers, or a committee appointed for such purpose, to meet and consider such disputes and adjust same in such manner as in its opinion, is deemed fitting and proper;

(q) It shall be authorized to prepare a Manual of Jurisdiction in which it shall outline and specify the craft jurisdiction of the International Union and promulgate same among the affiliates and members of the International Union for their information and guidance. It may, from time to time, revise said Manual;

(r) It shall have the authority to merge or amalgamate other national or international labor organizations into this International Union if, in its opinion, such merger or amalgamation would tend to conserve and protect the welfare and interest of this Organization, its affiliates and members and to establish the terms and conditions upon which this may be accomplished. After notice and hearing, it shall have the authority to deamalgamate or expel any such amalgamated or merged labor organization if, in its opinion, such deamalgamation or expulsion would serve and protect the welfare and interest of this Organization, its affiliates and members;

(s) It shall have the power to authorize the General President and General Secretary-Treasurer to enter into national, regional or

area agreements with employers or employer associations and the General President is vested with authority to enforce observance of such agreements by affiliated subordinate bodies and members and to issue such directions or orders as may be necessary to accomplish such purpose, subject to review by the General Executive Board;

(t) The General Executive Board, after investigation of areas where work is not organized, which could and should otherwise be organized, shall have the authority to take such action and steps and to regulate the procedure to be followed by affiliates and members, necessary to accomplish the goal of organizing the unorganized;

(u) It may, within the minimum and maximum initiation fee fixed herein or without regard thereto, waive or regulate the initiation fee an applicant for membership shall pay to join a particular Local Union, and it may regulate the payment in installments of initiation fees to Local Unions by applicants for membership and to fix the membership privileges of such applicants, pending payment in full thereof;

(v) It shall hold a regular meeting at least once each year at such time and place as it or the General President may decide; the General President may call special meetings from time to time as he deems necessary. It may also consider and decide matters brought to its attention, through the medium of a referendum by mail, email, telephone or other appropriate technology;

(w) It may establish and maintain regional and subregional offices in such areas within the jurisdiction of the International Union as, in its opinion, it deems necessary, expedient or advisable; such offices shall be under the supervision of the General President who shall have authority to appoint a manager over each of said offices and such staff and additional personnel as may be required;

(x) It shall have the authority to establish and maintain Departments, Divisions, Bureaus, National Councils or Conferences of the International Union, when, in its opinion, it deems it necessary, expedient, or advisable to do so and to fix and promulgate regulations and rules to accomplish this purpose and to govern their operation;

(y) It shall have the power to authorize the publication of an official journal, to be known as "The Laborer" and to issue such other releases, pamphlets, bulletins, manuals or other communications through available technology as it may deem necessary;

(z) It may, from time to time, authorize research, surveys or actuarial studies to be made in conjunction with any or all of the operations or business of the International Union;

(a-i) It shall have the power to authorize the purchase or sale of property, both personal and real;

(a-ii) It may, after consideration and study of a particular matter or situation and when it believes it necessary to fully accomplish an object or purpose of the International Union or of its affiliates and members, grant limited variances, tolerances or exemptions from specific provisions of the Constitutions, established policies, practices, lawful orders and decisions, for a limited period of time and specify the conditions under which such grant is made;

(a-iii) It shall have the authority to take such action as it may deem necessary to accomplish the purpose of all of the objects hereinabove outlined;

(a-iv) It may, when in its opinion, the need for the preservation of records is no longer existent, order the disposition of same after an appropriate period of time;

(a-v) It shall have the authority to delegate any of its powers to any member or members thereof and may revoke such delegation at any time;

(a-vi) In the interim periods between regular Conventions of the International Union, all judicial authority not otherwise vested in the Independent Hearing Officer(s) or Appellate Officer shall reside in the General Executive Board of the International Union; in pursuance of such authority it may impose such judgment or take such action as it deems warranted or appropriate over any circumstance concerning which such action is taken.

However, all charges and trials within affiliated Local Unions and District Councils must be processed at the Local Union or District Council level in the first instance unless the General President

exercises the International Union's original jurisdiction pursuant to Uniform Local Union Constitution Article XI, Section 3 or Uniform District Council Constitution Article XII, Section 3. Any interested party aggrieved by a resulting decision at the local level may then appeal therefrom to the General Executive Board.

(a-vii) Delegation of Judicial Powers: The judicial power of the General Executive Board may be delegated by the General President to one or more of its members, with authority to hold hearings on appeals, protests, trusteeships, petitions, charges, or any other matter properly filed with the General Executive Board; when so delegated, such member or members of the General Executive Board shall be known as a Hearings Panel. Said Hearings Panel shall, after due notice, hold hearings and from the evidence adduced, make such Findings of Fact and Recommendations as, in its judgment, it deems proper, which Findings of Fact and Recommendations must then be reported and submitted to the General Executive Board as a whole for determination and decision.

Hearings may be in person, by telephone, or by video conferencing.

The findings and recommendations of a Hearings Panel considering a protest or challenge involving an election or nomination shall be submitted to the General President for review and, if concurred in by him, shall be final and binding without referral to the full General Executive Board;

(a-viii) Any member or subordinate body aggrieved by a decision, direction, ruling or order of the General Executive Board shall have the right to appeal therefrom to the Convention of the International Union, provided, within thirty days from the date of notice of said decision, direction, ruling or order, from the General Secretary-Treasurer, the aggrieved member or subordinate body shall file an appeal in writing with the International Union, addressed to the General Secretary-Treasurer at Headquarters.

A decision, direction, ruling, or order by the General Executive Board on any matter is final and binding until and unless it is reversed or modified by the following regular Convention.

## ART. VIII

## ARTICLE IX

**The General President**

## Section 1. GENERAL POWERS:

(a) The General President, as the chief executive officer, shall have executive, administrative and judicial authority over the affairs and business of the International Union;

(b) The General President shall have the authority to see to it that the affairs and business of Local Unions, District Councils, Regional Organizing Funds or other subordinate bodies are being properly conducted in accordance with the International Union Constitution, the Uniform Local Union Constitution, the Uniform District Council Constitution and with all rules, regulations, policies, practices and lawful orders and decisions.

## Section 2. CONVENTIONS:

(a) The General President shall be the Chairperson and preside over all Conventions of the International Union;

(b) The General President shall prepare and submit to each regular Convention a written report of the activities of the General President since the last regular Convention;

(c) The General President shall appoint an Assistant Secretary and other necessary clerical assistants and a Sergeant-at-Arms and assistants and such other Convention personnel as may be necessary to carry on the business of all Conventions;

(d) The General President shall, for each Convention, from the list of delegates, appoint all Committee members to function as members of all Convention Committees and advise the General Executive Board of all such appointments; the General President shall, ex-officio, be a member of all such Committees.

## Section 3. GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD:

(a) The General President shall call and preside over all sessions of the General Executive Board, as its Chairperson;

(b) The General President may submit to the General Executive

Board any matter within the authority of the General President.

Section 4. In order to administer the business of the International Union and to fulfill the duties and obligations required of the office, the General President shall have the authority to interpret the provisions of the International Union Constitution, the Uniform Constitutions of Local Unions and District Councils and the rules, regulations, policies, practices and lawful orders and decisions of the International Union and to decide grievances and disputes submitted by affiliated subordinate bodies and members. The General President's judgment or decision thereon shall be effective and binding until and unless reversed or modified by the General Executive Board.

Section 5. When any subordinate body, officer or member thereof fails, neglects or refuses to conform to or comply with a decision or order of the General Executive Board or of the General President, the General President may request, for such failure or refusal to conform and comply, a hearing before the General Executive Board, by filing such request with the General Secretary-Treasurer of the International Union. Upon receipt of such a request, the General Secretary-Treasurer shall issue an order to show cause why the decision or order of the General Executive Board or of the General President, as the case may be, was not complied with and shall convene the General Executive Board for the purpose of holding a hearing thereon. If after hearing all concerned, the General Executive Board finds (a) that there has been a failure to show compliance and (b) that there has been a failure to show good and sufficient reason for non-compliance, the General Executive Board may: (1) in the case of a subordinate body, revoke, recall and cancel its charter or impose such other discipline as, in its judgment, it deems just and proper, or (2) in the case of an officer or member, suspend such officer or member or impose such other discipline as, in its judgment, it deems just and proper.

Section 6. The General President shall have the authority and power to investigate the affairs of a subordinate body when, upon information or complaint or when, in the General President's opinion, it is necessary to determine whether the affairs of a subordinate body or the activities of any of its officers or members are being

conducted in violation of the Constitution or of any other code, policy, rule, regulation, practice or procedure adopted in accordance with the Constitution, or of external law.

Pursuant to said authority, the General President shall have the power, either personally or through a designated representative to investigate and inquire into the manner in which the affairs are administered by the subordinate bodies, their officers or members and to examine the books, records, papers, accounts, securities, purported agreements or understandings or any other documents in the custody of said subordinate bodies or any officer, official, employee or member thereof and require personal appearance of any officer, official, employee or member as, in the General President's judgment, may be deemed necessary to such investigation or inquiry.

In connection therewith, the General President may employ the services of a Certified Public Accountant or other services as the General President may deem advisable or necessary. After such investigation or inquiry, the General President shall take such action as the General President may deem necessary or appropriate, including the temporary suspension of an officer or employee pending a hearing to be conducted within thirty (30) days before the General Executive Board on charges filed by the General President or by the Special Counsel upon assignment by the General President. Any such charges may be assigned by the General President for hearing and decision to an Independent Hearings Officer or to a hearings panel of the General Executive Board.

