

**CONSTITUTION  
NZUKO-AROCUKWU  
OF  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**



*Adopted October 13, 2001*

# CONSTITUTION OF NZUKO-AROKHUKWU of Northern California

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# **CONSTITUTION OF NZUKO-AROCHUKWU of Northern California**



## **Introduction:**

We do hereby proclaim the formation of the association of Nzuko-Arochukwu of Northern California, USA.

## **Article I**

**Name:** It shall be called "**NZUKO-AROCHUKWU of Northern California**."

**Motto:** Unity, Love and Peace (Ako bu ije).

**Headquarters:** P. O Box 3608  
Oakland, California 94609

## **Article II**

### **Mission Statement:**

To engage in charitable and volunteer activities that contributes to the development and enrichment of our Northern California local communities, to provide a forum to promote unity and good citizenship for all persons of Arochukwu descent or by marriage living in Northern California, to raise appreciation of and awareness about Arochukwu culture and heritage within our local community, and to foster mutual understanding, sharing of resources, and mutual development of Northern California communities and Arochukwu, Nigeria

## **Article III**

### **Membership**

#### **Section I: Eligibility**

Membership shall be open to every person of Arochukwu descent (or by marriage) living in Northern California U.S.A. All sons and daughters of Arochukwu descent (as long as they register with the

organization, and pay their annual dues and other levies) shall by implication be members of "Nzuko-Arochukwu" Association of Northern California.

Members shall submit their names, their phone numbers and their current addresses together with their membership registration fees and other stipulated dues/levies to the *Financial Secretary*. This list shall be updated **periodically as necessary to add new members**.

### Section II: Finance

Annual dues per member shall be rated at fifty dollars. Dues shall be due at the beginning of each financial year or at the first meeting of the fiscal year, or at the time of registration (for new members only). Dues shall become late by the 31<sup>st</sup> of May of each year.

### Section III: Disenfranchisement/Loss of Membership

If an individual resigns from the organization, his/her membership shall cease. There will be no refund of the dues or any other money paid to the organization by the resigned member.

### Section IV. Voting

- All voting shall be by simple majority (except for elections, and constitution and by-laws amendments where two third of registered members is required) or as otherwise provided for in the **Bylaws**.
- Only members in good financial standing with the organization shall be eligible to run for elected office.
- In general meetings, every member can vote on general issues as they arise. Each member has one vote.

### Qualifications of "Being In Good Financial Standing"

A member is in good financial standing if he/she has paid at least, all dues to date, and has no outstanding debt such as levies or fines with the association.

## Article IV.

### Meetings

Regular meeting of this organization shall be held as provided for in the Bylaws.

### Emergency Meetings:

If an emergency situation arises, the president shall, through the **general secretary**, call for 'emergency meetings'.

## Article V

### Transfers

The outgoing executives, under the leadership of the president shall be required to present to the members a report on the state of affairs of the organization. Outlining the organization's achievements and/or accomplishments and what is left undone and the direction to which the organization should focus its attention, in the years ahead. The report must include the general health and financial conditions of the organization as at the end of that administration's term. The report shall be presented to members on or before the new administration assumes duty or is installed.

## ARTICLE VI: GENERAL

### SECTION I:

#### GENERAL PURPOSES AND BENEFITS OF THE ORGANIZATION

**Community Services:** The organization will engage in various charitable and volunteer activities within the Northern California local communities such as:

- Food drive for the homeless
- Partnership with other community youth oriented programs for volunteer services
- Donate African culture specific books to local schools and libraries

- Extend college or other educational scholarships to local students
- Promote and share the importance of Arochukwu culture in various venues
- The Organization will network with members and local communities to foster good citizenship.

**Social:** The organization will provide an umbrella for social and cultural gatherings and learning for its members and local community participants, and a venue for interaction with each other to pursue matters of general interest and usefulness to our community and the organization.

