

2009 Virginia Junior Classical League CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE: We, the members of the Virginia Junior Classical League, in order to establish a basis of order, to promote co-operation among the several school organizations and friendship and understanding among the several members, and to further the goals of the National Junior Classical League, do hereby ordain this constitution.

ARTICLE I: *Name and Goals*

This organization shall be named the Virginia Junior Classical League. The goals of the Virginia Junior Classical League shall be to promote a more thorough knowledge of and a greater appreciation for Roman culture, tradition, language, and literature, and to interest other students in the study of the Classics.

ARTICLE II: *Membership*

The Virginia JCL shall recognize two types of membership: there shall be chapter-affiliated members and members-at-large.

Section 1. Chapter-affiliated members of the Virginia JCL shall be those who are members of the chapter at their respective school. The school chapters must be affiliated with the National JCL.

Section 2. Members-at-large of the Virginia JCL shall be those who do not have a chapter at their own schools. The members-at-large shall function as one body at all state functions.

Section 3. In order for a chapter to remain in good standing, the chapter must fulfill the following four requirements:

A. Dues, \$2.00 per member per chapter and \$10.00 per chapter, must be postmarked either four weeks before the state convention each year or by Nov. 1, whichever is earlier.

B. National member, chapter, and sponsor dues must be postmarked either four weeks before the state convention or by Nov. 1, whichever is earlier.

C. Conduct must be acceptable to the state co-chairmen from the immediate past or present state convention.

D. Any chapter who has had an officer removed as set forth in Article IX, Section 2, may not vote or nominate a candidate at the state convention.

Section 4. Any chapter which has not met the requirements stated in Article II, Section 3, may not vote or nominate a candidate unless the Executive Board finds for good cause that the chapter should be allowed to exercise these privileges at the state convention. After convention it will regain all rights and privileges of a chapter in good standing.

ARTICLE III: *Officers*

Section 1. The elected officers of the Virginia JCL shall be as follows: President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, Parliamentarian, Editor, and Historian.

Section 2. In order to run for an office of the Virginia JCL, a potential candidate must meet the following qualifications:

A. The student must be taking a classical language at the time of the election or have completed all such courses offered at his school.

B. The student must be able to serve his complete term of office while in high school, except for the Historian and Editor, who shall serve August-to- August terms.

C. The student must have attended at least one state or national JCL convention.

D. The student must have the consent of his sponsor and parent(s). Members-at-large must have the consent of a state co-chairman and parent(s).

Section 3. The tenure of office for all officers shall be from the time they are inducted until new officers are inducted the following year. A person may not seek the same office for more than one term. A person who has previously held an office in the VJCL may run for a different state office provided that he still meets the qualifications for office.

ARTICLE IV: *Powers and Duties of Officers*

Section 1. The President shall preside over state conventions and shall be the chairman of the Executive Board and Council. He shall have the power to appoint committees and shall have the right to be an *ex-officio* member of any committee he appoints. He shall certify results of all elections and votes over which he presides. All rules and amendments passed by the Virginia Junior Classical League must be signed by the President. This does not mean the President has the power of veto. Once the rules or amendments are passed, they immediately become part of the constitution or policy to which they apply. It shall be his duty to prepare the agenda for the Executive Board and to make plans for the state convention. He shall also represent the Virginia JCL at all suitable occasions.

Section 2. The First Vice-President shall assume the powers and duties of the President should the President be unable to execute his office for any reason or should the President request him to do so. He shall prepare press releases for the state convention and for chapters to take to local publications from the state convention. He shall encourage chapters to enter publicity in local publications and in the state and national publicity contests, and shall also organize the state publicity contest. He shall further promote membership in JCL, contacting all potential and non- renewing chapters in writing at least once during his term of office. In accordance with publicizing the VJCL, the First Vice-President will be responsible for the filtering of information, concerns, and interests of the VJCL and its constituents to the Webmaster, who will then post the new additions and alterations on the VJCL internet Site, located on the World Wide Web.

Section 3. The Second Vice-President shall assume the powers and duties of the President, should both that officer in addition to the First Vice-President die or be otherwise unable to fulfill their duties. The Second Vice-President will encourage local chapters in their development of JCL-oriented programs and will act as a resource of ideas for the local chapters. In accordance with this, he will organize and oversee the spirit contest to be held at the VJCL convention. Additionally, he will be responsible for extending the hospitality of the VJCL to both the delegates and speakers attending the VJCL convention. Finally, he will endeavor to submit articles to the VJCL FORUM.

Section 4. The Secretary shall take the minutes of the state convention and all Executive Board meetings and keep a file of these. It shall also be the duty of the Secretary to send each chapter a copy of all the minutes within two weeks of said convention or meeting. The Secretary shall handle all the necessary correspondence of the state and keep a record of such correspondence. Further, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to complete each year an up-to-date list of all chapters and their sponsors, of all the members of the Executive Board, and the addresses of the preceding. Copies of this list are to be sent to each chapter and to each member of the Executive Board and to be published in the February FORUM.

