January 18, 1946

To the Members of the Committee of the Whole:

A full meeting of your Organizing Committee met for most of the day this last Thursday. One of the problems confronting the Committee was the enormous demand from all parts of the country that steps be taken without delay to take the ADA to the regions, states and communities of the country. In view of this nation-wide enthusiasm, the Organizing Committee unanimously approved a provisional organizational structure and the following procedure:

1. To reconvene the Committee of the Whole on the week-end of April 12-13, at which meeting the provisional constitution of the ADA would be adopted, the National Board and officers would be chosen, and the basic program adopted.

2. To seek authorization by mail from the Committee of the Whole for the Organizing Committee to grant local charters to groups wishing to affiliate with the ADA, with the understanding that charters will be granted only on the basis of the following qualifications:

   a. They must subscribe to the basic principles of the ADA as provisionally expressed in the documents of the January 4th Conference and as will be further elaborated by the enlarged Committee of the Whole at its next meeting at which there will be participation by local groups.

   b. They must be representative of the non-Communist liberal elements within their communities, conforming, insofar as possible, to the representative character of the Committee of the Whole.

As soon as this authorization is granted, the Organizing Committee will move immediately to set up regional, state and local conferences with the objective of developing the grass-roots organization which the situation demands and which the response makes possible. Will you, therefore, indicate on the enclosed card (or by letter) your vote on this matter. We shall assume that all replies should be in this office by Monday, January 27th. Material being prepared by the Sub-committees on Organization, Program and Finance, together with minutes of the last Organizing Committee meeting, will be sent you shortly.

It is clear from the response that January 4th was an historic occasion. Your Organizing Committee is devoting its thought and energies to the prompt implementation of our common objectives.

Most cordially yours,

Leon Henderson / Wilson W. Wyatt
Co-Chairmen