#### Section 7. TRUSTEESHIP; CHARGES

When in the opinion of the General President, action is necessary for the purpose of correcting corruption or financial malpractice, assuring the performance of collective bargaining agreements or other duties of a bargaining representative, restoring democratic procedures or otherwise carrying out the legitimate objects of such subordinate body or the International Union, or to protect the organization as an institution, the General President may file charges against any officer or member with the General Secretary-Treasurer for hearing before the General Executive Board, or appoint

a temporary trustee or, in the General President's sole discretion, a supervisor to take charge and control of the affairs of such subordinate body; provided, however, that prior to the appointment of such trustee or supervisor, the General President shall cause to be issued a notice setting a time and place for hearing for the purpose of determining whether such temporary trustee or supervisor shall be appointed. Further, when in the judgment of the General President, an emergency situation exists within the subordinate body, a temporary trustee or supervisor may be appointed prior to such hearing, but such hearing shall then commence within 45 days and a decision made within 75 days after the appointment of such temporary trustee or supervisor. In all cases the subordinate body shall be advised of the reasons for the proposed or actual appointment of a trustee or supervisor, and adequate notice of a hearing thereon at least 10 days prior to the date of the hearing shall be given to the subordinate body involved. During the period of trusteeship, all the officers and delegates of the subordinate body are relieved of their particular trust. In the case of supervision, one or more of the officers or delegates may be removed from office at the direction of the General President. The subordinate body and the officers and members thereof shall cooperate with the trustee or supervisor designated by the General President, in order that the purposes of the trusteeship or supervision may be accomplished as soon as possible. The trustee or supervisor shall be authorized to take full charge of the affairs of the subordinate body, to appoint temporary officers or employees at any time during the trusteeship or supervision, and to take such other action as, in the trustee's or supervisor's judgment, is necessary for the preservation of the subordinate body and its interests. The trustee or supervisor shall, from time to time, report on the affairs and transactions of the subordinate body to the General President. The General President may remove trustees or supervisors at any time and appoint successor trustees or supervisors.

The trustee or supervisor, temporary officers and persons employed to carry on the affairs of said subordinate body, during the period of trusteeship or supervision, shall give bond in such form and amount as may be necessary to indemnify against possible financial loss.

## ART. IX

The trustee or supervisor shall take possession of all such funds, property, books, records and papers of the Local Union or subordinate body and tender receipt for same. The trustee or supervisor shall pay all outstanding claims, properly proved, if funds are sufficient.

The International Union shall not be responsible for any actions or activities of the Local Union or subordinate body unless such actions or activities have been directed or authorized by the trustee or supervisor and unless such actions or activities were undertaken in the trustee's or supervisor's capacity as a representative of the International Union and not in such official's capacity as a fiduciary of the subordinate body. Actions undertaken by the trustee or supervisor in the capacity of fiduciary of the subordinate body shall not be the responsibility of the International Union unless such actions have been directed or authorized by the International Union.

When it is determined by the General President or the General Executive Board that self-government should be restored, in the case of trusteeship, the trustee shall conduct an election at such time as the trustee shall designate, in conformity with the provisions of the Uniform Local Union Constitution as far as practical and, upon the installation of officers, the trusteeship shall terminate and the trustee shall return all remaining funds, property, books, records and papers to the Local Union or other subordinate body. In the case of supervision, full autonomy shall be restored upon direction of the General President terminating the supervision. Officers of the Local Union who were not removed from office during supervision and whose term of office has not expired or who were re-elected to office during supervision, shall continue in office upon the termination of supervision.

#### Section 8. THE GENERAL PRESIDENT SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY:

(a) To appoint such personnel as the General President may deem necessary to assist in carrying out all of the duties and functions of the office;

(b) To appoint managers of regional and subregional offices of the International Union and to appoint such organizers and representatives as may be necessary to the function and purposes of said regional or subregional offices;

(c) To direct the activities of all Departments of the International Union and appoint such personnel as may be necessary to carry out such activities;

(d) To fix the salaries and other compensation of persons appointed pursuant to this section and reimburse them for expenses incurred by them in connection with the performance of their duties and responsibilities.

Section 9. (a) The General President shall have the authority to retain the services of a Certified Public Accountant for the purpose of auditing the financial books and records of the International Union;

(b) The General President and General Secretary-Treasurer, jointly, shall have the authority to employ auditors for the purpose of rendering assistance to affiliates and their officers in complying with their legal and constitutional obligations and in connection therewith, they may examine such books, records, accounts and any other documents relating to the financial standing of subordinate bodies and render such other assistance at such times and for such purpose as they, in their judgment, may deem necessary and appropriate to conserve the integrity and welfare of the International Union, its affiliates, officers and members.

Section 10. The General President shall have the authority to appoint delegates or representatives of this International Union to conventions, meetings or conferences of all bodies with which this International Union is affiliated or in the activities in which it participates or in which, in the General President's opinion, it has an interest, and to reimburse them for expenses incurred by them in connection with the performance of their duties and responsibilities.

Section 11. (a) Whenever the General President deems it to be in the best interests of the International Union, the General President may waive or regulate the initiation fee or readmission fee, or any part thereof, payable to the International Union. The General President may also waive or regulate the initiation fee an applicant for membership shall pay to join a particular Local Union, and may regulate the payment in installments of initiation fees to Local Unions

by applicants for membership, and fix the membership privileges of such applicants, pending payment in full thereof;

(b) The General President may, after consideration and study of a particular matter or situation and when believed necessary to fully accomplish an object or purpose of the International Union or of its affiliates and members, grant variances, tolerances or exemptions from specific provisions of the Constitutions, established policies, practices, lawful orders and decisions, for a period of time and specify the conditions under which such grant is made.

Section 12. The General President and the General Secretary-Treasurer are jointly vested with authority to enter into National, Regional, and Area agreements with employers or employer associations. The General President, subject to review by the General Executive Board, is vested with full authority to enforce observance of such agreements and to enforce observance of other lawful agreements made by Local Unions and other subordinate bodies; and to enforce observance of other lawful orders pertaining thereto, by Local Unions, other subordinate bodies, and members.

Section 13. The General President and the General Secretary-Treasurer are jointly authorized to order the issuance of Local Union and District Council charters, specifying the territorial and trade jurisdiction to be allotted, when and where, in their opinion, the issuance of such charter would tend to accomplish, promote, enhance and conserve the welfare and interest of this International Union, its affiliates and members.

Section 14. The General President and the General Secretary-Treasurer shall make all expenditures of the International Union out of the funds of the International Union as hereinafter provided, on order drawn on the various accounts of the International Union.

All checks for expenditures of less than \$5,000.00 may be signed by either the General President or General Secretary-Treasurer; all checks in amounts of \$5,000.00 or more shall require the signatures of both the General President and the General Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 15. The General President shall be authorized to institute or defend and resolve such suits or proceedings as may be necessary

to protect and conserve the property, welfare and interest of this International Union and its subordinate bodies.

Section 16. The General President shall furnish bond in such sum as the General Executive Board may determine, to indemnify against possible financial loss to the International Union. The premium for such bond shall be paid by the International Union.

Section 17. The General President shall, upon the expiration of the term of said office, surrender and turn over to the International Union all books, monies or other property in the General President's custody, possession or control.

Section 18. The General President shall have the authority to dismiss or resolve administratively a charge, objection, protest or appeal where the General President finds that the charge, objection, protest or appeal would warrant action by the International Union General Executive Board or Local Union or District Council Trial Board even if the facts recited in the charge, objection, protest or appeal were true or where the General President finds that the charge raises matters not properly the subject of the disciplinary process. An administrative determination by the General President of a charge, objection, protest or appeal is final and binding unless modified or reversed on appeal to the General Executive Board or to the International Union Convention.

### **Legal Department—General Counsel**

Section 19. The General President, with the approval of the General Executive Board, shall retain the services of a General Counsel and such Associate General Counsel as may be deemed necessary and proper.

The General Counsel shall perform the duties of said office under the supervision and direction of the General President with the approval of the General Executive Board.

The General Counsel shall have the general surveillance of the Legal Department of the International Union in all legal matters.

The General Counsel shall meet with and advise the General Executive Board on all matters dealing with the legislative and judicial functions of the International Union, matters of International

policy, and at all hearings on appeals filed with the General Executive Board.

The General Counsel shall maintain said office at the Headquarters of the International Union, in order to advise and consult with the General President and General Secretary-Treasurer and all other officials of the International Union, on general and routine business of the Organization.

Unless excused by the General President or the General Executive Board, the General Counsel shall, without vote, be present and have a voice at all conventions, conferences and meetings of the General Executive Board or of the International Union.

The General Counsel shall fulfill all assignments received from the General Executive Board or the General President.

The General Counsel shall receive for such services an annual salary or retainer, payable monthly, as is fixed by the General President, with the approval of the General Executive Board, and may receive such other compensation, allowances and expenses as the General President deems fitting and proper.

## ARTICLE X

### **Vice Presidents**

Section 1. Each Vice President, as a member of the General Executive Board, shall attend all meetings of the said General Executive Board.

Section 2. Each Vice President shall, when assigned by the General President, act as the General President's representative in such matters as may be deemed of such importance as to require the attention of an officer of the International Union.

Section 3. When designated and assigned by the General President, a Vice President shall be authorized to investigate a dispute between Local Unions or between Local Unions and District Councils or between District Councils, regarding their territorial or craft jurisdiction. The Vice President shall, after due notice, hold hearings or conduct such investigation as the Vice President

deems appropriate and from the evidence adduced, make Findings of Fact and Recommendations, which Findings of Fact and Recommendations must then be reported and submitted to the General Executive Board as a whole for determination and decision. The decision, ruling, or order of the General Executive Board is final and binding until and unless it is appealed to the General Secretary-Treasurer within thirty days and reversed or modified by the following regular Convention.

Section 4. Each Vice President shall be authorized to act on any matter delegated by the General Executive Board, as an officer or member of said Board, including the authority to officiate as a Hearings Panel, either singly or jointly with other Vice Presidents, as herein-above provided.

## ARTICLE XI

### **General Secretary-Treasurer**

Section 1. The General Secretary-Treasurer shall receive all monies due and owing to the International Union, including per capita tax, initiation fees, readmission fees and all other lawful fees and assessments payable by affiliated Local Unions and other subordinate bodies. The General Secretary-Treasurer shall give proper receipt for such monies collected.

Section 2. The General Secretary-Treasurer shall be authorized to pay all financial obligations of the International Union in amounts up to \$5,000.00; payments of amounts of \$5,000.00 and over, shall be made jointly with the General President.

Section 3. The General Secretary-Treasurer shall deposit all monies received in such bank or depositories as may be designated by the General Executive Board, in the name of the International Union.

Section 4. The General Secretary-Treasurer shall keep a true and accurate record of all such financial transactions and shall be authorized to hire and engage the services of such personnel as may be necessary to carry out all of the duties and responsibilities of said office and to purchase and maintain such equipment and supplies as may be available, for the proper and efficient keeping of records.

Section 5. The General Secretary-Treasurer shall be authorized to issue such instructions and orders to affiliated Local Unions, District Councils, Regional Organizing Funds or other subordinate bodies and members thereof, as may be deemed necessary in carrying out the duties of said office.

Section 6. The General Secretary-Treasurer shall be the custodian of all books, records, documents and property of the International Union.

