



**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF THE
YORUBA CLUB
OF
ARIZONA**



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PREAMBLE

We, the Yorubas, sojourning in the State of Arizona, wanting to associate and enjoy the company of one another; seeking the best interests and overall well-being of one another; and guided by the innate and deep sense of loyalty, trust and integrity, individually committed to excellence in all areas of endeavor, and assured that we can build a stronger cultural, economic and social community of Yorubas in Arizona, the United States, in Nigeria and around the world, do pledge and resolve to form the "Egbe Omo Yoruba of Arizona" a (Yoruba Club of Arizona).

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Yoruba Club of Arizona is to promote togetherness and the social and economic welfare and interests of the Yorubas, and to cherish, uphold and protect the honor, cultural heritage and the traditions of the Yorubas, through the mutual participation and cooperation of its members, and the awareness and education of the public.

ARTICLE I

1.0 NAME OF ASSOCIATION

The association shall be called the "Yoruba Club of Arizona", and hereafter referred to as "this association" or "this club."

ARTICLE II

2.0 OBJECTIVES

1. 1. To establish a viable association that meets regularly to promote togetherness of Yoruba culture and the welfare of its members in Arizona.
2. To encourage and deliberate on issues paramount to the Yorubas.
3. To hold meetings, social events, festivals, lectures and other

educational events that are relevant to the promotion of the Yoruba culture and traditions.

4. 4. To preserve the association as non-political, non-partisan and non-sectarian.
5. 5. To foster the economic interests and social environment of the Yorubas in Arizona, USA, and Nigeria.
6. 6. To undertake specific projects beneficial to the Yorubas in Arizona, and Nigeria, aimed at enhancing our development, opportunities and interests.
7. 7. To publish occasional Newsletter or other forms of communication for disseminating information about our activities and other issues beneficial to our membership.
8. 8. To support the development of educational opportunities and economic activities wherever there are Yorubas.
9. 9. To encourage and nurture our children and youth to imbibe the Yoruba culture, honor and tradition.
10. 10. To work with other organizations within and outside the United States that share similar objectives and goals, and to promote the interests and progress of Yorubaland and our fatherland, Nigeria.

ARTICLE III

3.0 AFFILIATION

The association is autonomous of other entities, but may form affiliation, collaboration, alliances or partnerships with other entities or organizations that share similar objectives and goals, subject to the provision of our constitution and bylaws.

ARTICLE IV

4.0 MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Qualification

1. An individual who declares to be of Yoruba ancestry shall be deemed eligible to become a member of the association.

2. Membership can be acquired through special invitation to any person or association by the resolution of a majority of members present at a regular or special meeting of the association.

3. Membership can be granted to non-Yoruba spouses of Yoruba Club members, who share our goals, aspirations, and desire to be members.

4.2 Application Process

1. A qualified individual who wishes to become a member of this association shall submit an application for membership, pay required membership fees and dues, commit to attend association meetings, and participate actively in association activities.

4.3 Rights of Membership

1. This association shall have members who are eligible to vote and be voted for and who shall subscribe to the purpose of this association. Only members who are deemed active by general membership may vote and be voted for.

2. Members shall have the right to be heard on any matter that may be before the association; and the right to be treated with dignity and respect at all times, notwithstanding whether or not the member's opinion is popular or unpopular, deemed right or wrong by other members. In the same manner, each member owes a responsibility to other members and to the association to conduct himself/herself with decorum and dignity at all times, within and outside the association.

ARTICLE V

5.0 RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

1. Any other association that subscribes to the purposes of this club may associate with our association upon approval of its application by a majority of membership and upon payment of dues as may be fixed by the association from time to time.

2. The association may create other Sections, Committees, Wings or Chapters as may enhance delivery of its mission and purpose, and such bodies shall remain part of and be equally treated as being members of the association. They shall abide by our constitution and byelaws.

3. In the same manner, the association may take up membership or become affiliate of other local, national or international organizations or

bodies that have similar or compatible purpose, objectives or mission as the Yoruba Club of Arizona.

