

ANAMBRA STATE ASSOCIATION

(THE UMBRELLA ASSOCIATION FOR ALL ANAMBRA CITIZENS RESIDENT IN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

USA

CONSTITUTION

DATED: October 26, 2002
(Please see amendments approved in 2004)

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THE CONSTITUTION OF ANAMBRA STATE ASSOCIATION, USA

PREAMBLE

WE, the sons and daughters and indigenes of Anambra State of Nigeria, living and/or working in various States and localities in the United States of America, being fully committed to the honest advocacy, pursuit, and actual practice and living of the life of love, peace, unity, togetherness, cooperation, understanding and justice among and between ourselves in all matters of common communal interest to us and to Anambra State and Nigeria, do hereby unanimously resolve to constitute ourselves into a formal Union and Organization for the purpose of pursuing and actualizing these goals and ideals for all Anambra people here in the United States and in Anambra State, Nigeria, and elsewhere, and to be governed and regulated by the following document, to be known and taken as our CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1: NAME AND LEGAL STATUS

The name of this Organization shall be ANAMBRA STATE ASSOCIATION, USA, Inc., otherwise called ASA,USA, or more simply referred to as The Union, or The Organization, or The Association. The Organization shall be a U.S.-based, non-profit, civic, educational and charitable entity.

ARTICLE 2: MOTTO

The motto of the Association shall be UNITY, PEACE, PROGRESS, LOVE AND JUSTICE

ARTICLE 3: OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 To promote and foster love, peace, unity, togetherness, cooperation, understanding, justice and fair play between and among all Anambra people living in the United States and in Nigeria or elsewhere in the world, and to do the same in regard to the promotion, pursuit, practice of transparency, accountability, good public policy and governance in public affairs.
- 3.2 To serve as a common social umbrella and a united front for constructive unity, solidarity, social interaction, networking, progress, and the healthy promotion of the Anambra/Igbo cultural heritage, identity and traditions among and between ourselves, and with all other associations, organizations, and entities of Anambra State people in the U.S.
- 3.3 To encourage and support justice, good public policies, genuine democracy, and honest, transparent and non-corrupt governance at every level of society in Anambra State politically, socially, culturally, economically, and otherwise, ensuring that the Anambra State children and people are educated and encouraged to take their rightful places in society.
- 3.4 To cooperate and work with other well-meaning organizations in the U.S. in providing relief for the poor and the underprivileged, and in alleviating poverty, ignorance, disease and other ills within Anambra State, in particular, and in Nigeria in general, and in defending human rights secured under law.
- 3.5 To seek to research, study and analyze objectively the major intellectual, political, economic and social issues of public interest for Anambra State, and to present, publish, and disseminate a complete non-partisan analysis of same to the people of Anambra State.
- 3.6 To actively seek, promote and encourage international cooperation as well as the interest of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the economic, technological, educational, healthcare and social development and prosperity of Anambra State through patronage, international investments, collaborations as well as humanitarian and charitable programs in order to ameliorate the sufferings of our people.
- 3.7 To serve as a communication link between the people and government of Anambra State, the Federal, other State Governments, the people of Nigeria and the Anambra State Community resident in the United States of America.

ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 Subject to Article 4.9 hereunder, membership to the Union shall be by local chapters, and shall be open to all Anambra indigenes through their local chapters. An Anambra indigene is one who, by birth, naturalization, biological lineage, or adoption, is a native of the area delineated as Anambra State in Nigeria.
- 4.2 A Chapter of the Union can be constituted by at least five people of Anambra State descent resident in any one town, city or geographic area in the United States, EXCEPT that no two or more chapters may operate in the same town or contiguous geographic area.
- 4.3 A chapter shall, upon its coming into being, inform the National Executive Council (NEC) of its existence in writing through the National Secretary of the Union, and shall, for purposes of becoming a member of ASA, formally register the chapter

with ASA by payment of the prescribed registration fees and the annual dues, under Article 4.10 herein, and shall furnish the NEC, through the Secretary, with the list of its registered members and their addresses, phone numbers and other contact information.

