

The Constitution of the New Mexico Junior Classical League

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PREAMBLE

We, the members of the New Mexico Junior Classical League, in order to promote cooperation among local chapters, to establish a basis for order, and to better unite our membership, do hereby ordain and establish this constitution.

ARTICLE I. *NAME*

- 1.1** The name of this organization will be the New Mexico Junior Classical League, an affiliation of the National Junior Classical League.

ARTICLE II. *PURPOSE*

- 2.1** The purpose of this organization will be the advancement of the Classics in the state of New Mexico.

ARTICLE III. *MEMBERSHIP*

3.1 Chapter Membership

- A. A Chapter will consist of five or more members.
- B. A local chapter may become a Chapter of NMJCL by paying both NMJCL annual chapter dues and any annual chapter membership dues required by NJCL. A Chapter must have a Sponsor of NMJCL as an advisor.

3.2 Student Membership

- A. A student whose local club is an NMJCL Chapter may become a Member of NMJCL by paying both NMJCL annual student dues and any annual student dues required by NJCL.
- B. A student whose local club is not an NMJCL Chapter may become a Member-at-Large of NMJCL by paying any NMJCL annual Member-at-Large dues and any annual Member-at-Large membership dues required by NJCL.
- C. Each student Member or Member-at-Large 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.

3.3 Sponsor Membership

A. An advisor to an NMJCL Chapter may become a Sponsor of NMJCL by paying ACL annual individual dues.

B. Any former NMJCL Sponsor or current teacher of Classics may become a Sponsor-at-Large of NMJCL by paying ACL annual individual 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 NMJCL Officers will be required to approve eligibility. Following this approval, the individual must pay ACL annual individual dues in order to obtain Sponsor-at-Large membership.

3.5 Good Standing

A. In order for an NMJCL Chapter to be in good standing, all required dues of chapter membership must be postmarked by January 20th. A Chapter which is not in good standing will lose the following rights: to vote at the NMJCL Convention; to sponsor a candidate for state office; and to induct members into the National Latin Honor Society.

B. In order for an NMJCL student Member to be in good standing, all required dues of student membership must be postmarked by January 20th. If the student is a member of an NMJCL 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 NMJCL Convention; to run for state office; to propose amendments to the NMJCL Constitution or By-laws; and to join the National Latin Honor Society.

C. In order for an NMJCL Sponsor to be in good standing, all required dues of sponsor membership must be postmarked by January 20th. 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 NMJCL Constitution or By-laws.

D. Failure to be in good standing in either NMJCL or NJCL will automatically result in the failure to be in good standing in both NMJCL and NJCL.

E. NJCL may withhold additional membership rights on the state and/or national level from Chapters, Members or Sponsors not in good standing.

ARTICLE IV. STATE CHAIRS

4.1 State Chair Positions

A. There will be up to three State Chairs of NMJCL. Each State Chair must be in good standing with the ACL.

4.2 Term of Office

A. The term of office for a State Chair will be three years.

4.3 Nominations

A. Candidates for State Chair position must be in conformity with the requirements set by the NJCL.

- B. Sponsors in good standing may nominate themselves or other qualified people.
- C. State Chairs will determine additional guidelines and deadlines concerning nominations and candidacy for State Chair.

4.4 Elections

- A. The candidate must email his intention to run for State Chair to one of the current State Chairs no later than two weeks prior to the annual NMJCL convention.
- B. The election will take place during a sponsors' meeting at the annual NMJCL convention. One of the current State Chairs will preside.
- C. The presiding State Chair will moderate a question-and-answer session with the candidates.
- D. A majority vote of the sponsors present is required for election.
- E. Sponsors in good standing with the NMJCL will be eligible to vote.

4.5 Removal

- A. A State Chair of NMJCL may be removed from office for reasons including but not limited to: serious negligence of duties as defined in the NMJCL Bylaws, misuse of NMJCL funds, moral turpitude, or failure to maintain good standing in ACL.
- B. A resolution to remove a State Chair may be introduced by a petition bearing the signatures of at least three sponsors. That State Chair shall be guaranteed an opportunity for an adequate defense, not to exceed thirty (30) days after the receipt of the resolution, by telephone, by mail, or in person, to all the NMJCL sponsors. A two-thirds vote of those sponsors who have heard the defense shall be necessary for removal. Failure to present a defense will automatically result in removal.

4.6 Vacancy

- A. A State Chair position will become vacant by the removal of a State Chair under this Article or by the resignation of a State Chair.
- B. The vacating State Chair must immediately turn over all records, files, documents, materials, funds and other NMJCL property to the remaining State Chair.

4.7 Replacement

- A. Upon the vacancy of a State Chair position, the remaining State Chairs will determine the guidelines and deadlines for selecting an interim State Chair to complete the term of the vacant position.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

5.1 Officer Positions

- A. The elected statewide officers of this organization will be President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Editor, and Historian.

B. The appointed statewide officer of this organization will be the Website Coordinator. Candidates for this position will be required to submit an application, which will then be reviewed by the new executive board at changeover meeting after convention. The application must be received at least 14 days prior to the changeover meeting. To be appointed, candidates must receive a simple majority by the voting members of the executive board.

1. When all applicants for an appointed position are deficient or no one applies, the NMJCL executive board can decide with a vote of at least a two-thirds majority to delay action until the Fall planning meeting. In such a case, the deadline for applications to the unfilled position(s) will be moved to 30 days prior to the Fall planning meeting.

