
SEIU LOCAL 521

Service Employees International Union Local 521



BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

Voted on Feb. 9, 2022

Article X

Section 10: Committee on Political Education (COPE) - COPE Committees are created in order to promote and support political candidates and issues on the local and state level that support and further the purposes and objectives of the Local Union and its members. Each COPE committee within SEIU will be based on boundaries delineated by Central Labor Councils (CLC) and approved by the Executive Board. Each Committee may create caucuses, PAC or PACE committees based on community of interest with approval of the Executive Board. Each CLC COPE committee will have a Chair, Vice-Chair and a Recorder, elected every two-years (February), by the members of that designated area who contribute to COPE. Any vacancies shall be filled after proper notice of thirty (30) days and seated by the next regularly scheduled meeting following an election. There will be quarterly meetings of chairs and/or vice-chairs for all CLC COPE Committees. From these officers, there will be two (2) regional Chairs of COPE elected every two (2) years to represent each region of the Local Union; the Coastal region, consisting of San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito and Monterey counties; and the Valley region, consisting of the remaining counties of the Local Union. These regional Chairs will report COPE plans and activities to the Executive Board following each quarterly COPE meeting. The quarterly meetings will map out state races and statewide issues, plan and review campaigns and distribute information from each of the CLC COPE committees. The Regional Chairs shall recommend to the Executive Board on behalf of the CLC COPE committees, a two-year plan and budget; recommend endorsements and activities. Recommendations shall be approved, rejected, modified or sent back to the Committee for further consideration. As required by law, neither the Local Union, nor the COPE, shall establish its own registered federal political committee nor make contributions in connection with federal elections. A localwide COPE Chair shall be appointed by the President, with approval of the Executive Board, from seated Executive Board delegates to represent the interests of the COPE Committee.

Trustees may be requested, by a Chapter or the President of the Local Union, to assist chapter leadership with voting and elections, or to help them understand and adhere to Local Union bylaws and policies.

The Trustees of the Local Union shall act as judge in all matters arising from the election procedures of the Local Union and shall hear all protests of an election. Members not satisfied with a ruling of the Trustees on an election matter may appeal such ruling to the International President within fifteen (15) days of the ruling.

The At-Large Trustees and/or Regional Trustees may be asked to serve in various situations as judge/chair/facilitator where decisions are made regarding issues that come up in the course of Union business and activities, e.g. the At-Large Trustees shall serve as Chair and alternate on Trial Committees ruling on Member Against Member Complaints.

The At-Large Trustees and/or Regional Trustees, as appropriate, are asked to serve on various Committees to which they are appointed or which Local guidelines, policies, procedures, etc. name them as participants (e.g. the Localwide Bylaws Committee, Localwide Strike Hardship Committee and Chapter Hardship Action Teams as necessary).

Article XI

Section 1: Composition - There shall be seven (7) Trustees elected, whose primary function is to act as guardians of the welfare of the Local Union through their oversight duties. They are not officers or voting members of the Executive Board. They are an independent localwide body.

Section 2: Eligibility and Term - The Trustees shall be members in good standing, elected at the same time as the Local Union Officers and shall serve a term equal to that of the Officers.

Section 3: Election of Trustees - Five (5) Trustees shall be elected by Chapter members of the same regions described for regional Vice-Presidents. Two (2) Trustees shall be elected at-large from the general membership.

Section 4: Duties of Trustees - Trustees shall see that the officers fulfill their duties and obligations, that the Local Union's bylaws are followed, and that meetings are run in a respectful and orderly manner consistent with the International Union's Manual of Common Procedures governing debate (see Appendix #2).

They will ensure proper fiscal procedures are followed, perform spot audits of financial transactions, hiring practices as they relate to financial expenditures, capital expenditures, expense reports according to a program/policy which will be developed by the Executive Board and themselves.

They will review the annual audit and may require other audits, if serious necessity demands it. They will report to the Membership and to the Executive Board on their activities and findings at least twice a year.