- 4.4 A chapter may have its own separate Constitution to guide its own activities; however, no provisions of a chapter's Constitution shall be contrary to the aims and objectives of this Constitution. A copy of each chapter's Constitution (and the updates and amendments thereto) shall be deposited with the Secretary of the Union.
- 4.5 Anambra indigenes who live in a town or city which has no ASA chapter, or in a town or city where the existing Anambra local organization has not duly registered with ASA,USA, may register themselves with the ASA chapter nearest them, or register, pursuant to article 4.9 herein, directly with the National Executive Council by a written application addressed to the Secretary of the Union, stating the facts of the case.
- 4.6 The National Secretary may, upon verified or verifiable knowledge or information that an applicant for membership is resident in a town where there are up to five Anambra persons, refuse to entertain a direct registration of such applicant.
- 4.7 **MEMBERSHIP STANDING**
- (a) A Chapter in good standing shall be considered to be one which not only regularly attends ASA,USA meetings, annual conventions, functions and affairs, but has also met all its financial obligations (registration fees, annual dues, levies, convention fees, etc.) to ASA, and has satisfactorily and fully observed the provisions of the ASA Constitution and its Code of Conduct, all of which shall have been timely done.
- (b) A member in good standing shall be considered to be a person (or entity) who has maintained all his/her financial and civic obligations to the Association through his/her local chapter.
- 4.8 Only a member and/or chapter in good standing, as defined in Article 4.7(a) and (b) herein, shall be entitled to the rights, benefits and privileges appertaining to membership, including but not limited to the rights to vote and/or to be voted for in any elections.
- 4.9 **HONORARY MEMBERSHIP.** Upon approval by the House of Delegates, persons or organizations shall be admitted as Honorary Members of the Union; honorary members shall be subject to the same financial and civic responsibilities, and the rights, as set forth under Article 4 herein, unless modified by the House of Delegates or the National Executive Council (NEC) in specific cases.
- 4.10 **REGISTRATION AND ANNUAL DUES.** Duly constituted chapters (or Honorary Members) shall be deemed registered which have paid a one-time registration fee of \$250.00. Each chapter shall maintain its membership with \$250.00 annual dues. However, that the Annual Dues shall not be perpetually fixed, but shall be subject to automatic review every two years (or sooner) at the annual convention, and to an upward revision by a simple majority vote of the House of Delegates thereat.

ARTICLE 5: CONSTITUTIONAL/LEGAL POWERS

- 5.1 This Constitution of ASA shall be supreme and its provisions and the amendments appertaining thereto are binding on all members, officers, functionaries and chapters of the Union; and all actions of such parties shall on NO account be inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution and the amendments, if any.
- 5.2 The supreme authority of this Union shall be absolutely vested in the General Assembly, through its House of Delegates. Subject to that authority, the National Executive Council shall be the governing body of the Anambra State Association, USA.

ARTICLE 6: ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

There shall be the following administrative bodies or organs of ASA,USA:

- (a) The General Assembly
(b) The House of Delegates
(c) The National Executive Council
(d) The Board of Directors
(e) The Board of Trustees
(f) The National Auditor(s)
(g) The Standing Committee
(h) The Office of the Legal Counsel

ARTICLE 7: THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

This shall be comprised of all individual members of the Association in good standing pursuant to Article 4.7 of this Constitution.

ARTICLE 8: THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

This shall be comprised of two (2) members from each local chapter in good standing, nominated to ASA by each chapter to represent it. Persons so nominated into the House of Delegates shall be designated, in writing, to the National Secretary of the Union by each chapter.

ARTICLE 9: THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEC)

The following shall constitute the National Executive Council (NEC) for the term of their offices: The following officers, namely, the National President, the Vice President, the National Secretary, Assistant National Secretary, National Treasurer, Financial Secretary, National Publicity Officer, Assistant Publicity Officer, Fundraising Officer and the Provost.

