

*Proposed
Constitution to be
submitted to the
1938 National Council
for adoption
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Ex. Secty.*

C O N S T I T U T I O N

Of The

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

PREAMBLE

Uniting to promote the welfare of the Americans of Japanese ancestry through a program upholding the purposes of American citizenship and ideals, we hereby subscribe to the articles of the constitution as member chapters of the Japanese American Citizens League to aid in the development of our membership as an integral part of the national life.

DEDICATION

We dedicate ourselves to:

1. Uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States.
2. Foster and spread the real sense and spirit of Americanism.
3. Build the character of our young people morally and spiritually on American ideals in the realm of social, economic and political activities.
4. Strive for the security of our welfare through unity.
5. Sponsor projects to aid in the development and welfare of the Americans of Japanese ancestry.

ORGANIZATION

The Japanese American Citizens League shall be composed of the chartered chapters in the various district councils to wit: Northwest District Council, Northern California District Council, Southern California District Council, which adopt the following articles of organization:

ARTICLE I

Title and Seal

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE, and it shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of California.

Section 2. It shall have a seal, bearing such devices and inscriptions as by it have heretofore been, or may hereafter be, determined, which shall be affixed to all instruments issued by or under its authority.

ARTICLE II

Policy

Section 1. The organization shall be nonpartisan and non-sectarian.

Section 2. The organization shall not be used for purposes of official endorsement of candidates seeking public office or preferment.

Section 3. The organization shall require every member to perform his full duty as a citizen according to the dictates of his own conscience and understanding.

ARTICLE III

Members

Section 1. All the members must be a member of one of the chapters of this organization and shall be citizens of the United States and shall be of the age of 18 years and above.

Section 2. Any active member who may depart for residence to another chapter locality may be privileged to transfer his membership upon the consent of his former chapter for the balance of the calendar year.

Section 3. Every paid up member shall receive a National Membership Card, provided 10¢ per card has been paid into the National Treasury and provided further that that chapter is in good financial standing with the National organization.

ARTICLE IV

Office

The national headquarters of the organization shall be located in the cities of the officers duly elected at the national convention until such time as a permanent national headquarters is established.

ARTICLE V

Officers

Section 1. Officers of this organization other than the Vice Presidents shall be those persons duly elected at a national convention and shall be as follows: President, Executive Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer.

Section 2. Officers of this organization shall be persons 25 years or above.

Section 3. Vice Presidents shall be the duly elected chairmen of the various District Councils.

Section 4. Officers of this organization other than the Vice Presidents shall be elected at a national convention to hold office until the next biennial convention and shall be ex-officio members of the various District Councils.

ARTICLE VI

Duties of Officers

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the National Council and the Japanese American Citizens League national conventions and shall have general charge of and control over the affairs of the organization subject to the National Council.

Section 1 a. In case of the death or permanent disability of the President, the Executive Committee shall appoint his successor for the unexpired term of said office, subject to the approval of the National Council.

Section 1 b. In case of the absence of the President, the Executive Secretary shall assume the duties of the President.

Section 2. The Vice President shall perform such duties as may be assigned to him by the National Council.

Section 3. The Executive Secretary shall generally aid in directing the affairs of the organization and shall keep a record of the minutes of the proceedings of meetings of the organization, conventions and of the National Council as well as to have custody of all the books, records and papers of the organization, except such as shall be in the charge of the Treasurer, or of some other person authorized to have custody and possession thereof by authority of the National Council or Executive Committee.

Section 4. The Assistant Secretary shall aid the Executive Secretary in the management of projects instituted by the organization.

ARTICLE VII

National Council

Section 1. The legislative body of this organization shall be

called the National Council and shall include all the officers.

Section 2. Each chapter will be represented on the National Council by two members; - the president and the Delegate-at-large elected to represent his chapter on the District Council.

Section 3. No chapter shall have more than one vote in the National Council.

Section 4. The National Council shall meet in general session biennially at National convention times.

ARTICLE VIII

Executive Committee

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall be the governing body of this organization, set its policies and carry out the business and in general promote the welfare of the members and shall consist of the President, Vice-Presidents, Executive Secretary, Assistant Executive Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall have the right to assess the chapters whenever necessary.

Section 3. The President shall have the right to call special meetings of the Executive Committee whenever he deems it necessary.

ARTICLE IX

District Councils

Section 1. The District Councils shall be subdivisions of the National Council.

Section 2. The District Councils shall act on all district matters as well as on national questions concerning the organization as sub-divisions of the National Council.

Section 3. All District Councils shall have its own set of officers and shall be governed by a Constitution and By-Laws thereof not in conflict therewith and shall be composed of the Chairman and duly elected officers and Delegate-at-large from each chapter of the Council.

Section 4. There shall be the following Council districts: Northwest district, Northern California district and Southern California district.

Section 5. The various District Councils shall include the following areas within their jurisdiction: Northwest - the states of Oregon, Washington and adjoining territories of the Pacific Northwest; Northern California - Kern County, Monterey County and all other counties in California north of said counties; Southern California - all counties south of Kern and Monterey Counties in the State of California.

