

ARTICLE I - NAME, EMBLEM, AND NICKNAME

Section 1. Name

The name of this organization shall be the Alabama Democratic Conference, Incorporated, (hereinafter referred to as the ADC).

Section 2. Emblem and Nickname

The emblem shall be a donkey and the nickname shall be the Black Political Caucus of Alabama.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of the Alabama Democratic Conference shall be to conduct voter registration and education campaigns, promote political unity, promote political education through all the county units affiliated with the ADC, establish county political units where none exist, encourage the development of strong precinct organizations, monitor public officials and agencies, screen and endorse candidates, advocate and advance the cause of the Democratic Party, promote good government, protect the general welfare of all Alabamians generally and black Alabamians in particular and to make recommendations on constitutional amendments and other issues that it deems appropriate.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility

Membership shall be open to any person who believes in the purpose and supports the objectives of the Alabama Democratic Conference as an organization.

Section 2. Classes

A. Active. There shall be two classes of active memberships: adult and youth.

1) Adult members (18 years old and older) shall pay an annual state membership fee of \$10.00 per year; and where a county unit exists and collects dues, members shall join that county unit; provided, however, that the local joining dues do not exceed the state dues. A member may join at-large by paying state and local dues directly to the state office. However, all local joining dues sent to the state office will be rebated to the county unit in which said member resides.

2) Youth members (under 18 years old) shall pay annual state dues of \$5.00. Local joining dues for youth shall not exceed the state dues for youth members. Youth members shall not be eligible to participate in any elections of ADC.

B. Special. There shall be two classes of special memberships: corporate and life.

1) A Corporate Membership may be solicited from any company, business, or agency who is amenable to the work and programs of the Alabama Democratic Conference. A Corporate Membership is \$500.00 annually.

2) A Life Membership may be solicited from any Democrat, club, church, or organization who wants to support the work and programs of the Alabama Democratic Conference. The Life Membership contributor shall be required to pay \$1,000.00. Payment may be made in installments over a two-year period.

Section 2. Expiration of Membership

All memberships, except Life Memberships expire one year from date of issuance, and memberships must be renewed annually.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Executive Officers

The executive officers of the Conference shall be a Chair, Vice Chair, Recording Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Vice Chair for Women's Affairs, Vice Chair for Youth Affairs and Vice Chair for Senior Citizens' Affairs.

Section 2. Appointed Officers

- A. There shall be an Executive Secretary/Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Chaplain, and such Deputy Vice Chairs as the organization may authorize.
- B. The Executive Secretary/Treasurer shall serve as the guardian of the general fund and to disburse such funds consistent with the budget, upon approval by the Chair. Funds may be drawn by the Executive Secretary Treasurer upon approval of the Chair, or when most convenient, drawn by the Chair upon receipt of vouchers. In addition, the Executive Secretary/Treasurer shall make written financial reports to the Executive Committee semi-annually and to the Assembly of County Delegates annually. The Executive Committee may, at its discretion, require additional reports from the Executive Secretary/Treasurer.
- C. All appointed officers shall be appointed by the Chair to serve at the pleasure of the Chair. They shall serve on the Executive Committee but shall have no vote. No appointed officers' terms shall extend past the term of the Chair who appoints them.
- D. The Executive Committee shall provide for the services of an auditor to monitor the financial records of the organization at least every two years.

Section 3. Election

Executive officers shall be elected by the Assembly of County Delegates in May and shall take the oath of office during the meeting in which they are elected and assume office on June 1 thereafter. All officers shall be eligible to succeed themselves. No person may be eligible to be elected to an executive office who, at the time of the election, has not been an active member of the ADC for three (3) years.

Section 4. Term of Office

State executive officers shall serve for a term of two years beginning June 1 following their election and ending on May 31 of the next odd-numbered year.

ARTICLE V - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Duties

The officers of the Conference shall perform such duties and make such reports as customarily pertain to their offices or that may be otherwise required from time to time by the Assembly of County Delegates or the Executive Committee.

