

Constitution of the North Carolina Junior Classical League

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the North Carolina Junior Classical League, in order to promote cooperation among the local chapters, to establish a basis for order and to increase unity, promote friendship and encourage understanding among the state-wide members, do hereby ordain and establish this constitution.

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this organization shall be the North Carolina 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

Authority for Operation

Section 1. This Constitution, in conjunction with the Bylaws of the North Carolina Junior Classical League, Contest Handbook and Robert's Rules of Order, shall be the authority for the operation of the National Junior Classical League.

Section 2. Executive Board: The Executive Board of the North Carolina Junior Classical League will act as an agent through which the North Carolina Junior Classical League's business between state conventions may be conducted. The members of the Executive Board include the elected and appointed officers and their sponsors, the state chair, treasurer, membership manager and the event coordinators for Fall Forum, Certamen, and State Convention. The Executive Board shall meet four times a year, typically on a Saturday in May, October, January, and March. Every Executive Board member has the authority to discuss, move, and vote on any matter of business during the meetings of the North Carolina Junior Classical League Executive Board. All NCJCL sponsors and members are invited and encouraged to attend the Executive Board meetings to voice their concerns, to suggest new ideas, and to learn the full extent of the North Carolina Junior Classical League.

ARTICLE IV

Membership

Section 1. Individual Membership - Individual membership in this organization shall be of two kinds: member of a chapter and member-at-large. All members should 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 North Carolina Junior Classical League Executive Board.

- A. Chapter Member: A chapter member is a student who is a participating member of a local chapter and properly affiliates him/herself with the North Carolina Junior Classical League as well as the National Junior Classical League.
- B. Member-at- Large: A student who has no local chapter may become an active member-at-large by affiliating properly with his/her state organization and also applying to the National Junior Classical League. Students who take online classical courses, live in North Carolina, and have no local chapter with which to affiliate may become members-at-large. Member-at-large status can also be granted to non-North Carolina residents if their teacher or online classical courses are based in North Carolina.

Section 2. Chapter: A chapter shall be comprised of at least five individual student members and a qualified sponsor. Each chapter shall affiliate properly with the North Carolina Junior Classical League and the National Junior Classical League. Each chapter shall be based in North Carolina or have a qualified sponsor based in North Carolina. Each chapter must pay annual dues by the deadline determined by the North Carolina Junior Classical League Executive Board.

Section 3. Qualifications of a Sponsor:

- A. Teacher of a classical language and/or humanity.
- B. Member of the American Classical League.
- C. Must be responsible for his/her chapter's activities.
- D. Must be accountable for his/her chapter's members during any chapter activity in which some or all members may participate.

ARTICLE V Student State Officers

Section 1. State Officers Defined: The elected officers of this organization shall be the following: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Parliamentarian, Torch Editor, and Middle School Representative. The appointed officers of this organization shall be the following: Publicity Chair, Historian and Technology Coordinator.

Section 2. Term of Office: The term of office for each officer shall be for one year only, from the election at the annual state convention until a successor is chosen at the following state convention.

Section 3. Qualifications of a State Officer:

- A. The candidate must be a good standing member of the North Carolina Junior Classical League as well as the National Junior Classical League.
- B. The candidate must be able to fulfill his/her term of office while still in middle or high school with the Middle School Representative fulfilling his/her term of office while still in middle school.
- C. The candidate must have attended at least one state convention prior to running for office.
- D. A candidate running for an elected office must have written permission from a parent or legal guardian, sponsor, and principal submitted to the Parliamentarian prior to the appointed deadline. An appointed candidate must submit written permission from a parent or legal guardian, sponsor, and principal within two weeks after the election.
- E. The candidate must be enrolled in a classical language or humanities class for at least half of the year during which his/her office is held or must have completed all the classical language and humanities classes offered at his/her school.