Section 6. Any new Council may be formed by petitioning to the National Council. Each new Council must have at least five local chapters.

Section 7. Any new chapter may be admitted to the District Council by filing application, and upon favorable recommendation of said District Council and approval of the National Executive Committee.

Section 8. District Council dues from each chapter shall be designated by the Council.

Section 9. District Council conventions shall be held when national conventions are not scheduled.

Section 10. Any new chapter admitted to membership at least ninety (90) days prior to the National Council Meetings shall have the

right to vote at such meetings.

ARTICLE X

Chapters

Section 1. Quorum of any and all National Council Meetings shall be a majority of the chapters who are members of this organization in good standing.

Section 2. The chapters shall choose their own names and adopt constitutions and by-laws and shall not conflict with the national constitution and by-laws.

Section 3. The duly elected officers of all chapters shall be registered with the National Executive Secretary. Such reports shall be made within thirty (30) days of the election thereof.

Section 4. Officers of each chapter shall take office within the month of January of each year.

Section 5. Each chapter shall have a minimum of 25 members 18 years of age and above and the President thereof shall be at least 21 years or above, to be granted charters.

ARTICLE XI

Conventions

Section 1. Conventions of the Japanese American Citizens League shall be held every two years at some designated place; said place to be decided by a vote of the national council delegates at the national convention.

Section 2. No convention shall be held more than once in succession at one place.

Section 3. The tentative convention agenda and program shall be submitted to all chapters at least 60 days prior to the opening of the convention by the national executive committee.

Section 4. The District Council of the locality where the convention is to be held shall be officially designated host of the convention with the general welcome program to be directed by the convention city chapter.

Section 5. At least \$1.00 per person of the registration fee for the national convention shall be turned over to the national treasury.

ARTICLE XII

Voting

Section 1. There shall be no proxy voting.

Section 2. In case of emergency measures, telegraphic votes shall be taken by the Executive Secretary and a majority vote shall settle the issue upon confirmation by the President.

Section 3. In all measures, a majority vote is necessary, excepting when constitutional amendments are involved.

ARTICLE XIII

Amendments

Section 1. No amendment shall be made except at the national conventions.

Section 2. To introduce an amendment to the constitution or the By-Laws thereof, the District Council shall send a copy of the proposed measure to each chapter at least 60 days before the convention.

Section 3. A two-thirds vote of the chapters represented shall be necessary to pass an amendment.

ARTICLE XIV

Charters

Section 1. All chapters shall be granted charters by the executive Committee provided they have been in existence for a period of more than one year and have fulfilled all of its obligation.

Section 2. Any new chapter affiliating themselves with the Japanese American Citizens League shall first be given a dispensation certificate until such time as a charter may be granted.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall have the discretionary power to revoke the charter or dispensation certificate of any chapter for failure to pay national dues and/or district council obligations for one year or more, or for failure to carry out in good faith the provisions of the Constitution, or for any violation of the Constitution.

Section 4. Any chapter given a notice of revocation may appeal for re-instatement upon payment of the arrearage and by a signed petition of 75 percent of its membership declaring their good faith and intention to abide by the provisions of the constitution and the by-laws of the organization.

ARTICLE XV

Removal of Officers

Section 1. Any officer of the national organization, including vice presidents elected by District Councils, may be removed for misfeasance or non-feasance in office or neglect of duty following a hearing by the executive committee which shall judge whether or not the case shall be presented to the national council for a vote.

Section 2. Upon presentation to the national council, a three-fourths vote shall be necessary for the removal of any officer accused of misfeasance or non-feasance as provided in Section 1.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

Section 1. The business ventures projected for the welfare of members shall be administered by boards of directors appointed by the executive committee with the sanction of the national council.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall hold office during the term of the officers elected at national conventions.

ARTICLE II

Endowment

Section 1. A fund to be augmented when advisable shall be raised to endow the organization.

Section 2. There shall be a board of Six Directors. The term of said directors shall be for six (6) years, save and except upon creation of said board, at which time one-third (1/3) shall be appointed for two (2) years, one-third (1/3) for four (4) years and one-third (1/3) for six (6) years.

Section 3. This fund shall be deposited in a bank or a portion of which may be invested in government bonds or securities according to the designation of a special endowment fund board appointed by and who shall hold office during the term of national officers elected at convention times, with the sanction of the national council.

Section 4. Withdrawal of this money or any portion of this fund for capitalization purposes of any project upon petition by a board of directors must first be approved by the endowment board which shall recommend such action to the executive committee for the final approval of the national council.

ARTICLE III

Dues

Section 1. The National Council dues from each chapter shall be \$10.00 annually.

ARTICLE IV

Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 1. Any member who may visit in another chapter locality shall register at the chapter headquarters to make known his presence.

Section 2. 50¢ per person of the registration fee for District Conventions shall be turned over to the National Treasury.