



PREFACE:

A formal review of the initial Constitution of the Yorùbá Club 21 founded in Columbus, Ohio, on August 30, 2003 has become necessary for two main reasons. The initial vision of the founders of the organization was limited to promoting camaraderie, social and cultural interaction as well as net working among a few people of Yorùbá descent. As the organization grew and attracted more people, including others who are Yorùbá by birth and or marriage, it became necessary to make its constitution more inclusive of others and their interests.

After a reasonable and long deliberation in the year 2008, members of the Club agreed to review and revise the Constitution to reflect the membership expansion and the mission of the Club. It is hoped that these changes will serve the interests of the organization for the near future until another revision becomes necessary.

The final draft was adopted at the Club meeting held on Saturday, August 1, 2009.

The Club is grateful to members of the Constitution Review Committee for their efforts, sacrifice, and timely completion of the review. The members of the Constitution Review Committee are:

1. Mr. Roland Ládíípò
2. Chief Sanmí Fátóba
3. Mr. Samson Adédàpò

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION I: NAME OF CLUB

- (A) The Club shall be known as Yorùbá Club 21 (Hereinafter referred to as “The Club”).
- (B) The Club shall be a Non Profit Organization registered in The State of Ohio, USA.

SECTION II: OFFICIAL ADDRESS

- (A) The official address of the Club shall be a designated Post Office Box.
- (B) The Club may have other offices, within or outside the State of Ohio, whenever it is deemed necessary.
- (C) This address may be changed by a general consensus of the members of The Club.

SECTION III: PURPOSE

- (A) The Club will attract people with common interests and backgrounds, whose intentions will include camaraderie and networking.
- (B) To achieve this objective, The Club shall operate as a social club.
- (C) The Club ventures shall not include political/religious activities.

SECTION IV: MEMBERSHIP

(A) General

- (1) The Club shall be composed of individuals who are serious minded, well intentioned, with integrity, self-worth and self-respect.
- (2) Members shall be individuals who share The Club's interests and aspirations.
- (3) Membership shall not be limited to a particular number of people.
- (4) Membership shall be worth nil upon withdrawal or dismissal from The Club.

(B) Classes of Membership

- (1) There shall be three (3) classes of membership.
 - (a) Full Membership
 - (b) Associate Membership
 - (c) Distant Membership
- (2) Definition of Memberships
 - (a) Full members shall be those appointed through the rules governing new membership as outlined in Section IV (C) below.
 - (b) Associate members shall include the spouses of all full members. The spouse of a full member shall not be eligible to become full member.
 - (c) Distant shall include former full members who have relocated from Columbus, Ohio, to other places.

(C) Full Membership Requirements and Selection Process

(1) Membership Application

- (a) An applicant for membership in The Club shall:
 - (i) attend three (3) meetings of The Club, within a four (4) month period, to observe its proceedings
 - (ii) file an application with the Secretary in such a form as approved by the Club.
- (b) Sponsor
 - (i) An applicant for membership shall be sponsored by two (2) members who are of good standing at the time the application is filed.
 - (ii) Each sponsoring member will make a recommendation in support of the new member's application.

(2) Selection

- (a) The prospective new member shall not attend the meeting at which his candidacy for membership shall be considered and voted upon by The Club.
- (b) The positive vote of two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of members at the meeting at which an application for membership is considered shall be required for acceptance into The Club.
- (c) A resolution for acceptance or denial of an applicant into membership shall be passed at the meeting.
- (d) A duly admitted new member shall receive a letter of acceptance and sign a letter of resignation for future use, if necessary.
- (e) After being duly admitted, the new member shall pay an initiation fee as stipulated in the constitution.

(3) Readmission

- (a) The provision in Sections (C) (1) and (2) do not apply to a Distant Member who left The Club as a member in good standing.
- (b) A positive resolution of a simple majority of members at the meeting at which a returning Distant Member signifies the intention to rejoin The Club shall reinstate full membership.

(D) Withdrawal of Membership

- (1) A member may withdraw his or her membership from The Club at any time.
- (2) In the event of death of a member, receipt of such notice shall be treated as notice of withdrawal.

(E) Dismissal

- (1) The Club may dismiss members whose conduct is at variance with its purpose.
- (2) A written notice of the meeting in which a membership dismissal is to be considered shall be sent to all members in advance and shall include specific reference to the reasons for which the dismissal is being considered.
- (3) A member is dismissed when two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of members at a meeting at which a dismissal resolution is considered vote in support of the action.
- (2) The Club's General Secretary shall send a notice of dismissal to the ex-member.

