

THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF THE
NNEWI U.S.A. (NUSA)

AS AMENDED ON JULY 4, 2011 in Los Angeles California.

ART 1.01 (C)

All local chapters shall henceforth bear “Nnewi USA (NUSA), then followed by the chapters location, e.g. “Nnewi USA (NUSA) XYZ Chapter”.

Rationale: To maintain uniformity of membership and to booster the fact that all chapters are under the same umbrella. NUSA is a 501 (c) and all local chapters are derivatively the same.

ART 1.02(A)

...to foster brotherhood and sisterhood amongst Nnewi people at home and in Diasporas.

ART 2.01: FULL MEMBERSHIP:

Add (d) to read:

For the sake of inclusiveness, and to ensure uniformity of policy and practice, all members of a local chapter shall be automatically members of the national Nnewi USA (NUSA). There shall be no exceptions to this policy.

Membership Fees ad Benefits:

Every member shall pay an annual National Membership fee of \$85.00 for single and \$170.00 for family.

Rational and Benefit: (2.06)

- a. Breakdown of membership fees: \$20.00 (Single) / \$40 (Family) to member’s benefits fund and \$65.00 / Single or \$130.00 / Family will be applied to NUSA fund.
- b. If an active financial member dies, his or her family shall receive the sum of \$5,000.00. This sum shall be applied towards conveying the corpse to any designated place the deceased called ‘home’. This will be in addition to any other benefits from his/her chapter. Family is defined as husband and wife.
- c. NUSA will not contribute any such assisting funds as stated in (b) above to non-financial member.
- d. This shall apply only to members in good financial standing with their respective local Chapters.
- e. It shall be the functional responsibility of the NUSA financial secretary and Chapter President to verify membership.
- f. It shall be the functional responsibility of Chapter President to collect the membership fee.
- g. Annual dues are subject to review and updates by the General Assembly.

Art 2.04:

To be stricken in its entirety.

Rationale: Some aspects of local membership and its admission payment and policies has to be left for the chapters. Meanwhile we have not been getting this money.

*2.05 will now become 2.04 (a & b)

Convention:

ART 2.05 (b)

- a. There shall be no convention fee for NUSA financial members.
- b. Non-financial members shall pay a convention registration fee of \$85 Single / 170 Family
- c. All Chapters shall provide a list of all active members entitled to NUSA benefits and privileges, including admission into conventions, not later than two (2) weeks to the convention.

ART 2.03

To be modified to read that:

Each member shall apply to NUSA through his/her local chapter. Members shall be considered to be in good standing if they have paid their annual membership fees as of the last national convention.

ART 3.02 (b)

The House of Delegates shall include the Chapter Presidents and this is to become retroactive forthwith. Any reference in this by-law to "delegate or house of delegates" is to automatically include "chapter presidents".

Rationale: The whole essence of having the house of delegates is to reflect the views of the local chapters but in practice we have seen that most delegates do not take important issues back to their chapters for deliberation and obtain a chapter position. The presence of the chapter presidents have straightened the democratic ideals of NUSA because now we have the head of the chapters getting involved in national issues. It has to be retroactive because the practices have been going on.

ART 3.02(c)

Henceforth, the spouse of a sitting chapter president shall not be a member of the house of delegates.

Rationale: This is to maintain an appearance of candor and fairness and avoid contaminated opinions.

ART (3.04) ELECTIONS:

1. All active members in good financial standing are entitled to vote and to be voted for.
2. Candidate shall inform his/her chapter his/her intention to run for an office.
3. Candidate shall submit the office of interest and personal statement to Electoral Committee Chairperson, Chapter President and also post it in Nnewi forum at least three months before the convention.
4. Electoral Committee shall make available to the Chapters the information about each candidate at least two months before the convention.

ART 3.05:

To be stricken in its entirety and the proposed Article 3.05 (a) and (b) will replace same (3.05)

ART (3.05) VOTING:

- (a)
1. The president shall nominate the Electoral Committee Chairperson.
 2. The electoral committee shall be made up of the Chairperson and one person from each chapter.
 3. The electoral committee shall formally announce of the election in Nnewi forum three months before convention.
 4. The electoral committee of each chapter shall also announce of the election at their general meeting at least three months before convention.
 5. The electoral committee of each chapter shall conduct and tally the election vote of their chapter on the date chosen by the electoral committee.
- (b)
- a. All voting in the General elections shall only be by direct votes from all the active members.
 - b. Active membership voting shall be by secret balloting.
 - c. General election shall be conducted at all the chapters on the date chosen by the electoral committee.
 - d. The member of the electoral committee from each chapter shall conduct, tally and inform the members of their chapter of election result. And make five copies of the election result.
 - e. The copies of the election result shall be sealed in five pre-signed temper free envelopes.
 - f. The election result envelopes shall be forwarded to President, Electoral Committee Chairperson, Delegates, Chapter Presidents and Chapter Electoral Committee representative respectively.
 - g. The Electoral Committee shall tally all ballot and votes from each chapter at the national convention and announce the result of the election.
 - h. There shall be no absentee ballots.

ART 3.06

A.

- (i) All officers shall be limited to three (2) year term but an officer can run for 3 consecutive terms only, for a particular office.