ARTICLE 10: POWERS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

- 10.1 Subject to the General Assembly through the House of Delegates, the NEC or the Council shall be the governing body of this Union. Members of the Council shall work jointly, mutually and cooperatively to coordinate the policies and programs of the ASA, USA.
- 10.2 The Council shall frame, initiate and propose long-term goals and programs for discussion at the annual conventions, subject to implementation upon ratification by the General Assembly through the House of Delegates.
- 10.3 The NEC shall be responsible for planning the conventions in liaison with the Convention Planning Committee which shall primarily oversee the national convention.
- 10.4 The National President shall be the head of the NEC and it's presiding officer; and in that capacity, he/she shall appoint and direct, with the concurrent vote and approval of the NEC, Standing Committees and Sub-Committees to serve the needs and objectives of the Union.
- 10.5 Subject to the ratification of the House of Delegates, the Council shall have the power to make needed rules and regulations over all financial issues and commitments.
- 10.6 The NEC shall work and coordinate with chapter members and officials to nurture and strengthen existing or formative chapters by sending correspondences, notices and other information about the Union's activities and programs, to such chapters, and/or sending emissaries to visit local areas in the U.S., to encourage and aid formation of new chapters or the strengthening of existing ones.
- 10.7 The Council shall have the power to act on the Union's behalf in emergencies, such as the death of a member or his/her immediate family members, and the like.
- 10.8 The Executive Council is vested with the power to try all cases, except criminal cases, involving the misbehavior of a non-officer member, and to recommend the proper punishment or remedy to the General Assembly, consistent with the gravity of the act or offense at issue and with the provisions of this Constitution.

ARTICLE 11: DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS

- 11.1 The General Assembly, through their Delegates representing chapters in good standing, shall elect the following officers and functionaries to serve the Union:

11.2 NATIONAL PRESIDENT —

Qualifications: Candidate for this position shall (a) be of good moral character; (b) possess a minimum education of a four year degree from an accredited institution; (c) have a record of active participation and membership in Anambra civic organization(s); (d) be a legal resident or citizen of United States of America.

Duties: He or she shall,

- (a) Preside over all Executive (NEC) and General Meetings and official functions of the Union, including the national conventions, and shall serve as the referee in all discussions of the ASA, USA membership, and shall have the casting vote thereof in deadlock situations;
- (b) Uphold, protect, defend, and execute — faithfully and transparently — the ASA, USA Constitution and all its provisions;
- (c) Have the power to call for and/or to inspect the books and finances of the Union and its organs, or to cause same to be undertaken by appropriate officers or a select sub-committee duly authorized thereof;
- (d) Be ex-officio member of all Committees and Sub-Committees of the Union;

- (e) For cause shown, have the power to impose appropriate fines or an order for temporary removal from a meeting by his/her own authority, on a member or officer for disorderly, grossly disruptive or improper behavior at meetings;
- (f) Direct and encourage all officers in the performance of their duties, and coordinate activities of the Union among all executives;
- (g) Countersign and endorse on behalf of the ASA, USA, the financial instruments, and legal documents and papers of the Union;
- (h) Appoint and direct, with the concurrent vote and approval of the National Executive Council, Standing Committees and Sub-Committees to serve the needs and obligations of the Union, consistent with Article 10.4 of the Constitution;
- (i) Pursuant to Article 10.6 herein, act, in consultation with the NEC, as a wise, discrete and responsible mediator on the Association's behalf and where conflicts arise between members in ASA chapters, or between member chapters or officials;
- (j) Act and make determination on behalf of ASA, in close consultation with the NEC and/or the House of Delegates, in the event of an emergency or matters of urgent necessity impinging on the well-being of the Union, pursuant to Article 10.7 herein.

11.3 VICE PRESIDENT. Duties: He or she shall,

Assist the President in various engagements as called for by the President; cooperate with the President, and assume the position of the President in his or her absence or if incapacitated; and oversee the activities of the Standing Committee and Sub-Committee in close consultation with the President, and report closely to the President on same.

11.4 NATIONAL SECRETARY

Qualifications: Candidates for this position must be computer literate.