SECTION V: GENERAL GOVERNANCE

(A) The Executive Committee

- (1) The Club's affairs shall be managed by the Executive Committee
 - (a) The Executive Committee shall consist of the following elected officers
 - (i) President
 - (ii) Vice President
 - (iii) Secretary
 - (iv) Treasurer
 - (v) Social Secretary
 - (vi) Assistant Secretary
 - (vii) Auditor

(2) Duties of the Executive Committee

- (a) Shall have control and management of The Club.
- (b) Shall have power to deliberate on any/all matters affecting The Club before such matters are brought to the general meeting for consideration.
- (c) Shall have the power to invite any member of The Club to take part in any deliberations in which the opinion of such member may be of assistance.
- (d) Shall have no more than two ex-officio members.

(B) Duties of Officers of The Club

(1) President

- (a) Shall be the chief executive officer of The Club and shall supervise the affairs of The Club.
- (b) Shall preside at all meetings of The Club and shall serve as an ex-officio member of the executive committee for three (3) months following the end of his term as president.
- (c) Shall cosign, with the Treasurer, all checks and drafts on behalf of The Club.
- (d) Shall perform all duties incident to the office of the President.
- (e) Shall represent the club in and outside the state.
- (f) Shall have a copy of constitution with him at all meetings.

(2) Vice President

- (a) Shall perform all the duties of the president in case of the absence, disability, or incapacitation of the president.
- (b) Shall assume the position of the president whenever the position becomes vacant until a new president is elected.
- (c) Shall oversee the preparation of the financial statements of the club.
- (d) Shall ensure that all dues are collected promptly.
- (e) Shall assist the president and perform other duties as might be assigned to him by the president or The Club.

(3) Secretary

- (a) Shall be the custodian of the records and seal of The Club.
- (b) See that the seal of The Club is affixed to any important document, the execution of which, on behalf of The Club is duly authorized in accordance with the provisions of its bylaws.
- (c) Shall keep all the records of minutes of meetings and correspondences of The Club and act upon them appropriately and accordingly.
- (d) Shall keep and maintain a current Register containing the names, mailing addresses, and telephone numbers of each member as they shall be furnished by each individual member of The Club.
- (e) Shall see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of The Club's bylaws.
- (g) Shall have a copy of Constitution with him at every meeting.

- (h) Shall preside over Club meetings in the absence of the president and vice president
- (4) Assistant Secretary
 - (a) Shall perform all the duties of the secretary in case of the absence, disability, or incapacitation of the secretary.
 - (b) Shall assume the position of the secretary whenever the position becomes vacant until a new secretary is elected.
 - (c) Shall assist the secretary and perform other duties as might be assigned to him by the secretary or The Club.
- (5) Treasurer
 - (a) Shall maintain The Club's financial record and account book.
 - (b) Shall collect accounts and keep proper and accurate records of the receipts and disbursements of all financial transactions of The Club.
 - (c) Shall present at each scheduled meeting a summary of income and expenses of The Club.
 - (d) Shall ensure that a tax return is filed with the federal, state and local authorities at the due time.
 - (d) Shall perform such other functions as applied to his office, as shall be delegated to him by The Club.
 - (e) Shall deposit within three (3) business days all moneys and funds collected in the name of The Club in such bank as shall be selected by the members of the Club.
 - (f) Shall cosign, with the president, all checks and drafts on behalf of The Club.
 - (g) Shall notify The Club whenever members are delinquent in payments of their dues, contributions, fines, etc.
 - (h) Shall complete The Club's bank statement reconciliation every month.
- (6) Social Secretary
 - (a) Shall be responsible for organizing and coordinating all social, recreation, and cultural activities of The Club.
 - (c) Shall be responsible for all publicities to be generated within or outside of The Club.
 - (d) Shall be the Chief Whip at all social functions and gatherings of The Club.
 - (e) Shall perform all duties incident to the office of the Social Secretary.
- (7) Auditor
 - (a) Shall audit The Club's financial account books annually.
 - (b) The auditing shall be performed in accordance with generally accepted accounting and auditing principles.

SECTION VI: MEETINGS

(A) Frequency of Meetings

- (1) Meetings of The Club shall be held once a month.
- (2) The venue, date, and time of the meeting shall be designated by members in advance.

(B) Quorum

(1) A scheduled meeting shall not start until a quorum is formed.

(2) A quorum shall be formed by a minimum of seven members.

(C) Agenda:

Meeting agenda shall be prepared by the Secretary or, in his absence, the Assistant Secretary.

(D) Minutes of Meeting

(1) The minutes of each meeting shall be recorded by the Secretary.

(2) He shall also distribute the same by post, email or fax, or other feasible means to every member of the Club.

