



The OJCL Constitution

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PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Ohio Junior Classical League, in order to promote cooperation among local chapters, to establish a basis for order, and to better unite our membership, do hereby ordain and establish this constitution.

ARTICLE I. NAME

1.01 The name of this organization will be the Ohio Junior Classical League, an affiliation of the National Junior Classical League.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

2.01 The purpose of this organization will be the advancement of the Classics in the state of Ohio.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

3.01 Chapter Membership

A: A local chapter may become a Chapter of OJCL by paying both OJCL annual chapter dues and any annual chapter membership dues required by NJCL. A Chapter must have a Sponsor of OJCL as an advisor.

3.02 Student Membership

A: A student whose local club is an OJCL Chapter may become a Member of OJCL by paying both OJCL annual dues and any annual student dues required by NJCL.

B: A student whose local club is not an OJCL Chapter may become a Member-at-Large of OJCL by paying OJCL annual student dues, OJCL annual chapter dues, and any annual member-at-large membership dues required by NJCL.

C: Each student Member should be currently enrolled in a classical language or classical humanities course or should have completed two years of such. Membership may be granted to other students at the discretion of each student's Sponsor.

3.03 Sponsor Membership

A: An advisor to an OJCL Chapter may become a Sponsor of OJCL by paying ACL annual individual dues.

B: Any former OJCL Sponsor or current teacher of Classics may become a Sponsor-at-Large of OJCL by paying ACL annual individual dues and OJCL annual chapter dues. Other individuals may submit to a State Chair a petition to become eligible for Sponsor-at-Large membership. A majority affirmative vote of the Sponsors of the OJCL Officers will be required to approve eligibility. Following this approval, the individual must pay ACL annual individual dues and OJCL annual chapter dues in order to obtain Sponsor-at-Large membership.

3.04 Senior Classical League Membership

A: Students will become eligible for SCL membership at the OJCL Convention of their senior year in high school. The Ohio SCL and/or National SCL may determine additional conditions for membership.

3.05 Good Standing

A: In order for an OJCL Chapter to be in good standing, all required dues of chapter membership must be postmarked by February 1. A Chapter which is not in good standing will lose the following rights: to vote at the OJCL Convention; to sponsor a candidate for state office; to sponsor applicants for OJCL Scholarships; and to induct members into the National Latin Honor Society.

B: In order for an OJCL student Member to be in good standing, all required dues of student membership must be postmarked by February 1. If the student is a member of an OJCL Chapter, then that Chapter also must be in good standing. A student who is not in good standing will lose the following rights: to be a Voting Delegate or participate in Chapter caucus at the OJCL Convention; to run for state office; to propose amendments to the OJCL Constitution or By-laws; to apply for OJCL scholarships; and to join the National Latin Honor Society.

C: In order for an OJCL Sponsor to be in good standing, all required dues of sponsor membership must be postmarked by February 1. A Sponsor who is not in good standing will lose the following rights: to nominate an individual for State Chair; to run for a State Chair position; to vote in the election of State Chair; and to propose amendments to the OJCL Constitution or By-laws.

D: Failure to be in good standing in either OJCL or NJCL will automatically result in the failure to be in good standing in both OJCL and NJCL.

E: NJCL may withhold additional membership rights on the state and/or national level from Chapters, Members or Sponsors not in good standing.

ARTICLE IV. STATE CHAIRS

4.01 State Chair Positions

A: There will be three State Chairs of OJCL. Each State Chair must be a Sponsor in good standing of OJCL.

4.02 Term of Office

A: The term of office for a State Chair will be three-year term. An individual may serve no more than three consecutive terms. Serving more than half a term will be considered serving a full term. A State Chair having retired from a third consecutive term will again become eligible to run for a State Chair position beginning with the third OJCL Convention marking the end of his or her last term.

4.03 Nominations

A: Prior to the beginning of a school year during which the term of a State Chair position will expire, the State Chairs will appoint an Ad Hoc State Chair Search Committee with the responsibility of seeking candidates for State Chair. Sponsors in good standing may nominate themselves or other Sponsors in good standing for candidacy. The State Chair Search Committee, with the approval of the State Chairs, will determine additional guidelines and deadlines concerning nominations and candidacy for State Chair.

4.04 Elections

A: The terms of office for the State Chairs shall be sequenced so that no more than one State Chair position election is held in a given year.