Duties: He or she shall,

- (a) Take down in writing the minutes of all official meetings of the Union and any amendments thereto, and read same to the membership, including the meetings of the NEC, the General Assembly and the conventions; and shall conduct all official correspondence, including letters, circulars, notices, and others, to and among the chapters and other parties, and dissemination of bereavement notices, and notices of the meetings of the Union, and so on;
- (b) Keep at the ASA, USA Secretariat an official register containing the up-to-date nominal roll of all members of the Union on a chapter-by-chapter itemized order, and shall maintain accurate records of the documents, files, the constitutional/corporate records, correspondences, of the Union for safekeeping;
- (c) Summon, upon consultation with the President, the meetings of the NEC, the General Assembly, the House of Delegates, or other appropriate meetings or bodies;
- (d) For good cause shown and with the concurring approval, in writing, of at least thirty-three percent (33%) of the current members of the NEC or of the total registered chapters in good standing, summon an Emergency meeting of the National Executive Council or the House of Delegates, or of both, on his/her independent authority;
- (e) Compile, prior to any General Election pursuant to Article 16.5 of this Constitution and in consultation with the National Financial Secretary, a complete, up-to-date list of all the chapters who are in good standing with ASA, USA, consistent with Article 4.7(b) herein as of the month of the convention or intended election, and prepare and have same ready and available for submission to the Election Returning Officers on the election date pursuant to the said Article 16.5 of the Constitution;
- (f) Prepare the minutes of the Annual Conference or Convention for each year (including the account of the activities and events) promptly after the conference, and distribute same to all delegates and the members who attended the given conference no later than 45 days after the conference to allow the parties an opportunity to review them while memory remains fresh;
- (g) Bring a Holy Bible with him/her to the election conventions for submission to the EROs on the election dates for swearing-in purposes pursuant to Article 16.10 of the Constitution.

11.5 ASSISTANT SECRETARY. Duties: He or she shall,

Assist the Secretary; take attendance and perform the various duties of the Secretary on behalf of the National Secretary in his or her absence.

11.6 NATIONAL TREASURER.

Requirement: Candidate for this position must be of good character and trustworthiness, and shall be recommended by the delegates of his or her chapter as being reliable.

Duties: He or she shall,

- (a) Deposit all monies collected for or on behalf of the Union into the ASA, USA approved bank account within four (4) working days from the date of its receipt;
- (b) Issue written receipt to the Financial Secretary for all monies and funds received on the Union's behalf;
- (c) Write out and issue to payees all checks in transactions involving the Union, EXCEPT that all and any checks shall in all instances be cosigned by two signatories as stipulated in Article 20 of this Constitution;
- (d) Keep an up-to-date, comprehensive and current records and inventory of all assets and property of the Union.

11.7 FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Requirements: Must have an accounting and bookkeeping background.

Duties: He or she shall,

- (a) Take in and/or collect all monies for or due the Union, make a financial record of same and transfer them within four (4) days thereof to the Treasurer for deposit of same into the ASA approved bank account;
- (b) Prepare payment vouchers for all disbursements made and issue receipts for all funds collected;
- (c) Keep a detailed, comprehensive and accurate record of the finances and all financial transactions of the Union, including records of all receipts taken in and payouts made;
- (d) Prepare and present quarterly to the NEC, and annually to the General Assembly at the conventions, a detailed financial report on the financial state of the Union;
- (e) Be responsible for all tax matters of the Union; and
- (f) Coordinate with the National Secretary in the preparation of a list showing the local chapters in good standing, including the names and number of eligible members for each chapter, for purposes of ASA elections or convention deliberations pursuant to Articles 4.7 and 16.5 of the Constitution.

11.8 PUBLICITY SECRETARY OR OFFICER. Duties: He or she shall,

Handle the information gathering and dissemination machinery of the Union; prepare and distribute circulars about ASA, USA events, and other information concerning the Union and its activities, interests and members; publicize the Union's meetings and conventions and programs; and facilitate and coordinate the Association's interaction with the media.

11.9 ASSISTANT PUBLICITY SECRETARY/OFFICER. Duties: He or she shall,

Assist the Publicity Secretary or Officer and act on his/her behalf in his/her absence.

11.10 FUNDRAISING OFFICER. Duties: He or she shall,

Design, develop and implement, on the Union's behalf, multiple events and programs of various kinds and nature designed to raise funds for the programs and objectives of ASA; maintain and continuously update a comprehensive list of donors and patrons, past and present; shall be one and the same person as the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

11.11 PROVOST. Duties: He or she shall,

Maintain peace and order at meetings and official get-togethers of the Union, and pursuant to that shall have all related or enabling rights and powers to enable effective performance of such functions.

