



Maryland Junior Classical League

Constitution

Revised March 2023



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 properly affiliating 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. Dues: 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 the MDJCL shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Parliamentarian, Historian, and an Editor. All five officers shall be appointed by MDJCL members unless a state of emergency occurs. The necessary procedures in the event of a state of emergency are outlined in section 5.

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 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 JCL 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 to give a speech, not to exceed two (2) minutes in length on behalf of their 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 a vacancy occurs within the title position of President, the newly-elected Vice President shall fill the vacancy. The position of Vice President shall then be determined amongst the Executive Board.

Section 6. If a vacancy occurs within any other title position in the Executive Board excluding the State Chairperson(s), the position shall then be declared to be in a state of emergency. The person to fill this state of emergency shall be determined by the Executive Board. With the Executive Board's determination, all eligible persons with interest in the vacant position must notify an Executive Board member and must submit the application within the first week of the vacancy. If no

applications are submitted within a week, the Executive Board is permitted to hand-select an eligible candidate at their own discretion.

Article IV ***Officer Duties***

Section 1. Duties of All Officers. All officers shall:

- A. represent the MDJCL at events of state and local JCLs;
- B. be present at all MDJCL events unless reasonably excused;
- C. examine all proposed constitutional amendments;
- D. be responsible for approving the State Convention plans and determining the schedule of all State meetings;
- E. 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; and
- F. work with the school hosting the State Convention[s] to plan various aspects of the State Convention.

Section 2. Duties of President. The President shall:

- A. serve as the chair of the MDJCL Executive Board and will work with the State Chairperson(s) to make an agenda for all meetings;
- B. preside at all meetings of the Executive Board and will stay aware of the activities of the MDJCL officers;
- C. foster interaction and communication among members of the MDJCL and other JCL states; and
- D. head the effort to gain new state chapters.

Section 3. Duties of Vice-President. The Vice-President shall:

- A. assume the duties of the President in their absence or when requested;
- B. help to coordinate all state events; and
- C. carry out all duties pertaining to spirit and service projects on the National and State level.

Section 4. Duties of Parliamentarian. The Parliamentarian shall:

- A. organize and conduct state elections;
- B. receive the nomination forms of the nominee, review candidate eligibility;
- C. interpret and revise the constitution when necessary;
- D. send all proposed amendments to the State Chairperson[s] by April 1st; and
- E. maintain order at all Executive Board meetings.

Section 5. Duties of Historian. The Historian shall:

- A. be responsible for MDJCL publicity;
- B. keep and accurately digitize all records of the year's activities;
- C. compile the state scrapbook, to be presented at State and National Convention;
- D. regularly update the state's activities on social media; and
- E. record meeting minutes, to be accessible by MDJCL members.

Section 6. Duties of Editor. The Editor shall:

- A. shall edit and publish the statewide publication, THE TORCH: MD.;

- B. compile one copy of the newsletter for each MDJCL event which relates information about the activities of the MDJCL, and its members, other classical organizations, and whatever else the Editor deems proper and of interest to MDJCL members; and
- C. submit this newsletter to the MDJCL Chairperson(s), as well as the Editor and Chairperson(s) of Publications of the National Junior Classical League.

Section 7. Duties of Webmaster. The Webmaster shall:

- A. Maintain and consistently update the MDJCL webpage.

Section 8. Duties of Executive Assistant. The Executive Assistant shall:

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

Article V

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. The board has the authority to appropriate MDJCL monies for specific purposes.

Section 2. Consistent failure of any of the Executive Board to perform his or her required duties may result in the dismissal from the Executive Board. The procedure shall follow these guidelines:

- A. 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.
- B. 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 allowed to defend themselves in front of the entire Executive Board.
- C. 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.

Section 3. 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 VI

Quorum and Bylaws

Section 1. A quorum shall consist of all chapters present at the time of voting at the State Convention for elections to be carried out. 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.

Section 3. Cosmetic changes to this document will not require parliamentary action. Alterations may include, but are not limited to:

- A. Grammar, Syntax;
- B. Capitalization, Punctuation, Spacing; and
- C. Ordering.

Article VII: Amendments and Ratification

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 that are to be voted on at State Convention must be submitted to the MDJCL Parliamentarian no less than two weeks before the 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 be eligible to vote.

Section 3. Amendments are to be voted on at the State Convention and Amendments proposed within 60 days of the state convention, and/or deemed important enough by the Executive Board to need a quorum present.

Section 4. 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.