ARTICLE VI

6.0. TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP

6.1 Fees, Dues and Assessment

1. The association shall fix the initial membership fees, monthly dues and levies for all categories of members as may be determined from time to time. Each member shall be encouraged to pay in a timely manner.
2. Those members who have paid their fees, dues and assessments and who are not suspended shall be members in good standing. Members who are not current in their payments may be considered to remain as members in "conditional good standing" as long as they have made arrangement with the Treasurer to become current and are actually meeting up with such payments of fees, dues and assessments; and are active otherwise in matters of the club's concerns.

6.2 Termination and Suspension of Membership

1. 1. Membership shall terminate on occurrence of any of the following events:
 - (a). Resignation of the member, with reasonable notice to the association.
 - (b). Failure of the member to pay dues, fees, or assessments as set by the association; or make arrangement for payment as may be provided for in these bylaws
 - (c). Occurrence of any event that renders the member ineligible for membership or failure to satisfy membership qualification.
 - (d). Classification in "Inactive Status" of the member under provisions of these bylaws, based on good faith by members that a member has failed in materials and serious degree to observe the rules and conduct of the association, or in conduct materially or seriously prejudicial to the purpose and interests of the association.
2. A member may be suspended under provisions of these bylaws based on good faith determination by the members.

6.3. Procedure for Suspension or Inactive Classification

1. 1. If grounds appear to exist for suspension or classification in "inactive status" of a member under these bylaws, the following procedure shall be followed.
 - (a). The member shall be given at least sixty (60) days prior notice by any method reasonably calculated to provide actual notice of the proposed expulsion or suspension and reason(s) therefore. Any notice given by mail shall be sent by first class or registered mail to the member's last address as shown on the association records.
 - (b). The member shall be given an opportunity to be heard either orally or in writing at the meeting of the members to consider the proposed suspension or declassification.
 - (c). Where necessary, a special committee of "resolution elders" may be constituted to look into the matter and report back to Club members.
 - (d). Any action challenging a declassification or suspension of membership, including a claim alleging defective notice must be commenced within one year after the date of the suspension or declassification.

6.4 Liability for Debts or Obligations

1. A member of the association is not personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or obligations of the association.

ARTICLE VII

7.0 OFFICERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

7.1 Officers

The management of this association shall be vested in an Executive Committee consisting of the following officers.

President,
Vice President,
Secretary,
Financial Secretary / Treasurer,
Social Secretary, and / Public Relations Officer

Executive Members (2)

The Executive Committee shall comprise all the officers listed above.

7.2 Duties of Officers

(a) President

- (i) (i) Preside over meetings.
- (ii) (ii) Shall be the ambassador of this association.
- (iii) (iii) Call any special meeting.
- (iv) (iv) Appoint committees and chairpersons thereof.
- (v) (v) Fill in at the committee level for absent chairpersons.
- (vi) (vi) Implement the plans/strategies developed in the committee. Pull together the tactical plans flowing from our mission statement; and assume a planning leadership role.
- (vii) (vii) Guide committee chairpersons to gain consensus and resolve problems.
- (viii) (viii) Has the power to delegate responsibilities to others
- (ix) (ix) Has authority as second signatory along with the financial secretary/ treasurer, to sign or disburse necessary appropriations directed by the Yoruba Club of Arizona (YCA).

(b) Vice-President

- (i) (i) Assume the powers of the President in his/her absence.
- (ii) (ii) Take on special assignment as requested by the President. or Executive Committee.

(c) Secretary

- (i) (i) Record and maintain the minutes of all YCA meetings.
- (ii) (ii) Keep a file of such minutes, and when requested by the President, to accept assignments involving correspondence and the keeping of records.
- (iii) (iii) Coordinate YCA meetings and obtain venue and supplies needed for an effective and comfortable meeting.
- (iv) (iv) Distribute meeting minutes in a timely fashion to all steering committee members.
- (v) (v) Give YCA members appropriate advance notice of meetings.
- (vi) (vi) Shall be the custodian of all YCA correspondence, bylaws, charter, and the mission statement.
- (vii) (vii) Keep the association's check books.

