



Maryland Junior Classical League Constitution



Article I: Name and Purpose

Section 1 - The name of the organization shall be the Maryland Junior Classical League (MDJCL).

Section 2 - 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; and to interest other students in the classical languages, literature, government, and laws.

Article II: 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 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 State Chairperson(s).

Section 2 - Members-at-large: Properly qualified persons who wish to become members of the MDJCL but who have no local chapter may become active members-at-large by affiliating properly with the MDJCL.

Section 3 - Local Chapters: Local chapters shall be made up of at least five (5) individual members who qualify and shall have affiliated properly with the MDJCL. Each chapter shall have a qualified sponsor.

Section 4 - Good standing: To remain in good standing individual members shall pay their chapter dues to the State Chairperson(s) and each chapter (school) shall pay a chapter fee. Additionally, their conduct must remain acceptable to the State Chairperson(s) of the immediate past or present convention. Any chapter not in good standing may not vote or nominate a candidate at the state convention unless/until the executive Board finds good reason to restore these privileges.

Section 5 - The Executive Board will set Chapter dues and fees annually. Dues may not increase by more than one dollar per person and five dollars per chapter. Funds obtained from membership dues shall finance organization expenses, the State Convention, and scholarship assistance to attend the National Convention.

Article III: Election of Officers

Section 1 - The officers of this organization shall be the following: President, Vice-President, Parliamentarian, Historian, Editor, and appointed Executive Assistant(s).

Section 2 - The term of each elected officer shall be from his/her time of election or appointment until the next State Convention.

Section 3 - To be eligible to run for office a candidate MUST:

- (a) Have the permission of a legal guardian and their local sponsor.
- (b) Be a member in good standing of a chapter (when applicable) in good standing.
- (c) Be enrolled in a Latin or Classical Humanities class during their years of office or have completed all the Latin [courses] offered in their schools.
- (d) Have attended at least one state or national convention

Section 4 - Elections for office shall be held yearly at the State Convention.

- (a) Candidates for elected State office and their sponsors shall file with the State Chairperson by a specified date before the State Convention meets. Approved nominees must be present at the Convention and accompanied by their sponsors. In the absence of sponsors, letters of recommendation will be accepted at the State Convention. No nominations from the floor will be accepted.
- (b) A candidate may spend an amount up to and not exceeding twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) on materials for election.
- (c) Each candidate will be allowed a speech, not to exceed two (2) minutes in length on behalf of his or her candidacy.
- (d) Voting procedure will be carried out by secret ballot. Each chapter present shall cast two (2) votes for each office. A chapter with only one (1) delegate present shall cast one (1) vote. The candidate receiving the majority vote for each office shall be elected. In the case of a tie, the Executive Board shall cast the deciding votes. All other voting matters will be carried out in the same fashion.

Section 5 - If any vacancy occurs among the elected officers, the Executive Board shall appoint an interim officer to serve for the unexpired term.

Article IV: Executive Board

Section 1 - There shall be an Executive Board composed of the State Officers and the State Chairperson(s). The Executive Board shall serve as the policy-making and legislative board of this organization by acting as an agent through which MDJCL business is conducted.

Section 2 - The Executive Board shall consider matters pertaining to the State Organization. Duties are as follows:

- (a) The Executive Board shall have the authority to appropriate monies of the MDJCL for specific functions.
- (b) The Executive Board shall examine all proposed constitutional amendments.

(c) The Executive Board shall be responsible for approving the State Convention plans and determining the schedule of all State meetings.

(d) Correspondence within the Executive Board: In order to promote communication within the MDJCL, the Executive Board shall meet at least once a month on a planned date. If planning is done outside of these meetings, the officers shall communicate this before the next official meeting.

(e) The Executive Board shall plan the State Convention.

Section 3 - The duties of the individual officers are as follows:

(a) President - The President will serve as the chair of the MDJCL Executive Board and will work with the State Chairperson(s) to make an agenda for all meetings. He/she will preside at all meetings of the Executive Board and will stay aware of the activities of the MDJCL officers. He/she must promote the activities of the MDJCL within the organization. The President shall attempt to foster interaction and communication among MDJCL members. In addition, the President will attempt the same between the state of Maryland and other JCL states. The President must also along with the Executive Board plan for the State Convention.

(b) Vice-President - In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall take those responsibilities. Otherwise, the Vice-President shall help to coordinate all state events, shall head the effort to gain new chapters, shall be responsible for MDJCL publicity, and shall take a leading role in organizing the events.

(c) Parliamentarian - The Parliamentarian organizes and conducts state elections interprets the constitution, keeps order at all Executive Board meetings, and reviews the eligibility of all the candidates.

(d) Historian - The Historian keeps an accurate record of the year's activities, compiles the state scrapbook, and creates the state T-shirt.

(e) Editor - The Editor will publish a newsletter every six weeks which relates information about the activities of the MDJCL, its members, other classical organizations, and whatever else the Editor deems proper and of the interest to MDJCL members. Every six weeks, the Editor shall submit this newsletter to the MDJCL Chairperson(s), as well as the Editor and Chairperson(s) of Publications of the National Junior Classical League.

(f) Webmaster - The webmaster will maintain and consistently update the MDJCL webpage.

(g) Executive Assistant - Any duties of the Executive Assistant are to be determined by the State Chairperson(s).

Section 4- Consistent failure of any of the Executive Board to perform his or her required duties may result in the dismissal of that Executive Board member from the Executive Board. A committee, composed of the State Chairperson(s), the President, and the Vice-President, will convene to determine the offenses and whether they warrant dismissal. If one of the

members of this committee is the Executive Board member in question, another Executive Board member must be substituted. If it is determined that the offenses warrant dismissal, then this committee will immediately convene a general Executive Board meeting, at which point the offenses will be presented and the Board will vote on dismissal. The officer in question will be given the opportunity to defend him/herself in front of the entire Executive Board. A two-thirds majority of the Executive Board members voting "aye" must be obtained for dismissal. The State Chairperson(s) will follow the procedure outlined in Article III, Section 5 of this Constitution for instruction on filling a vacancy.

Article V: Quorum and Bylaws

Section 1 - A quorum shall consist of all chapters present at the time of voting at the State Convention. In case of a tie, the Executive Board shall cast the deciding votes. All other voting matters will be carried out in the same fashion.

Section 2 - Bylaws not contrary to any provision of this Constitution may be incorporated. These bylaws, which shall be presented in writing to the Executive Board no less than one month before the State Convention, may be established, amended, or repealed by a majority vote at the State Convention, each chapter having two votes.

Article VI: Amendments

Section 1 - Proposed amendments to the Constitution during the time between state conventions shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Board. For an amendment to be passed during this time, it must pass the Executive Board or a quorum in its final form by a two-thirds vote.

Section 2 - Amendments which are to be voted on at State Convention must be submitted to the parliamentarian no less than two weeks before state convention. 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 3 - Amendments which are to be voted on at the State Convention are Amendments proposed within 60 days of state convention, and/or deemed important enough by the Executive Board to need a quorum present.

Article VII: Ratification

Section 1 - A two-thirds majority vote by the Executive Board or a quorum shall be necessary for the ratification of this Constitution between state conventions. A two-thirds majority vote, each chapter having two votes, shall be necessary for the ratification of this Constitution at the State Convention.