ARTICLE 12: BOARD OF TRUSTEES

There shall be a Board of Trustees comprising of not less than five (5) members who shall be nominated to the NEC by member chapters. The Board of Trustees shall advise and aid ASA, USA on methods and sources of raising funds in the corporate and philanthropic world, for the execution of Association's projects and objectives. The persons who are nominated and inducted into this board shall be highly respected public figures, and people of financial capability with a history of, or potential for philanthropy. The central function of this body will be to serve as the source of emergency funds for ASAUSA and a link to the business and economic interest of America and Nigeria for the purpose of attracting funding for the Association. Membership to this body shall be open to all persons regardless of nationality or place of origin. Persons who are inducted shall be presented to the House of delegates by the NEC.

ARTICLE 13: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 13.1 There shall be a body of seven (7) persons who shall constitute the Board of Directors. Membership to this body shall be by sponsorship and recommendation by chapters in good standing to the National Executive Council. A sponsored or recommended member, if supported by the NEC by a vote of 2/3 majority of the whole NEC, shall be deemed approved for membership in the Board of Directors if approved by a concurring vote of the House of Delegates at a convention. The National President of the ASA shall be an automatic member of the Board but shall not be its chairman.
- 13.2 In the event of an extreme emergency or distress situation, such as dissolution of the NEC, or of the Union or mass resignation of officers, or major financial crises involving the President, or any crippling deadlocked situation which is otherwise unresolved, the Board of Directors shall, upon good cause shown, assume prompt automatic legal control and leadership of the Union and its assets and property, and shall nominate a Caretaker Committee no later than 30 days from the date of such emergency, who shall run the affairs of the Union pending the election of new officers for the Union, or the resolution of the deadlocked issue otherwise.
- 13.3 In any and all cases, however, the Board of Directors shall be without power, authority, justification or reason to act or to intervene pursuant to Paragraph 13.2 above, unless the situation is such that the problem or dispute resolution mechanisms provided under Articles 10.8, 22.2 and 23 of this Constitution clearly do not apply in terms of the special nature, emergency character, and extreme gravity and urgency of the matter at issue, or that the said mechanisms of Articles 10.8, 22.2 and 23 of the Constitution are clearly impracticable to be applied, or have been applied but either with no effect or but with negative effect and continuing, worsening prospects for the life and well-being of the Union.

ARTICLE 14: AUDITORS

There shall be a team of two (2) auditors elected at the national conventions to serve as auditors; they shall audit the books and accounts of the Union annually and present a report of same to the Union at the conventions. The NEC and the National Secretary shall, in advance of the annual conventions, invite the chapters to provide names of eligible persons who should be nominated to serve as ASA auditors. Elected auditors shall, to the extent practicable, have a strong background in accounting and/or auditing, preferably a CPA or an equivalent position.

ARTICLE 15: STANDING COMMITTEES

The following Standing Committees shall be set up by the President, upon concurring approval of the NEC, unless disapproved by the House of Delegates or the General Assembly by a majority vote, in which case such an action shall then be decided by the House of Delegates upon a debate at a convention:

- (a) Community Affairs Committee (C.A.C.)
- (b) Membership Recruitment and Mobilization Committee
- (c) Economic Development Committee
- (d) Finance Committee
- (e) Information and Public Affairs Committee
- (f) Health and Social Welfare Committee
- (g) Education Committee
- (h) National Convention Committee

15.1 FUNCTIONS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

15.1.1. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (C.A.C)

Shall serve as the organ for articulation of strategies on good governance and political awareness, as well as economic and social development of Anambra State. The committee shall serve as the bridge linking Anambra people in the USA, and in Nigeria with a view to promoting probity and transparency for the purpose of improving the social welfare of the suffering people of Anambra State. To achieve these objectives, the committee shall