Section 4. Nomination Procedures:

- A. **Qualifying for Office:** Each candidate must meet all of the qualifications set forth in Article V, Section 3.
- B. **Filing for Office:** Each student must complete the appropriate candidacy forms found on the North Carolina Junior Classical League website and submit them by the specified deadline to the Parliamentarian. The student must also notify the Parliamentarian of the office for which they intend to run via email by the specified deadline.
- C. **Changing Office:** Any candidate who wishes to change the office for which they have filed must notify the Parliamentarian via email within 3 mailing days following the initial candidacy deadline.
- D. A chapter may nominate only one student as their candidate each year for any one of the six elected offices which were not held by a member of their chapter the previous year. A chapter may not nominate more than a total of one candidate from their chapter unless a state of emergency is declared by the State Parliamentarian.
- E. Current officers may run for a different office for the year following their current term.

- F. State of Emergency: A State of Emergency may be invoked by the Parliamentarian if no candidates have submitted candidacy forms for that specific office to the Parliamentarian by the registration deadline previously set by the Executive Board. The State of Emergency invokes:
1. The State of Emergency will be communicated to all North Carolina Junior Classical League local chapters and will be posted on the website as soon as it is declared.
 2. The State of Emergency application deadline is two weeks before the North Carolina State Convention.
 3. Up to three candidates from a single chapter can run for one office each. This number includes any pre-filed candidate except an existing officer cannot be a candidate for his or her same office in the next year unless the state of emergency application deadline passes and no candidates have filed for that office.

Section 5. Campaigning:

- A. Active campaigning may not begin until after the General Assembly on Friday of the NCJCL State Convention. Any campaigning via social media networks or any other means before the end of the General Assembly will result in disqualification from the election.
- B. Campaign expenses may not exceed \$40.00. Receipts must be submitted to the Parliamentarian on Friday night of the State Convention. Donations count at their full value as part of campaign expenses. If this limit is exceeded, the candidate's campaign rights will summarily be suspended. If the candidate continues to campaign, he will be disqualified from the election.
- C. Candidates Workshop: A mandatory candidate's workshop will be held on Friday at the North Carolina State Convention. At this meeting, the candidates will turn in their campaign receipts to the Parliamentarian. The Parliamentarian will then explain the election procedures outlined in Article V, Section 6.
- D. Campaign speeches which are given Friday at the General Assembly will be limited to 3 minutes in length.
- E. Candidates may not attach flyers, posters, or other articles to the host property at the State Convention. Candidates are also responsible for keeping host property clean of campaign litter.
- F. A mandatory "Meet the Candidates" gathering will be held on Saturday at the North Carolina State Convention. Candidates will answer questions concerning their office and their qualifications. Being more than 10 minutes late or failing to show up for this

meeting will result in disqualification as a candidate. Following the “Meet the Candidates” meeting, elections will be held according to the procedures outlined in Article V, Section 6.

Section 6. Election Procedures:

- A. Elections for state officers will be held annually at the North Carolina State Convention.
- B. Each election will be run by the current Parliamentarian and his/her sponsor.
- C. Each chapter is allowed two voting delegates who will cast their vote by means of a secret ballot. These delegates must consult members of their chapter before making an informed vote.
- D. Each candidate must receive a majority (51%) of votes in order to be elected to an office.
- E. In the event of a tie, the Executive Board student officers from the current year are to decide who wins by a majority vote. If the Executive Board student officers tie, the Parliamentarian will cast the deciding vote. In the absence of the Parliamentarian, the President will cast the deciding vote.
- F. In the event that the candidate does not receive a majority vote, the Executive Board student officers from the current year will vote by secret ballot to place candidates into office by a majority vote. If the Executive Board student officers do not vote the candidate in, the procedure for finding an officer is as follows: Any students who wish to file for the office must file with the new Parliamentarian within a week after the State Convention. If the Parliamentarian is the office in question, the new President will act as Parliamentarian until the issue is resolved. At the next Executive Board meeting, the new student officers will interview the candidates in person and then vote to bring them in by a majority vote. Candidates must be present at the Executive Board meeting in order to be considered for office.
- G. All appointed positions will be filled as follows:
 - 1. Publicity Chair: The Publicity Chair position will be offered to the school who wins first place in the Publicity Contest at the North Carolina State Convention. If the first place winner declines the office, it will be offered sequentially to 2nd – 5th place high school winners and then to middle school winners, 1st-5th place.