A. The Chair's duties are as follows:

- 1) To see that the Constitution and the policies of the ADC are carried out.
- 2) To preside (or appoint someone to preside in the absence of, or with the consent of, the Vice Chair) at all meetings of the ADC and of the Executive Committee.
- 3) To appoint the Executive Secretary/Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Chaplain, and such Deputy Vice Chairs as the Executive Committee may from time to time approve.
- 4) To appoint the members of all committees established to carry out the affairs of the Conference.
- 5) To submit to the Executive Committee the annual budget of the ADC.
- 6) To sign all checks.
- 7) To call meetings of the Executive Committee at his or her discretion or upon petition of one-third of the Executive Committee's membership or as provided by the rules of the committee.
- 8) To represent the Conference from time to time at regional or national meetings and also carry out other assignments which may be requested by the Executive Committee.

- 9) To serve as chief spokesman for the ADC and to perform other duties which enhance the ADC, provided they are not in conflict with the Constitution.
- 10) To call an endorsement convention for candidates for the office of President of the United States as necessary or schedule the screening of presidential candidates at the annual or semi-annual convention.
- 11) To promulgate, subject to ratification by the Executive Committee, rules for the conduct of elections of state and local officers, delegates, and the screening and endorsement of candidates.

B. Vice Chair - The Vice Chair's duties are as follows:

- 1) To preside at all meetings designated by the Chair or in the absence of the Chair and perform duties which may be assigned by the Executive Committee or requested by the Chair.
- 2) To assume the duties of the Chair but shall not have authority to change or modify rules made by the Chair, except by approval of the Executive Committee.

C. Recording Secretary - The Recording Secretary's duties are as follows:

- 1) To record the minutes of each meeting of the Executive Committee and of the Assembly of County Delegates at the ADC conventions.
- 2) To carry out other duties which may be assigned by the Executive Committee or the Chair.

D. Assistant Secretary - The Assistant Secretary's duties are as follows:

- 1) To act in the absence of the Recording Secretary.
- 2) To perform other duties which may be necessary to implement the affairs of the ADC.

E. Vice Chair for Women's Affairs - The Vice Chair for Women's Affairs' duties are as follows:

- 1) To take any and all steps necessary, not in conflict with the Constitution, to encourage women to participate in the political process.
- 2) To foster the representation of women in ADC at the state and local levels, to urge that women seek public office, and to enhance the well being of women in general through education and participation in the political process.

F. Vice Chair for Youth Affairs - The Vice Chair for Youth Affairs' duties are as follows:

- 1) To encourage the participation of young people between the ages of 18-35 in the political and governmental process.
- 2) To promote other activities that will assist young adults in becoming more informed and active citizens. The Vice Chair for Youth Affairs shall not be more than 35 years of age at the time of his/her election.

G. Vice Chair for Senior Affairs - The Vice Chair for Senior Affairs shall have the following duties:

- 1) To encourage the participation of senior citizens in the political and governmental process at all levels.
- 2) To be involved actively in monitoring those policies and programs that affect the health and welfare of all senior citizens. The Vice Chair for Senior Affairs shall be at least 60 years of age at the time of his/her election.

ARTICLE VI - THE ASSEMBLY OF COUNTY DELEGATES

Section 1. Composition

The supreme governing body of the ADC shall be the Assembly of County Delegates which shall be composed of the Executive Officers, the Executive Committee Members, including all county chairs, Congressional District Chairs, the several delegates elected from each affiliated county unit, plus the At-Large and Ex-Officio members of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Qualifications of Delegates

Section 2. Qualifications of Delegates

Only persons who are active members and in good standing in the County Unit of the Conference may serve as delegates. No person may be seated as a delegate unless such member is duly elected and certified by the Chair and secretary of the county unit. Executive Committee members may be seated as delegates only if such persons have been certified to be in good standing by the ADC Chair.

Section 3. Allocation of Delegates

In addition to the county Chair, each county unit affiliated with the ADC shall have at least two (2) delegates to the Assembly of County Delegates for the first 50 members, plus one (1) additional delegate for each additional 50 members thereafter, starting at 100 members. Delegate allocation shall be based upon membership as of the close of business on March 31 preceding the business meeting for which the county unit participates. The annual assessment fee must also be paid for each of the four consecutive quarters preceding the meeting for which the county participates. At least one-third of the delegates from each county shall be female, and Young Democrats. If a county unit's membership increases to the next multiple of 50 between March 31 and August 31, the county Chair shall notify the State Chair by September 15 and the county unit shall receive additional delegates to the semi-annual convention based upon the increase in membership.

