

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Junior Classical League of Nebraska

Amended 2007-08

CONSTITUTION

We, the members of the National Junior Classical League of Nebraska, in order to carry out more effectively the purpose of our national organization, namely: "To hand on the torch of classical civilization in the modern world" do hereby adopt the following constitution and agree to follow its rules.

ARTICLE I. Name and Purpose

Section 1. Name: The name of this organization shall be the Junior Classical League of Nebraska.

Section 2. Purpose: The purpose of this federation shall be to coordinate the activities of the several chapters of the state of Nebraska.

ARTICLE II. Meetings

Section 1. Officers: The elected officers of this organization shall be the following: President, Vice President, Secretary, Parliamentarian, Editor, Historian, and Technology Coordinator.

Section 2. Executive Board Meetings: The dates and times of the Executive Board meeting shall be set by the Executive Board by means of a majority vote, at which faculty sponsors and student members from each chapter shall be present. Meetings of officers and sponsors must be held in such a way that all JCL chapters in Nebraska can participate without having to travel more than an hour from their school site.

ARTICLE III. Elections

Section 1. Term of Office: The term of office is one year, beginning immediately following the election at the State Convention. New officers will work with the old officers for the first meeting following elections to encourage a smooth transition.

Section 2. Nomination: Each school shall nominate not more than three persons as candidates for state officers. The names and qualifications of the

nominees shall be sent by the sponsor to the Parliamentarian prior to the annual convention. The following qualification may be waived in a State of Emergency: no candidate may be nominated for an office currently held by a member of that chapter. Inability to attend convention shall not prevent a candidate from running for office.

Section 3. Number of Candidates: A maximum of three candidates (of different chapters) may run for each office, according to the regulation as stated in Section 3. In the event that a position has a single candidate registered for that office at the time of election, nominations will be accepted from the floor. No more than three qualified candidates will be accepted in this manner for each incomplete slate, and those nominees must have the consent of their sponsors to run for office. If a slate has two or three candidates registered previous to the convention, nominations for that office will be closed to the floor.

Section 4. Speeches: A one-minute introduction speech in which the candidate will present his or her qualifications will be allowed preceding the election.

Section 5. Voting for Officers: Each chapter shall have one vote for each office. Ballot will be used to determine majority. Once the ballot has been collected, no chapter may change their vote. In case of a tie, a roll call vote shall be taken by the Parliamentarian. In this case, each chapter will stand when called on and say “yes” if in support, “no” if in opposition, and “present” if abstaining from the vote. If there still remains a tie, the President, Vice President, and Secretary, each having one vote and each unable to abstain, shall break the tie.

Section 6. Vacancies: If there are no nominations for the office of President during elections, whereby there are no eligible candidates running for the position, a State of Emergency shall be declared immediately by the current parliamentarian. The election shall then be allowed to take place. The new Vice President shall become President and the Vice Presidential candidate with the second highest number of votes shall become the new Vice President. In the event that there is only one Vice Presidential candidate, the new Vice president shall be chosen from the next highest office and so on, following the order of hierarchy (President, Vice President, Secretary, Parliamentarian, Editor, Historian, and Technology Coordinator). In the event that there are no Presidential or Vice Presidential candidates, the duties of those offices shall be assumed by the State Chairperson until the elections of the following year.

If there are no nominations for an office other than President during elections, the position shall be opened to the floor, in which

case qualified individuals may nominate themselves for candidacy through a sponsor.

If position remains unfilled sponsors may bring forth a candidate at any following time. At which point, the Executive Board will approve the candidate with a majority vote.

Section 7. Qualifications: To be eligible for a state office, a student must maintain enrollment in Latin or Greek throughout his or her term, or have completed all Latin or Greek courses available at his or her school. Except for those who have completed all courses, officers on the block system need to be enrolled in one of those courses for at least one semester during the year. The student must also be in a chapter which is in good standing with Nebraska JCL.

To be eligible for the office of President, a student must attend a minimum of 3 executive board meetings or 2 meetings and 1 Certamen. To be eligible for any other office, candidates must attend a minimum of 2 executive board meetings or 1 meeting and 1 Certamen. If at any time these qualifications lead to a vacancy, they may be waived by means of a simple majority. If there is a position for which there are no qualifiers, the offending qualifications shall be automatically waived.

