

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS  
OF THE NATIONAL JUNIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE

CONSTITUTION  
Amended July 31, 2020

Preamble

We, the members of the National Junior Classical League, in order to promote cooperation among the several state and provincial organizations, to establish a basis for order and to increase unity, promote friendship and encourage understanding among the several members, do hereby ordain and establish this constitution.

ARTICLE I

Name: The name of this organization shall be the National Junior Classical League.

ARTICLE II

Purpose: The purpose of this organization shall be to promote a more thorough knowledge of classical life, history and literature; to impart a better understanding of the practical and cultural value of the classics; to interest other students in the classical languages and literature, government, laws, and arts; and as members of the organization, to pattern our citizenship in respect to family, school and nation after the best examples of the classical civilizations.

ARTICLE III

Section 1. The authority for the operation of the National Junior Classical League shall come from the following sources, which are listed in their order of superiority.

- A. This NJCL Constitution - It supersedes B, C, and D.
- B. The NJCL Bylaws - It supersedes C and D.
- C. The NJCL Manual (a part of the NJCL Chapter Handbook) It supersedes D.
- D. Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 2. American Classical League: The Committee on the National Junior and Senior Classical Leagues is a standing committee of The American Classical League, and no section of this Constitution or its Bylaws shall be construed so as to conflict with the Constitution, Bylaws or Acts of The American Classical League. The American Classical League Constitution and Bylaws govern the appointment of the members of the Committee on the National Junior and Senior Classical Leagues.

Section 3. Executive Board: The Committee on the National Junior and Senior Classical Leagues is responsible for working with the National Junior Classical League officers and their sponsors. The National Junior Classical League Executive Board includes the National Committee and the national officers. The Executive Board shall act as an agent through which National Junior Classical League business between conventions may be conducted. The President of the National Junior Classical League shall act as Chair.

#### ARTICLE IV

##### Section 1. Individual Membership:

- A. Individual membership in this organization shall be of two kinds: member of a chapter and member-at-large. All members shall be taking or have taken a classical language or a course in the classical humanities. Membership may be granted to others at the discretion of the chapter, state/provincial or national organization.
- B. Member-at-Large: A student who has no local chapter may become an active member-at-large by affiliating properly with both the national organization and the appropriate state/provincial organization. A student may choose to become a member-at-large in either the state or province of the student's residence or the state or province in which the student attends school. If no state or provincial organization exists, a student may apply to the National Junior Classical League alone.
- C. In the event of special circumstances related to membership, contact the Membership Chairperson of the National Junior Classical League.

Section 2. Chapter: A chapter shall be comprised of at least one individual member who qualifies according to Article IV, Section 1. Each individual member shall affiliate properly with his or her state or provincial organization and the National Junior Classical League. Each chapter shall have a qualified sponsor.

- A. A student or students who do not attend a school with an established JCL chapter may create a new chapter. This new chapter would still require a qualified ACL member to serve as the Sponsor. Students who attend a school which already has an established JCL chapter may not create a new chapter.
- B. If a school creates a new JCL chapter, students who attend that school, but are members of another chapter which is not connected with a school, must affiliate with the chapter which is sponsored by the school no later than the following school year.

Section 3. Sponsors: A local chapter must be sponsored by a Latin teacher, by a teacher of the classical humanities, or by another adult high school graduate who is of legal age according to the sponsor's state or provincial statutes and who resides in the vicinity.

Section 4. Good standing of sponsors: A sponsor must be a member of The American Classical League, responsible for his or her chapter's activities, and accountable for the welfare of his or her chapter's members during any chapter activity in which some or all may participate.

Section 5. State/Provincial Chairs: A candidate for State/Provincial JCL Chair must be a current member of the American Classical League. Upon election by the majority of the sponsors of a state's/province's local chapters, this person will be appointed by the National JCL Constitutional Advisor for a term not exceeding five years. A State/Provincial Chair may be reappointed for additional terms under the same conditions by which he or she was appointed for the first term. Each state/province must file its procedure for election of State/Provincial Chairs with the NJCL Constitutional Advisor. A State/Province which does not file its procedure, or changes in the procedure, by June 1 each year will be considered not in good standing for that year; as a result, the state or province will not be able to run a candidate for National Office for that year, and will not be given a vote at the NJCL Convention for that year.