2. Historian: The Historian position will be offered to the school of the first place Scrapbook Contest winner as follows:
 - a. Large Schools – even numbered years
 - b. Small Schools – odd numbered years

Should either category decline the position, the other category will be asked to be the Historian. If neither of the first place winners desires the position, the second place winner of the appropriate year will be asked with the process continuing down the line (other 2nd place winner, 3rd place winner of appropriate year, other 3rd place winner and then to middle school winners starting with 1st place).

3. Technology Coordinator: The Technology Coordinator position will be offered to the first place winner of the Local Chapter Website Contest. If the first place winner declines the office, it will be offered sequentially to 2nd – 5th place high school winners and then to middle school winners, 1st-5th place.
4. If an appointed office is not filled following the above procedure, the NCJCL Executive Board will fill it by appointment and confirm the officer with majority vote.

- H. Installation of new officers will be held during the closing General Assembly at the North Carolina State Convention or the May Executive Board meeting.

Section 7. Vacancies

- A. Should a vacancy occur in the office of President, the 1st Vice President shall become President. The new President, with a majority vote by the Executive Board, will name a qualified person to serve as 1st Vice President.
- B. Should any vacancy occur other than in the office of President, or should a state officer default in the performance of his/her duties, the President, with the majority vote of the Executive Board, will name a qualified person to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- C. The chapter originally holding the vacated office may not run a candidate for that same office in the election immediately following the one in which the chapter's candidate was elected.

Section 8. Removal from Office:

- A. Grounds for Removal: The North Carolina Junior Classical League shall have the power to remove any of its officers as provided in this section. The grounds for removal shall be any behavior deemed unethical by the Executive Board 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 30-day time limit to the time of the resolution unless a delay is obtained from the State Chair.
 - 1. 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 three signatures from student officers of at least three local chapters.

 - 2. If said resolution to consider the removal of an officer should pass the Executive Board by simple majority, that same officer's sponsor shall guarantee that adequate defense shall be made by the officer, by telephone, by mail, email, or in person, to all those who shall vote on the question of his/her removal. The sponsor shall make a concerted effort to make sure the officer's defense is presented to the entire Executive Board in a timely manner.

 - 3. After the officer in question shall have finished his/her defense, a three-fourths vote by secret ballot of the Executive Board shall be necessary to remove the officer. No officer shall be denied proceeding aimed at his/her removal.

ARTICLE VI

Executive Board Sponsors

Section 1. State Chair: A candidate for the State Chair position must be a current member of the American Classical League and a local chapter sponsor. There may be one State Chair or two Co-Chairs. The state chair will be appointed by the NCJCL Executive Board for a term of three years and is a voting member of the Executive Board. They may be re-appointed for additional terms under the same conditions as the first term. The State Chair will be

confirmed by the Executive Board at the first Executive Board meeting after the State Convention.

Section 2. Treasurer: The Treasurer will be appointed by the NCJCL Executive Board every three years. The treasurer's appointment will be confirmed at the first Executive Board meeting after the State Convention. The Treasurer will have a three-year term. The Treasurer will be a voting member of the Executive Board.

Section 3. Membership Manager: The Membership Manager will be appointed by the NCJCL Executive Board every three years. The Membership Manager's appointment will be confirmed at the first Executive Board meeting after the State Convention. The Membership Manager will have a three-year term and will be a voting member of the Executive Board.

Section 4. Event Coordinators: Fall Forum, Certamen, and the State Convention will each have an elected coordinator who will be a voting member of the Executive Board and who will serve for three years. Additional service following the three-year term may be rendered after a one-year hiatus. They are elected by the Executive Board at the first Executive Board meeting following a State Convention every three years. Current event coordinators should make every effort to replace themselves having their replacement shadow them on their third year to learn the ropes of that position. Local chapter sponsors interested in these positions should contact the current coordinator prior to their last year of service.