- (a) Develop ways and means the ASA, USA can make the greatest impact on the quality of life and governance of Ndi Anambra
- (b) Develop ways and means of generating cohesion, and harmony among Anambra people in the USA
- (c) Stay abreast of the murky political terrain in Anambra State with a view to suggesting strategies to be used by ASA, USA to engender harmony
- (d) Study the activities of the elected public officers (including the lawmakers, the Governor and Councilmen) with a view to developing modalities for correcting and improving the system to enthrone transparency and accountability
- (e) Develop strategies for stimulating political consciousness of Ndi Anambra at home with a view to making them effective in resisting graft (such as diversion of the people's fund to their private accounts) among elected officers

- (f) Collect and make available to the ASA, USA verifiable information on any public functionary that dims the hopes and aspirations of the people through misappropriation of funds or other similar abuse of office and
- (g) Advise ASA, USA on strategies for achieving the overall objectives in respect of its assignment submit situation reports during general internet meetings

15.1.2. MEMBERSHIP AND MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE

Shall be responsible for membership recruitment, establishment of rules and guidelines for membership in ASA, USA, and the working modalities for our member organizations with a goal to expanding membership base nationwide. To this end, the committee shall,

- (a) recruit members from the pool of Anambra State Association Chapters in the USA
- (b) collect statistical information on known Anambra State Unions in the USA
- (c) collect contact info (e.g. Email Addresses, phone numbers etc) of Anambra people in the USA
- (c) stimulate and encourage the formation of ASA chapters where they do not exist.
- (d) submit situation reports during general meetings

15.1.3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Shall be responsible for analyzing the present economic structure and requirement in Anambra State and formulate long-term economic plans and strategies for the development of Anambra State Economy. Shall come up with strong and functional recommendations to the leadership of Anambra State in Nigeria to assist in economic planning and development of the State.

15.1.4. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Shall work with Director of fundraising and shall focus solely on formulating modalities for raising adequate funds to meet the needs of the Associations and to fund special projects and undertakings by the Association. This committee shall look into ways of raising funds within our indigenes in USA and from outside sources. Shall analyze the current structure of revenue sources in Anambra State and come up with effective and efficient recommendations for improved revenue collection system that will guarantee accountability and transparencies.

15.1.5. INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIR COMMITTEE

Shall be responsible for coordination of all information and public affairs of Anambra State as it relates to communities, governments, organizations, and other entities. The Chairman shall also be responsible for all information and publicity of the Association in Nigeria and USA. Shall have primary responsibility for developing the process and the programs for information dissemination about the association and the Anambra indigenes. In addition, he/she shall -promote the goals of the National Assembly, serve as Press Secretary to the Association and develop effective links with media organizations in Nigeria and USA in ways that will benefit Anambra State.

15.1.6. HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE COMMITTEE

Shall have the primary responsibility for finding ways of improving the Health and Social welfare of OU! people. Shall be responsible for soliciting for medical equipment, supplies and badly needed drugs from different sources in USA for proper diagnosis and treatment of killer diseases in Anambra State. Shall co-ordinate with Nigerian and American Doctors to assist in making these objectives achievable.

15.1.7. EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Shall be responsible for all matters relating to education at all levels in Anambra State. To this end, it should liaise with the Ministry (Commissioner) of Education, the House Committee on Education and Education Councilors with a view to assisting in:

- (a) Providing quality education through critical appraisal of curricula.
- (b) Advising on the importance of respect for the welfare of teachers and professional employees of boards of education.
- (c) Rehabilitation of vocational education.
- (d) Pursuit of injection of digital technology in the education system
- (e) Restoration of our libraries, arts, museums, historical and cultural heritage
- (f) Organize book and equipment drives as part of the efforts on achievement of the above objectives.

15.2 AD-HOC COMMITTEES: The President shall charge such committees with specific functions and directives in the interest of the Association.

Ad hoc committees and/or sub-committees shall be formed by the President upon the concurrence of NEC. Ad hoc committees shall automatically dissolve upon completion of their assignment by a resolution of the NEC; duly established Standing Committees shall perpetually survive, unless and until dissolved by an affirmative vote of the House of Delegates.

15.4. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP: Membership to committees (or sub-committees) shall be open to all members, subject, however, to the right of the President or the NEC to accept or reject a candidate for a given committee, for good reasons, such as for reasons of reasonable limitations of number, qualification or suitability for a given committee, etc.