## ARTICLE V

### National Officers

Section 1. National Officers Defined: The elected officers of this organization shall be the following: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Communications Coordinator, Parliamentarian, Historian, and Editor.

Section 2. Term of Office: The term of office for each officer shall be for one year only, from the time of each officer's installation until the close of the following annual meeting.

Section 3. Qualifications:

- A. To be eligible to run for office, a candidate **MUST** have the permission of at least one custodial parent or a legal guardian, a local sponsor, and the State/Provincial Chair or Co-chairs; (The State/Provincial Chair(s) **MUST** have fulfilled all requirements necessary to assure their state/province is in good standing, prior to granting said permission); **MUST** have attended at least one previous National Junior Classical League convention; **MUST** not be a post-graduate or midterm graduate; **MUST** be the only candidate for any office from that student's state or province and **MUST** be a member of a chapter in good standing. **MUST** be enrolled in a Latin, Greek, or Classical Humanities class at least half of the year during which the student's office is held, or have completed all Latin, Greek, or Classical Humanities classes offered at the student's school. A sponsor from the candidate's state or province must be present with the candidate at the Nominations Committee, but if no sponsor from the candidate's state or province is able to attend the meeting, a sponsor from another state or province may stand up for the candidate, with

the acquiescence of the candidate's own local sponsor. No state or province shall hold the same office two years in succession.

- B. One exception to a state or province holding the same office two years in succession shall be if the First Vice President is required to become President due to a vacancy in the office of President. If this happens on or after January 1, the First Vice President's state or province may run a candidate for President at the following NJCL Convention.

#### Section 4. Nomination Procedures:

- A. Filing for Office: Any eligible person who wishes to run for National Junior Classical League office may become a prospective candidate by filing the designated forms with the National Parliamentarian on or before June 15. These forms will be included in the Manual; the forms shall be available after January 1 from the National Parliamentarian for all prospective candidates. By June 20, the National Parliamentarian shall send each properly filed prospective candidate a summary of the prospective candidates and their designated offices. If a candidate has changed office as provided for in Article V, Section 4, Paragraph B, then a new summary of prospective candidates and their designated offices shall be sent out by July 10 to all candidates.
- B. Changing Office: Any candidate wishing to change the office for which he or she is filing may do so by notifying the Parliamentarian by June 30. The original papers and signatures will be adequate although the approval of the parents and local sponsor for the change must be assured.
- C. Nominations Committee: A candidate shall be nominated by a Nominations Committee which shall consist of two previously selected voting delegates from each state or province attending the national convention. The NJCL Parliamentarian shall serve as the chair. All candidates must be approved by the Nominations Committee, including those nominees who have filed papers by June 15, and must be presented first in the committee meeting. There can be no nominations from the convention floor. When the Nominations Committee has at least two pre-filed nominees for an elective office, additional nominations will not be accepted at the Nominations Committee Meeting. If more than two nominees for an office have pre-filed, the Nominations Committee will vote to select only two candidates. The Parliamentarian will call a State of Emergency if there are fewer than two pre-filed nominees for a specific office. In a State of Emergency the Nominations Committee may waive the following qualification by a simple majority: No state or province shall hold the same office two years in succession. In the event of a State of Emergency where there is a pre-filed nominee, that nominee shall be one of the final candidates. The Nominations Committee shall then accept nominations from the floor. From the subsequent nominations, the Nominations Committee shall select the required number of nominees to have no more than two candidates. In the case of a tie, the NJCL Parliamentarian shall cast the deciding vote. The National Committee Chair, or

a representative who is designated by the National Committee Chair, shall meet with the committee to act as an advisor.

- D. Campaigning: Nominees for office will follow the campaign procedures set forth in Article VI of the Bylaws.
- E. There shall be at every national convention a meeting of candidates and state and provincial delegates in which the delegates may question the candidates on relevant topics. The Parliamentarian shall be in charge of the format and administration of this meeting.