1. The election of the Student Membership Chair shall be held in the year 2003 and every third year there after.

2. The election of the Convention and Technology Chair shall be held in the year 2004 and every third year there after.

3. The election of the Sponsor and Contest Chair shall be held in the year 2005 and every third year there after.

B: A ballot and curriculum vitae will be distributed to all OJCL Sponsors in good standing present at the OJCL Convention prior to the opening of the first general assembly. Each candidate will be permitted to speak on his or her behalf during the first meeting of the Sponsors during the Convention. The State Chair Search Committee, with the approval of the State Chairs, will determine a deadline for the casting of ballots and will announce the results during the second meeting of Sponsors during the Convention.

4.05 Removal

A: A State Chair of OJCL may be removed from office for reasons including but not limited to: serious negligence of duties as defined in the OJCL By-laws, misuse of OJCL funds, moral turpitude, or failure to maintain good standing in OJCL, NJCL or ACL.

B: Proceedings to remove a State Chair will be initiated by a written petition for removal, including specific charges, signed by three OJCL sponsors. The petition must be submitted to a Designated Sponsor who consents to handle the removal proceedings under this article. The Designated Sponsor shall be any Sponsor in good standing of OJCL.

C: The Designated Sponsor will immediately notify the charged State Chair by telephone or electronic mail, followed by notification by mail, that removal proceedings have begun. This notification must include the following: a list of the charges indicated in the petition for removal; an outline of the removal process under this Section, including the deadlines established in accordance with this Section; and the address and phone number of the Designated Sponsor.

D: The Designated Sponsor will immediately notify the Sponsors of OJCL by mail that removal proceedings have begun. This notification must include the following: a list of the charges indicated in the petition; an outline of the removal process under this Section, including the deadlines established in accordance with this Section; a ballot; and the address and phone number of both the Designated Sponsor and the charged State Chair.

E: The charged State Chair will have twenty-one days following the telephone or electronic mail notification to present a defense to the OJCL Sponsors by mail, by telephone, electronic mail or in person.

F: The OJCL Sponsors may submit ballots to the Designated Sponsor by mail, postmarked during the seven-day period, which begins the day after the last day of the defense period. An unreturned ballot will be considered an abstention. If the OJCL Convention falls during the balloting period, then a secret ballot vote during the first meeting of the Sponsors during the Convention will replace the mail balloting.

G: A two-thirds affirmative vote will be necessary to remove a State Chair from office.

4.06 Vacancy

A: A State Chair position will become vacant by the removal of a State Chair under this Article or by the resignation of a State Chair.

B: The vacating State Chair must immediately turn over all records, files, documents, materials, funds and other OJCL property to the remaining State Chair.

C: At any time that all State Chair positions are vacant, the Sponsor of the OJCL President will assume the responsibilities of State Chair until at least one interim State Chair is elected.

4.07 Replacement

A: Upon the vacancy of a State Chair position, the remaining State Chairs will immediately appoint an Ad Hoc State Chair Search Committee, who, with the approval of the State Chairs, will determine the guidelines and deadlines for selecting an interim State Chair to complete the term of the vacant position.

B: This selection process will not exceed forty-five days.

C: If an OJCL Convention falls during this forty-five day period, then the selection process should follow Sections (3) and (4) of this Article for the remainder of the current term for the respective position.

D: If all State Chair positions are vacant simultaneously, or if the remaining State Chair is the object of removal proceedings, then the Sponsor of the OJCL President will assume the duties of State Chair under this Section.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

5.01 Officer Positions

A: The elected statewide officers of this organization will be the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the Parliamentarian.

B: The appointed statewide officers of this organization will be Historian and Torch Editor. Candidates for these positions will be required to submit an application, which will then be reviewed by the new Executive Board prior to the Changeover Meeting after the State Convention. The application must be received by a time determined and advertised by the OJCL. The Historian and the Torch Editor will be appointed during the Changeover Meeting. To be appointed, candidates must receive a simple majority by the voting members of the executive board.

C: The appointed regional officers of this organization will be the three Gubernators. Candidates for these positions will be required to submit an application, which will then be reviewed by the new Executive Board prior to the Changeover Meeting after the State Convention. The application must be received no later than a deadline determined and advertised by the OJCL after the end of the State Convention. To be appointed, candidates must receive a simple majority by the voting members of the executive board.

1. When all applicants for an appointed position are deficient or no one applies, the OJCL executive board can decide with a vote of at least a 2/3 majority to delay action until the Fall planning meeting. In such a case, the deadline for applications to the unfilled position(s) will be moved to 30 days prior to the Fall Planning Meeting.