Section 8. Special Representatives: Each officer, within two months of election, shall appoint one person from his own school to be a special representative. It shall be the duty of all officers to attend all meetings, but, if the elected officer is unable to attend the executive meeting, this representative will act as an *ex officio* member. He or she shall be approved by his or her sponsor and shall have met the qualifications as stated in Section 7 if possible. Also, sponsors of schools that are not represented on the executive board shall be strongly encouraged to appoint a representative for their school who will be expected to attend all meetings. A representative that is appointed in such a manner, if approved by a majority vote of the executive board and if in possession of the proper qualifications, may participate in any voting on the executive board. A representative thusly appointed may not be removed from the board, but may lose the right to vote indefinitely if found in violation of the grounds for removal of an officer.

Section 9. Removal From Office:

A. Grounds for Removal: The Nebraska Junior Classical League shall have the power to remove any of its officers as provided in this section. The grounds for such removal shall be an infraction of this Constitution and/or serious negligence in the discharge of the duties of that office. Missing more than two consecutive functions is also grounds for removal.

- B. Removal Procedure: The following shall be followed in all proceedings leading to the possible expulsion of an officer:
1. A resolution by the board to consider the removal of an officer can be introduced by any member of the Executive Board on a petition bearing the signature of at least two state officers and a sponsor.
 2. If said resolution passes the Executive Board by a simple majority, that officer shall be notified and allowed a defense to all those who shall vote on his or her removal. No vote shall be satisfied until both the officer and his or her sponsor are agreed that he or she has finished presenting the defense.
 3. After the officer in question has finished his or her defense, a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board shall be necessary to remove that officer. No officer shall be denied a vote to which he or she would otherwise be entitled during proceedings aimed at his or her removal.
 4. This process of removal from office shall take no longer than 60 days or charges will be dropped
- C. Filling a Vacancy: In the case of a vacancy by removal or withdrawal of the president, the vacancy procedure for the position of president used during elections (Article III, Section 6) shall be followed. All other positions shall be filled by the sponsor of the removed officer following the Qualifications listed in Article III, Section 7. If a sponsor is unable to fill the post within one month, the position will become available and any sponsor may fill the post with a qualified candidate, on a first-come-first-served basis.

Section 10. State Chairpersons: One state chair will be elected (or coerced into serving) for a three year term. This chair will always have control of the NeJCL funds.

The co-chair position will be filled by the sponsor of the Nebraska JCL President. Therefore the co-chair position may rotate each year based on the school sponsoring the office of president.

ARTICLE IV. Duties of Officers

Section 1. Duties of the President: The President shall preside over the meetings of the Nebraska JCL, and together with the Executive Board, shall be responsible for providing a printed agenda at each meeting. He or she shall appoint all committees not elected or otherwise appointed and shall supervise their activities and endeavor to see that all projects planned for the year are carried out. The President shall also be responsible for declaring a State of Emergency.

Section 2. Duties of the Vice President: The Vice President shall assume the

duties of the President in case of the President's absence. He or she shall be chairperson of the committees on membership and publicity.

Section 3. Duties of the Secretary: The Secretary shall record and keep a file on all meetings of the Nebraska Junior Classical League and the Executive Board. He or she shall send a copy of these minutes to each chapter at least one week before the next meeting. He or she shall be responsible for keeping all chapters informed about State and National Conventions, Executive Board meetings, and other JCL activities by sending reminders before an event takes place. At the end of his or her term, he or she shall pass on the files to the incoming secretary with the minutes of the proceeding convention included in them. These records will be kept for five years. To ensure the correctness of these records, the Secretary will receive all resolutions, bills, etc., the title of the motion and the name of the member introducing it being clearly labeled on each.

Section 4. Duties of the Treasurer: The duties of the Treasurer shall be fulfilled by a state chairperson. Any spending must be presented to, reviewed, and approved by the Executive Board, as should the method of spending. A sponsor shall keep accurate accounts of all money paid in and out and pay any bills incurred by the Nebraska JCL. This person must be approved by a majority vote of the executive board. The sponsor in charge of monetary affairs will also be expected to keep track of spending and be prepared to provide a financial statement or official monthly report at each meeting and to keep the secretary informed as to the amount of money in the Nebraska JCL account.