Section 5. The Parliamentarian shall be chairman of the nominations committee and in this capacity shall be responsible for screening potential candidates and conducting election procedures. The Parliamentarian shall advise the President regarding all questions of procedure and see that *Robert's Rules of Order, Revised* is followed. It shall also be his duty to gather and work on suggestions for keeping the Virginia JCL Constitution up-to-date and workable.

Section 6. The Historian shall compile a complete, high-quality scrapbook of the Virginia JCL to be displayed at the national JCL convention at the end of his term of office. If the Historian should not attend the NJCL convention at which the scrapbook is to be displayed, it is his duty to see that the scrapbook is transported to the convention with the Virginia delegation. It shall also be the Historian's duty to update the written VJCL history by adding one page containing the officers, sponsors, and activities of the Virginia JCL during his term of office.

Section 7. The Editor shall be responsible for the publication of the newspaper, the FORUM, which is to be published and mailed to all chapters in the first weeks of October, February, and May. He shall also send one copy of the October issue to all schools in the state which offered Latin the previous year.

ARTICLE V: *Electoral Procedures*

Section 1. The elections for the offices of President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, and Parliamentarian of the Virginia JCL shall be held each year at the state convention; however, the Historian and Editor of the Virginia JCL shall be elected each year by the delegates of this organization attending the NJCL Convention.

Section 2. Each chapter shall be able to hold only one office per school year; however, it may seek a second or higher elective office that is under a state of emergency. The candidate may run for any office; however, no chapter which is not in good standing may nominate a candidate for an elective office.

Section 3. To be considered “pre-filed” candidates, all persons wishing to be candidates for office at state convention must send the Parliamentarian their name, school, office sought, permission of both sponsor(s), parent(s), and principal/headmaster, and qualifications postmarked four weeks before the convention date. From the slate of potential candidates, two candidates shall be selected to run for each office by the Nominations Committee. In the case there are not two pre-filed candidates running for a particular office, the Parliamentarian will announce no later than the opening general assembly (1) a “State of Emergency” in which a particular office has no candidates, and (2) the “vacancies” in those offices for which there is only one candidate. Nominations for the remaining spots shall be accepted from the voting delegates of the Nominations Committee, provided such nominees meet the qualifications set by this constitution. In the case that more than one candidate steps forward to fill the remaining spot, “pre-filed” candidates will not participate in the necessary run-off election to determine the second candidate. Similarly, should one of three pre-filed candidates for the same office be eliminated by vote of the Nominations Committee, that candidate will not lose his pre-filed status should he decide to run for another office which does not have two pre-filed candidates and may automatically take the place of another candidate who did not pre-file to run.

Section 4. The membership of the Nominations Committee shall consist of two delegates from each chapter, plus two delegates representing the members-at-large, and the state Parliamentarian, who shall act as the chairman of the Committee. Each chapter shall have one vote for each member attending the Nominations Committee meeting, with a maximum of two votes possible. All votes of the Nominations Committee shall be by secret ballot. Chapters in good standing which do not send delegates to the Nominations Committee meeting will forfeit their privilege of voting at that VJCL Convention.

Section 5. In the case that there are no candidates running for a particular office after the conclusion of the Nominations Committee Meeting, it shall be the newly-elected Executive Board’s duty to appoint an officer to fill the position. Each chapter shall be able to have one student apply to the Executive Board to fill any office in such crisis, including chapters already running a candidate for another office. Any student who applies must meet the qualifications to run for office as set by this constitution. Only chapters in good standing may have a student apply.

Section 6. All persons wishing to be candidates for the offices of Historian and Editor must send the Parliamentarian their name, school, office for which they wish to run, permission of both sponsor and parent(s), and qualifications by June 1. * The Virginia delegates at the NJCL convention shall both act as the Nominations Committee and vote on the nominees, each school represented having one vote. A simple majority shall be required for election. In case no nominees have pre-filed, nominations may be made at the NJCL convention provided that the nominee be attending said convention and meet all qualifications for VJCL office.

* Pre-filed candidates for these two offices shall not be required to attend the National convention.

Article VI: *General Procedures*

At the state convention each chapter shall have two voting delegates who shall vote by secret ballot. The members-at-large of the Virginia JCL collectively have two voting delegates also, who shall be chosen in a brief caucus at the state convention. However, a chapter shall have no vote in any election or in determining any question if it is not in good standing or was not represented at the Nominations Committee meeting. The presence of the VJCL President and Parliamentarian and three-fourths of the chapters in good standing shall constitute a quorum, and a simple majority of the votes cast shall be required to validate any votes.

Article VII: *Executive Board*

Section 1. The members of the Executive Board shall be the state officers, their local sponsors, and the state co-chairmen.

Section 2. The Executive Board shall aid the VJCL President in planning the VJCL conventions, shall handle VJCL business between the annual state conventions, and shall be the organ for initiating amendments to this constitution or proceedings for the removal of an officer during the time between state conventions.