Section 7. The General Secretary-Treasurer shall prepare and distribute to the members of the General Executive Board, to each affiliated Local Union and District Council, an annual financial report of the receipts and disbursements of the International Union.

Section 8. The General Secretary-Treasurer shall, together with the General President, negotiate agreements as provided for in Article IX, Section 12 of this Constitution.

Section 9. The General Secretary-Treasurer shall, together with the General President, issue charters to Local Unions, District Councils, Regional Organizing Funds and other subordinate bodies, as provided for in this Constitution.

Section 10. The General Secretary-Treasurer shall, upon receipt of the per capita tax, initiation fees and readmission fees, allocate to the various Funds of the International Union, the proportion hereinafter provided.

Section 11. The General Secretary-Treasurer shall perform the duties of Secretary at all Conventions of the International Union.

Section 12. The General Secretary-Treasurer shall perform the duties of Secretary at all meetings of the General Executive Board.

Section 13. The General Secretary-Treasurer shall, when requested by the General President, perform such duties as are outlined in Article IX, Section 5 of this Constitution.

Section 14. The General Secretary-Treasurer shall furnish bond in such sum as the General Executive Board may determine to indemnify against possible financial loss to the International Union. The premium for such bond shall be paid by the International Union.

Section 15. The General Secretary-Treasurer shall, upon the expiration of said term of office, surrender and turn over to the International Union all books, monies or other property in the General Secretary-Treasurer's custody, possession or control.

Section 16. The General President and General Secretary-Treasurer, jointly, shall have the authority to employ auditors for the purpose of rendering assistance to affiliates and their officers in complying with their legal and constitutional obligations and in connection therewith, they may examine such books, records, accounts and any other documents relating to the financial standing of subordinate bodies and render such other assistance at such times and for such purpose as they, in their judgment, may deem necessary and appropriate to conserve the integrity and welfare of the International Union, its affiliates, officers and members.

## ARTICLE XII

### **Limitation of Powers**

Section 1. The powers of all Officers shall be those as specifically provided for in this Constitution.

Section 2. The powers and acts of representatives or employees of the International Union, shall be as authorized by the General Executive Board, General President or General Secretary-Treasurer or as herein otherwise provided.

Section 3. The International Union shall not be held responsible for any act by any of the above, which act is not in accordance with the powers specifically provided for either in the Constitution or as specifically granted, unless:

(a) such unauthorized act or acts were ordered or approved by the International Union, or

(b) such unauthorized act was ratified by the International Union after written notice thereof.

Section 4. Local Unions, District Councils, and Divisions affiliated with the International Union are not agents of the International Union and are not authorized to act for, or to otherwise bind, the International

Union except where prior approval, authorization, or direction is given in writing by the International Union, or where the International Union ratifies acts performed by affiliated Local Unions, District Councils or Divisions after written notice thereof. However, in no case is the International Union liable or responsible for autonomous acts of its affiliated Local Unions, District Councils, or Divisions.

### ARTICLE XIII

#### Revenue

Section 1. The revenue of this International Union from affiliated Local Unions shall be as follows:

(a) Charter and Initial Supplies ..... \$35.00

Monthly Per Capita Tax (including apprentice members and agency fee payers):

Effective January 1, 2017 ..... \$ 19.00

Effective January 1, 2018 ..... \$ 19.50

Effective January 1, 2019 ..... \$ 20.00

Any affiliate which receives income or revenue from bargaining unit members who do not become members or apprentice members, shall pay a monthly assessment on such unit members to the International Union in an amount equal to the then-applicable per capita for members.

(b) Initiation Fee

Effective January 1, 2012..... \$ 65.00

Readmission Fee

Effective January 1, 2012..... \$ 30.00

(c) Assessments, supplies and all other lawful payments from affiliated Local Unions, District Councils and other subordinate bodies or other income from sources not specified in this section.

Section 2. The revenue of the L.I.U.N.A. STAFF AND AFFILIATES PENSION FUND shall be derived by payment directly there-

to, by the International Union and by each affiliated Local Union and District Council, monthly, of an amount equal to twenty-six percent (26%) of the gross salary paid to each of its full-time officers and employees covered by the Fund. The minimum salary requiring contributions to the Fund shall be ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) per year except that said minimum salary shall continue to be six thousand dollars (\$6,000.00) per year for full-time employees and officers who were participants in the Fund as of December 31, 1996. Additional revenue shall be derived from contributions from training trust funds and other entities obligated to contribute to the L.I.U.N.A. STAFF AND AFFILIATES PENSION FUND pursuant to and at the rate set forth in agreements with its trustees. All contributions, obligations and participation in the Fund shall be subject to the Fund's rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Trustees.

## ARTICLE XIV

### **Funds**

Section 1. There shall be maintained a General Fund, a Regular Convention Fund, and such other special funds as may be duly established in accordance with the International Union Constitution, by order of the General Executive Board.

Section 2. These Funds and their assets shall be kept separate and distinct from each other and the proceeds of one Fund shall not be used to meet the obligations of another Fund. Each Fund shall be liable for its particular obligations, except that the General Executive Board, from time to time upon the recommendation of the General President and the General Secretary-Treasurer, may transfer assets by and between the General Fund and the Convention Fund if the General Executive Board determines the transfer to be reasonable in the circumstances. Notwithstanding this or any other provision of this Constitution to the contrary, a portion of the payments and contributions described herein may be applied to finance a supplemental, excess benefit retirement program that may be established and maintained by the General Executive Board for the benefit of participants and beneficiaries in the L.I.U.N.A. STAFF AND AFFILIATES PENSION FUND, and the revenue of

the L.I.U.N.A. STAFF AND AFFILIATES PENSION FUND shall then consist of such payments and contributions less the amounts applied first to finance such supplemental program.

Section 3. If these Funds are to be administered by the officers of the International Union through their facilities, then an administration charge to each Fund shall be made in such amount as is fixed by the General Executive Board; such administration charge shall be paid to the General Fund.

Section 4. The LIUNA STAFF AND AFFILIATES PENSION FUND, established and maintained pursuant to an Agreement and Declaration of Trust as a separate and distinct entity and formerly known as the L.I.U.N.A. LOCAL UNION AND DISTRICT COUNCIL PENSION FUND, shall be maintained to provide retirement and related benefits for officers and employees of Local Unions and District Councils affiliated with the Laborers' International Union of North America, of the International Union, and of related organizations. The Board of Trustees of the L.I.U.N.A. STAFF AND AFFILIATES PENSION FUND shall consist of all of those persons who occupy positions on the General Executive Board; and such trust agreement shall be substantially consistent with the draft form submitted to and discussed by the Resolutions Committee of the Fourteenth Convention, and in conformity with the Convention Resolution adopted by the aforesaid Fourteenth Convention. The General Executive Board may establish and maintain a supplemental, excess benefit retirement program for the benefit of participants and beneficiaries of the L.I.U.N.A. STAFF AND AFFILIATES PENSION FUND, and may direct that a portion of the payments and contributions payable to the L.I.U.N.A. STAFF AND AFFILIATES PENSION FUND by Local Unions, District Councils, and other bodies be applied first to finance such supplemental program, with the balance constituting revenues of said Pension Fund, provided that the Pension Fund remains soundly funded.

## ARTICLE XV

### **Apportionment and Distribution of Revenue**

Section 1. The apportionment, distribution and allocation from

initiation fees, readmission fees and per capita tax received by the International Union to each of the various Funds shall be as follows:

**INITIATION FEES:** One hundred percent (100%) thereof shall belong to the General Fund.

**READMISSION FEES:** One hundred percent (100%) thereof shall belong to the General Fund.

**PER CAPITA:** Fifty cents (\$.50) shall belong to the Regular Convention Fund; the balance shall belong to the General Fund.

Section 2. All other income, unless expressly otherwise provided, shall belong to the General Fund.

## ARTICLE XVI

### **Membership**

Section 1. The qualifications, rights and obligations of members shall be as specifically provided for in Article III, Sections 1, 2, and 3, Article VIII, Section 5 and Article VIII, Section 7 of the Uniform Local Union Constitution.

Section 2. No member shall bring or cause to be brought in any court, whether in law or equity, any action against a Local Union, District Council or the International Union or their officers, representatives or employees, in any matter involving an issue arising out of or related to the member's membership, which is remediable within the framework of the International Union, Local Union or District Council Constitution without having first exhausted all of the remedies available under the aforesaid Constitutions.

Section 3. No member, Local Union, District Council or other subordinate body or officer thereof, shall bring or cause to be brought in any court, whether in law or equity, any action against a Local Union, District Council or the International Union or their officers, representatives or employees, asserting rights set forth in the International Union Constitution, the Uniform Local Union Constitution, or the Uniform District Council Constitution as a matter of contract. The sole and exclusive remedy for the enforce-

ment of rights found in this Constitution shall be through procedures contained herein, including provisions relating to charges, trials and appeals. Decisions of the General President or the General Executive Board regarding such constitutional rights or, upon any appeal, of the International Union Convention, deciding any such rights are final and binding and not subject to further judicial review.

Section 4. Venue to litigate any action arising out of contractual rights allegedly premised upon the International Union Constitution, the Uniform Local Union Constitution or the Uniform District Council Constitution, including any cause seeking to challenge or restrict the application of the foregoing Section shall exist only in the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia.

## ARTICLE XVII

### **Charters**

Section 1. Charters to Local Unions, District Councils, Regional Organizing Funds and other subordinate bodies shall be issued in accordance with this Constitution, as hereinabove provided.

Section 2. The General Executive Board shall fix and determine the form of application for charter and the form of the charter.

Section 3. The charter fee and the initiation fee and per capita tax for each member to be registered must accompany the application.

Section 4. Every charter, when issued, shall be deemed to have been issued in accordance with and subject to the International Union Constitution and every provision now a part of said Constitution or hereafter duly adopted shall be binding upon Local Unions, District Councils, Regional Organizing Funds or other subordinate bodies, their officers and members, as binding provisions as if they had been specifically included in said charter. Each Local Union and each District Council shall be bound by and comply with all of the provisions of the International Union Constitution, the Uniform Local Union Constitution and Uniform District Council Constitution, respectively.

## ARTICLE XVIII

**Obligations of Affiliates**

Section 1. Each affiliated Local Union and each affiliated District Council and the officers thereof, shall conform to and comply with all of the obligations as provided for in the Uniform Local Union Constitution, Uniform District Council Constitution, and the International Union Constitution, respectively.