5.02 Eligibility

A: A candidate for office must be a Member in good standing of a local Chapter in good standing. He or she should be enrolled in a classics course or have completed all the classics courses offered by his or her school.

B: There will be no more than two candidates for elected office from the same school, and each school may only nominate one candidate for each appointed office.

C: No chapter may sponsor a candidate for an office, which a member of that chapter holds at the time of that candidate's election or appointment.

D: The candidate's Sponsor or a designee of that Sponsor must be present with the candidate at the convention.

E: The candidates for the offices of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Parliamentarian must have attended at least one prior OJCL Convention.

5.03 Nominations of Statewide Candidates

A: Pre-filing:

1. A delegate seeking an elective office must complete the pre-filing application form found on the OJCL website and submit it to the Parliamentarian postmarked thirty days or by a posted deadline prior to the State Convention. A delegate seeking an appointive office must complete and submit the application to the Parliamentarian for appointed office by a time determined and advertised by the OJCL.

2. There will be no more than two pre-filed candidates from the same chapter.

B: State of Emergency: A state of emergency will be declared for any elective office for which fewer than two delegates have pre-filed. During a state of emergency, Article V Sections 2.B and 2.C of the OJCL Constitution will be waived. The Parliamentarian will announce during the first assembly of the Convention, which offices, if any, are in a state-of-emergency.

C: Nominations Committee:

1. The Nominations Committee consists of two Voting Delegates from each chapter in good standing. The Voting Delegates must be in good standing and must attend both the Nominations Committee meeting

and the Meet the Candidates session for the Chapter to receive two votes in the elections of officers and the ratification of amendments. If only one Voting Delegate of a Chapter attends both meetings, then that Chapter will receive one vote. If no Voting Delegate attends both meetings, then that Chapter will receive no votes.

2. The Nominations Committee will nominate the candidates for the elective offices of OJCL. No candidate will be nominated outside of the Nominations Committee meeting. The Parliamentarian will chair the Nominations Committee meeting.

3. Each Chapter in good standing must send two Members in good standing as Voting Delegates to the Nominations Committee meeting.

A Chapter failing to send delegates to the Nominations Committee meeting will lose its votes in the election of officers.

4. If exactly two delegates have pre-filed for an office then those two delegates automatically will become the candidates for that office. If fewer than two delegates have pre-filed for an office, then any prefiled delegate automatically will become a candidate for that office. Any remaining slot(s) may be filled by means of a run-off election among delegates nominated from the floor of the Nominations Committee meeting. If more than two delegates have pre-filed for an office, then no additional nominations may be taken from the floor. A run-off election will determine which two of the pre-filed delegates will become the candidates for that office.

E: Meet the Candidates Session: A Chapter must send the same Voting Delegates to the Nominations Committee meeting and the "Meet the Candidates" session in order for that Chapter to retain its votes in the election of officers.

5.04 Elections Procedure for Statewide Office

A: Campaign speeches and demonstrations on behalf of the candidates will be held at the discretion of the Executive Board.

B: Voting delegates will vote by secret ballot. Any Voting Delegate who attends both the Nominations Committee meeting and the "Meet the Candidates" session may cast one vote in the election of officers. A Chapter may have a maximum of two Voting Delegates. The Voting Delegates must vote in accordance with their Chapter's caucus decisions.

C: A candidate must receive a majority of votes cast to be elected to any OJCL office. An abstention does not count as a vote cast.

D: Campaign Rules:

1. Candidates must attend the Nominations Committee meeting and the "Meet the Candidates" session.

2. No campaigns for candidates may begin until after the Nominations Committee has adjourned its meeting.

3. Signs, posters, banners and other campaign materials will be posted at the discretion of the host institution. Campaign materials should show only positive support of candidates. All campaign materials must be removed prior to General Assembly III.

4. The OJCL Executive Board reserves the right to disqualify a candidate for violating any of the above rules, using poor taste in campaigning, or not completing the necessary filing requirements.

5. All campaign materials must not exceed the campaign spending limit, established by the OJCL State Chairs and Parliamentarian

5.05 Removal Procedure

A: An Officer of OJCL may be removed from office for reasons including but not limited to: serious negligence of duties as defined in the OJCL By-laws, failure to maintain good standing in OJCL or NJCL, and/or infraction of the Convention rules at the OJCL or NJCL Convention.