Section 3. Executive Board meetings shall be called by the VJCL co-chairmen at least two weeks in advance of the proposed meeting. The quorum for the Executive Board meetings shall be the presence of the President or First Vice-President, three other elected officers, and any two of the cochairmen.

Section 4. The Executive Board by a majority vote may refer any question of which they want an opinion representative of the entire state organization to the Executive Council. However, the decision of the Executive Council shall not be binding on the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VIII: *Executive Council*

Section 1. There shall be an Executive Council whose membership shall consist of two delegates chosen by each chapter and one delegate representing the members-at-large of the Virginia JCL. The VJCL President shall be the presiding officer of the Executive Council.

Section 2. The Executive Council shall be the representative body of the entire state organization. It shall carry on amendment processes and other proceedings which require a vote representative of all chapters in order to be transacted during the time between state conventions.

Section 3. A simple majority vote of any chapters in good standing which are present at the Executive Council meeting and those which participate through mail within a month of the meeting shall be necessary for a binding decision of the Executive Council.

ARTICLE IX: *Removal of officers*

Section 1. The Virginia Junior Classical League shall have the power to remove any of its officers as provided in this Article. The grounds for such removal shall be the infraction of either VJCL or NJCL convention rules and/or serious negligence in the discharge of the duties of that office as stated in the VJCL constitution and manual.

Section 2. The following procedures shall be followed in all proceedings leading to the possible expulsion of an officer, and they shall not exceed a 60-day time limit from the time of the said resolution unless a delay is obtained from the VJCL Executive Board.

A. A resolution in the Executive Board to consider the removal of an officer can be introduced by any member of the Executive Board or by petition bearing the signature of members of the Executive Council who represent at least three 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 that officer in public before the Executive Council. A vote shall be taken immediately after the officer has provided his defense.

C. After the officer in question shall have finished his defense, a two-thirds vote first of the Executive Council and then of the Executive Board shall be necessary to remove the officer. No officer shall be denied a vote to which he would otherwise be entitled during proceedings aimed at his removal.

ARTICLE X: *Filling Vacancies*

Section 1. In the case that no candidate receives the majority of the votes cast, a state of emergency shall be declared and the newly-elected officers, with the advice and consent of the state co-chairmen, shall select a qualified candidate to fill the office. Ideally this person will be one of the unelected candidates for any of the VJCL offices.

Section 2. Should the office of President become vacant for any reason, the First Vice-President shall succeed and a new First Vice-President shall be chosen.

Section 3. Should any elective office of this organization other than the Presidency become vacant for any reason other than temporary illness, that former officer's sponsor may appoint a successor from the same chapter, or if the sponsor declines to make the appointment, the Executive Board will appoint the officer. If the Executive Board should also decline, the organization will follow procedures outlined in Section 3.

Section 4. If it be necessary for a special election to fill a vacancy in an elective position of this organization, the election shall be held at a meeting of the Executive Council. This meeting must be announced within three weeks of the crisis and follow procedures outlined in Article VII, Section 3. The delegates shall be allowed a brief period to caucus, after which nominations will be accepted from the floor of the Council. All candidates shall have then thirty seconds to state their qualifications. After this, the field of candidates shall be narrowed down to

two by the vote of the Executive Council, if necessary, and the actual election shall take place immediately thereafter. Virginia delegates to a National JCL Convention shall constitute a meeting of the Executive Council.

Section 5. The inability of an officer to attend the state convention or a regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive Board because of illness shall not be considered a vacancy in that office. A qualified substitute shall be chosen by the state co-chairmen.

ARTICLE XI: *Rules and Amendments*

Section 1. A proposed amendment may be introduced during the time between state conventions by any member of the Executive Board or by a petition bearing the signatures of Executive Council members representing at least three chapters.

Section 2. For an amendment to be passed during the time between state conventions, it must pass the Executive Board in its final form by a two-thirds vote, and then pass by a two-thirds vote in the Executive Council.

Section 3. Proposed amendments which are to be voted on at the state convention must be submitted to the Parliamentarian at least forty-five days before the state convention. Proposed amendments to be voted on between state conventions must be submitted to the Parliamentarian at least twenty-one days before an Executive Board meeting.

Section 4. For an amendment to be passed at a state convention, it must receive the vote of at least two-thirds of all the chapters present at the convention and eligible to vote.

Section 5. All rules and amendments passed by the Virginia Classical League shall be written down in their final form, signed by the President to indicate that correct procedures have been followed, and submitted not only to one of the co-chairmen for proper storage, but also to the VJCL Editor for publication in the next FORUM.

Section 6. All rules and amendments within the Virginia Junior Classical League shall go into effect immediately following a passing vote as determined by Article XI, Section 4.

ARTICLE XII: *Ratification*

Following the ratification by a two-thirds vote of all the chapters, this constitution shall become effective after adjournment of the state convention at which it was adopted. By a three-fourths vote of the chapters it may likewise be abolished.

Amended November 2009