Section 2. Any Local Union, District Council or other subordinate body or the officers thereof, which attempts to cause secession by a Local Union, District Council or other subordinate body from the International Union, or seeks the division of funds, or affiliates with or joins an entity not created by or specifically approved by the International Union, may be fined, suspended, expelled or placed in trusteeship, after notice, hearing and decision by the General Executive Board.

Section 3. Each Local Union shall, through its Secretary-Treasurer, pay to the International Union a per capita tax of \$19.00 effective January 1, 2017, \$19.50 effective January 1, 2018, and \$20.00 effective January 1, 2019, payable for the current month on each member in the Local Union and, effective January 1, 2012, pay an initiation fee of \$65.00 for each member registered with the International Union and \$30.00 for each member readmitted; each initiation fee and each readmission fee must be accompanied by the per capita tax for the month in which the member is registered or readmitted. For retirees each Local Union shall pay to the International Union a per capita tax of \$5.00 per retired member each month.

Section 4. If a Local Union fails, neglects or refuses to pay to the International Union the per capita tax, initiation fees, readmission fees or other lawful payments within the time prescribed, it may be deemed suspended without further notice.

Section 5. Upon a complaint, hearing, and finding by the General Executive Board that a Local Union has falsified or been delinquent in its payments and/or its reports to the International Union, or has failed, neglected, or refused to pay to the District Council with which it is affiliated the per capita tax, initiation fees, readmission

fees, or other lawful payments within the time prescribed, it may be suspended from, or may be placed in trusteeship by, the International Union or it may be assessed the cost of investigation and audit, in addition to the amount involved in the falsification and/or delinquency of its reports.

Section 6. If a Local Union is suspended, dissolved or ceases to exist, all of its property, funds, books, papers and paraphernalia shall immediately revert to and become the property of the International Union and the General President may forthwith, either personally or by deputy, take possession thereof for the International Union. Alternatively, in the General President's sole discretion, the International Union may refrain from taking any or all of the former Local Union's property, funds, books, papers, or paraphernalia.

The officers and members of said Local Union shall be severally and jointly responsible for such property, funds, books, papers, and paraphernalia until the same are turned over to the General President or authorized representative.

This section shall apply to affiliated District Councils and all other subordinate bodies chartered by the International Union.

Section 7. No Local Union or officer thereof shall bring or cause to be brought in any court, whether in law or in equity, any action against another Local Union, District Council or the International Union, or their officers, representatives or employees, in any matter involving an issue arising out of or related to their charter or to their rights or obligations, which is remediable within the framework of the International Union, Local Union or District Council Constitution, without first having exhausted all of the remedies available under the aforesaid Constitutions. Any Local Union which violates this reasonable obligation may, if found guilty, after notice and hearing in accordance with the provisions of the aforesaid Constitutions, have its charter revoked and be fined, and may in addition thereto, be assessed the amount which such litigation caused to be expended on the Local Union, the District Council or the International Union. Any officer who violates this reasonable obligation, after notice and hearing in accordance with the provisions of the aforesaid Constitutions, if found guilty, may be removed from office and fined, and may, in addition thereto, be assessed the amount which such litigation

tion caused to be expended by the Local Union, the District Council or the International Union.

This section shall apply to affiliated District Councils and all other subordinate bodies chartered by the International Union.

Section 8. (a) Effective January 1, 2012, Local Unions shall charge not less than sixty-five dollars (\$65.00) nor directly or indirectly more than eight hundred dollars (\$800.00), as an initiation fee.

(b) Local Unions shall charge, as readmission fee, amounts as provided for in Article VIII, Section 6 of the Uniform Local Union Constitution;

(c) Each Local Union shall fix and regulate the dues payable by its members, journeymen and apprentices, in such amount as is lawful and necessary to carry out its objects, purposes and obligations; except for apprentice members, such amount shall not be less than thirty-seven (\$37.00) as of January 1, 2017, thirty-eight (\$38.00) as of January 1, 2018, and thirty-nine (\$39.00) as of January 1, 2019. In areas where District Councils exist, said dues shall be fixed and regulated as provided for in Article II, Section 2(e) and Article VIII, Section 2 of the Uniform District Council Constitution. Regular monthly dues for apprentices may be reduced but not eliminated. A member who has held continuous membership for 50 years or more shall receive a gold membership card and shall be excused from the payment of any further dues obligation, and the member's Local Union shall not owe per capita tax for such member, in tribute to their years of service and devotion to the Laborers' International Union.

(d) All dues, whether below, at, or above the minimum shall be increased by no less than two dollars (\$2.00) per month no later than January 1, 2012, by an additional one dollar (\$1.00) no later than January 1, 2013, by an additional one dollar (\$1.00) on January 1, 2014, by an additional one dollar (\$1.00) on January 1, 2015, and by an additional one dollar (\$1.00) on January 1, 2016.

Section 9. (a) Effective January 1, 2010, each Local Union and District Council, through its Secretary-Treasurer, shall pay directly to the L.I.U.N.A. STAFF AND AFFILIATES PENSION FUND, payable by the last day of the following month for which said salary is paid, an amount equal to twenty-six percent (26%) of the gross

salary paid to each of its full-time officers and employees covered by the Fund.

The minimum salary requiring contribution to the Fund shall be ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) per year with respect to full-time officers and employees who were not participants in the Fund prior to January 1, 1997, but shall remain at six thousand dollars (\$6,000.00) per year for full-time officers and employees who were participants in the Fund as of December 31, 1996.

(b) If a Local Union or District Council fails, neglects or refuses to pay the L.I.U.N.A. STAFF AND AFFILIATES PENSION FUND the payment herein specified within the time prescribed above, but not later than the last day of the month following the month in which it is due, the Local Union or District Council may be deemed suspended without further notice.

(c) The provisions of the Agreement and Declaration of Trust, as amended, for the L.I.U.N.A. Staff and Affiliates Pension Fund are hereby incorporated into this Constitution as if specifically set forth, provided however that nothing in this Constitution shall require the Pension Fund to exhaust constitutional remedies before invoking available legal remedies.

## ARTICLE XIX

### **District Councils**

Section 1. The General Executive Board, or the General President and General Secretary-Treasurer, shall authorize the issuance of District Council charters in such areas as, in their judgment, the best interests of the International Union, Local Unions and members thereof, demand.

Section 2. SUCH CHARTERS MAY BE ISSUED:

(a) Upon application of a number of affiliated Local Unions in an area when it is deemed advantageous and beneficial to said Local Unions to combine their economic power, effort and strength into a unit which would tend to enhance, promote and conserve their welfare and interest and that of their members; or

(b) When the General Executive Board, or the General President and General Secretary-Treasurer, upon examination of conditions as they may exist in a given area, believe that the welfare and interest of a group of Local Unions and their members would be enhanced, promoted and conserved by the issuance of a District Council charter.

Section 3. When a District Council charter is issued, all Local Unions within its territorial and/or craft jurisdiction shall affiliate and remain affiliated with said District Council.

Section 4. The form of the application and the form of the charter of District Councils shall be as is prescribed by the General Executive Board.

Section 5. The membership of the District Council shall consist of the delegates from affiliated Local Unions who have been properly and lawfully elected as such delegates and each affiliated Local Union shall be entitled to representation as provided for in Article IV, Section 3 of the Uniform District Council Constitution.

Section 6. Suspension of Local Unions from this International Union automatically suspends them from the District Council.

Section 7. The objects and powers of a District Council shall be as provided for and fully outlined in Article II of the Uniform District Council Constitution.

Section 8. The obligations of a District Council, its officers and members thereof, shall be those as outlined in Article III of the Uniform District Council Constitution.

Section 9. The District Council shall hold meetings in accordance with the requirements of Article X of the Uniform District Council Constitution.

## ARTICLE XX

### **Mail Handlers Division**

Section 1. Effective January 1, 2005, the per capita tax payable by the Mail Handlers Division to the International Union shall be six dollars (\$6.00) per regular member per month. Four dollars and twenty-five cents (\$4.25) thereof shall belong to the General Fund;

twenty five cents (\$.25) thereof shall belong to the Regular Convention Fund; and one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) thereof shall belong to a bargaining and administration fund.

Section 2. Effective January 1, 2017 the per capita tax payable by the Mail Handlers Division to the International Union shall be five dollars and forty cents (\$5.40), per associate member per year, which shall belong to the General Fund and which, effective January 1, 2018, shall increase to five dollars and forty-five cents (\$5.45), and effective January 1, 2019, shall increase to five dollars and fifty cents (\$5.50).

Section 3. Consistent with the provisions of Article XX of the Constitution of the Mail Handlers Division, amendments to the Mail Handlers Division Constitution shall not become effective until their approval by the General Executive Board.

Section 4. In accordance with the provisions of Articles I and II of the International Union Constitution, the provisions of this Article shall preempt and supersede any and all conflicting provisions contained in the Constitutions of the Mail Handlers Division and/or its Local Unions.

## ARTICLE XXI

### **Transfers**

Section 1. A member of a Local Union shall have the right to transfer membership from the Local Union into another Local Union affiliated with the International Union, provided that at the time of requesting such transfer, the member is in good standing with the Local Union. Transfers between Local Unions affiliated with a District Council in a metropolitan area shall not be required unless a District Council otherwise determines with the concurrence of the General President.

Local Unions maintaining a mandatory apprenticeship program may require transferring members to enter that apprenticeship program with appropriate credit, none, partial or total, based upon experience or demonstration of competency.

Section 2. In addition to being in good standing, the member

shall pay dues up to and including the month in which the transfer is sought and obtained.

Section 3. If at the time that a transfer is requested, there are charges pending against the member awaiting trial, or there are assessments or other fees or fines properly and lawfully imposed which remain unpaid, then such member shall not be entitled to a transfer.

Section 4. A member shall not be entitled to the right of transfer until after six months from the date of the member's initiation.

Section 5. A member shall, upon transferring as aforesaid, become a member of the Local Union to which the transferee has transferred and entitled to all the rights and privileges of a member, except that the transferee shall not have the right to vote until three months of membership have been completed and shall not be eligible to be a candidate for or hold any office or represent the Local Union as a delegate or in any other elective capacity, until achieving continuous good standing therein for at least two years.

Section 6. The transfer shall be deposited by the transferee with the Secretary-Treasurer or some other official of the Local Union in whose area the transferee wishes to deposit said transfer, within one month from the date of issuance.

