

CONSTITUTION
of the
STANISLAUS-MERCED CHAPTER
of the
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

PREAMBLE

We, the American citizens of Japanese ancestry, desiring to foster good citizenship in these United States of America and believing that an organization shall be of benefit and best serve our purposes, hereby agree to form a non-religious and non-partisan League.

ARTICLE I
Name and Place

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Stanislaus-Merced Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League.

Section 2. The headquarters of this organization shall be the Turlock Social Club Hall at Turlock, California.

ARTICLE II
Purposes

The purposes of this organization shall be:

- (1) to foster good citizenship;
- (2) to promote Japanese-American friendship;
- (3) to encourage citizens to participate in political and civic affairs;
- (4) to protect and enhance the general welfare of citizens of Japanese ancestry and the communities wherein they reside.

ARTICLE III
Membership

Section 1. Any American citizen approved by the board of Governors may become a member of this League.

Section 2. Classes of Membership.

Subdivision 1. An Active Member shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age.

Subdivision 2. An Honorary Member shall be any distinguished person or friend of the League who, on nomination by the Board of Governors, is elected as Honorary Member at a large meeting by a unanimous vote.

ARTICLE IV
Board of Governors

Section 1. Duties. The Board of Governors shall constitute the legislature of the League and shall transact all of its business.

Section 2. Membership. The Board of Governors shall consist of four (4) Governors from each district represented, such Governors to be elected by the members of the respective districts.

Section 3. Term of Office. The term of office for the Board of Governors shall be one calendar year.

Section 4. Quorum. A majority of the Governors shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE V Officers

Section 1. Officers.

Subdivision 1. The officers of this organization shall be elected from and by the Board of Governors at their first meeting.

Subdivision 2. The officers of this organization shall be President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. Duties of Officers.

Subdivision 1. The President shall preside at all meetings and shall have general supervision, subject to the direction of the Board of Governors, of all of the affairs of the League.

Subdivision 2. The Vice Presidents shall officiate in the place and stead of the President when the President shall be absent from the attentions of his duties.

Subdivision 3. The corresponding Secretary shall attend to all correspondence.

Subdivision 4. The Recording Secretary shall keep records of all the proceedings of regular meetings and Board of Governors meetings and shall safely and systematically keep all books, papers, records, and documents belonging to the League, except such as shall be in charge of the Treasurer.

Subdivision 5. The Treasurer shall keep and account for all moneys of the League and render such accounts and statements as shall be required by the Board of Governors. He shall also be responsible for the collection of all assessments.

ARTICLE VI Dues and Assessments

Section 1. Dues.

Subdivision 1. Membership dues for this organization shall be three dollars (\$3.00) per annum for the first member from a family. For the second member they shall be two dollars (\$2.00) per annum and one dollar (\$1.00) per annum for the third and each additional member from the same family.

Subdivision 2. All membership dues shall be payable at the beginning of the year.

Section 2. Assessments. Special assessments shall be levied upon

the members of the League whenever the Board of Governors deems such actions necessary.

ARTICLE VII Political Activities

Section 1. The members of the League are prohibited from using the League to further any candidacy for a political office. The League shall not participate in partisan politics unless the welfare of the League or its members is involved. The League, however, may sponsor meetings and invite candidates and speakers but may not make any endorsements.

Section 2. In case of an infraction of this provision, the Board of Governors shall take such action as in its judgment will best protect the interests of the League.

ARTICLE VIII Sections and Committees

There shall be sections and committees formed within the League at the discretion of the Board of Governors with chairmen and such officers as may be necessary to carry on the work of such sections and committees.

ARTICLE IX Amendments

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by any member of the League or any member of the Board of Governors to the Board of Governors at any of its regular meetings. A three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Board of Governors shall be necessary to pass an amendment.

REQUIREMENTS

to be a full-fledged chapter in the National JACL organization

1. There must be at least 25 American citizens of Japanese ancestry, who are over 18 years of age or older.
2. The group must show itself to be fully qualified to assume full financial obligations of a JACL chapter.

Such obligations (at the present time) include the following items:

\$10.00 per year, dues per chapter to the National Council

\$12.00 per year per chapter, to support the Pacific Citizen.
(or ads in the equivalent amount)

ten cent per member for the National Membership Card

25¢ per family for the "Pacific Citizen"

\$5.00 per year for dues to the Northern California District Council.

\$15.00 Assessment to cover the National Treasurer's deficit.

\$45.00 additional assessment for chapters that have "about 25⁵⁰" members
to maintain the National Secretary.

It is suggested at this time that all chapters be prepared to expect an increase in its assessments to the National Chapter on account of the increase in its activities and its responsibilities.

3. A constitution must be submitted.

(It is recommended that the Fresno chapter be contacted for its constitution. The national council is considering formulating a new model constitution in the near future.)

4. The president of the chapter must be at least 21 years old.
One official delegate to the District Council and National Conventions must be appointed. Also, one alternate delegate should be named.

5. Such chapter, interested in thus being organized, should petition the the Northern California District Council, and satisfy it to the sincerity of its motives, and the capabilities of its responsibilities.

After a survey is made of the situation by the National Secretary, such chapter will be recommended to the National Board for acceptance.