**Economic:**

The organization will provide a forum to foster mutual economic discussions, sharing of resources and development of Northern California communities and Arochukwu, Nigeria

**Educational**

The Organization may provide forum in its proposed website for global discussion of issues pertaining to Arochukwu in particular, and Igbo people and Nigeria in general.

**SECTION II:**

**DUES, LEVIES, and MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION AND ENTITLEMENTS:**

“As provided for in the Bylaws”

**Member Support:**

- Marriage:
  - Card with gift(s) of \$100.00 or cash equivalent (for members in good standing). Please note that attendance is required of all members, but participation will be by choice.
- Childbirth:
  - Card with gift(s) of \$50 or cash equivalent (for members in good standing)

- o Death/Condolence:
  - The organization will sponsor a wake keeping (as provided 'under levies' in the By-Laws) for any death of a member.
  - The organization will pay a condolence visit (as provided for in the By-Laws) for any member in grieves for the death of a relative\*. And the organization will express sympathy at such visit with the following items:
    1. A bottle of Schnapps or Whiskey
    2. 4 cartons of beer (standard 24 bottles per carton)
    3. \$10.00 per member or as provided for in the By-Laws
    4. A sympathy card

\* The following classification qualifies as a relative: Parents (father or mother); Spouse (husband or wife); Children (of member); Sibling (full or half blood)

#### **Other Member Support:**

- The Organization may provide information concerning sources for discounted group **life** and **health** insurance for members.
- The Organization may provide information regarding immigration matters, referral services such as marriage resources, legal resources, and childcare outlets to interested members.
- The Organization may network with the members to post bond for a member under arrest provided the amount of bail bond is affordable and, most importantly, provided the case is not criminal, drug or fraud related.

#### **SECTION III:**

#### **CALENDAR YEAR BUDGET and AUDITING AND BANKING**

The fiscal year of the organization shall begin on January 1st and end on December 31st of the same year.

There shall be a budget, which must be prepared and presented to the house for approval by the executive body under the leadership of the president.

The accounts of the organization shall be audited at the meeting preceding the last meeting of the tenure-ship of the officers. Three or more members who are experts in the field of accounting/auditing shall carry out the audit. If necessary an independent accountant/auditor may be engaged to carry out the audit.

The report of this assignment shall be made available to members within the said meeting.

The appointed auditors (members) shall have the right and access to any and all of the organization's record or books under any officer.

The organization reserves the rights and authority to audit its accounts and finances at any time within the two-year duration if it deems it necessary. This action can be instituted by a simple passage of a resolution by a two third majority vote.

A minimum of two signatures from the officers designated as signatories by the By-Laws, for signing the organization's checks or drafts must be obtained before any fund can be withdrawn from the organization's account.

## **ARTICLE VII:**

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Election of officers of the organization shall take place at the end of a fiscal year constituting the 'end of the tenure-ship' of the incumbent or interim/caretaker officers.

The elected officers shall assume their respective position and duties at the beginning of the fiscal year (January of every year) following the election.

#### Election Rules:

Shall be as follows:

- Elected office is open to every qualified member or as stipulated in the By-Laws.

- Every election shall be by secret ballot system
- Eligible members can vote by proxy in any election
- Registration of voters shall be open until the last general meeting before the time of election

The General Secretary and the Financial Secretary shall prepare the final list of eligible voters with the list made available to the election conductors and members on the last general meeting before the time of the election.

The house shall appoint or nominate three members to serve as Returning Officers for the purpose of conducting and/or monitoring the elections.

## **Article VIII**

### CHANGES

Any portion of this constitution is subject to change (as conditions vary) by two-third majority.

#### **Process to amend the Constitution:**

- Member(s) shall petition the House through the General secretary to amend any portion of the Constitution
- The General Secretary will bring the matter to the house with the indication of the portion to be amended.
- The House shall vote on the motion to accept the petition to amend the Constitution
- Two-third of registered members must sanction the petition before any changes are made to the Constitution
- The General Secretary shall circulate the amended copy to all members.