Section 4. Election of Delegates

All county delegates shall be elected by the membership of the local county unit. Candidates for delegate shall be those individuals who are members in good standing as of March 31. Only persons who are member in good standing as of March 31 may vote for delegates to the annual convention. The county Chair, county secretary, or county executive committee shall schedule a delegate election meeting for a date in the month of April. The county Chair shall notify all members in good standing of the meeting. At the delegate election meeting, the members shall nominate and elect the number of delegates allocated based upon their membership plus two or more alternates. Those who are elected delegates at this meeting shall serve as delegates at both the annual and semi-annual conventions. If a county unit is apportioned additional delegates for the semi-annual convention based upon an increase in membership, a second delegate election meeting shall be called during the month of September using the same procedure as provided above. Members in good standing as of August 31 shall be eligible to vote for and be elected to those additional delegate positions. The county Chair or secretary shall notify the State Chair of the names of the elected delegates and alternates no less than 10 days prior to the convention. If the county unit shall fail to timely notify the State Chair, that county unit shall not have any delegates seated at that convention.

Section 5. Duties

The duties of the Assembly of County Delegates are as follows:

- A. To elect the executive officers.
- B. To approve all Constitutional amendments.
- C. To receive reports from the standing committees.
- D. To adopt the rules and agenda governing its meetings.
- E. To establish dues.
- F. To enact other such measures as may be necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of the ADC which are not in conflict with this Constitution.

- G. To consider for approval of endorsement of candidates for state and national offices or public referenda at its discretion.

ARTICLE VII - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Composition

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the executive officers, county unit chairs, the Chair of each congressional district, nine elected ex-officio members who shall be allocated as follows: three members of the Alabama Legislature, three elected municipal officials, three elected county officials, and ten members at-large. The ex-officio and at-large members shall be recommended by the Chair and approved by the Executive Committee. Ex-officio and at-large members' terms expire when the Chair's term expires.

Section 2. Qualification

No person may serve on the Executive Committee who is not a member of the county unit where he or she resides. No Chair of a county unit may serve on the Executive Committee unless his or her county unit is in good financial standing with the state organization and satisfies all other qualification for affiliation.

Section 3. Term of Office

The terms of office of the Executive Committee members, except for the County Chairs, shall be two (2) years from June 1 to May 31.

Section 4. Meetings

The full Executive Committee shall meet at least once every quarter. Special meetings may be called from time to time by the Chair or by petition of one-third of the committee membership.

Section 5. Duties

The duties of the Executive Committee are as follows:

- A. To act in the interim of the meetings of the Assembly of County Delegates.
- B. To approve the annual budget.
- C. To enact any rules which may be necessary to carry out the affairs of the ADC, provided that such rules do not conflict with the Constitution or contradict a policy established by the Assembly of County Delegates.
- D. To review and exercise the power to suspend, disaffiliate, discontinue, or consolidate any county unit after a hearing. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be by a majority vote. In the event a permanent disaffiliation occurs, the Executive Committee shall organize or recognize for affiliation a new unit for that county. In no event should there be more than one county unit per county.
- E. To approve the selection from among its members, prior to the annual meeting, a Nominating Committee whose duties shall be to prepare a slate of candidates for Executive Officers for election at the annual meeting. Said committee shall have at least one representative from each congressional district. However, in the event that no committee is selected, the district chairs shall serve as the Nominating Committee. No person may serve on the Nominating Committee who is a candidate for election. After the Nominating Committee shall have presented its slate, nominations may also be made from the floor.
- F. To carry out other duties that may be necessary for the proper implementation of the ADC goals, not in conflict with the Constitution or the resolutions passed by the Assembly of County Delegates.
- G. A quorum of the Executive Committee shall consist of one-third of its total membership, in good standing.