(E) Special or Emergency Meetings

The president, after consultation with the members of the executive of The Club, may call a special and/or emergency meeting of The Club to discuss issues of utmost urgency, at a place as may be designated in notice of such a meeting.

(F) Voting

(1) Only full members shall be eligible to vote.

(2) Only the election of officers and resolutions to dismiss members shall be decided by secret ballots.

(3) Other voting methods may be employed on other issues.

(4) Members may vote through a proxy at meetings they are unable to attend.

(G) Keeping Order at Meetings

(1) The member hosting a meeting of The Club shall serve as the Chief Whip at that meeting.

(2) Duties of the Chief Whip

(a) Shall ascertain quorum and ensure decorum at meetings

(b) May be directed by the president or the presiding officer at meetings to collect and record levies and fines at meetings

(c) Shall turn over to the Treasurer all fines and records so collected at the end of meetings

(H) Tardiness

(1) Members shall not be more than 15 minutes late to a scheduled meeting.

(2) Lateness of more than 15 minutes shall incur a \$5.00 levy

(I) Absenteeism

(1) Members who will not attend a Club meeting shall inform the host at the earliest opportunity.

(2) Unless excused, absenteeism of more than three (3) times in a year will be will be subject to a fine of \$10.00 per month.

(3) Excused absences are limited to family emergencies and work schedule

SECTION VII: CLUB DUES AND FINANCES

(A) Initiation Fees

(1) All new full members shall pay an initiation fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) upon acceptance into The Club.

(2) Initiation fees shall not be prorated.

(B) Annual Dues

(1) The amount of annual dues shall be decided by the members of the Club.

(2) Any amendment to change the annual dues shall be decided by the full body at the last scheduled meeting of the year preceding the one in which the new rate shall take effect.

(3) Annual dues may be prorated for new members.

(4) Annual dues shall be paid in full on or before April 30th each year.

(5) Failure to pay annual dues:

(a) Failure to pay annual dues shall result in the suspension of benefits and membership privileges.

(b) Benefits and privileges shall be reinstated only after all outstanding obligations are met and the Club so resolves.

(C) Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of The Club shall begin on January 1st and end on December 31st of every year.

(D) Books of Accounts

(1) The books of accounts of The Club shall be kept by the treasurer

(2) The books shall be available for examination by any member of The Club within thirty-six (36) hours of notice.

(E) Auditing

(1) The Club's financial account books and records shall be audited annually.

(2) The auditing shall be performed in accordance with generally accepted accounting and auditing principles.

SECTION VIII: CLUB ACTIVITIES

The Club's social and fund raising events may include the following activities:

(a) Annual Family Picnic

(b) Dinners and banquets for specific purposes

(c) Scholarship Sponsorship.

(d) Annual Christmas/New Year Party.

(e) Donation to nonprofit organization.

SECTION IX: BENEFITS

(A) Eligibility

(1) Each member is eligible for benefits and/or privileges that may accrue by reason of his membership in The Club.

(2) Eligibility shall take effect from the date of formal acceptance into membership.

(B) Members of The Club are eligible to receive a cash gift from The Club at the occurrence of the following:

(1) The birth of a child (\$50.00)

(2) Member's wedding (\$50.00)

- (3) Special recognition shall be given to 50th birthdays (and subsequent increases of 10 years) of members and their spouses (\$50.00 on each occasion).
- (4) Graduation of member's children from high school (\$25.00) and from college (\$50.00).
- (C) Each member shall contribute a minimum of \$50.00 to a consolation fund on the death of either a member or a member's spouse.

SECTION X: PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE BYLAWS

- (A) These BYLAWS shall be reviewed and approved for correctness periodically or as deemed necessary by members of the Club.
- (B) The proposed amendment shall be written and distributed to all members present at a duly constituted meeting of the Club.
- (C) The amendment shall be deliberated and voted upon.
- (D) An amendment shall be deemed passed with the positive vote of two-thirds (2/3) of members present at the meeting.
- (E) A final draft of the amended provisions shall be produced and distributed to all members.

SECTION XI: DISSOLUTION PROCEDURES:

- (A) The club may be dissolved by action of the members through a motion of a dissolution approved by two-third (2/3) majority votes by members at a meeting scheduled for that purpose.
- (B) In order for dissolution resolution to take effect, a written vote shall be cast by each member present at the scheduled dissolution meeting.

SECTION XII: GOVERNANCE

The rules contained in THESE BYLAWS, shall govern Yorùbá Club 21 in all cases to which each rule shall be applicable and to the extent they are consistent with ANY AMENDMENT TO THESE BYLAWS.