B: Proceedings to remove an OJCL Officer will be initiated by a written petition for removal, including specific charges, signed by two OJCL Officers, an OJCL State Chair, or three OJCL Sponsors. The petition must be submitted to either State Chair, who will subsequently handle the removal proceedings under this Article as the Designated State Chair.

C: The Designated State Chair will immediately notify the charged Officer and that Officer's Sponsor by telephone, followed by notification by mail, and the rest of the Executive Board by mail that removal proceedings have begun. This notification must include the following: a list of the charges indicated in the petition for removal; an outline of the removal process under this Section, including the deadlines established in accordance with this Section; and the address and phone number of the charged Officer, his or her Sponsor, and the Designated State Chair.

D: The Sponsor of the charged Officer will guarantee that the charged Officer will present an adequate defense to the Voting Members of the OJCL Executive Board by mail, by telephone, or in person. No vote will be taken until the Sponsor of the charged Officer notifies the Designated State Chair that he or she is satisfied that an adequate defense has been presented or until thirty days have passed since the charged Officer was notified of the removal proceedings.

E: When the defense has been completed or the thirty-day time limit has expired, the Designated State Chair will collect votes from the Voting Members of the OJCL Executive Board by telephone. A two-thirds affirmative vote will be necessary to remove an OJCL Officer from office. The Sponsor of a removed OJCL Officer will guarantee that the removed Officer will immediately turn over to a State Chair all records, files, documents, materials, funds, and other OJCL property.

5.06 Vacancies

A: If the Presidency becomes vacant, the State Chairs will fill the vacancy at their discretion, with advice from the OJCL Executive Board.

B: If an office other than the Presidency becomes vacant, then the President, with the advice of the OJCL Executive Board, will appoint a qualified person to fill the position.

5.07 Nominations of Regional Candidates

A: Eligibility of regional candidates shall be the same as outlined in Article 5, Section 2

B: The candidates must pre-file no later than the deadline determined and advertised by the OJCL Executive Board.

5.08 Appointment Procedures of Regional Officers

A: All those who wish to apply for a regional office will fill out an application and submit it to the OJCL Parliamentarian.

B: The OJCL Parliamentarian shall then distribute all applications to the OJCL Executive Board, who will then review them.

C: The OJCL Executive Board will hold a conference prior to the Changeover Meeting to select the regional officers from those who have applied.

ARTICLE VI. SENIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE

6.01 OJCL recognizes and promotes the Ohio Senior Classical League (OSCL) as its college-level affiliate organization. The OSCL annually must provide the OJCL State Chairs and OJCL Parliamentarian with the most current copy of the OSCL and NSCL Constitutions and Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

7.01 Proposal

A: Any student Member of OJCL in good standing may propose amendments to any portion of the OJCL Constitution except the following: the Section on Sponsor membership, the Item on Sponsor good standing, and the Article on State Chairs.

B: Any Sponsor of OJCL in good standing may propose amendments to any portion of the OJCL Constitution.

C: No amendment to the OJCL Constitution may be proposed that contradicts the Constitution, By-laws, or other policy of NJCL or ACL.

D: All proposed amendments to the OJCL Constitution must be submitted in writing to the OJCL Parliamentarian, post marked no later than sixty days prior to the OJCL Convention.

E: The OJCL Executive Board will review each proposed amendment to the OJCL Constitution and will vote by majority whether or not to recommend its ratification. The Executive Board may not prevent the proposal of any amendment to the OJCL Constitution, which has been properly submitted by a Member or Sponsor.

F: Each OJCL Chapter attending the OJCL Convention will receive a copy of the proposed amendments to the OJCL Constitution upon arriving at Convention. The OJCL Parliamentarian will publish these proposed amendments prior to Convention when possible.

7.02 Ratification

A: The ratification of amendments to the OJCL Constitution will occur during the OJCL Convention. Each Voting Delegate eligible to vote in the election of Officers will receive one vote in the ratification of these amendments, except those pertaining to the following: the Section on Sponsor membership, the Item on Sponsor good standing, and the Article on State Chairs.

B: Each OJCL Sponsor in good standing present at the OJCL Convention will have one vote in the ratification of amendments to the OJCL Constitution pertaining to the following: the Section on Sponsor membership, the Item on Sponsor good standing, and the Article on State Chairs. The ratification of these amendments will occur during a meeting of the Sponsors during the OJCL Convention.

C: A two-thirds affirmative vote will be required to ratify any amendment to the OJCL Constitution. Ratified amendments will become effective immediately, unless an alternate time is specified in the amendment.

Amended: 2/03, 3/04, 3/08, 2/11, 3/13