ARTICLE VIII - STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. The following committees shall be Standing Committees and the scope of their operation shall be set by the Executive Committee. The duties shall be, but not limited to, the following functions:

- A. The Voter Registration Committee shall assemble, and shall disseminate through the Chair, such information as might ensure the most effective registration of voters on the part of the electorate and carry out other activities which may increase voter registration in this state.
- B. The Municipal and Urban Affairs Committee shall have the responsibility for reviewing programs, policies, conditions and needs of municipalities and citizens of the various towns, cities, and metropolitan areas of the state.
- C. The Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee shall be responsible for assisting farmers in rural areas of the state and provide such information that may be beneficial to resolve problems of farmers and citizens living in the rural areas.
- D. The Committee on State and Federal Legislation shall analyze and evaluate proposed or pending legislation at the state and national levels, giving support to legislation conducive to the general welfare, and opposing legislation not in the public interest.
- E. The Committee on Health Care and Social Services shall be responsible for disseminating information, advocating programs, and establishing access to the best possible health care, nutrition and other opportunities which will enhance their well-being.
- F. The Research Committee shall assemble, after proper investigation, such data as will be of value to the Conference and disseminate such information to the Chair for proper distribution. The Research Committee shall also have the responsibility for recommending to the Executive Committee constitutional amendments and other laws requiring the approval of the voters of this state and gathering information on past histories of candidates seeking state and national office.

G. The Women's Activity Committee shall formulate and recommend to the Executive Committee, programs designed to facilitate the effective participation of women in the ADC and the Democratic Party and execute the approved programs that may be referred to it from time to time by the Chair or the Executive Committee.

H. The Committee on Job Opportunities shall seek, secure and disseminate information concerning job opportunities in the public and private sectors of the economy.

I. The Committee on Education shall have the responsibility to observe, investigate and prepare reports of its observations and findings on the status of education in this state, and shall function on all levels of education: elementary through college, adult and vocational training programs, etc.

J. The Credentials Committee shall be responsible for the supervision of the certification and registration of delegates to the Assembly of County Delegates. In certifying delegates the committee shall consider whether delegates and local units have complied with all requirements for being seated, in the Assembly. The seating of delegates may be challenged by filing a complaint before the Credentials Committee; provided, however, that the Assembly has jurisdiction over the seating of all delegates. The Assembly shall take no action that is inconsistent with this Constitution.

Section 2. Special Committees

Special Committees may be set up by the Chair with the approval of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IX - FISCAL AUTHORITY

Section 1. Finances

This Conference, through its officers or Executive Committee, shall have the authority to raise, receive, accept, and solicit financial support from any respectable group of persons or reputable organization not prohibited by law; provided, however, that such financial support shall not in any way obligate the Conference to support any candidate or law. Be it further provided that any financial support accepted by the Conference or its officers shall be promptly deposited in the operating fund of this organization. All financial obligations to the ADC shall be paid through the state office.

Section 2. Fiscal Year

The Fiscal year of ADC and all affiliated units and subdivisions shall begin January 1 and end December 31.

ARTICLE X - AFFILIATED DISTRICT AND COUNTY UNITS

Section 1. Characteristics

The ADC shall recognize or establish only one unit per congressional district and only one unit per county. Affiliated Congressional District Units (hereinafter referred to as Congressional District Units). and Affiliated County Units (hereinafter referred to as County Units) shall make no rules nor regulations nor carry out any policies or procedures that conflict with policies of the ADC or its Constitution. In counties where no unit exists, or where said unit ceases to affiliate with the ADC or otherwise fails to comply fully with the Constitution, the Chair and/or Executive Committee shall take steps to establish or otherwise recognize a new unit.

Section 2. Congressional Districts

There shall be as many congressional district organizations as there are Alabama Congressmen. There shall be as many officers as necessary for the operation of the district.

A. Purpose. The congressional district shall promote the goals and purposes of the ADC, namely, political education, political unity, voter registration, and such other activities consistent with the purpose of the ADC.

B. Officers. Unless otherwise provided, each congressional district organization shall have a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Coordinator, Vice Chair for Women's Affairs, Vice Chair for Youth Affairs, and Vice Chair for Senior Citizens' Affairs.

Congressional district officers shall be elected in odd-numbered years. In instances where no congressional district organization exists or where no officers have been elected, the State Chair shall appoint such officers to carry on the function of the congressional district until the odd-numbered year.

