

CONSTITUTION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SENIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE

Current revision: June 2, 2018

CREED

We, the members of the Massachusetts Senior Classical League, covenant to hand on the torch of classical civilization in the modern world. We believe an acquaintance with the civilization of Greece and Rome will help us understand and appraise this world of today, which is indebted to ancient civilization in its government and laws, literature, language, and arts. We affirm the SCL experience develops responsibility, fosters brotherhood, promotes enthusiasm, encourages competition, inspires dedication, and enriches our total growth.

ARTICLE I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1: Name

The name of this organization is the Massachusetts Senior Classical League, hereafter in this document referred to as MaSCL, or “the organization”.

Section 2: Objective

The objectives of the organization are to enhance and promote the appreciation of the classics and classical scholarship in post-secondary education through social and academic activities, and to advise, encourage, and help the Massachusetts Junior Classical League, hereafter in this document referred to as MassJCL. MaSCL shall run and assist with events including but not limited to State Convention, certamen tournaments, and question-writing for the aforementioned.

Section 3: Emblem

The emblem may include the torch of knowledge, but must include “MASCL” and relate to the classics. The design of the emblem shall be up to the discretion of the board, and can be periodically updated.

Section 4: Affiliation

This organization is in affiliation with the National Senior Classical League (NSCL).

ARTICLE II: MEMBERS

1. Authority of the Membership

- a. The paramount legislative authority of this organization resides in the membership. The membership can amend the Constitution or the bylaws as long as no section of either document shall conflict with the Constitution, Bylaws, or Acts of The American Classical League (ACL) or the NSCL.
2. *Types of Membership*

There shall be three types of membership in the MaSCL: primary, secondary, and tertiary. The bylaws of the organization shall prescribe the dues for each type of membership, which shall entitle a member to participate in the annual state Convention. Primary and secondary members must pay dues in order to be in good standing with the organization. Any member who has not paid dues to the Treasurer as required, at the time of voting, will be ineligible to hold office or vote in any elections.

 - a. Primary Membership
 - i. Primary membership is open to graduating high school seniors, who may join at the annual Convention. Membership lasts from the beginning of the first State assembly meeting to the fifth annual meeting (four years) after their high school graduation. Regular members can vote and run for state office.
 - b. Secondary Membership
 - i. Secondary membership lasts from the sixth until the end of the ninth annual meeting after his graduation from high school. A secondary member shall enjoy every right that a regular member enjoys except eligibility to hold MaSCL office.
 - c. Tertiary Membership
 - i. Tertiary membership begins at the tenth annual assembly meeting following high school graduation. Members may not hold elected office, vote, nominate candidates for office, or make motions.

ARTICLE III: GOVERNANCE

1. Superiority Clause
 - a. No section of this Constitution or its bylaws shall conflict with the Constitution, Bylaws, or Acts of the ACL and the NSCL.
2. Officers
 - a. The membership shall annually elect a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, a Secretary/Historian, a Parliamentarian, an Editor, a Webmaster, and up to five (5) Members-at-Large.
3. Officer qualifications
 - a. Only primary members are eligible for SCL office. A candidate must still be eligible for one more year of regular membership to be eligible for any elected MaSCL office. A candidate for President or Vice-President must have attended at least one prior annual SCL meeting.

- i. A member may be exempted from this rule by a two-thirds majority of the membership present at the nominations meeting.
 - b. Rules involving multiple offices
 - i. No member shall hold concurrently more than one elected office.
4. Elections
 - a. The membership of the MaSCL shall hold elections at the annual MassJCL Convention. Nominations shall be taken from the floor of the assembly. Time shall be allowed for each candidate or their selected proxy to speak on their own behalf.
5. Executive Board
 - a. The general executive authority resides in an Executive Board, which shall consist of elected officers as voting members, and the Advisor(s) as ex-officio non-voting member(s). The board shall supervise the affairs of the organization between its meetings and shall transact business on its behalf, subject to the authority of the membership and the NSCL.
 - i. *[Meetings]* Open Executive Board meetings shall occur at least three times annually. One transitional meeting shall occur one month after the annual meeting of the membership. A special meeting of the Executive Board shall be held upon the call of the Advisor or any officer. A majority of officers shall constitute a quorum. The Advisor(s) may not be counted in the quorum. Officers may attend meetings remotely if they are unable to attend in person due to conflicts, at the discretion of the President.
 - b. Perform other duties at the discretion of the Executive Board
6. Officers
 - a. The membership shall annually elect a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, a Secretary/Historian, a Parliamentarian, an Editor, a Webmaster, and Members-at-Large.
 - b. General Duties for all Officers
 - i. Attend Executive Board Meetings
 - ii. Attend MassJCL State Convention during their term of office
 1. If officer does not attend they may not run for office during the following year
 2. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Advisers and Executive Board.
 - iii. Create and maintain a transitional document for the upcoming year's board
 - c. President
 - i. Chair the meetings of the membership and the Executive Board