Section 7. A transferee who does not deposit the transfer within one month from the date of issuance and who desires to maintain membership, may return the transfer to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Local Union that issued the transfer, within the second month; failure to do so will forfeit the transferee's membership in the organization.

Section 8. A transferee, who has been a member of the International Union continuously for at least five years prior thereto, shall not be required to pay any initiation fee or admission charge by the Local Union to which the transfer is made. But, if the transferee has not been a member for the said period and the initiation fee in the accepting Local Union is more than the existing initiation fee in the originating Local Union, the transferee shall pay the accepting Local Union the difference in the initiation fees.

Section 9. When a good-standing member of a Local Union is working within the territorial jurisdiction of another Local Union outside of the same metropolitan area, for a period of more than thirty days, the Local Union in whose area the member is working may demand a transfer from that member.

Section 10. The form of transfer shall be as determined and prescribed by the General Secretary-Treasurer.

## ARTICLE XXII

### **Charges, Trials and Appeals**

The procedure with respect to Charges, Trials and Appeals in Local Unions and in District Councils shall be, as provided for in Article XI of the Uniform Local Union Constitution and Article XII of the Uniform District Council Constitution, respectively.

## ARTICLE XXIII

### **Miscellaneous Provisions**

Section 1. No Local Union, District Council or other subordinate body, officer or member thereof, shall sell or grant permission to sell or solicit any advertising, or to issue souvenirs or booklets of any kind with advertising matter contained therein.

Section 2. Every Amendment to this Constitution, unless otherwise provided, shall go into effect immediately upon its adoption.

Section 3.(a) Members in good-standing who enter active military service shall continue their good-standing, provided they are honorably discharged and report to their Local Union on their return from active military service, within 120 days from deactivation and pay the current month's dues. Unless they remained current in the payment of their dues while in military service, such members shall not be deemed to have been regularly working at the calling during the period of active military service within the meaning of Article V, Section 4 of the Uniform Local Union Constitution.

(b) Non-member veterans will be admitted as members, provid-

ed they are honorably discharged and apply for membership within 120 days of the date of discharge from military service and pay as an initiation fee an amount fixed by the District Council or by the Local Union for Local Unions not affiliated with a District Council, in addition to the current month's dues.

Section 4. The official language of the Union shall be English and all its affairs shall be conducted in English unless otherwise prescribed by law.

## ARTICLE XXIV

### **Oath of Office**

Each officer or person assuming an elective position shall, in response to the recitation of the following oath, publicly affirm his or her acceptance of its obligations and responsibilities by saying "I do" or otherwise indicating assent prior to being installed and assuming the duties of that office or position:

"By assuming office, you hereby accept both the honor and the responsibility of faithfully representing the proud men and women of the Laborers' International Union of North America. To the utmost of your abilities, you promise to pursue steadfastly the cause of justice, dignity, respect and equality for all working people. You promise to labor relentlessly to grow and strengthen this Union so that it may be in the next 100 years Strong, Proud and United. You pledge to recognize and comply with all of the provisions of the Laborers' Constitutions and with all of the policies, practices and decisions adopted and maintained in the furtherance thereof. All this you solemnly promise, so help you God."

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Governance of the Laborers' International Union of North America is supplemented by the Policies of the Laborers' International Union of North America.

References in this Constitution to the male gender shall be understood to include the female gender as well.

	Art.	Sec.	Page
<b>Advertising</b>			
unlawful solicitation .....	XXIII	1	53
<b>Agreements</b>			
assuring the performance .....	IX	7	31
enforce observance and other lawful agreements .....	IX	12	35
enter into .....	IX	12	35
national, regional and area .....	VIII	2 (s)	25-26
negotiate .....	IX	12	35
.....	XI	8	39
pension fund.....	XIII	2	41-42
power vested in officers to negotiate and enforce.....	VIII	2 (s)	25-26
.....	IX	12	35
trade jurisdiction .....	III	1 (b)	8-9
<b>Amalgamations .....</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>1 (b)</b>	<b>8-9</b>
<b>Appeals, See also Charges, Trials and Appeals .....</b>	<b>XXII</b>		<b>53</b>
authority to hold hearings on.....	VIII	2 (a-vii)	28
Convention committee on .....	V	14	17
general counsel duties.....	IX	19	36-37
General President authority.....	IX	18	36
sole and exclusive remedy .....	XVI	3	44-45
to the General Executive Board.....	VIII	2 (a-vi)	27-28
to the Convention.....	VIII	2 (a-viii)	28
<b>Apportionment and Distribution of Revenue.....</b>	<b>XV</b>	<b>1-2</b>	<b>43-44</b>
<b>Assessments, See also Revenue</b>			
levied by the General Executive Board.....	VIII	2 (j)	24
received by the General Secretary-Treasurer .....	XI	1	38
transfers .....	XXI	3	52
<b>Audit</b>			
Convention committee on .....	V	14-16	17-18
of delinquent Local Unions.....	XVIII	5	46-47
retain the services for.....	IX	9 (a)	34
<b>Authority .....</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Bonding</b>			
of the General President .....	IX	16	36
of the General Secretary-Treasurer .....	XI	14	39
under trusteeship.....	IX	7	32-33
<b>Charges, Trials and Appeals.....</b>	<b>XXII</b>		<b>53</b>
sole authority.....	XVI	3	44-45
<b>Charters.....</b>	<b>XVII</b>	<b>1-4</b>	<b>45</b>
General Executive Board powers .....	VIII	2 (f-g)	24
General President/General Secretary-Treasurer.....	IX	13	35
.....	XI	9	39
issuance, amalgamate or revoke .....	II	2 (b)	6
issued in accordance with the Constitution .....	XVII	1-4	45
issued to District Councils.....	XIX	1-4	49-50
<b>Constitution</b>			
adopted by LiUNA .....	Preamble		4
amendments effective date.....	XXIII	2	53

	Art.	Sec.	Page
amendments necessary for mergers.....	II	2 (i)	8
appointment to committee.....	V	15	17
authority to enforce.....	IX	1 (b)	29
authority to grant variances, tolerances or exemptions.....	IX	11 (b)	35
.....	VIII	2 (c)	23
authority to interpret.....	IX	4	30
authority to investigate.....	IX	6	30
binding on affiliates.....	XVII	4	45
.....	XVIII	1	46
charges, trials and appeals.....	XXII		53
committee on Constitution and law.....	V	14	17
exhaustion of remedies.....	XVI	2	44
General Executive Board's power to amend.....	II	2(e)	7
oath of office.....	XXIV		54
obligations of affiliates.....	XVIII	1-9	46-49
parts held invalid.....	II	2(e)	7
power to administer the provisions.....	II	2(d)	7
sole and exclusive remedy.....	XVI	3	44-45
<b>Conventions and Representation.....</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>1-17</b>	<b>10-18</b>
appointment of committees.....	V	15	17
authority between Conventions.....	I	2	4
authority when not in.....	II	2 (e)	7
call for.....	V	2	10
combination of Local Unions less than 300.....	V	4 (a)	11
committees.....	V	14	17
composed of.....	V	3	10
credentials.....	V	10	15-16
credentials and audit committee.....	V	16	17-18
credential committee.....	V	5	12
delegate by virtue of office.....	V	4	12
electronic registration and credential.....	V	10	15-16
member aggrieved by delegate election.....	V	6	12-13
member eligible to be delegate.....	V	9 (a)	13-14
nomination and election of delegates.....	V	9 (a-g)	13-15
number of delegates.....	V	4	11-12
order of business and rules.....	V	12	16
per diem and allowance.....	V	11	16
ratification of General Executive Board actions.....	II	2 (e)	7
regular Convention timing.....	V	1	10
resolutions to be considered.....	V	13	16-17
special Conventions.....	V	17 (a-f)	18
supreme authority.....	I	2	4
<b>Dissolution.....</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>District Council.....</b>	<b>XIX</b>	<b>1-9</b>	<b>49-50</b>
all Local Unions within territorial and/ or craft jurisdiction shall affiliate.....	XIX	3	50
attempts to cause secession.....	XVIII	2	46
authority to dismiss or resolve a charge objection, protest or appeal.....	IX	18	36
authority to interpret the provisions.....	IX	4	30

	Art.	Sec.	Page
authorized to investigate disputes between Local Unions and District Councils or District Councils.....X		3	37-38
authority to see to it affairs properly conducted.....IX		1 (b)	29
bring or cause to be brought any action.....XVIII		7	47-48
charges and trials .....VIII		2 (a-vi)	27-28
charges, trials and appeals trusteeships.....IX		7	31-33
charters to District Councils.....XVII		1	45
charters, powers to issue.....II		2 (b)	6
.....VIII		2 (f)	24
.....IX		13	35
.....XI		9	39
.....XIX		1	49
delegate aggrieved by delegate election .....V		6	12-13
delegate by virtue of office.....V		4 (b)	12
dues to .....XVIII		8 (c)	48
exhaustion of remedies.....XVI		2-4	44-45
failure to make payments to .....XVIII		5	46-47
failure to make payments to the LIUNA staff and affiliates pension fund .....XVIII		9 (b)	49
General Executive Board amendment of .....II		2 (e)	7
.....VIII		2 (b)	23
General Executive Board authority and power .....VIII		2 (b-g)	23-24
issued charter binding upon .....XVII		4	45
LiUNA staff and affiliates pension fund.....XIII		2	41-42
.....XVIII		9 (a-b)	48-49
meetings of.....XIX		9	50
membership of .....XIX		5	50
nomination and election of delegates to Convention...V		9 (a-g)	13-15
not authorized to act for or otherwise bind.....XII		4	40-41
number of delegates to Convention.....V		4 (a)	11
objects and powers of .....XIX		7	50
obligations of .....XVIII		1-6	46-47
obligations of officers .....XIX		8	50
retirement and related benefits for officers and employees .....XIV		4	43
suspension of Local Unions .....XIX		6	50
transfers between Local Unions within a District Council .....XXI		1	51
<b>Dues</b>			
50 year member .....XVIII		8 (c)	48
current in the payment of .....V		9 (a)	13-14
Local Unions shall fix and regulate .....XVIII		8 (c)	48
military service and .....XXIII		3	53-54
minimum .....XVIII		8 (d)	48
non-member veterans .....XXIII		3 (b)	53-54
regular monthly dues for apprentices .....XVIII		8 (c)	48
required for transfer .....XXI		2	51-52
voting at Conventions on per capita taxes and dues ....V		3	11
<b>Election</b>			
after trusteeship.....IX		<b>1-6</b>	<b>21-22</b>
as delegate by virtue of office .....V		7	33
as delegate by virtue of office .....V		4 (b)	12
as delegate by virtue of office – mail handler .....V		4 (b)	12