(d) Financial Secretary /Treasurer

- (i) (i) Administer all financial records.
- (ii) (ii) Has authority as second check signatory, along with the President to sign or disburse necessary appropriations directed by the YCA.
- (iii) (iii) Prepare monthly/regular financial report, receipts and disbursements for distribution to executive committee members.
- (iv) (iv) Coordinate strategic financial planning efforts, including budgets.
- (v) (v) Pay all bills and maintain appropriate books and records.

(e) Social Secretary/ Public Relations Officer

- (i). Be responsible for the organization of social events and other related activities.
- (ii) Facilitate YCA efforts to make a direct positive impact on our community.
- (iii) Seek the overall social welfare of the club members.

(f) Executive Members (Ex-Officio)

- (i). Participate in the deliberation of the Executive Committee
- (ii) Perform special functions as directed by the President or Executive Committee

7.3 Eligibility and Terms of Office

1. All members eligible for offices must be considered to be active and in good standing with the club.
2. Term of office shall be one year, beginning with or at the close of the first meeting held within the calendar year (January to December), and not later than March 31st.
3. There will be no term limitations

7.4 Election

1. Officers shall be elected by a simple majority of the attending membership that may consist of members present at such meeting and those who may have sent or nominated proxies in their behalf.
2. Only members in good standing can vote and be voted for.

3. 3. All nominations and the electoral process shall be made by a secret ballot and supervised by the executive committee. The executive committee shall appoint election officers to oversee the process.

7.5 Meetings

1. Standard procedures will be used at meetings, and every effort will be made to discuss any issues coming before the association in accordance with our bylaws.
2. 2. A majority vote of the members present is necessary to pass ordinary measures. All measures shall be deemed ordinary except those proposing a constitutional amendment.
3. 3. A quorum shall consist of twice the number of elected officers plus one. Where a quorum of 10 members is not present, then a meeting may be held for discussion purposes only.
4. 4. No voting can take place on any matter until a quorum is present. Where there is no quorum, all discussion matters shall be referred to the next meeting where a quorum is present.
5. 5. A meeting may be held at any place consented to by majority of members either before of after a regular or special meeting.

ARTICLE VIII

8.0 BYLAWS AMENDMENT

1. A bylaw amendment may be accomplished by two-thirds vote of the members present at the meeting provided a quorum of 10 is formed.
2. Only those who have been members of this association for 90 days prior to the proposal of such an amendment may vote. All members must be notified at least 30 days prior to voting that bylaw amendments will be discussed and be voted upon.

ARTICLE IX

9.0 FINANCE

9.1 Dues

1. The YCA is a non-profit organization. Dues, entry fees, and other monies received by the association will be spent entirely for carrying out the stated purpose of the association.

2. Dues, fees and levies shall be as determined by a majority of the members present at a business meeting and shall not be changed more often than once per year except in cases of special occasion.
3. No part of the net earnings of the club shall be used to the benefit of its individuals without the consent of the members.
4. This association shall be empowered to participate in fund-raising activities.

9.2 Financial Compensation

1. Officers and members shall not receive compensation for their services as such, but may receive reasonable reimbursement for expenses incurred on behalf of the association, or as fixed or determined by resolution of the association.

9.3 Dissolution

1. In the event of dissolution of this association by members, funds in the treasury, after all creditors have been paid, shall go to a permitted association or other non-profit organizations as may be decided by members.

9.4 Fiscal Year

1. The fiscal year for this association shall be from January 1st to December 31st.

Certification Page

Certificate of Secretary

" I, the undersigned, certify that I am presently elected and acting as Secretary of the Yoruba Club of Arizona, an Arizona non-profit association, and the above articles of Association and Bylaws, consisting of _____ pages - including this Certification Page - are the Bylaws of this association as adopted by membership resolution or as amended on _____ 2000, and that they have not been amended or modified since that date.

Executed on _____, _____ at Phoenix, Arizona, USA