

ARTICLE XXI
ASSESSMENT

SECTION 1. No assessments shall be levied except after a ballot conducted under such general rules as may be decided upon by a majority vote of the membership, provided that:

- (a) The ballot must be secret;
- (b) The assessment must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the valid ballots cast; and
- (c) The membership shall have reasonable notice of intention to vote on the assessment.

ARTICLE XXII
DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

SECTION 1. All bills and claims against the Union shall be presented in a regular meeting, and shall be examined and reported upon by the Auditing Committee before action is taken thereon by the meeting.

In the event no contrary policies or instructions are in existence, the President/ Secretary-Treasurer may authorize, make, or incur such expenditures and expenses as are normally encompassed within the authority conferred upon him/her by Article XIV of this Constitution.

SECTION 2. Routine recurring bills on the following accounts may be paid without prior authorization but shall be reported to the meeting and audited: Federal and State payroll taxes and unemployment insurance; Compensation Insurance; per capita tax to any labor body with which the Union is affiliated; books, stationery, printing bills; salaries of officers; wages of stenographers and similar office help; janitors wages; legal expenses; necessary office expenses and traveling expenses of officers or delegates traveling on Union business; committee wages and committee expenses; hospital benefits and cost of burials of indigent members; and such normal expenses incidental to sound and sensible operation of the organization.

SECTION 3. Assessments proposed by the convention of any National Body of which this Union is a member, or the Executive Board of such Body, shall be referred to a vote of the membership. The date of such vote shall be fixed by the meeting at Headquarters.

The vote will be conducted as stated in Article XXI, Section 1.

SECTION 4. No donations or unusual expenses shall be incurred unless authorized by a two-thirds majority vote of the Union. Unusual expenses less than one hundred dollars may be authorized by a two-thirds majority vote of an ordinary quorum at Headquarters.

SECTION 5. All unusual bills presented at the Branches must be referred to

Headquarters before payment. In case any Branch does not hold a regular meeting by reason of absence of a quorum, the Branch Agent shall appoint an Auditing Committee, and may, with the approval of said committee, pay bills for expenses enumerated in Section 2 of this Article.

ARTICLE XXIII
BENEFITS

Reading Rooms

SECTION 1. The Union shall provide and maintain reading rooms and halls where members, free from outside interference, may discuss whatever may be thought of interest to the membership or the craft, and thus, in an orderly manner, arrive at collective opinion and action.

Funeral Benefits

SECTION 2. (a) Deceased members in good standing at the time of death shall be buried or cremated by the Union; provided that no funeral benefit is payable under any welfare plan covering members of the Union. The amount of the funeral benefit shall be the same as those provided in the welfare plan for members of the Union covered thereby. The mode of funeral, whether burial or cremation, shall be left to the discretion of the President/Secretary-Treasurer or Branch Agent, unless the Union has been duly notified of a preference previously expressed by the deceased or his/her immediate relatives.

(b) The Union shall determine from time to time as the circumstances may demand, by a majority vote, the amount of monies to be expended for graves, and for perpetual care of same, or for taking care of the ashes.

Strike Benefits

SECTION 3. Whenever the Union has ordered a strike in the manner described in Article XXV, Sections 1 to 4, every member who is idle in consequence of such order shall report daily to the office of the Union, and perform such duties as the Union may require.

A member in good standing at the time a strike or lockout is declared, shall remain in good standing for all the duration of such strike or lockout, and shall retain all privileges accorded to members in good standing, including the right to vote in meetings and elections. Whenever the Union has ordered such a strike, the membership by a two-thirds majority vote may levy an assessment not to exceed 20 percent of each month's base wages, not including overtime, upon all members working on "fair" vessels permitted to operate by the Union during the strike.

ARTICLE XXIV
HOSPITAL BENEFITS

SECTION 1. Members in good standing who are in-patients in a medical institution, and who are not entitled to a hospital benefit under any welfare plan covering members of the Union, shall be paid a hospital

benefit in the amount fixed by the membership from time to time, subject, however, to the same conditions and limitations provided under such welfare plan.

SECTION 2. All members who have been duly admitted to any home for retired sailors established by or under any agreement of the Union, shall be furnished with transportation thereto from Headquarters or any Branch; provided (a) that his/her record shows that he/she has been a dues-paying member of this Union at least ten years; (b) that membership has been maintained continuously for at least three years; and © that he/she has been in continuous good standing for at least one year prior to the application for said transportation.

ARTICLE XXV

STRIKES

The Union may declare a strike in accordance with the following requirements:

SECTION 1. The matter in dispute shall be submitted to the Union by Headquarters in the form of a resolution setting forth the purpose of the Union to declare a strike, stating the date upon which the strike shall be called, and such other particulars as may be deemed necessary for the full information of the members.

SECTION 2. The resolution shall be spread in full upon the minutes and be submitted to a majority vote of the membership on a given date and the vote shall be taken by a secret ballot.

SECTION 3. The ballots shall be counted immediately at each Branch and the results communicated to Headquarters.

SECTION 4. A two-thirds majority of all votes cast, exclusive of blanks and disqualified ballots, shall be necessary to authorize a strike.