C. Executive Committee. The district executive committee shall be composed of its officers, the county chairs, two (2) representatives from each county, ten (10) members at-large, plus one (1) additional member for every county that has over 10,000 blacks 18 years-old and older. The officers, the county chairs and their representatives shall then elect the ten (10) at-large members.

If a congressional district is composed of one county or where the county constitutes over 80% of a congressional district, the district organization shall elect an Executive Committee not to exceed 25 members, provided that all counties in said congressional district shall have proportionate representation.

D. Meetings. The Congressional Districts shall meet quarterly. Said meetings shall be set by the Executive Committee of the congressional district; provided, however, that additional meetings may be called from time to time by the proper officials of the district.

E. Election to Office. No person may be elected to an office in a congressional district who has not been an active member of ADC and the county unit wherein he or she resides, for at least two (2) years.

Section 3. County Units

A. Officers. Officers of the county unit shall be a Chair, Vice Chair, Coordinator, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Chair for Youth Affairs, Vice Chair for Women's Affairs, and Vice Chair for Senior Citizens' Affairs. All Executive officers shall be elected by the general membership who have paid the annual membership fee by December 31.

B. County Executive Committee. There shall be a County Executive Committee composed of at least 21 representatives elected from either county commission districts or legislative districts. Whether legislative districts or county commission districts are used, the county unit shall allocate the representatives on the Executive Committee in such a manner that every precinct which has at least 5 percent of the black population shall have representation on the Executive Committee. Where practicable, representation of the committee shall be distributed equitably to ensure that not more than one-half of the elected members of a district will come from any one precinct in a county commission or legislative district. This may be accomplished by, but not limited to, clustering smaller precincts where the black population is sparse. Members of the ADC Executive Committee from the respective county shall serve as ex-officio voting members of the County Executive Committee.

C. Membership. A County Unit affiliated with the ADC shall have at least 50 active members who must pay the County and State dues.

D. Assessment Fee. The County Unit shall pay the assessment fee equal to at least one percent of the black voting age population in each county; provided, however, that no county shall pay less than \$400 nor more than \$1,400.00.

E. Elections.

- 1) The election of all executive officers and members of the executive committee shall be held at a regular scheduled meeting, during the month of February in odd-numbered years, unless otherwise called by the State Chair for the specific purpose of reorganizing a defunct, delinquent, or county unit in trusteeship. In those instances where a county unit is being reorganized, the State Chair may waive the one-year membership requirement for eligibility to hold office.
- 2) No election shall be held without written notification by letter to each member, stating the date, time, place, and purpose of the meeting, at least ten (10) days prior to the election. Prior to an election, the ADC state office must certify to the county unit the names of all members who are eligible to vote and/or hold office.
- 3) All local units of ADC shall have an Election Supervisory Committee to conduct the county elections.
- 4) At least 30 days prior to the scheduled election meeting, the Executive Committee of the county unit shall be required to meet and elect an Election Supervisory Committee comprised of not less than five and not more than seven members, in good standing. No officer or prospective candidate for an ADC office may serve on the Election Supervisory Committee.
- 5) No Officer or candidate for office shall preside or occupy the chair during the election meeting. No candidate for office shall serve as a teller to count the votes during balloting.
- 6) The Chair of the Election Supervisory Committee shall preside and conduct the election. The Election Supervisory Committee may request the assistance of the ADC state Chair and/or the ADC state field staff to conduct the election.

7) County units that fail to hold their regular election during the month of February in odd-numbered years shall automatically be placed in trusteeship. The state Chair shall then set a special election, or appoint officers by March 15. If a special election is called, all members as of December 31 will be eligible to vote. Officers of those County Units that fail to hold elections by February 28th shall be vacated at 12:01 AM on March 1. The State Chair shall then appoint replacements for those vacated positions until a special election is held.

8) There shall be no proxy voting and no voting by absentee.

F. Trusteeship and Disaffiliation. County units not in compliance with any provisions of the ADC Constitution for more than one quarter will be declared "Delinquent" and notified by the state office promptly, setting forth the nature of the delinquency and given six weeks to correct the deficiency. County units not in compliance six weeks after the quarter during which they have been deemed to be delinquent will be put on "Probation" and prohibited from participating and conducting any official ADC business until the violation(s) is (are) corrected and they are deemed to be within compliance. County units not in compliance for two consecutive quarters will be "Disaffiliated" and a new unit will be reorganized pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution.