#### Section 5. Election Procedures:

- A. Voting Procedures: Voting delegates shall vote by secret ballot. Each state or province which was represented by two delegates at the Nominations Committee and Constitutional Amendments Committee meetings shall have two votes; each state or province which was represented by only one delegate at one or both of the aforementioned meetings shall have one vote; each state or province which was not represented at one or both of the aforementioned meetings shall have no votes. If no clear majority opinion is established within a state or provincial delegation, the vote may be split between the two voting delegates of the state or province. The voting delegates must vote in accordance with their state's or province's decision. Only members which are in good standing may vote in the state or provincial delegation.
- B. Proxies: If a state or provincial delegation is unable to be present at the voting session of the national convention because of travel necessities, the voting delegates shall place their votes in a sealed envelope and deposit it with the National Parliamentarian. Said votes will be recorded with the final total during the election count. No other type of proxies shall be allowed.
- C. A candidate must receive a majority of eligible votes to be elected to an office.
- D. Upon election to national office, the new officer must resign from any state or provincial office immediately. The officer's state/provincial chair shall guarantee in writing to the National Committee Chair, or the designated representative of the National Committee Chair, that this has been done within one month of the adjournment of the national convention. Additionally, a national officer may not serve as a state or provincial officer any time during his or her term of national office.

#### Section 6. Vacancies:

- A. Should a vacancy occur in the office of President, the First Vice President shall become President, and the new President, with the concurrence of the Executive Board, shall name a qualified person to serve as First Vice President. (Should a candidate fail to receive a majority of the eligible votes for the office of President, see Constitutional Article V, Section 6, Paragraph C.)

- B. Should any vacancy occur other than in the office of president, or should a national officer default in the performance of his or her duties, the president, with the concurrence of the Executive Board, shall name a qualified person to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- C. If no candidate receives a majority of the eligible votes, the newly elected national officers, with the concurrence of the National Committee, shall name a qualified person to fill the position.
- D. The state or province originally holding the vacated office may not run a candidate for the same office in the election immediately following the one in which the state's or province's candidate was elected.

Section 7. Removal from Office:

- A. Grounds for Removal: The National 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 the infraction of the convention rules and/or serious negligence in the discharge of the duties of that office.
- B. Removal Procedures: The following procedures shall be followed in all proceedings leading to the possible expulsion of an officer and shall not exceed a 60-day time limit from the time of the resolution unless a delay is obtained from the National Committee.
  - a. A resolution by the Executive Board to consider the removal of an officer can be introduced by any member of the Executive Board or by a petition bearing the signatures of the officers of at least three state or provincial chapters.
  - b. If said resolution to consider the removal of an officer should pass the Executive Board by a simple majority, that same officer's sponsor shall guarantee that adequate defense shall be made by the officer, by telephone, by mail or in person, to all those who shall vote on the question of the officer's removal. No vote shall be taken to remove that officer until the officer's sponsor shall be satisfied that the officer has finished presenting his or her defense.
  - c. After the officer in question shall have finished his or her defense, a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board shall be necessary to remove the officer. No officer shall be denied proceedings aimed at his or her removal.

ARTICLE VI

Section 1. Quorum: A quorum shall consist of three-fourths of the voting delegates at the annual convention.

ARTICLE VII

Section 1. Bylaws: Bylaws not contrary to any provision of this Constitution may be established.

Section 2. Bylaws Procedure: Bylaws may be established, amended or repealed by a majority vote. Notice of proposed change of bylaws must be given at least one general session prior to final action on said change.

## ARTICLE VIII

Section 1. The Chapter Handbook of the National Junior Classical League shall consist of three (3) parts: the Manual, the Appendix and the Constitution.

Section 2. Constitutional Amendments: Suggested amendments to this constitution must be submitted in writing to the President and Parliamentarian and be postmarked before March 1. Copies of all amendments shall be mailed to each state/provincial chair before May 1. Proposed amendments shall become effective upon ratification by a two-thirds majority at a business session after the Constitutional Amendment Committee has met at the national convention.

