

5/31/39

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

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PREAMBLE

We, the American Citizens of Japanese Ancestry, in order to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States, to foster and spread the true spirit of Americanism, to build the character of our people morally and spiritually on American Ideals, and to promote the welfare and aid in the development of the Americans of Japanese Ancestry as an integral part of the national life, establish this Constitution for the Japanese American Citizens League of the United States of America.

ARTICLE I

Policy

Section 1. This organization shall be non-partisan and non-religious and shall not be used for purposes of official endorsement of candidates for public office or of other political issues.

Section 2. This organization shall encourage every member to perform his duty as an American Citizen.

ARTICLE II

Incorporation

Section 1. This organization shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of California.

Section 2. The seal of this organization shall bear the words "Japanese American Citizens League, Incorporated Under the Laws of the State of California, June 21, 1937".

Section 3. The seal shall be affixed to all instruments and documents issued by or under the authority of this organization.

ARTICLE III

National Headquarters

The national headquarters of this organization shall be located in the City designated by the National Council.

ARTICLE IV

Membership

Section 1. The membership of this organization shall be composed of American Citizens of Japanese Ancestry and shall be 18 years or older.

Section 2. Each member of this organization shall be a member of a local chapter, holding a charter, and shall receive a National Membership Card signed by the President, Executive Secretary, and President or Chairman of the local chapter.

Section 3. Any member departing for residence to another chapter locality may be privileged to transfer his membership upon presentation of a certificate of transfer executed by his chapter President and Treasurer.

Please insert the attached page 2 in the newly revised National Constitution by removing the page 2 of the set which was forwarded to you some time ago. Further copies of the Constitution are not available, so you are again asked to place the Constitution among your permanent records.

Section 1. Elective Officers of this organization shall be the President, Vice-President, Executive Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. Elective Officers of this organization shall be regular members at least 25 years old except the President who shall be at least 30 years old. They shall be elected at the National Convention.

Section 3. Elective Officers of this organization shall hold office until the next biennial convention and shall be ex-officio members of the various district councils.

ARTICLE VI

Duties of Elective Officers

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the National Council, National Board, and National Conventions, and shall supervise the affairs of this organization subject to the National Board.

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

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

Section 4. The Treasurer shall keep account of all moneys of this organization received or disbursed and shall make payments with the approval of the National Board or National Council. The Treasurer's record shall be audited annually, and said Treasurer shall make a semi-annual report of his records to all chartered chapters.

Section 5. The Executive Secretary and the Treasurer shall each have the power to appoint one or more assistants.

Section 6. a. In case there is a vacancy in the office of the President, the Vice-President shall assume the duties of said office for the balance of the unexpired term.

b. In case there is a vacancy in any other office, the National Board shall have the authority to fill such vacancy.

ARTICLE VII

Voting

Section 1. Each chartered chapter shall have one vote in the National Council.

Section 2. There shall be no proxy voting.

Section 3. In case of emergency measures, telegraphic votes shall be taken by the Executive Secretary, and a majority of votes cast shall settle the issue upon confirmation by the President.

Section 4. A majority vote of the chartered chapters present at any and all meetings of this organization shall be necessary to determine all issues and elections, unless otherwise provided.

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Section 4. The Treasurer shall keep account of all moneys of this organization received or disbursed and shall make payments with the approval of the National Board or National Council. The Treasurer's record shall be audited annually, and said Treasurer shall make a semi-annual report of his records to all chartered chapters.

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ARTICLE VIII

National Board

Section 1. The National Board shall be the executive and

administrative body of this organization and shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Executive Secretary, Treasurer and the Chairmen of the district councils. Past Presidents, ^{who have been} elected by the National Council and who ~~shall~~ ^{their} have served his full term shall be ex-officio members of the National Board.

Section 2. The President shall have the right to call special meetings of the National Board whenever he deems it necessary.

Section 3. The Executive Secretary shall call a special meeting of the National Board whenever requested in writing by three or more members thereof.