Section 5. Executive Board Sponsors: Local chapter sponsors, who have student officers who have been elected or appointed to the NCJCL Executive Board, become a voting member of the North Carolina Executive Board.

Section 6. Guidelines for dealing with problems with state chairs, executive board members and sponsors:

- A. Any grievance against a Sponsor or State/Provincial Chair of NCJCL shall be handled within our state among the teachers involved. The National JCL Committee may be notified of such actions, but will not get involved itself.
- B. Any Sponsor or State/Provincial Chair may be removed from his position for any of the following reasons:
 1. Serious negligence of duties as defined in the Constitution, Bylaws, Contest Handbook and/or Manual of the National JCL or NCJCL;
 2. Inability to prove good standing with NCJCL, with the National JCL, or with the ACL;

3. Moral turpitude at any JCL function, including but not limited to drunkenness, providing drugs or alcohol to students or condoning consumption of same, sexual relations with a student, and misuse of JCL funds.
- C. A resolution to remove a Sponsor or State Chair may be introduced on the state level by a petition bearing the signatures of at least three sponsors from North Carolina. That Sponsor or 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 JCL sponsors in that state. 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.
 - D. Any person thus removed may not sponsor a JCL chapter again nor serve as State/Provincial Chair again unless he can produce an argument satisfactory to the NCJCL sponsors that the previous lack of discretion is unlikely to happen again.
 - E. A resolution to remove a Sponsor or State/Provincial Chair may be introduced to the National Committee by any member of the National Committee or by a petition bearing the signatures of at least three sponsors from North Carolina. Removal by the National Committee will only be considered on matters involving violation of the NJCL Constitution, Bylaws, or Manual, or on matters dealing with NJCL Convention rules and policies. The National Committee will NOT serve as a Board of Appeals if sponsors in North Carolina cannot resolve their own problems.
 - F. If the National Committee becomes involved, guarantees for defense and provisions for reinstatement follow procedures outlined in paragraphs C and D, except that the members of the National Committee shall replace the North Carolina JCL sponsors in the decision-making process.

ARTICLE VII

Operations

Section 1. Quorum: A quorum shall consist of three-fourths of the voting delegates on the Executive Board. A quorum must be present for voting purposes.

Section 2. Each Executive Board member, regardless of number of positions held on the Executive Board, has only one vote to cast.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments

Section 1. North Carolina Junior Classical League has three governing documents: The Constitution, Bylaws, and Contest Handbook.

Section 2. Constitutional Amendments: Suggested amendments to this Constitution must be submitted in email form to the President and the Parliamentarian and be postmarked three weeks before each Executive Board meeting. The dates for each meeting will be posted at www.ncjcl.org on the Executive Board page. Proposed amendments will be ratified as follows:

- A. If the amendment is minor, the Executive Board will vote on it at the next meeting.
- B. If the amendment is major, the ratification process will be the same as defined in Article XI.

Section 3. The Bylaws and Contest Handbook 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 every two years.

ARTICLE IX

Bylaws

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 appealed by a vote of the Executive Board. Any change may be sent out to the local chapters for approval.

ARTICLE X

Contest Handbook

Section 1. Contest Handbook: Contest Handbook: A Contest Handbook not contrary to any provision of this Constitution may be established in order to outline the details for contests for the annual NCJCL State Convention.

Section 2. Contest Handbook Procedure: The Contest Handbook may be established. Amended, or appealed by a vote of the Executive Board. Any change may be sent out to the local chapters for approval.

ARTICLE XI

The ratification of the Constitution shall be by mailed ballot or voting at the state convention. Each chapter will receive a copy for approval. A ballot not returned by a chapter will be considered an affirmative vote. A three-fourths affirmative vote will be required for adoption.