5.2 Eligibility

A. A candidate for office must be a Member in good standing of a local Chapter in good standing or a member-at-Large in good standing. He or she must be enrolled in a classics course or have completed at least two or all the classics courses offered by his or her school.

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

C. The candidates for the offices of President, First Vice President and Second Vice President must have attended at least one prior NMJCL Convention and one prior NMJCL meeting.

D. Only one candidate from each chapter may run for each office.

5.3 Nominations of Statewide Candidates

A. Pre-filing:

1. A delegate seeking an elective office must complete the pre-filing application form included in the convention registration packet and submit it to the Parliamentarian, postmarked thirty days prior to the Convention (fifteen days prior for the year 2011). A delegate seeking an appointive office must complete the application for appointed office distributed at Convention and in the Torch: New Mexico, and submit it to the President, postmarked seven days following the Convention.

B. State of Emergency:

1. A state of emergency will be declared for any elective office for which no delegate has pre-filed. The Parliamentarian will announce during the first assembly of 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 both meetings, then that Chapter will receive one vote. If no Voting Delegate attends both meetings, then that Chapter will not receive any votes.

2. The Nominations Committee will nominate the candidates for the elective offices of NMJCL. 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 pre-filed 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 will become the candidates for that office.

E. Meet the Candidates Session:

1. 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.

5.4 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. Any Voting Delegate who attends both the Nominations Committee meeting and the "Meet the Candidates" session may cast one vote in the election of officers. 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 NMJCL office. An abstention does not count as a vote cast.

D. Campaign Rules:

1. Candidates must attend the Nominations Committee meeting and the "Meet the Candidates" session.

2. No campaigns for candidates may begin until after the Nominations Committee has adjourned its meeting.

3. Signs, posters, banners and other campaign materials will be posted at the discretion of the host institution. Campaign materials should show only positive support of candidates. All campaign materials must be removed prior to the last general assembly.

4. The NMJCL Executive Board reserves the right to disqualify a candidate for violating any of the above rules, using poor taste in campaigning, or not completing the necessary filing requirements.

5.5 Removal Procedure

A. An Officer of NMJCL may be removed from office for reasons including but not limited to: serious negligence of duties as defined in the NMJCL By-laws, failure to maintain good standing in NMJCL or NJCL, and/or infraction of the Convention rules at the NMJCL or NJCL Convention.

B. Proceedings to remove an NMJCL Officer will be initiated by a written petition for removal, including specific charges, signed by two NMJCL Officers, an NMJCL State Chair, or three NMJCL Sponsors. The petition must be submitted to any State Chair, 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 by mail (not e-mail), and the rest of the Executive Board by mail (not e-mail) 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, his or her 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 NMJCL Executive Board by mail, by telephone, or in person. No vote will be taken until the Sponsor of the charged Officer notifies the Designated State Chair that he or she is 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 NMJCL Executive Board by telephone. A two-thirds affirmative vote will be necessary to remove an NMJCL Officer from office. The Sponsor of a removed NMJCL Officer will guarantee that the removed Officer will immediately turn over to a State Chair all records, files, documents, materials, funds, and other NMJCL property.

5.6 Vacancies

A. If the Presidency becomes vacant, the State Chairs will fill the vacancy at their discretion, with advice from the NMJCL Executive Board.

B. If an office other than the Presidency becomes vacant, then the President, with the advice of the NMJCL Executive Board, will appoint a qualified person to fill the position.

ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENTS

6.1 Proposal

A. Any student Member of NMJCL in good standing may propose amendments to any portion of the NMJCL Constitution except the following: the Section on Sponsor membership, the Item on Sponsor good standing, and the Article on State Chairs.

B. Any Sponsor of NMJCL in good standing may propose amendments to any portion of the NMJCL Constitution.

C. No amendment to the NMJCL Constitution may be proposed that contradicts the Constitution, By-laws, or other policy of NJCL or ACL.

D. All proposed amendments to the NMJCL Constitution must be submitted in writing to the NMJCL Parliamentarian, post marked no later than thirty days prior to the NMJCL Convention.

E. The NMJCL Executive Board will review each proposed amendment to the NMJCL Constitution and will vote by majority whether or not to recommend its ratification. The Executive Board may not prevent the proposal of any amendment that has been properly submitted by a Member or Sponsor.

F. Each NMJCL Chapter attending the NMJCL Convention will receive a copy of the proposed amendments to the NMJCL Constitution upon arriving at Convention. The NMJCL Parliamentarian will publish these proposed amendments prior to Convention when possible.

6.2 Ratification

A. The ratification of amendments to the NMJCL Constitution will occur during the NMJCL Convention. Each Voting Delegate eligible to vote in the election of Officers will receive one vote in the ratification of these amendments, except those pertaining to the following: the Section on Sponsor membership, the Item on Sponsor good standing, and the Article on State Chairs.

B. Each NMJCL Sponsor in good standing present at the NMJCL Convention will have one vote in the ratification of amendments to the NMJCL Constitution pertaining to the following: the Section on Sponsor membership, the Item on Sponsor good standing, and the Article on State Chairs. The ratification of these amendments will occur during a meeting of the Sponsors during the NMJCL Convention.

C. A two-thirds affirmative vote will be required to ratify any amendment to the NMJCL Constitution. Ratified amendments will become effective immediately, unless an alternate time is specified in the amendment.