Section 5. Duties of the Parliamentarian: The Parliamentarian shall make all decisions concerning the correct observance of recognized parliamentary procedure; shall be in charge of all state elections, following the provisions stated in Article III, Section 3; shall be responsible for proposed amendments to this constitution and their ratification; shall furnish an updated copy of this constitution to each chapter sponsor and new officer at the end of his or her term.

Section 6. Duties of the Editor: The Editor shall publish a state newspaper at least twice each year. He or she shall contact each chapter at regular intervals for information.

Section 7. Duties of the Historian: The Historian shall collect material from local chapters and state activities and prepare a state scrapbook. It shall be available for entry at the national convention and for display at state activities within one month following the state convention.

Section 8. Duties of the Technology Coordinator: The Technology Coordinator

shall create and maintain the Nebraska JCL website. He or she shall work with other Nebraska chapters to gather information, and also with the Historian to create a digital scrapbook.

ARTICLE V. Amendments

Section 1. Amendments: Suggested amendments to this constitution must be submitted in writing to the President and Parliamentarian one month before the annual convention. Copies of the proposed amendments shall be voted upon before the election of officers, at convention. A two-thirds majority vote shall be necessary for adoption. Each chapter shall have one vote for each amendment which shall reflect the consensus for that chapter. The same process used for elections of officers (Article III, Section 5) will be applied.

It should be noted that no amendment or bylaw that contradicts the National JCL Constitution may be ratified without a unanimous vote.

The bylaws may be changed by the executive board at any time during the year by a vote of a two-thirds majority.

Section 2. Ratification: The constitution shall be considered ratified when approved by two-thirds majority of the chapters of the Nebraska Junior Classical League.

Section 3. Suspension: Any Article, Bylaw, or Section may be suspended by a two-thirds majority vote of the chapters of the Nebraska JCL if the Executive Board declares a State of Emergency.

BYLAWS

I. State of Emergency:

A State of Emergency may be called in the case of a need to suspend parts of the Constitution, to waive restrictions or qualifications imposed on Executive Board members, to vote to remove a member from office immediately, to deal with an vacancy in the office of Presidency, or in any situation in which the Executive Board votes by a two-thirds majority to allow the President to declare a State of Emergency.

II. Convention:

- a. Organization: The date and place of the annual convention of the Nebraska JCL shall be fixed by the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall consist of the elected officers, the sponsor of each active chapter, approved representatives, and the chairperson of each duly appointed committee.
- b. Chapter Voting: In all matters to be voted upon at the annual Convention, each chapter shall be allowed one vote, which shall reflect the consensus of that chapter.
- c. Planning Meeting: There shall be a planning meeting after the election each year.
- d. Participation in the State Convention: Participation in the State Convention shall be open to all Latin Clubs in Nebraska. However, voting and nominating candidates for office shall be limited to chapters and individuals in good standing in Nebraska JCL.

III. Emblem, Pin, and Colors:

The emblem shall be a torch encircled with a laurel wreath. The pin shall be a reproduction of the emblem. The colors shall be Roman purple and gold.

IV. Satellite/Interactive Video Meetings:

If judged necessary by a two-thirds majority vote by the Executive Board, such systems as satellite or interactive video should be used in order to facilitate the meeting of the Executive Board. The fees involved in providing this service should be structured into state dues, so that the burden is spread evenly among all schools.

V. Membership

- a. Dues: Dues shall be levied by decision of the Executive board at the beginning of each school year and shall be paid to the state chairperson before January 1 of each year. Any chapter not in good standing with the state chairperson shall be unable to participate in any act of the Nebraska JCL or enjoy the privileges thereof.
- b. Membership: The membership of this organization shall be individual and chapter.
 - i. Chapter Membership: Chapters shall be admitted automatically upon payment of annual dues
 - ii. Individual Membership: Individual membership shall include the active members of the respective chapters. Individuals that are not members of said chapters shall be given the opportunity to join privately after paying the dues expected from a single person.