*all second sentence, about barring delegates to contest for an office that has just been vacated by is to be stricken.

Rationale: NUSA office should be open for anyone who is interested especially when we are severely handicapped in the number of people volunteering for some of the offices.

- (ii) Nothing in this section shall be construed to disqualify such officer to contest for any such office as long as there has been an intervening tenure by another person.

Rationale: This has been the practice but it needs to be codified.

B.

Duties of officers:

(i) President

(a)

* the portions requiring Executive Council and House of Delegates approvals in committee appointments by the President should be yanked out.

Rationale: Simple ad hoc committee appointments should, for fluidity be left for the president, especially when a lot of people do not want to volunteer or accept such appointments.

(b) President shall preside, and call to order, all executive and chapter president meetings.

* This is a primary job of the presidency but it has not been codified.

ART 4.01 to 4.05(a)

*“Chapter president is to be added in all places where “delegates house of delegates” are mentioned.

ART 4.05

(b) Any such removal or discipline shall be affected on a 2/3 majority vote.

(c) Such action is to be deliberated in 2 meetings, with final vote to be cast on 2nd meeting.

- b & c are new additions, to create an enduring and a fair discipline and removal procedure towards an elected officer of NUSA.

ART 6.02, a, b, c

Chapter Presidents are to be added anywhere that delegates are mentioned.

ART 6.03

(a) ...3rd line to be stricken, to wit, “the executive council shall study.

We will replace that with: “excluding the officer(s) under investigation”

Rational: This will avoid an obvious creation of a conflict of interest because an officer under investigation should not be a part of a reviewing executive panel.

Second to the last line...”simple majority” is to be replaced by 2/3 majority, see amendment 4.05 (b) and (c) above.

ART6.03 (C)

c and d should be combined into one and called (c) to read as follows:

“Notwithstanding any prior provisions, any incumbent officer shall be eligible for reelection into the same office for two (2) terms if membership sees it fit and appropriate.

The provisions of art 3.06 (a) (ii) shall apply.

ART 7.01

(b) Annual dues shall be \$85.00 per member and \$170.00 per family

* underlined is to be added.

A, b, c, d, e

Chapter presidents are to be added in all places where we have delegates, for uniformity of draft.

ART 8.01

(a) QUORUM.

(i) Meetings of the Executive Council and the House of Delegates and Chapter Presidents shall commence with the attendance of 33% of the officers/delegates/chapter presidents.

(ii) The quorum in Executive Council meeting shall be the attendance of at least 4 officers.

*these are new provisions. There has never been a formal provision on quorum formations before now. (Nnabuenyi suggested this).

ART 8.04

HOSTING OF NATIONAL CONVENTION/CONFERENCE.

Henceforth, the financial responsibility for hosting the convention shall be according to this ratio:

- (a) 60% of the determined cost has to be provided by the national(NUSA)
- (b) 40% of the determined cost has to be provided by the hosting local chapter.
- (c) At the conclusion of the convention, all proceeds realized have to be shared on the same 60/40 ratio.

Rational: There has been noticeable financial pressure on states hosting the conventions, trying to raise the needed funds. This is outside the strenuous non-monetary efforts the hosting chapter will embark on to present a good convention. Further, it will assist poor state chapters and encourage them to host us.

ART 8.07

*ON 3RD line, there has to be added "at least quarterly."

ART 9.01

The constitution and byelaws may be amended, replaced, altered in whole or in part by a simple majority vote of the general Assembly at the annual national convention.

*a redacted 9.01.

Rationale: The practice of general membership voting at conventions have wrongly been going on but we need to codify it now. Moreover, being the supreme organ of NUSA, a simple majority, as it has always been, will encourage flexibility in our elections.

ART 9.02

To be amended to read:

"Notice of the proposed amendment must reach the executive council in writing at least 90 days before the date of the executive meeting at which the proposed amendment is to be considered .A description of the proposed amendment shall accompany any such notice. The executive council through the president shall appoint a constitutional amendment committee, who will transmit the proposed amendment to the national convention to be voted upon.

Rationale: by practice, all our constitutional amendments have been by the general assembly at the conventions, so this is just a codification .The executive/committee chair will receive the proposals and that will be transmitted for voting at the national convention.

ART 9.03

...which may be amended by the delegates at a convention or at a special meeting called for this purpose.

* All the underlined portion is to be stricken.

ART. 10.01

This could be done either through the house of delegates and chapter presidents meeting or at the annual convention/conference.

ART 12

COMMENCEMENT:

This constitution, with any retroactive provision(s) is to commence forthwith.

*this is a new provision.

ART 13 .01

RATIFICATION AND ADOPTION...

This constitution and byelaws shall become an instrument of NUSA only after it is ratified and adopted by simple majority of the General Assembly at a national convention.

*this is former art 12.01.

ART 13.02

This Constitution and Bylaws is hereby ratified and adopted as amended on this 4nd day of July in the year of our Lord, two thousand and eleven. In witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names.

Constitution Committee Member

Thisas amended on this _____ of _____ 2011, at _____

CHIDI METU ESQ
(Committee Chairman) _____

EKE OKEKE
(Committee Member) _____

ONOCHIE MADUBUKO ESQ
(Committee Member) _____

NATHAN C. MOMAH
(NUSA National President) _____