	Art.	Sec.	Page
combination of Local Union and Convention.....	V	9 (e)	15
executive board of Local Union conduct .....	V	9 (e)	15
fix the date of Convention delegate .....	V	9 (d)	14-15
for Convention for mail handler Local Unions less than 300 members .....	V	4 (b)	12
General Executive Board secret ballot .....	VII	5	22
if unqualified to run as Convention delegate.....	V	9 (c)	14
mail handler delegates voting rights .....	V	4 (a-b)	11-12
member aggrieved by Convention delegate election....	V	6	12-13
member eligible for Convention delegate .....	V	9 (a)	13-14
notice of Convention delegate .....	V	9 (d)	14-15
number of delegates to Convention.....	V	4 (a)	11
of delegates to the Convention.....	V	4 (a-b)	11-12
of delegates, supreme authority .....	I	2	4
of general officers and vice presidents, notification....	VII	2	21-22
protest regarding nomination and election of officers ...	VII	6	22
provisional officers until next regular.....	VI	6	20
secret ballot for Convention delegate .....	V	9 (d)	14-15
substitute delegate voting at Convention except for.....	V	3	10-11
term of office, LiUNA officers.....	VI	2	19
to stand for, a candidate must be nominated by .....	VII	4	22
<b>Funds .....</b>	<b>XIV</b>	<b>1-4</b>	<b>42-43</b>
apportionment and distribution of revenue to .....	XV	1	43-44
authority to see to it that the affairs and business of regional organizing funds .....	IX	1 (b)	29
contributions from training trusts and other entities to the LiUNA staff and affiliates pension fund .....	XIII	2	41-42
General Executive Board authority to designate the depositories for the .....	VIII	2 (l)	24
General Executive Board empowered and authorized to make expenditures and payments from.....	VIII	2 (m)	24-25
General President and General Secretary-Treasurer shall make all expenditures out of .....	IX	14	35
General Secretary-Treasurer allocate all receipts to .....	XI	10	39
general, regular Convention and other special .....	XIV	1	42
investment policy of the .....	VIII	2 (l)	24
Local Union officers and members responsible for.....	XVIII	6	47
of defunct Local Unions.....	XVIII	6	47
separate and distinct.....	XIV	2	42-43
trustee or supervisor shall take possession of such .....	IX	7	33
trustee shall return all remaining.....	IX	7	33
<b>General Counsel</b>			
General President shall retain the services of.....	IX	19	36
maintain an office .....	IX	19	37
members seeking General Executive Board office.....	VII	2	22
perform the duties and responsibilities .....	IX	19	36-37
shall determine the qualifications of such individual... ..	VII	2	21-22
shall provide to all persons appearing to hold the necessary qualifications.....	VII	3	22
shall, without vote, be present and have a voice.....	IX	19	37
<i>See also</i> Legal Department			

	Art.	Sec.	Page
<b>General Executive Board.....</b>	<b>VIII</b>	<b>1-2(a-viii)</b>	<b>23-28</b>
any member or subordinate body aggrieved by the.....	VIII	2 (a-viii)	28
approval of annual salary or retainer of general counsel.....	IX	19	37
approval for retention of general counsel.....	IX	19	36
authority .....	I	2	4
combination of Local Unions for Convention delegates designated by the .....	V	4 (b)	12
combination of mail handler Local Unions for Convention delegates designated by the .....	V	4 (b)	12
complaint, hearing and finding by the .....	XVIII	5	46-47
composition of .....	VIII	1	23
Convention composed of .....	V	3	10-11
Convention date and city decided by.....	V	1	10
Convention per diem and allowance established by.....	V	11	16
decision, direction, ruling, order is final and binding unless reversed or modified by Convention.....	VIII	2 (a-viii)	28
delegates by virtue of office .....	V	3	10
establish and maintain regional/subregional offices .....	IV	1	9
executive and judicial powers vested in the .....	II	2 (e)	7
findings of facts and recommendations reported and submitted to the .....	X	3	37-38
final and binding decision, ruling or order of the.....	X	3	37-38
.....	XVI	3	44-45
form of the application and the form of the charter of District Councils.....	XIX	4	50
General President shall call and preside over all sessions of the.....	IX	3 (a)	29
General President's judgment or decision shall be effective and binding unless reversed/modified.....	IX	4	30
.....	IX	18	36
hearing before the .....	IX	5-6	30-31
.....	IX	7	31-33
hearings panel of the .....	VIII	2 (a-vii)	28
increase the salary, benefits or other compensation .....	VI	7	20-21
issuance of District Council charters .....	XIX	1	49
judicial authority not otherwise vested shall reside .....	VIII	2 (a-vi)	27-28
judicial power of the .....	VIII	2 (a-vii)	28
limitations of powers .....	XII	2	40
manual of jurisdiction declared and promulgated by.....	III	1 (b)	9
.....	VIII	2 (q)	25
may exercise legislative power .....	VIII	2 (b)	23
meet and consider disputes and adjust same .....	VIII	2 (p)	25
members of the .....	VI	1	18
.....	VI	3	19
.....	X	1	37
party aggrieved by a decision at the Local Union level may appeal to the .....	VIII	2 (a-vi)	27-28
president of the mail handlers shall serve as a member .....	VI	1	18-19
powers between Conventions .....	VI	1	18-19
powers of.....	VIII	2 (a)-(a-viii)	23-28

	Art.	Sec.	Page
review of national, regional or area agreements .....	VIII	2 (s)	25-26
.....	IX	12	35
salaries of .....	VI	7	20
seal and official label .....	IV	2	9-10
serve as board of trustees of the LiUNA staff and affiliates pension fund .....	XIV	4	43
shall be elected by secret ballot of the delegates to the Convention.....	VII	5	22
shall be empowered and authorized to make expenditures and payments .....	VIII	2 (m)	24-25
shall fix and determine the form of application for charter and the form of the charter.....	XVII	2	45
shall not affect the numbers of delegates from their Local Union.....	V	3	10
shall receive such benefits and compensation as are provided other staff personnel .....	VI	7	21
special Convention held upon the order of the .....	V	17 (a-f)	18
take actions and steps to organize.....	VIII	2 (t)	26
transfers from/to funds .....	XIV	1-4	42-43
vacancy filled by action of the .....	VI	5	19-20
<b>General Fund. See Funds</b>			
<b>General President .....</b>	<b>IX</b>	<b>1-19</b>	<b>29-37</b>
appoint a temporary trustee or supervisor .....	IX	7	31-33
appoint a trustee or supervisor in an emergency.....	IX	7	32
assign for hearing and decision.....	IX	7	30-31
authority and power to investigate the affairs of a subordinate body .....	IX	6	30-31
authority to appoint delegates/representatives to all affiliate bodies.....	IX	10	34
authority to appoint organizers and representatives.....	IX	8 (b)	34
authority to appoint personnel to carry out the duties and functions of office.....	IX	8 (a)	33
authority to appoint regional/subregional managers.....	IX	8 (b)	34
authority to appoint when provisional charter is in effect.....	VIII	2 (f)	24
authority to direct activities of all departments and appoint personnel.....	IX	8 (c)	34
authority to dismiss or resolve a charge, objection, protest or appeal .....	IX	18	36
authority to employ auditors .....	IX	9 (b)	34
authority to enforce observance of agreements/ order made by Local Unions and subordinate bodies .....	IX	12	35
authority to enter into national, regional or area agreements.....	IX	12	35
authority to fix salaries and other compensation.....	IX	8 (d)	34
.....	IX	19	37
authority to grant variances, tolerances or exemptions.....	IX	11 (b)	35
authority to increase salaries of vice presidents .....	VI	7	20-21
authority to institute or defend and resolve such suits.....	IX	15	35-36
authority to issue charters.....	IX	13	35
.....	XI	9	39

	Art.	Sec.	Page
.....XIX	1		49
authority to make all expenditures.....IX	14		35
authority to make assignments to vice presidents.....X	2		37
authority to retain certified public accountants .....IX	9 (a)		34
authority to take possession of, or refrain from taking, Local Union assets upon suspension or dissolution...XVIII	6		47
authority to waive or regulate fees.....IX	11 (a)		34-35
call special meetings of the General Executive Board .VIII	2 (v)		26
Convention, appointment and notice to committee on credentials and audit.....V	16		17-18
Convention, appointment of committee on credentials and audit, committee on order and business and rules, the committee on Constitution and law and the committee on resolutions .....V	15		17
Convention, appointment of Convention committees ...V	14		17
Convention, combination of Convention delegate elections with Local Union elections.....V	9 (e-f)		15
Convention, committee on the General President's report .....V	14		17
Convention – special, appointment of special Convention committees.....V	17 (f)		18
decide grievance and disputes.....IX	4		30
delegation of judicial power.....VIII	2 (a-vii)		28
employ the services during an investigation .....IX	6		31
exercise the right for original jurisdiction with charges and trial.....VIII	2 (a-vi)		27-28
file charges .....IX	6		31
final and binding decisions by the.....XVI	3		44-45
furnish bond .....IX	16		36
general powers of.....IX	1		29
inform the General Executive Board of other vacancies .....VI	5		20
issue a notice of hearing for determination of appointment of trustee or supervisor.....IX	7		31-32
judgement or decision shall be effective and binding...IX	4		30
member of the General Executive Board.....VIII	1		23
members seeking the office of .....VII	2		21-22
officers of the International Union.....VI	1		18-19
provided with the use of accommodations.....VI	7		21
power to authorize the .....VIII	2 (s)		25-26
power to call and preside over all sessions of the General Executive Board .....IX	3 (a)		29
power to interpret the provisions of the Constitution ...IX	4		30
powers at Convention, appointments .....IX	2 (c)		29
powers at Convention, appointments of committees...IX	2 (d)		29
powers at Convention, as chairperson .....IX	2 (a)		29
powers at Convention, ex-officio member of all committees.....IX	2 (d)		29
powers at Convention, prepare and submit a written report.....IX	2 (b)		29