- A. At each National Junior Classical League convention there shall convene a committee, to be named the Constitutional Amendment Committee. This Committee shall consist of two (2) voting delegates from each state or provincial delegation in attendance at the convention.
- B. The Constitutional Amendment Committee shall meet at least twenty-four hours before constitutional amendments are to be voted upon by the General Assembly. The Constitutional Amendment Committee shall consider all constitutional amendments currently being proposed at the national convention. The Constitutional Amendment Committee shall, by majority vote, decide whether to recommend the amendments to the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall vote upon proposed constitutional amendments.
- C. The National Parliamentarian shall preside over the Constitutional Amendment Committee as the chair. In the case of a tie in the committee, then the National Parliamentarian shall cast the deciding vote.

Section 3. The Manual and Appendix may be revised yearly by the national Parliamentarian and the Constitutional Advisor. All proposed changes are subject to approval by two-thirds of the Executive Board. The Manual and Appendix shall automatically be updated to agree with the Constitution, and no provision contrary to the Constitution may be made.

Section 4. Review: This Constitution may be reviewed yearly.

## ARTICLE IX

If a new constitution is proposed to replace the current constitution, it must be approved by the same process as is required for the approval of a constitutional amendment.

# BYLAWS

Amended July 26, 2020

## Article I – Good Standing – Local Chapters

Local chapters and members-at-large, shall be admitted to the National Junior Classical League upon proper payment of annual dues. Thereafter, in order for a local chapter to remain in good standing and be able to sponsor a candidate for NJCL office at the NJCL Convention, they shall pay dues for the school year preceding the convention, postmarked no later than July 1, sending them to The National Junior Classical League.

### II. Dues

- A. Individual member dues shall be three dollars (\$3.00) with rates for chapter dues varying depending on the date of payment. If a chapter pays member dues by December 1, chapter dues shall be waived. If a chapter pays it dues after December 1 and before April 1, the chapter dues shall be ten dollars (\$10.00). If a chapter pays its dues after April 1 and before July 1, the chapter dues shall be twenty dollars (\$20.00). All individual member dues and chapter dues must be received by July 1 of each year.
- B. Members-at-large pay three dollars (\$3.00) annual dues.

### III. Conventions

This organization shall convene annually for a national convention. The Convention Advisor will represent the National Committee in the quest for sites for the annual NJCL convention. The Convention Advisor will present all proposed bids for convention sites to the members of the committee for their approval. Whenever possible the site of the convention should rotate annually so as to cover each of the four sections of the United States in four years. The time of the annual convention shall be fixed to suit the convenience of the school at which the convention is to be held. The actual dates of the convention must be announced during the preceding convention.

### IV. Emblem, Pin and Colors

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

### V. Duties of the Officers

One duty common to all officers shall be to attend the NJCL Convention and all related planning meetings, unless excused by the National Committee.

#### A. Duties of the President

- a. The President shall serve as the chair of the NJCL Executive Board.
  - i. The President shall work with the National Committee Chair to prepare the agenda for all meetings.
  - ii. The President shall preside at all meetings of the NJCL Executive Board.
  - iii. The President shall stay aware of the activities of other NJCL Officers, and offer assistance where appropriate.
  - iv. The President shall maintain correspondence with all members of the Executive Board.
- b. The President shall promote the activities of NJCL within the organization.
  - i. The President shall speak on behalf of NJCL as occasions arise, including state JCL Conventions and local meetings within the President's area (NB: NJCL policy states that a NJCL Officer is invited to attend that state's convention at the host state's expense.)
  - ii. The President shall write letters to state JCL Officers informing them of JCL activities.
  - iii. The President shall write letters to state JCL Newsletters.
- c. The President shall represent JCL by attending meetings and conventions of other organizations and by writing to members of Congress if the need arises.
- d. The President shall plan the NJCL Convention along with the NJCL Convention Advisor and the host state's convention chair.
  - i. The President shall create the Convention agenda along with the NJCL Convention Advisor and the host state's convention chair.
  - ii. The President shall contribute ideas for themes, decorations and other items to the host state.
  - iii. The President shall work with the NJCL 2nd Vice President and the host state to coordinate the activities of "A Day in Old Rome".
  - iv. The President shall be available throughout the convention to assist as needed.
  - v. The President shall preside at General Assemblies.
  - vi. The President shall prepare and tally the Convention evaluation forms.

