

Organization of the Work

A Steering Committee for the Local Center should be established. It should include the three trend forces at least. Possibly Pasadena people. Eventually rep's from other forces (The Sunday a.m. group, anti-imperialist organizations, etc.) as well as independents.

1. The steering committee for the local center must have regular and consistent representation. One person from each grouping should have primary responsibility for liaison with LSC (local steering committee.) More than one representative from each grouping can attend. Organizations should not send their representatives with binding instructions. They should give guidance, but they also must allow the LSC to take a process and shape of its own. The representatives are responsible to the OC IC in the form of the national and local steering committees first; and to their respective organizations second. We must put the interests of the communist movement ahead of a particular organization. As national and local tasks are taken up in the Local Center, a context will be created where representatives will develop a broader perspective than the organization they represent. This will serve to combat narrowness in conception and approach.

2. A Division of Labor should be established. Regular check up on assignments and criticism of work should be carried out.

3. Centralized Minutes of the meetings of the LSC should be taken. These should consist basically of the decisions that are reached at each meeting. There should be no question of the tasks taken on and who is responsible for carrying each one out. A consistent Recording Secretary should be selected for this.

4. A Post Office Box should be established. Materials must be centralized to the Chair person of the LSC.

5. A Chair person or coordinator for the LSC must be selected. The chair person's duties would consist of
1. Chairing meetings 2. Preparing agendas 3. Developing relationships with people in the area 4. Be a publicly identifiable representative of the trend 5. Keep up with the development of the work 6. Centralize correspondence 7. Initiate contact with National Steering Committee over documents, etc.

Criteria for Local Center Chair person

1. Would have to demonstrate a fairly high level of understanding of the process and the ?'s involved in the process.
2. Have a basic conception of national basis of work and its forces. Be able to integrate the work of the local center with national work.
3. Have some organizational experience and capabilities.
4. Be capable of putting time into the process. The coordinator would have to be able to assume this as your primary responsibility.
5. Be capable of dealing with contradictions between forces involved in the work.

6. Be capable of accepting and adopting criticism. If subjective and defensive around criticism, the chair person will be ineffective.
7. Be capable of maintaining the ability to be a leader.
8. Be disciplined. Be able to follow up on tasks.
9. Be responsible to the collective decisions; even if you disagree with them
10. The chair person should understand that their primary responsibility is to the Steering Committee.

Developing a strong chairperson or coordinator is a collective responsibility

Local Centers should have a direct relationship with the National Steering Committee on an independent basis.

The Local Center should have independent representation at conferences.

The Local Center should develop contact with other local centers in the region.

Tasks of the Local Center

All of the tasks of the center should not be given equal weight. The Center will have three primary tasks

1. Identification, Assessment, and Contact with other forces in the area.

We must identify areas to find forces. We must develop a plan for contacting them which includes who, how; establishes priorities for developing liasons.

The LSC should create direct liasons with these forces, independent of trend organizations liasons with them.

Forces should include

- a) Sunday morning group
- b) Those involved in anti-imperialist work like LAGLAS, South African Support work. Ultra left forces can not work in these forms because of their position on p. 18.
- c) Other centers of activity in movement Eg. CAPA, Frank Shuford Committee etc.
- d) There may be independents in area who do not intend to join organizational forms.
- e) Individuals working in shops, plants and offices.
A practical connection is good ground for finding forces.

- 2) Consolidating Unity in OC forces around the 18 points.
This would include the immediate tasks of preparing for the point 18 conference and taking up the curriculum developed by the SC on the 18 points.*

- 3) Organizing discussions to unify the perspective of the OC and SC particularly around the draft plan for an Ideological Center.

Secondary tasks of Local Center

1. Local Centers could sponsor discussions on tasks to be taken up. For example, the center could sponsor a forum on trade union work. It could sponsor a particular organizations viewpoint on a question. But it must be made clear in these situations that the local center's basis of unity does not go beyond 18 points.
2. Investigation of the Communist Movement*

Immediate Tasks of the Center*

1. Identify and assess forces. Ask them if they want to participate. Keep them continuously informed.
2. Preparing for the Point 18 Conference. Early Dec. we'll be receiving a packet from the SC probably in the form of the first OC bulletin which will include a position paper from BPO and the SC. We should conduct a collective discussion of documents.
3. We'll be receiving Curriculum around the 18 points which will include a short outline of study, the importance of each point, and who the 18 points demarcate with
4. A lower priority but a more immediate task would be to answer the SC questionnaire regarding an investigation of the communist movement locally. Prepare a discussion in the LSC and then write it up and send it in. Try to send in in September.

IM
9/13/78

General Perspective of CM on different questions:

1. Regarding the relationship of the Localcenter to building a trend organization in Southern California.

The task of the LSC is to develop a work plan and perspective in order to build the trend's presence locally. It is not the task of the local center to build an organization in the area. Building the trend presence and building a trend organization will be two distinct processes, developing side by side. If you tried to build an organization through the local center you would compromise the ability of the center to attract people to the 18 principles as the basis of unity. Local center must be independent of So. Calif. organizations. Independent liasons must be developed. The two processes will develop in tandem. There is a dialectical relationship between the two. The local center can create the context for forces to come together for common work. The center will create a pool of cadre that could be recruited to an organization. On the other hand, the key to continued success of the local center is the support of a strong organization.

Sometimes the interests between building an organization and building the tendency may conflict. We must avoid federationism. We must develop a national perspective. We must realize serving the broader interests of the communist movement as a whole will be the guide for creating the conditions for the survival of these organizations.

2. How should we deal with political questions within the local Steering Committee. How should we develop political unity?

Political questions should be raised in accordance with the process and direction of the national steering Committee. The local steering committee should develop unity in the process of taking up the work of building the trend locally. It is in the context of building this work, that the important political questions will be raised. As these questions are struggled over and resolved, the LSC will further develop its internal basis of unity

3. How do we avoid the local trend center becoming a debating society?

Those elements that are not serious will be weeded out by the process itself. The immediate process is not the creation of a national pre-party organization. If that were the case we would be much more selective. What it will serve to do is to create the conditions for a movement wide ideological struggle and consolidation. That mentality itself can be taken up in ideological struggle. The basic question will be uniting force around a correct line on party building, Developing a program and strategy for Revolution in the U.S. which demonstrates a true vanguard character will weed out those who are not serious. The objective process of the local center is to draw people into an active effort to build an ideological center which can take on this work.