



The OJCL Constitution

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ARTICLE I. NAME

1.01 The name of this organization will be the Ohio Junior Classical League, hereby referred to as OJCL, an affiliation of the National Junior Classical League.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

2.01 The purpose of this organization will be to gain a more thorough knowledge of ancient Greek and Roman life, history and literature, to understand better the practical and cultural values of the classical languages, and to interest other persons in these languages.

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: The OJCL shall have an active membership classification. To qualify for active

membership, a student shall be taking or have taken a classical language or a course in classical/ancient studies. Membership may be granted to others at the discretion of the chapter or State Chairs.

B: Any student in an educational program before the university level or an equivalent shall be eligible for membership, provided that:

1. if the student is at a school that has a chapter, the student, at the discretion of the school's chapter membership process, after paying annual dues to the State (defined in the Bylaws Article II, "Dues"), shall be granted membership into the school's chapter. If a student becomes a member of the OJCL and their local club is an OJCL Chapter, the student must join their local club.

2. 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: 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. If a student becomes a member of the OJCL and their local club is an OJCL Chapter, the student must join their local club.

D: 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.

E: 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. A Member-at-Large or any extraordinary member may be granted membership at the discretion of a State Chair.

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 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 be an ACL Member and pay 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 Membership Removal

A: Membership shall be denied or revoked to any potential or current member, club, sponsor, or SCL 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, infraction of the Convention rules at the OJCL or NJCL Convention, or moral turpitude.

ARTICLE IV. STANDING

4.01 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.

4.02 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.

4.03 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.

4.04 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.

4.05 All those in good standing shall enjoy further privileges with NJCL as defined in the NJCL Constitution, Bylaws.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

5.01 Authority

The OJCL Executive Board will act as an agent through which League business, including the planning of the OJCL Convention, can be transacted between Conventions.

5.02 Officer Positions

A. The OJCL Executive Board will consist of the OJCL Officers, their Sponsors, the OJCL State Chairs, and the OSCL President. The OJCL President will serve as Chairman.

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.

E. 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 National Convention. In such a case, the deadline for applications to the unfilled position(s) will be determined at the discretion of the State Chairs.

5.04 Eligibility

A: Nominees and candidates for office shall meet the following qualifications and, if elected or appointed, maintain these qualifications throughout their term of office:

- 1: Shall be a Member in good standing of a local Chapter in good standing.
- 2: Shall have the permission of their custodial parent or legal guardian and local sponsor
- 3: Shall be enrolled in a classics course or have completed all the classics courses offered by their school.
- 4: Shall be from a school that did not hold the same office the previous year.
- 5: Shall have attended at least one previous OJCL convention.
- 6: Shall attend high-school (or equivalent) for the duration of their term.

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.

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

E: There will be no more than three state officers from the same chapter.

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

H: If fewer than two chapters are eligible to sponsor a candidate for a specific appointed office, Article V Section 2.A.4 of the OJCL Constitution will be waived for that individual office.

5.05 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. No student can hold the same office more than one time.

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 at least one week prior to 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 either or both meetings, then that Chapter will receive one vote. If no Voting Delegate attends either or both meetings, then that Chapter will receive no votes.

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.

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. 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 that received the most votes will become the candidates for that office.

5.06 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. 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.

5.07 Nominations of Appointed Candidates

A: Eligibility of appointed 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 Appointed Officers

A: All those who wish to apply for a appointed 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, for review.

C: The OJCL Executive Board will hold a meeting to select the appointed officers from those who have applied.

5.09 The Voting Members of the OJCL Executive Board will be the OJCL Officers, and the OJCL State Chairs. No Chapter will be permitted more than one vote on the OJCL Executive Board. The State Chairs and Sponsors may advise the Voting Members.

5.11 Definition of Term

An elected officer of the OJCL will serve their term from when they are sworn into office until their successor is sworn into office. An appointed officer will serve from the time they are chosen for the position until their successor is chosen.

5.12 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 one of the State Chairs, 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 in writing, and the rest of the Executive Board in writing 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, their 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 in writing or in person. No vote will be taken until the Sponsor of the charged Officer notifies the Designated State Chair that they are 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 in writing. 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.

E: Voting Members are those mentioned in 5.09 in the OJCL Constitution, excluding the charged officer(s) and their chapter.

5.13 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.

C: If no candidate for an elected office receives a simple majority, the office shall be considered vacant and shall be filled according to the procedures in this section.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

6.01 Meetings

- A. The OJCL Executive Board will meet as follows: once in the Fall and once in the Winter to plan the Convention; once in the Spring to facilitate the changeover of the Officers; and as needed during the Convention. Additional meetings may be called by the President or a State Chair as necessary. OJCL Executive meetings will be open to any OJCL Member, OJCL Sponsor, or OSCL Member to attend and observe. The Executive Board may invite a representative from the host institution to attend Executive meetings.
- B. Except as otherwise provided in the Constitution, meetings of the OJCL may be conducted through use of Internet meeting services designated by the President and the State Chairs that support anonymous voting and support visible displays identifying those participating, identifying those seeking recognition to speak, showing (or permitting the retrieval of) the text of pending motions, and showing results of votes. These electronic meetings of the OJCL shall be subject to all rules adopted by the OJCL to govern them, which may include any reasonable limitations on, and requirements for, participation. Any such rules adopted by the OJCL shall supersede any conflicting rules in the parliamentary authority, but may not otherwise conflict with or alter any rule or decision of the OJCL. An anonymous vote conducted through the designated Internet meeting service shall be deemed a ballot vote, fulfilling any requirement in the OJCL Constitution, Bylaws, or rules that a vote be conducted by ballot.

ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES

6.1: Standing Committees

Scholarship Committee: The Scholarship Committee will consist of three Sponsors, appointed by the State Chairs at least three months prior to the OJCL Convention. The responsibilities of this committee include: recommending to the Executive Board any revisions in the awards or

application requirements; producing application forms with a stated deadline for their return; making the application forms available at the Convention; collecting the completed application forms; evaluating the applications and selecting winners; obtaining award checks from a State Chair and distributing these checks.

6.2: Ad Hoc Committees

Ad Hoc Committees will be appointed by the OJCL President or a State Chair as needed or as mandated by the OJCL Constitution or By-laws.

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 will publish and make available the most current copy of the OSCL and NSCL Constitutions and Bylaws to the State Chairs.

ARTICLE VII - STATE CONVENTION

7.01 The time of the annual Convention will be fixed to suit the convenience of the institution at which the Convention is to be held. The length of the Convention will be left to the discretion of the Executive Board with input from Chapters. Any individual who pays the appropriate Convention fee may participate in the Convention. Members-at Large must arrange to attend as a delegate of a registered Chapter delegation.

ARTICLE VIII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order will govern OJCL in all cases applicable and when they are not inconsistent with the Constitution, By-laws, or special rules of the OJCL, NJCL, or ACL.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS

8.01 Proposal

A: Any student Member of OJCL in good standing may propose amendments to any portion of the OJCL Constitution except Articles 3.03 and 4.04.

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, sent 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.

8.02 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.

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 Articles 3.03 and 4.04. 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.

8.03 Introducing a new Constitution shall follow the same procedures as amending the existing one.