- ii. Convene the membership, the Executive Board, or any committee, with cause
- iii. Coordinate membership promotion and alumni relations
- iv. Delegate duties pertaining to the organization to members for events throughout the year.
- v. Coordinate and oversee the duties of the officers
- vi. Coordinate SCL events outside of Convention
- vii. Coordinate Academic Test and Certamen question writing for Convention with the Advisor(s)
- viii. Run Elections and Amendments meeting at MassJCL State Convention
- d. Vice-President
 - i. Assume the Presidency in the event of permanent vacancy of the position
 - ii. Perform the duties of the President in the event of the President's or temporary inability to serve
 - iii. Assist the President in coordinating the efforts of Officers
 - iv. Coordinate *That's Entertainment!* at MassJCL Convention, including any responsibilities assigned to the organization by the MassJCL board.
 - v. Assist with fundraising event during *That's Entertainment*
- e. Treasurer
 - i. Collect any dues or fees or any routine debt owed to the organization
 - ii. Maintain, in conjunction with the Secretary, the roll of members and alumni
 - iii. Coordinate financial transactions and maintain all financial records of the organization, in accordance with state and federal laws
 - iv. Coordinate fundraising efforts at the discretion of the board
- f. Secretary/Historian
 - i. Create and add pages into the SCL Scrapbook
 - ii. Record and distribute executive board Minutes
- g. Parliamentarian
 - i. Oversee the election of officers and the voting on amendments to the Constitution or these Bylaws
 - ii. Advise the Executive Board on the matters of procedure
 - iii. Coordinate system of proposing amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws
 - iv. Maintain updated copies of the Constitution and Bylaws and present them to each officer at the annual Transition Meeting.
 - v. Preside over the nomination and election of officers
 - vi. Officiate in questions of procedure

- vii. Provide the NSCL Parliamentarian with all the materials necessary to maintain and renew the MaSCL chapter with the NSCL.
 - h. Editor
 - i. Create and disseminate publicity materials in coordination with other SCL officers and the MassJCL board.
 - ii. At the discretion of the board, create and publish the *Convention Ear* at MassJCL Convention
 - i. Webmaster
 - i. Maintain and update the organization's website and social media accounts
 - ii. Add relevant content and updates at the discretion of the Executive Board
 - j. Members-at-Large
 - i. There may be a maximum of five Members-at-Large for any year.
 - ii. Carry out the general duties of the Executive Board
 - iii. Perform other duties at the discretion of the Executive Board
7. Advisor(s)
- a. The duties of the Advisor(s) shall be:
 - i. Report to the MassJCL concerning all MaSCL matters
 - ii. Advise the MaSCL Executive Board and the membership
 - iii. Assist the elected Treasurer to complete necessary financial reports
 - iv. Oversee all events in which the MaSCL is involved
 - v. Oversee any other tasks outlined by the MassJCL
 - vi. Provide guidance to the President in any effort to remove an officer who does not complete their duties
8. Parliamentary Authority
- a. The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution and these Bylaws and any special rules of order the organization may adopt.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

1. Annual Meeting

- a. The membership shall meet annually during the annual MassJCL State Convention to hold an election and amend the Constitution and Bylaws. Members in good standing shall be eligible to participate in the meeting.

2. Quorum

- a. Quorum shall be considered achieved by having at least one half plus one of the current membership present, not including rising JCL members.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENT

1. *Proposal*

- a. Any member may propose an amendment to the Constitution or Bylaws by written notice to the Parliamentarian at least one month prior to the annual meeting of the membership.

2. *Notification*

- a. The Parliamentarian shall give notice before Convention of any proposed amendment to this Constitution. The consideration of an amendment will take place at the annual meeting of the membership unless a special meeting of the membership is called.
 - i. If the amendment violates any governing documents of the NSCL or ACL, it will not be submitted to the membership for consideration.

3. *Presentation & Consideration*

- a. In the meeting of the membership, if an amendment is to be voted upon, the Parliamentarian shall explain the amendment procedure. The Parliamentarian shall report to the membership the possible effect of the amendment and may recommend whether the proposed amendment ought to be ratified.

4. *Procedure*

- a. The vote to ratify a proposed amendment to this Constitution shall occur at the meeting of the membership at which it was presented.

5. *Ratification*

- a. The membership shall ratify a proposed amendment to this Constitution by a three-fourths vote of present regular members voting for or against the proposed amendment. If the amendment is approved, the Parliamentarian shall submit the amendment in proper form to the NSCL.

BYLAWS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SENIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE

Current revision: June 2, 2018

ARTICLE I: CHARTERS

1. Charters

- a. The Executive Board may grant or revoke the charters of local chapters of the MaSCL. The President shall encourage the organization of new chapters, and may grant temporary charters pending action by the Executive Board. Charters shall only be revoked for just cause, with the support of the Advisor.