	Art.	Sec.	Page
recommend the transfer of assets by and			
between funds .....	XIV	2	42-43
regional and subregional offices under the			
supervision of .....	VIII	2 (w)	26
regulate the method of withdrawal of funds by the .....	VIII	2 (l)	24
removal of officers or delegates under supervision .....	IX	7	31-33
remove trustees or supervisors			
and appoint successors .....	IX	7	31-33
request a hearing .....	IX	5	30
require personal appearance for investigation			
or inquiry .....	IX	6	30-31
restore self-government as determined by the .....	IX	7	33
retain the services of a general counsel .....	IX	19	36
salary of .....	VI	7	20
shall have executive, administrative			
and judicial authority .....	IX	1 (a)	29
shall have the authority to see to it that affairs			
and business of affiliates are properly conducted .....	IX	1 (b)	29
submit any matter to the General Executive Board .....	IX	3 (b)	29-30
supervise and direct the general counsel .....	IX	19	36
surrender and turn over all books, monies or other			
property at expiration of the term of office .....	IX	17	36
take action after an investigation or inquiry .....	IX	6	30-31
.....	IX	7	31-33
terminating supervision .....	IX	7	33
trustee or supervisor reports to the .....	IX	7	32
vacancy in the office of .....	VI	5	19-20
vested with the authority to negotiate and enforce			
observance of national, regional or area agreements ...	VIII	2 (s)	25-26
.....	IX	12	35
<b>General Secretary-Treasurer .....</b>	<b>XI</b>	<b>1-16</b>	<b>38-40</b>
authority to employ auditors .....	IX	9 (b)	34
.....	XI	16	40
authority to enter into national, regional			
or area agreements .....	IX	12	35
authority to issue charters .....	IX	13	35
.....	XI	9	39
.....	XIX	1	49
authority to make all expenditures .....	IX	14	35
authorized to be the custodian of all books,			
records, documents and property .....	XI	6	39
Convention call .....	V	2	10
Convention, committee on General			
Secretary-Treasurer's report .....	V	14	17
Convention delegate elections,			
receive member protest .....	V	6	12-13
Convention, furnish to each affiliate credentials .....	V	10	15-16
Convention, perform the duties of secretary .....	XI	11	39
Convention, receive resolutions for consideration .....	V	13	16-17
determine and prescribe the form of member transfer .....	XXI	10	53
duty to allocate fees to the various funds .....	XI	10	39
duty to deposit all monies .....	XI	3	38

	Art.	Sec.	Page
duty to furnish bond.....	XI	14	39
duty to keep a true and accurate record of all financial transactions.....	XI	4	38
duty to pay all financial obligations.....	XI	2	38
duty to perform the duties of secretary at meetings.....	XI	12	39
duty to prepare and distribute annual financial report ..	XI	7	39
duty to receive all monies due and owing.....	XI	1	38
inform the General Executive Board of vacancy in the office of the General President .....	VI	5	19-20
issue and order to show cause.....	IX	5	30
member of the General Executive Board .....	VIII	1	23
officer of the International Union .....	VI	1	18
provided with the use of accommodations.....	VI	7	20-21
receive a request for a hearing .....	IX	5	30
receive appeal of aggrieved member or subordinate body .....	VIII	2 (a-viii)	28
receive charges against any officer or member filed by the General President.....	IX	7	31-32
recommend the transfer of assets by and between funds .....	XIV	2	42-43
salary of.....	VI	7	20-21
seeking the office of.....	VII	2	21-22
surrender and turn over all books, monies or other property at expiration of the term of office .....	XI	15	40
<b>Headquarters, Label and Seal .....</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>1-2</b>	<b>9-10</b>
<b>Hearings(s)/Hearings Panel</b>			
provisional charter actions without hearing .....	VIII	2 (f)	24
authority to hold hearings.....	VIII	2 (a-vii)	28
authority to officiate at.....	X	4	38
authority to revoke, consolidate or amalgamate charters upon notice and after .....	VIII	2 (g)	24
before the General Executive Board.....	IX	7	31-33
Convention delegate removal after filing of charge, due notice and proper .....	V	7	13
deamalgamation or expulsion after notice and .....	II	2 (i)	8
.....	VIII	2 (r)	25
general counsel with all hearings on appeals .....	IX	19	36-37
General President may request.....	IX	5	30
Local Union, if found guilty, have charter revoked and be fined after notice and .....	XVIII	7	47-48
temporary suspension of an officer or employee pending a .....	IX	6	31
subordinate bodies may be fined, suspended, expelled, or placed in trusteeship after notice and .....	XVIII	2	46-47
.....	XVIII	5	46
vice president's duty to hold .....	X	3	37-38
<b>Initiation Fees</b>			
amount and effective dates.....	XIII	1 (b)	41
apportionment, distribution and allocation of.....	XV	1	43-44
General Executive Board may waive or regulate .....	VIII	2 (u)	26
General President may waive or regulate.....	IX	11 (a)	34-35
General Secretary-Treasurer allocation of.....	XI	10	39

	Art.	Sec.	Page
General Secretary-Treasurer shall receive all per capita, initiation fees.....	XI	1	38
initiation fee and per capita tax for each member must accompany application for charter .....	XVII	3	45
Local Union charge not less than or more than.....	XVIII	8 (a)	48
Local Union suspension for failure to pay .....	XVIII	4	46
Local Union suspension for failure to pay to the District Council .....	XVIII	5	46-47
non-member veteran.....	XXIII	3 (b)	53-54
obligation of affiliates, pay initiation fee to LiUNA, amount of.....	XVIII	3	46
right of transfer from the date of member's .....	XXI	4	52
transferee pay .....	XXI	8	52
<b>International Representatives</b>			
General President appointment of .....	IX	8 (b)	33
General President appointment of delegates or.....	IX	10	34
General President authorized to appoint during provisional charter .....	VIII	2 (f)	24
General President to designate to investigate and inquire.....	IX	6	30-31
no Local Union or officer thereof shall bring or cause any action against.....	XVIII	7	47
no member shall bring or cause any action against .....	XVI	2	44
no member, Local Union, District Council, or other subordinate body shall bring or cause any action against .....	XVI	3	44-45
powers and acts authorized by the General President, General Secretary-Treasurer or General Executive Board .....	XII	2	40
trustee or supervisor's capacity as a.....	IX	7	31-33
vice presidents as representatives of the General President .....	X	2	39
<b>Investments</b>			
General Executive Board to regulate the manner and method of .....	VIII	2(l)	24
<b>Jurisdiction</b>			
all Local Unions within territorial or craft jurisdiction shall affiliate with the District Council.....	XIX	3	50
disputes regarding territorial or craft .....	X	3	37-38
establish and maintain regional/subregional offices in such area within the.....	VIII	2 (w)	26
General Executive Board authority to amend charter jurisdiction.....	VIII	2 (g)	24
issuance of Local Union and District Council charters specifying territorial and trade .....	IX	13	35
issuance of provisional or other charters specifying territorial and craft .....	VIII	2 (f)	24
manual of.....	III	1(b)	9
.....	VIII	2 (q)	25
object of the International Union .....	II	1 (a)	5
promote and protect the trade.....	II	1 (o)	6
protection of.....	VIII	2 (o)	25

	Art.	Sec.	Page
sovereign authority to define craft or territorial .....	II	2 (b)	6
territorial .....	III	1 (a)	8
trade .....	III	1 (b)	8-9
transfer of member within the territorial jurisdiction of another Local Union .....	XXI	9	53
<b>International Union .....</b>	<b>preamble</b>		<b>4</b>
Convention of .....	V	1	10
General Executive Board composition of .....	VIII	1	23
headquarters and general office .....	IV	1	9
merge or amalgamate other national or international labor organizations into .....	VIII	2 (r)	25
oath of office .....	XXIV		54
objects of .....	II	1 (a-r)	5-6
officers of .....	VI	1	18
powers of .....	II	2 (a-1)	6-8
powers and acts of representatives or employee of the .....	XII	2	40
territorial jurisdiction of .....	III	1 (a)	8
title and authority .....	I	1-2	4
trade jurisdiction of .....	III	1 (b)	8-9
seal of .....	IV	2	9-10
shall not be responsible for any action or activities of the Local Union or other subordinate body .....	IX	7	33
shall not be held responsible for any acts of representatives or employees .....	XII	3	40
<b>Limitation of powers .....</b>	<b>XII</b>	<b>1-4</b>	<b>40-41</b>
<b>Local Union(s)</b>			
active military working at the calling .....	XXIII	3 (a)	53
advertising, sell or grant permission .....	XXIII	1	53
charges and trials .....	VIII	2 (a-vi)	27-28
.....	XXII		53
chartering, full, provisional or other .....	II	2 (b)	6
.....	VIII	2 (f)	24
.....	IX	13	35
.....	XI	9	39
.....	XVII	1-4	45
charters, General Executive Board power to revoke, consolidate or amalgamate .....	VIII	2(f)	24
charters issued to District Councils .....	XIX	2 (a-b)	49-50
Constitution, any part to be held invalid, other parts shall not be affected .....	II	2 (e)	7
Convention call advising of date, city and number of delegates .....	V	2	10
Convention, any member is eligible provided such member is .....	V	9 (a)	13-14
Convention, arrange for the conduct of a nomination meeting .....	V	9 (c)	14
Convention, business manager a delegate by virtue of their office .....	V	4 (b)	12
Convention, combined locals .....	V	4 (a-b)	11-12
Convention, combined locals notified of such by the General President .....	V	4 (a)	11

	Art.	Sec.	Page
Convention composed of legally elected delegates of.. V	V	3	10-11
Convention, credentials provided to the..... V	V	10	15-16
Convention, delegate and office nomination and elections combined..... V	V	9 (f)	15
Convention, entitled to more than one delegate may determine one additional delegate by virtue of their office..... V	V	4 (b)	12
Convention, mail a written notice for secret ballot election ..... V	V	9 (d)	14-15
Convention, member aggrieved by the nominations process..... V	V	6	12-13
Convention, not in good standing shall have no standing or rights at Convention..... V	V	3	10-11
Convention, nominate and elect delegates by secret ballot..... V	V	9 (b)	14
Convention, nomination and election of delegate at the same meeting ..... V	V	9 (e)	15
Convention, number of delegated entitled ..... V	V	4 (a)	11
Convention, number of delegates not affected by ..... V	V	3	10
Convention, receipt of Convention Call..... V	V	2	10
Convention, substitute delegate..... V	V	3	11
District Council, affiliate with.....XIX	XIX	3	50
District Councils, membership consists of.....XIX	XIX	5	50
dues.....XVIII	XVIII	8 (c)	48
General Executive Board power to amend the uniform Constitutions of affiliates .....II	II	2 (e)	7
.....VIII	VIII	2 (b)	23
General President's authority to dismiss or resolve a charge, objection, protest or appeal.....IX	IX	18	36
General President's authority to enforce national, regional, area and lawful agreements .....IX	IX	12	35
General President's authority to interpret the provisions of the uniform Constitution.....IX	IX	4	30
General President's authority to see to it that affairs and business are properly conducted.....IX	IX	1 (b)	29
General Secretary-Treasurer's responsibility to prepare and distribute financial report .....XI	XI	7	39
initiation fees/readmission fees.....XVIII	XVIII	8 (a-b)	48
initiation fee, General Executive Board power to waive or regulate .....VIII	VIII	2 (u)	26
initiation fee, General President's authority to waive or regulate .....IX	IX	11 (a)	34-35
International Union shall not be responsible for the actions of .....IX	IX	7	33
investigation of dispute between Local Unions or Local Unions and District Councils .....X	X	3	37-38
limitation of powers of .....XII	XII	4	40-41
LiUNA Local Union and District Council pension fund.....XIV	XIV	4	43
.....XVIII	XVIII	9 (a-c)	48-49
no Local Union shall bring or cause to be brought any action against .....XVI	XVI	3	44-45