#### B. Duties of the First Vice President

- a. The First Vice President shall execute the duties of the President in the event of the President's death, illness or inability to serve.
- b. The First Vice President shall be responsible for publicizing JCL and the national convention through national, state, and local news media.
- c. The First Vice President shall be responsible for promotion of NJCL membership.

#### C. Duties of the Second Vice President

- a. The Second Vice President shall serve as a resource for local JCL officers to contact concerning suitable programs for their clubs.

- b. Shall contribute articles to the TORCH: U.S. and to state publications on activities that have been successful in other states or clubs.
  - c. Shall be in charge of the Spirit Contest at Convention.
  - d. Shall coordinate the activities for the Day in Old Rome with the NJCL President and host state.
  - e. Shall execute the duties of the President in the event of the death, illness or inability of the President and First Vice President.
- D. Duties of the Communications Coordinator
- a. The Communications Coordinator shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the annual convention, executive planning board meetings, and all other recordable events.
  - b. The Communications Coordinator shall keep the minutes of the annual convention and board meetings to be passed to the succeeding Communications Coordinator.
  - c. The Communications Coordinator shall administer the annual NJCL Web site contest and/or other technology related competitions at the NJCL level.
  - d. The Communications Coordinator shall assist state and local chapters on an as needed or requested basis in technology related matters.
- E. Duties of the Parliamentarian
- a. The Parliamentarian shall be responsible for and shall make all decisions concerning the correct observance of rules of parliamentary procedure according to Robert's Rules of Order.
  - b. The Parliamentarian shall execute the duties of the President in the event of the death, illness or inability of the President, First and Second Vice-President.
  - c. The Parliamentarian shall preside at the Nominations Committee. The Parliamentarian shall be responsible for receiving filing papers of candidates for national office and sending a summary sheet to candidates as per Article V, Section 4, Part A of the Constitution.
  - d. The Parliamentarian shall preside at the Constitutional Amendment Committee.
  - e. The Parliamentarian shall mail all proposed constitutional amendments to the President of The American Classical League and to the President of this organization before March 15 and to each state JCL chair before May 1.
  - f. The Parliamentarian shall work with the NJCL Constitutional Advisor to revise the Manual and Appendix, subject to approval by two-thirds vote of the NJCL Executive Board.
- F. Duties of the Editor
- a. The Editor shall edit the national publication.
  - b. The Editor shall file one copy of each issue of the national publication.
- G. Duties of the Historian

- a. The Historian shall compile records for the annuals, file all Junior Classical League materials of historical interest, keep a scrapbook and properly safeguard all these materials.

## VI. Campaign Regulations

Section A: No campaigning of any sort is permitted prior to the close of the Nominations Committee meeting

Section B: Speeches: In the Nominations Committee each nominee will make a speech of not more than two minutes in length. In a designated assembly, each candidate will make a campaign speech of not more than three minutes in length, including a campaign manager's introduction, if desired.

Section C: Timing and Materials: Campaigning may begin when authorized by the NJCL Parliamentarian, and materials shall be displayed in designated areas only. Materials deemed inappropriate by NJCL Executive Board members will be removed. All materials must be taken down and disposed of following the election.

Section D: Spending: The NJCL Parliamentarian, with the consent of the Executive Board, shall set each year the limit on campaign expenses, shall publish this information in NJCL publications and campaign information, and shall disseminate it to the nominees for office. The NJCL Parliamentarian shall collect receipts from each nominee at the Nominations Committee. Failure to abide by the expense limit will eliminate a nominee from the race.

## VII. Voting

All business not covered in the Constitution shall be voted upon as follows: Each state or province shall be allowed two votes. Those votes shall be cast by two representatives previously elected by the representative states or provinces; if only one delegate is present at the national convention, only one vote shall be allowed to that state or province.

## VII. Bylaw Amendment Procedure

Suggested amendments or additions to these Bylaws must be submitted, in writing, to the NJCL Executive Board for approval by a majority vote. In accordance with Constitutional Article VII, Section 2, the amendments approved by the Executive Board shall be read at the NJCL Convention, at least one General Assembly prior to the final vote. Final approval will require a majority vote by the voting delegates at a later General Assembly.