

SAVE THE LABOUR PARTY

www.savethelabourparty.org

Labour Party Member Briefing – Demand an AGM

You can add your voice to help Save The Labour Party TODAY

This is how you can help:

- 1. Telephone your local branch or constituency secretary AS SOON AS POSSIBLE and ask if you can put a resolution on the agenda of the next meeting instructing the National Executive Committee and the Conference Arrangements Committee to hold a formal AGM at the Brighton Conference**
- 2. If you do not know the number ring the Labour Party 08705 900 200**
- 3. Don't be fobbed off by local officials who may say that such a motion has to be a contemporary or emergency motion**
- 4. Point out that STLP has asked the Conference Arrangements Committee for a ruling to enable the Annual Report and Accounts to be challenged by any member through their Conference delegate**
- 5. Tell STLP the outcome by leaving a message on 020 7354 3332 or eMail office@savethelabourparty.org**
- 6. We would still like to hear from you even if your local branch or constituency:**
 - a. does not meet until after Conference**
 - b. has ceased to function**

**This will help highlight how big a task it will be to
SAVE THE LABOUR PARTY**

Model resolution and some brief notes

1. A suggested model resolution: **"This branch/constituency calls on the National Executive Committee/Conference Arrangements Committee to call an Annual General Meeting at the start of the 2004 Conference to enable the NEC to discharge its responsibilities under Rule 1. Clause VIII 3 (g) "**
2. Rule 1. Clause VIII 3 (g) states: "to present to the regular annual meeting of party conference a report covering the work and progress of the party during its period of office, together with a report on the work of the NEC committees, a financial statement and duly audited accounts. This report, financial statement and accounts shall be sent to CLPs and affiliated organisations at least two clear weeks before the opening of party conference"
3. This campaign if successful would provide an opportunity for the NEC to give account of its work to Conference as required under Rule, the Leader of the Party is a member of the NEC.
4. The campaign highlights how little time is currently provided in the current Rule Book for accountability to be achieved in practice in view of the very short time provided between the publication of the Annual Report and Accounts and Conference itself.
5. Many CLPs and affiliated organisations do not hold meetings in that period
6. The Electoral Commission under powers arising from the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 requires large political parties, defined as having an annual income in excess of £250,000 to file a Statement of Accounts on or around the 7 July each year for the previous calendar year.
7. In addition to detailed financial information, the Electoral Commission also requires political parties to disclose membership and corporate governance arrangements at the same time.
8. Those requirements came into force in 2003.
9. The Labour Party has not notified CLPs that this information is available **two months** before it is required to report to CLPs and affiliates under the above Rule 1. Clause VIII 3 (g).
10. STLP wrote on 15 May 2004 to the newly appointed general secretary (GS) warning of the difficulties facing CLPs and affiliates. "The present requirement under rule for the Annual Report to be sent to members two weeks before conference is itself questionable. NEC members, conference delegates and individual members cannot possibly exercise any meaningful role in the governance of the Labour Party at such short notice."
11. In the absence of a direct reply. STLP wrote on 16 June again to the GS saying: "We are suggesting that the provisions of the PPERA represent an opportunity for the Labour Party to embrace best practice concerning its own corporate governance. Obviously we would see this as part of the strategy for strengthening and renewing membership."
12. This failed to produce any response, so STLP wrote on 13 July again to the GS more explicitly: "I am writing again to request that you publicise for the benefit of members the Labour Party's Statement of Accounts for 2003, which was posted on the Electoral Commission website yesterday."
13. The Conference Arrangements Committee (CAC) secretary Ray Kennedy wrote to CLP secretaries and affiliates last week in a letter dated August 2004 enclosing Items of Annual Conference 2004 business. No reference was made to the Statement of Accounts.
14. So STLP wrote on 23 August to the CAC chair calling for a formal AGM and ruling concerning resolutions arising from consideration of the Annual Report and Accounts. The letter was copied to the GS and the un-elected Party Chairman, the Rt Hon Ian McCartney MP.
15. In the letter, STLP chair Peter Kenyon said, "We now know that [Labour Party] membership in 2004 has fallen to a 70-year low and in many parts continues to fall despite efforts to encourage new recruits and lapsed members to rejoin. These issues cannot continue to be brushed aside."
16. STLP launched its campaign to win elections with more, active members in February 2004

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