	Art.	Sec.	Page
no Local Union, or officer, shall bring or cause to be brought.....	XVIII	7	47-48
no member shall bring or cause to be brought any action against a.....	XVI	2	44
non member veterans .....	XXIII	3 (b)	53-54
obligations of affiliates .....	XVIII	1	46
per capita tax .....	XVIII	3	46
per capita tax, fails, neglects or refuses to pay .....	XVIII	4	46
per capita tax, falsified or been delinquent in payment .....	XVIII	5	46-47
qualifications, rights and obligations of members .....	XVI	1	44
revenue from .....	XIII	1 (a-c)	41
revenue to LiUNA staff and affiliates pension fund .....	XIII	2	41-42
.....	XVIII	9 (a)	48-49
revenue to LiUNA staff and affiliates pension fund, fails, neglects/refuses to pay .....	XVIII	9 (b)	49
secession, attempted .....	XVIII	2	46
suspended, right of International Union officer to transfer.....	VI	8	21
suspension, automatically suspends from District Council.....	XIX	6	50
suspension, dissolved, or ceases to exist .....	XVIII	6	47
suspension, dissolved, or ceases to exist, officers and members responsible .....	XVIII	6	47
venue to litigate.....	XVI	4	45
<b>Mail Handlers Division .....</b>	<b>XX</b>	<b>1-4</b>	<b>50-51</b>
amendments to the mail handler Constitution.....	XX	3	51
Convention delegates .....	V	4 (a-b)	11-12
Convention delegate by virtue of office .....	V	4 (b)	12
Convention delegates, Local Unions with less than 300 members, combined.....	V	4 (b)	12
General Executive Board election with the exception of the president of the .....	VII	5	22
General Executive Board composition.....	VIII	1	23
jurisdiction .....	III	1 (b)	8-9
mail handlers division .....	XX	1-4	50-51
per capita tax allocation.....	XX	1	50-51
per capita tax due to the International Union, associate member .....	XX	2	51
president as ex-officio officer of LiUNA.....	VI	1	18-19
president, salary as LiUNA vice president .....	VI	7	20
provisions of article XX preempt and supersede .....	XX	4	51
<b>Manual of Jurisdiction</b>			
General Executive Board authorized to prepare .....	VIII	2 (g)	25
trade jurisdiction .....	III	1 (b)	8-9
<b>Membership.....</b>	<b>XVI</b>	<b>1-4</b>	<b>44-45</b>
Convention delegates, Local Unions with 300 members delegate entitlement.....	V	4	11
Convention delegates, Local Unions with less than 300 members, combined.....	V	4	11
Convention delegate elections, membership shall determine and fix the date .....	V	9 (d)	14-15

	Art.	Sec.	Page
General Executive Board may submit any legislative proposal to the .....	II	2 (e)	7
.....	VIII	2 (b)	23
General Executive Board may submit or decline to submit referenda to the .....	VIII	2 (i)	24
initiation fee, General Executive Board may waive or regulate .....	VIII	2 (u)	26
initiation fee, General President may waive or regulate.....	IX	11 (a)	34-35
Local Unions set lesser schedule of dues for apprentices after approval by the .....	XVIII	8 (c)	48
member 50 years or more of service shall receive gold membership card .....	XVIII	8 (c)	48
no member shall bring or cause to be brought any action against .....	XVI	2-3	44-45
non member veterans may be admitted as members .....	XXIII	3 (b)	53-54
purpose, to engage in activities appropriate for the defense/advancement of the .....	II	1 (n)	6
qualifications, rights and obligations of .....	XVI	1	44
right to transfer membership .....	XXI	1-10	51-53
<b>Mergers</b>			
trade jurisdiction .....	III	1 (b)	8-9
<b>Military service</b>			
members who enter active military service, good standing .....	XXIII	3 (a)	53
non member veterans may be admitted as members .....	XXIII	3 (b)	53-54
<b>Miscellaneous Provisions .....</b>	<b>XXIII</b>	<b>1-4</b>	<b>53-54</b>
<b>Oath of Office .....</b>	<b>XXIV</b>		<b>54</b>
<b>Objects of the International Union.....</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5-6</b>
<b>Obligations of Affiliates.....</b>	<b>XVIII</b>	<b>1-9 (c)</b>	<b>46-49</b>
<b>Officers of the International Union .....</b>	<b>VI</b>	<b>1-8</b>	<b>18-21</b>
elections of .....	VII	1-6	21-22
empowered and authorized to make expenditures.....	VIII	2 (m)	24-25
funds administered by the .....	XIV	3	43
General Executive Board as officers .....	VIII	2 (e)	24
shall be delegates at large to all Conventions.....	VI	6	20
<b>Official Language of the International Union .....</b>	<b>XXIII</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Organizing Activities</b>			
organize the unorganized.....	VIII	2 (t)	26
<b>Pension Funds. See also Funds</b>			
contributions from training trust funds and other entities.....	XIII	2	41-42
established and maintained by the General Executive Board .....	XIV	2	42-43
LiUNA Local Union and District Council pension trust, incorporated into.....	XVIII	9 (c)	49
obligations of affiliates, payment to.....	XVIII	9 (a)	48-49

	Art.	Sec.	Page
obligations of affiliates, fails, neglects or refuses to pay.....	XVIII	9 (b)	49
revenue of the LiUNA staff and affiliate .....	XIII	2	41-42
shall be maintained to provide retirement and related benefits .....	XIV	4	43
<b>Per Capita Tax</b>			
allocation of.....	XI	10	39
apportionment and distribution of revenue .....	XV	1	43-44
charters, fees and per capita for each member due .....	XVII	3	45
Convention delegate, substitute participate in all business except for .....	V	3	11
mail handlers, per capita due.....	XX	1	50-51
.....	XX	2	51
member of 50 years or more, no per capita tax owed.....	XVIII	8 (c)	48
obligations of affiliates, pay per capita tax of.....	XVIII	3	46
obligations of affiliates, fails, neglects or refuses to pay.....	XVIII	4	46
obligations of affiliates, falsified or been delinquent in payment .....	XVIII	5	46-47
revenue of LiUNA.....	XIII	1 (a)	41
retiree, due to LiUNA.....	XVIII	3	46
<b>Powers of the International Union .....</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6-8</b>
limitation of.....	XII	1-4	40-41
<b>Preamble .....</b>			<b>4</b>
<b>Readmission fees</b>			
allocation of.....	XI	10	39
apportionment and distribution of revenue .....	XV	1	43-44
amount of.....	XVIII	3	46
falsified or been delinquent; failed, neglected or refused to pay .....	XVIII	5	46-47
General Secretary-Treasurer shall receive.....	XI	1	38
<b>Referendums</b>			
General Executive Board submission.....	II	2 (e)	7
.....	VIII	2 (b)	23
<b>Regional Offices.....</b>			
General Executive Board may establish and maintain.....	VIII	2 (w)	26
General President authority to appoint managers of.....	IX	8 (b)	33
<b>Regional Organizing Funds</b>			
charters issued.....	XVII	1	45
charters, when issued binding upon all.....	XVII	4	45
charters, power of the International Union.....	II	2 (b)	6
charters, powers of the General Executive Board to issue.....	VIII	2 (f)	24
charters, powers of General Executive Board to revoke, consolidate/amalgamate.....	VIII	2 (g)	24
charters, General President and General Secretary-Treasurer to issue .....	XI	9	39

	Art.	Sec.	Page
General President, authority to see the affairs and business are properly conducted.....	IX	1 (b)	29
International Union powers, affiliate or disaffiliate with any organization .....	II	2 (h)	8
<b>Retirees</b>			
Objects and powers of LiUNA, to establish a retirement program .....	II	1 (q)	6
per capita paid to LiUNA for .....	XVIII	3	46
<b>Revenue .....</b>	<b>XIII</b>	<b>1-2</b>	<b>41-42</b>
apportionment and distribution of.....	XV	1-2	43-44
of funds.....	XIII	2	41-42
of the LiUNA staff and affiliates pension fund .....	XIII	2	41-42
<b>Seal of the International Union.....</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9-10</b>
<b>Suspension</b>			
of an officer or employee pending a hearing.....	IX	6	31
of Local Unions automatically suspends them from the District Council.....	XIX	6	50
of subordinate bodies.....	XVIII	4-7	46-48
<b>“The Laborer” .....</b>	<b>VIII</b>	<b>2(y)</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Title and Authority of the International Union.....</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Transfers.....</b>	<b>XXI</b>	<b>1-10</b>	<b>51-53</b>
<b>Trials. See Charges, Trials, and Appeals .....</b>	<b>XXII</b>		<b>53</b>
<b>Trusteeship.....</b>	<b>IX</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>31-33</b>
delegation of judicial powers by General President to hold hearings on.....	VIII	2 (a-vii)	28
Local Union has falsified or been delinquent; failed neglected or refused to pay .....	XVIII	5	46-47
subordinate bodies placed in after notice, hearing and decision .....	XVIII	2	46
<b>Veterans</b>			
admission as members.....	XXIII	3 (b)	53-54
<b>Vice Presidents.....</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>1-4</b>	<b>37-38</b>
as officers .....	VI	1	18-19
authority to officiate at hearings.....	X	4	38
General Executive Board has the authority to increase or decrease the number .....	VI	1	19
General Executive Boards composed of .....	VIII	1	23
salary of.....	VI	7	20-21