

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF  
THE MASSACHUSETTS SENIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE  
REVISION (5/10/2009)**

**CREED**

We, the members of the 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 friendship, 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.

*Section 2: Objective*

The objectives of this 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 (MassJCL).

*Section 3: Emblem*

The emblem shall be the torch of knowledge under the initials "SCL," all encircled by a laurel wreath.

*Section 4: Affiliation*

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

**ARTICLE II: MEMBERS**

*Section 1: Authority of the Membership*

The paramount legislative authority of this organization resides in the membership. The membership can amend the Constitution or the by-laws as long as no section of either document shall conflict with the Constitution, by-laws, or Acts of The American Classical League (ACL) or the NSCL.

*Section 2: Types of Membership*

There shall be three types of membership in the MaSCL: regular, secondary, and honorary membership. The by-laws of the MaSCL shall prescribe the dues for each type of membership, which shall entitle a member to participate in the annual state convention.

*Section 2.1: Regular Membership*

Any secondary school senior shall be eligible for regular membership from the date of the annual MassJCL Convention until the annual MassJCL Convention of the fifth year after secondary school graduation. If he/she attends the MassJCL Convention in his/her senior year, he/she shall be governed by the rules for a MassJCL delegate, although he/she may participate in MaSCL activities. The rights of regular members of the MaSCL are described in this Constitution and in the by-laws of the MaSCL.

*Section 2.2: Secondary Membership*

Any secondary school graduate shall be eligible for associate membership from the opening of the fifth until the end of the ninth annual meeting after his graduation from high school. An associate member shall enjoy every right that a regular member enjoys except eligibility to hold MaSCL office.

*Section 2.3: Honorary Membership*

The MaSCL Executive Board may grant an honorary membership by a simple majority to any high school graduate ineligible for regular or secondary membership. This member will not receive voting rights, but may make motions.

*Section 3: Chapters*

The MaSCL may charter local chapters of its organization. Procedure for such charters, along with requirements for and obligations of local chapters, shall be specified in the by-laws of the MaSCL and the Handbook of the NSCL.

## **ARTICLE III: GOVERNANCE**

### *Section 1:*

No section of this Constitution or its by-laws shall conflict with the Constitution, by-laws, or Acts of the ACL and the NSCL.

### *Section 2: Officers*

The membership shall annually elect a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, a Secretary, an Editor, and a Webmaster.

### *Section 3: Qualifications*

Only regular members are eligible for a MaSCL office. A candidate must have studied the classics in secondary or postsecondary school and 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 election meeting as a MaSCL member. A member may be exempted from this rule by a two-thirds majority of the membership present at the nominations meeting.

### *Section 3.1: Rules Involving Multiple Offices*

No member shall hold concurrently more than one elected office. No member shall be elected to the same office at two consecutive annual election meetings, unless that member is exempted from this rule by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at the nominations meeting.

### *Section 4: Elections*

The membership of the MaSCL shall hold elections at the annual MassJCL spring convention. Nominations shall be taken from the floor of the assembly. Time shall be allowed for each candidate or his/her selected proxy to speak on his/her own behalf.

### *Section 5: Executive Board*

The general executive authority resides in an Executive Board, which shall consist of the six officers, and the Advisor as a nonvoting member. 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.

### *Section 5.1: Meetings*

Open Executive Board meetings shall occur at least six times annually. 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 is not counted in the quorum.

### *Section 6: Parliamentary Authority*

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the League in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution and these by-laws and any special rules of order the League may adopt.

## **ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS**

### *Section 1: Annual Meeting*

The membership shall meet annually during the annual MassJCL state convention. Members in good standing shall be eligible to participate in the meeting.

### *Section 2: Quorum*

At any meeting of the MaSCL membership during the annual state convention, the members present shall constitute a quorum.

## **ARTICLE V: AMENDMENT**

### *Section 1: Proposal*

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

### *Section 2: Notification*

The President shall give at least 30 days notice 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.

### *Section 3: Presentation & Consideration*

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

### *Section 4: Procedure*

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

### *Section 5: Ratification*

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 President shall submit the amendment in proper form to the NSCL.

## **BY-LAWS**

### **ARTICLE I: CHARTERS**

#### *Section 1: Charters*

The Executive Board may grant charters to, 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.

#### *Section 2: Local Chapters*

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

#### *Section 3: Local Chapter Obligations*

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, by-laws, or policy that shall conflict with the MaSCL Constitution or by-laws or its policies.

### **ARTICLE II: OFFICERS**

#### *Section 1: Nominations*

The nomination of candidates for office shall occur at the annual MaSCL spring meeting. Any member may nominate an eligible member for office. Each candidate so nominated may then speak on his/her own behalf for up to four minutes. 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 his/her behalf throughout the election process

#### *Section 2: Election*

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. Each candidate may remain present in the meeting throughout the election. 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 be nominated for another office at the election. Each candidate or his/her selected proxy so nominated may then speak on his own behalf for up to two minutes.