G. Transfer of Records and Funds. Within seven (7) days after an official election is held and certified, the outgoing officers shall be required to submit and make available all the necessary transfers of financial records (bank signature cards, checkbooks, bank statements, ledgers, minutes books, etc.) and other documents to the newly-elected officers. Also, all organizational bank accounts and financial transactions shall be done in the official name of the (NAME) COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE.

H. Meetings. County units affiliated with the ADC shall hold at least one Executive Committee meeting per month and shall require that their county commission, legislative district, or precinct organizations hold at least one meeting per month. Additional meetings may be called from time to time as their constitutions may require.

ARTICLE XI – ENDORSEMENTS

Section 1. Candidates

- A. Screening. The ADC shall have the right to screen and endorse any Democratic candidate seeking nomination or election for any state or national office, whether the election be a primary, convention, special, municipal, or general election. Conversely, the Conference is not obligated to support any candidate at any time and, therefore, may withhold its support from any candidate deemed not to be in the best interest of the ADC. The State Chair shall promulgate rules to ensure the screening of all candidates seeking an ADC endorsement for national, state, or local offices, subject to ratification by the Executive Committee.
- B. Support. Affiliated units, officers, members and committees shall support all candidates and constitutional amendments endorsed by ADC as well as other policies endorsed by ADC, and shall further be bound by the endorsements of the districts for congressional and judicial, candidates, provided such endorsement have been made consistent with the policies and goals of this Constitution.

ARTICLE XII – VACANCIES

In the event of death, resignation, physical or mental disability, or other disqualifications of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall become Chair. In the event a vacancy occurs in other Executive Offices, the Chair shall nominate a successor to serve, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, until the next annual meeting, at which time the Conference shall elect a person to complete the unexpired term. In the event the Chair and Vice Chair become incapacitated, the Executive Committee shall fill the vacancy(ies) for the unexpired term. Unless otherwise provided, these procedures shall apply to officers of county units as well.

ARTICLE XIII - REMOVAL OR SUSPENSION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Section 1. Grounds for Removal

The State Chair shall have the right to recommend the removal or impeachment from office any executive committee member at the state, district, or county level who: (1) misses two consecutive state executive committee meetings without a legitimate excuse, or (2) for reasons of nonfeasance, fails to implement the Constitution, programs, and policies of ADC for three consecutive months. Any member who is recommended for removal or suspension shall be entitled to a hearing before the ADC State Executive Committee or a subcommittee thereof, at which time said member will be given an opportunity to show cause why he/she should not be removed, based on charges or evidence. In the event that an officer is removed for reasons of nonfeasance, especially in an instance where the county unit has been disaffiliated for failing to meet its financial and membership obligations, the State Chair shall have the option to recommend to the State Executive Committee that said local Chair or other officers may be barred from holding office for a period of two years.

Section 2. Complaints

- A. Basis. Any active member of ADC can lodge a complaint against a Chair, officer, or member who in the member's opinion is negligent in the performance of his/her duties, or whose conduct is inimical to the best interest of the Conference. Complaints shall be put in writing, signed, and sent to the state office.

B. Action. The state Chair shall investigate, respond to, and expedite all complaints within thirty (30) days after the complaint is received. The determination made regarding the complaint shall be made known to the members of the executive committee of the county unit, in writing.

ARTICLE XIV - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Unless otherwise provided by this Constitution, the operating procedure for this Conference shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, newly revised.

ARTICLE XV - AMENDMENTS

To amend the State Constitution, said amendment must be submitted to the State Chair thirty (30) days in advance of any meeting of the Assembly of County Delegates or Executive Committee meeting. Once the proposal is received, the Chair will read said proposal or cause it to be read before the Executive Committee. An amendment becomes official, provided it is passed by a two-thirds majority of the delegates or Executive Committee members present and voting.

ARTICLE XVI - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise provided by the Executive Committee, the annual convention shall take place during the month of May and the semi-annual convention shall take place during the month of October