Section 4. Quorum of any and all meetings of the National Board shall be the presence of a majority of members thereof.

ARTICLE IX

National Council

Section 1. The National Council shall be the legislative body of this organization and shall consist of two delegates from each chartered chapter and the National Board.

Section 2. The National Council shall meet in general session biennially during the National Convention.

Section 3. Special sessions of the National Council shall be held in the various district at the sites selected for the next District Council meetings, and the majority of the collective votes thereat shall determine the issues or questions presented.

Section 4. Special sessions of the National Council shall be called by the President or the National Board whenever necessary.

Section 5. Quorum of any and all meetings of the National Council shall be the presence of a majority of chartered chapters in good standing.

ARTICLE X

Chapters

Section 1. Each chapter shall choose its own name to conform with the purposes of this organization as set forth in the preamble and shall adopt its own constitution and by-laws which shall not conflict with the provisions of this Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 2. New chapters shall be admitted into this organization by filing application with and upon favorable recommendation of the District Council and upon approval of the National Board.

Section 3. Each chapter, in order to be in good standing in this organization, must qualify as provided by the By-Laws.

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

Section 5. The duly elected officers of all chartered chapters shall be registered with the Executive Secretary. Such reports shall be made within thirty (30) days of the election thereof.

ARTICLE XI

Charters

Section 1. Each chapter shall be granted a charter by the National Board upon admittance into this organization as provided by Section 2 of Article X.

Section 2. The National Board, with approval of the District Council, shall have the discretionary power to suspend or revoke the charter of any chapter for failure to pay national dues or district council obligations for one year or more, or for failure to carry out in good faith the provisions of this Constitution and the By-Laws or for failure to cooperate with the National Council, National Board and/or the District Council to which it belongs.

Section 3. Any chapter given a notice of suspension may appeal for re-instatement upon a signed petition of 75 percent of its membership declaring their good faith and intention to abide by the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws and to cooperate in all respects. In case there is any arrearage, all such obligations must be discharged before the re-instatement becomes effective.

ARTICLE XII

Conventions

Section 1. National Conventions of this organization 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 preceding National Convention.

Section 2. A National Convention shall not be held in succession at one place.

Section 3. The tentative convention agenda and program shall be submitted to all the chapters of this organization at least 60 days prior to the opening of the convention by the National Board.

Section 4. The chapter awarded the National Convention shall be in charge of making all necessary arrangements under the supervision of the National Board and shall be assisted by the District Council to which it belongs.

Section 5. District Council Conventions shall not be held during National Convention years.

ARTICLE XIII

Removal of Officers

Section 1. Any officer of this organization may be removed from office for misfeasance or malfeasance or neglect of duty following a hearing by the National Board which shall judge whether or not the case shall be presented to the special session of the National Council for a vote.

Section 2. Upon presentation to the special session of the National Council, three-fourths vote of all the chartered chapters shall be necessary for the removal of any officer.

ARTICLE XIV

District Councils

Section 1. The National Council shall be divided into as many district councils as the By-Laws shall provide.

Section 2. Each district council shall act upon all district matters concerning this organization and shall act on all national matters as directed by the National Board.

Section 3. Each district council shall have its own officers and shall be governed by its own Constitution and By-Laws not in conflict herewith and shall be composed of the chairman, duly elected officers and delegates at large from each chartered chapter within said district.

ARTICLE XV

Amendments

Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution or By-Laws hereof shall be made at the National Council meetings.

Section 2. To introduce an amendment to this Constitution or the By-Laws hereof, the District Council shall petition the Executive Secretary who shall send a copy of the proposed amendment or amendments to each chapter at least 30 days preceding the National Council meeting.

Section 3. Three-fourths vote of the chartered chapters present shall be necessary to pass an amendment to this Constitution.

Section 4. Two-thirds vote of the chartered chapters present shall be necessary to pass an amendment to the By-Laws hereof.