SECTION 5. Having received notification from any Branch of a possible strike or lockout, the President/Secretary-Treasurer may call a special meeting and submit and explain the difficulty of the respective Branch to such meeting. The action taken shall be binding upon the Branch, and shall be subject to approval by the next succeeding regular meeting. In case a Supreme Quorum be not present, the meeting shall take action, nevertheless, and in addition thereto may instruct the President/Secretary-Treasurer to immediately notify all the Branches of the impending difficulty and instruct all Branch Agents to call special meetings for its consideration, and telegraph the results of the vote obtained to Headquarters. The result thus obtained shall be binding upon the members.

SECTION 6. When the difficulty of any Branch is thus pending general consideration, the Agent of the Branch involved may call a special meeting,

and such meeting shall have power to make such temporary rules as the circumstances shall require. Such rules, however, shall only affect the Branch in question and shall give way to the ruling of the Union as soon as announced from Headquarters.

ARTICLE XXVI
MEETINGS

SECTION 1. Regular meetings shall be held at Headquarters at 11:00 A.M. on the second Monday of each month, Branch meetings 11:00 A.M. on the third Monday of each month, except when these Mondays fall on a holiday the meetings shall be held the same hour the following day.

SECTION 2. Fifty (50) members shall form a quorum for the transaction of ordinary business at Headquarters, and twenty-five (25) members, or a majority of those presently registered for shipping at each Branch, minimum of thirteen (13) members, shall be required for a quorum.

SECTION 3. Special meetings may be called upon written request of five full members in good standing or by the President-Secretary-Treasurer or Branch Agent. The purpose for which the special meeting is called shall be announced in the call. No business, other than that for which the meeting is called, shall be transacted in any special meeting.

SECTION 4. In no case shall any monetary matter be transacted in any special meeting.

SECTION 5. One hundred (100) members in good standing in a regular meeting at Headquarters shall constitute the Supreme Quorum of the Union.

SECTION 6. Each department can call departmental special meetings when needed on problems solely pertaining to that particular department.

SECTION 7. The quorum for any meeting for the nominations and/or election of officers or representatives or committee members for any purpose shall consist of at least three members.

ARTICLE XXVII
GENERAL VOTE

SECTION 1. When any proposition is submitted to a general vote of the Union, Headquarters shall fix the time of taking such vote.

SECTION 2. General votes shall be taken by secret ballot, and provided that no member shall be entitled to vote more than once upon the same proposition. The manner of taking such votes shall conform to the procedure prescribed by Article XII.

SECTION 3. General votes shall be taken upon the subject matter as it appears in the minutes of Headquarters, or as printed upon the ballot,

without alteration or addition.

SECTION 4. The ballots cast shall be tallied and counted as provided for in Article XII, Section 10, except as provided in Article XXV, Section 2.

ARTICLE XXVIII
AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. This Constitution may be amended in the following manner: Any proposed amendment shall be submitted to a regular meeting at Headquarters or any Branch. When submitted at a Branch it shall be forwarded to Headquarters and referred to a Committee on Constitution. All resolutions must be submitted by the June meeting of each election year.

When any proposed amendment has been submitted to Headquarters, it shall be read, recorded in the minutes, and referred to a Committee on Constitution, consisting of three members from Headquarters and one from each Branch holding regular meetings every month, for consideration.

The proposed amendment shall be considered in connection with the report of the Committee and any amendment to the amendment that may be offered. If the proposed amendment or a substitute therefore be endorsed by a majority at Headquarters and Branches holding regular meetings each month, it shall be referred to a general vote of the Union to be taken in conformity with Article XXVII. If upon such vote the proposed amendment shall have received a two-thirds majority of the votes cast (excluding blank and disqualified ballots), it shall be declared adopted.

SECTION 2. All amendments to the Constitution and all amendments to the Shipping Rules requested by the membership shall be voted on any time when property submitted to a general vote of the Union.

ARTICLE XXIX
DEFINITIONS

SECTION 1. When applicable to the Union as a whole the term "majority vote of the membership" shall mean the majority of all the valid votes cast by members at an official meeting of those Branches holding a meeting. This definition shall prevail notwithstanding that one or more Branches cannot hold meetings because of no quorum.

SECTION 2. When applicable solely to Branch action and not concerned with, or related to the Union as a whole, and not forming part of a Union-wide vote, the term "majority of the membership" shall refer to the majority of the valid votes cast by the members at any meeting of the Branches, regular or special.

SECTION 3. All references herein to any office or job in the Union shall be deemed to apply to anyone duly acting in such office or job.

ARTICLE XXX

TRANSITION CLAUSE

SECTION 1. All Union policies, customs, rules and usage in effect immediately prior to the adoption of this amended Constitution shall be deemed to be permitted hereunder and shall continue in effect unless or until changed in accordance with the provisions hereof.

BY-LAWS

1. All members must conform strictly to the schedule of wages and working hours.
2. Every member must bring his/her certificate of membership to the meeting, to show that he/she is in good financial standing, and exhibit same to the Sergeant-at- Arms.
3. Current members who have not paid the full initiation fee as of February 15, 1986, shall receive credit for initiation monies already paid and shall be required to pay the remaining obligation at the rate of \$50.00 per month for each month or part thereof in S.U.P.-contracted employment.