2. Local Chapters

- a. Any five members may organize a local chapter, which should be affiliated with a college or university, and shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the MaSCL.

3. Local Chapter Obligations

- a. Each chapter shall cooperate with the MaSCL and shall submit all necessary materials to maintain its charter as outlined in the NSCL Handbook. No chapter shall adopt a Constitution, bylaws, or policy that shall conflict with the MaSCL Constitution or bylaws or its policies.

ARTICLE II: OFFICERS

1. Nominations

- a. The nomination of candidates for office shall occur at the annual State Convention. Any registered member in good standing may nominate an eligible member for office, except for current officers. Each candidate nominated may then speak on their own behalf for up to one minute. Any absent member who wishes to run for office must announce their candidacy to the President before the meeting and appoint a proxy to speak on their behalf throughout the election process.

2. Election

- a. The election of officers shall occur directly after nominations. Any member may then discuss or question any candidate or his/her selected proxy, who may respond. Elections shall occur for each office in the order in which the offices are listed in the Constitution, with winners being announced for each office before election for the next office begins, except as provided in subsections five and six of this section. An unsuccessful candidate may choose to drop down and be nominated to a lower position.

3. Voting

- a. Voting shall be conducted by a vote of affirmation. The President shall count the votes, and upon confirmation of the winner. If the President is the candidate, then the Parliamentarian shall be appointed to serve the President's role for that vote. If needed, members shall vote by secret ballot, with the President and Advisor tallying the votes.
 - b. Counting Ballots
 - i. Election shall occur by simple majority.
 - ii. Votes shall be tallied by the Advisor(s) in contested elections.
 - iii. In uncontested elections when the candidate does not receive a majority of the votes available, the candidate is not elected and a State of Emergency is declared. The newly-elected Executive Board shall appoint an eligible member to the office, upon receipt of nomination materials.
 - c. Non-majorities
 - i. In contested elections, if no candidate receives a simple majority, then the delegates shall vote again, voting only upon the two leading candidates. If, after the delegates vote a second time no candidate has received a majority, then the newly elected Executive Board shall appoint an eligible member to the office.
4. Vacancies
- a. If the Presidency becomes vacant, then the Vice-President shall immediately become President. If an elected office besides the Presidency becomes vacant, then the President, with a consensus of the Executive Board and Advisor, shall appoint a qualified successor, who shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term. An officer who does not attend the annual state Convention at the end of his/her term has vacated the office.
5. Removal from Office
- a. Any officer who is deemed to not be in compliance with the duties laid forth in the bylaws for their position shall be eligible to be removed from office by the Executive Board. Any member may notify the President and Advisor of an officer's dereliction of duties, and call upon a special session of the Executive Board. A case may then be made to remove the officer from their position, with the officer given a chance to defend their actions. A vote may then be cast among the Executive Board, with any ties being broken by the Advisor. Should the officer be removed from their position, the President will then follow procedures for a vacancy of office.
 - i. Persons removed from office shall not be permitted to run for office in the following year.
6. Term of Office

- a. Each elected officer shall begin their term at the transition meeting following the annual Convention. The term of office shall end at the inauguration of the succeeding Executive Board. Each appointed officer shall begin his/her term of office upon appointment.

ARTICLE III: DUES

1. Primary Membership
 - a. The dues of a regular member of the MaSCL shall be \$4 per year to MaSCL and \$6 to NSCL for the first four years. Members must pay their state dues in order to be considered in good standing.
2. Secondary Membership
 - a. The dues of a secondary member of the MaSCL shall be \$3 per year and \$4 to NSCL for an additional four more years. Members must pay their state dues in order to be considered in good standing.
3. Tertiary Membership
 - a. Tertiary members shall not be required to pay dues to the organization. As there are no dues, members will automatically be considered in good standing.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

1. Agenda of Annual Membership Meeting
 - a. The Executive Board, with the advice of the President and the Advisor, shall set the agenda of the annual membership meeting at Convention. Any member may introduce business onto the agenda by official notice to the President or Advisor before the meeting.
2. Special Meeting of the Membership
 - a. The President or the Executive Board may, with cause, call a Special Meeting of the membership. All regular members shall be given adequate notice of this meeting. One-third of the regular members shall constitute a quorum at this meeting.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENT

The procedure for amendment of these bylaws shall be the same as the procedure for the amendment of the MaSCL Constitution, as described in Article V of that document, except that an amendment to these bylaws requires only a two-thirds majority to be ratified.

ARTICLE VI: SIMPLE MAJORITY

A simple majority is a majority of the total of yes votes and no votes cast.

ARTICLE VII: GOOD STANDING

Members who have paid their annual membership dues are in good standing. Annual membership lasts from the time of payment up to the beginning of the day of the next Convention. Members who have not paid dues are considered to not be in good standing with the organization and may neither participate in elections nor attend Convention as delegates.