#### *Section 3: Voting*

The members shall vote by secret ballot. The President and the Advisor shall count the votes; but, if the President is a candidate, then the two shall jointly appoint an impartial member to replace the candidate as teller.

##### *Section 3.1: Counting Ballots*

Election shall occur by simple majority. In uncontested elections when the candidate does not receive a majority of the votes available, the candidate is not elected and the office is vacated. The newly-elected Executive Board shall appoint an eligible member to the office.

##### *Section 3.2: Non-majorities*

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.

#### *Section 4: Vacancies*

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.

#### *Section 5: Term of Office*

Each elected officer shall begin his term at his/her inauguration into office during the annual MaSCL meeting. 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**

#### *Section 1: Regular Membership*

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.

#### *Section 2: Secondary Membership*

The dues of a secondary member of the MaSCL shall be \$3 per year and \$4 to NSCL for an additional four more years.

#### *Section 3: Honorary Membership*

The dues of an honorary member of the MaSCL shall be \$2 per year.

### **ARTICLE IV: DUTIES OF ADVISOR AND OFFICERS**

#### *Section 1: Duties of the Advisor*

- a. report to the MassJCL concerning all MaSCL matters
- b. advise the MaSCL Executive Board and the membership
- c. assist the elected Treasurer to complete necessary financial reports
- d. oversee all events in which the MaSCL is involved
- e. oversee any other tasks outlined by the MassJCL

#### *Section 2: Duties of the President*

- a. chair the membership and the Executive Board
- b. convene the membership, the Executive Board, or any committee, with cause
- c. coordinate membership promotion and alumni relations
- d. create and appoint any necessary committee
- e. delegate responsibility whose exercise is not otherwise provided for
- f. assist local chapters in their organizing and grant temporary charters to these chapters at his/her discretion
- g. serve ex officio to each committee
- h. coordinate and oversee the duties of the officers
- i. administer the election of officers
- j. advise any officer or other member of procedure
- k. work with local chapters toward the maintenance of their permanent charters

#### *Section 3: Duties of the Vice-President*

- a. assume the Presidency upon any permanent vacancy of that position
- b. execute the duties of the President in the event of the President's absence or temporary inability to serve
- c. assist the President
- d. appoint members to organize and oversee the facilitation of MaSCL-sponsored events at the MassJCL convention including: MaSCL Mixer, That's Entertainment, and any other event as assigned by the Advisor and President.

#### *Section 4: Duties of the Secretary*

- a. carefully record all proceedings of the meetings of the membership and the Executive Board, and circulate these minutes to each officer by the next meeting
- b. maintain any business records or other official documents in good order
- c. prepare an ongoing historical record of the MaSCL
- d. make any document or record available to any member upon request

*Section 5: Duties of the Treasurer*

- a. collect any dues or fees or any routine debt owed to the organization
- b. deposit any income to the treasury and provide for its safekeeping in the organization's name
- c. disburse funds as appropriated by the Executive Board or the Advisor
- d. maintain the roll of members and alumni
- e. recommend an annual budget to the Executive Board.

*Section 6: Duties of the Editor*

- a. publish the official newsletter, Caligula's Pony Express, two or more times annually
- b. furnish each member with credentials;
- c. promote the MaSCL in Massachusetts college publications.

*Section 7: Duties of the Webmaster*

- a. maintain the MaSCL official web site, which must include at a minimum the constitution & bylaws, contact addresses for each officer, electronic copies of the CPE, meeting minutes, meeting schedules, and links to the national organization
- b. in conjunction with the Editor, make electronic copies of the CPE available online
- c. in conjunction with the Secretary, maintain meeting minutes online
- d. in conjunction with the President, maintain upcoming meeting and events schedules online
- e. in conjunction with the Vice-president, maintain officer contact information and membership guidelines online
- f. publicize the Web site by adding our URL to search engines
- g. not change the URL of the MaSCL Web site without a majority vote of the executive board

**ARTICLE V: MEETINGS**

Section 1: Agenda of Annual Membership Meeting

The Executive Board, with the advice of the President and the Advisor, shall set the agenda of the annual membership meeting. Any member may introduce business onto the agenda by official notice to the President or Advisor before the meeting.

*Section 2: Special Meeting of the Membership*

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 VI: AMENDMENT**

The procedure for amendment of these by-laws 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 by-laws requires only a two-thirds majority to be ratified.

**ARTICLE VII: SIMPLE MAJORITY**

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

**ARTICLE VIII: 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.