15.5 Each committee shall, as much as possible, draw and be drawn from persons whose expertise, know-how, ability or record is such as will best aid and assist the particular committee in its work. The President shall have the right and authority to remove for cause, any Committee Chairperson who does not perform and to replace him or her in that position, upon consultation with the National Executive Council.

15.6 OFFICE OF THE LEGAL COUNSEL.

15.6.1 The Association shall have two legal Counsels who are licensed by United States Supreme Court to practice law.

15.6.2 The National President shall send two nominees to the National Convention for confirmation to the position of the legal Counsel.

15.6.3 The term of the office of the legal Counsel shall be for two calendar years and shall be eligible for re-confirmation.

15.6.4 The Legal Counsels shall be the legal advisers to the Association on all legal matters.

15.6.5 The Legal Counsels shall sit in all meetings of the Executives and the Board

ARTICLE 16: ELECTION OF OFFICERS & FUNCTIONARIES/TERM OF OFFICE

16.1 At any election, the outgoing officers (or functionaries, if applicable) shall step down. Thereupon, the General Assembly shall nominate, and the House of Delegates shall appoint, by a simple majority vote, a team of three (3) Election Returning Officers (EROs) who shall independently and autonomously conduct the elections and certify the officially elected officers or functionaries of the Union.

16.2 Except as otherwise stipulated in a specific situation in this Constitution, all officers or others in current service may stand for election or re-election to any office for a maximum period of two (2) consecutive two-year terms, or four (4) years only, in total. An officer, upon having served honorably and without any scandal or blemish for two consecutive terms in a given office, shall be eligible for a fresh re-election to the same office provided there is a break of at least two (2) years thereafter. Persons serving in the following positions or functions shall be electable for two (2) consecutive two-year terms, but shall be eligible for re-election thereafter for an indefinite number of times: committee members, auditors, members of the Board of Directors or of Trustees.

16.3 The Election Returning Officers(ERO), upon being designated by the General Assembly and the House of Delegates, shall thereafter first be duly sworn in on a Holy Bible by the outgoing (or pre-existing) ASA President, as follows:

“I (each name, respectively) do solemnly swear that I shall, hereinafter, conduct all elections here faithfully and honestly; that I shall do so in strict accord with the provisions of the ASA, USA Constitution regarding elections, and without any fear or favor or partisanship whatsoever. So help me God.”

16.4 Pursuant to Articles 4.8 of this Constitution, only members of ASA or persons who meet fully the requirements of Article 4.7(a) and (b) of this Constitution pertaining to being in good standing, shall be eligible for elective office in ASA, or to vote in or for same.

16.5 As working data for purposes of conducting the elections, the Election Returning Officers shall request from the National Secretary and the Financial Secretary, and they shall timely provide the said EROs with same pursuant to Article 11.4.(E) and Article 11.7.(F), a detailed, up-to-date, and complete list containing the names of all members of the Union who are in good financial standing up to and including the month just preceding the month at which the convention/ election is held, and shall further provide the EROs with a copy of the Holy Bible.

16.6 With respect only to the position of the President, qualified candidates duly nominated and seconded shall be given a period of five (5) minutes to address the General Assembly concerning the goals, attainments and programs they see for their administration if elected. Members shall be allowed a reasonable time to react to, comment upon or question the candidates concerning their statements, qualification for getting the job done, or other issues related to the election, before the actual election shall be conducted.

16.7 VOTING

(a) No one chapter shall have more than two elected NEC Positions at any one time.

- (b) Only members of the House of Delegates shall be eligible to vote; but all members of the General Assembly in attendance at the convention who are in good standing, shall be eligible to nominate for office and/or to run for office and be voted for.
 - (c) There being only two (2) delegates permitted for each chapter, each delegate shall have one-half of the total votes allotted to his/her chapter.
 - (d) A candidate for election shall be nominated and seconded; a person may nominate himself or herself for candidacy but shall be seconded. Voting for elections shall be by a secret ballot.
- 16.8 The EROs shall have the sole power and authority to decide and rule, consistent with the provisions of this Constitution, on election eligibility and qualification standards as well as other issues concerning or related to the given election; Returning Officers' deliberations before the General Assembly shall be free, fair, open, transparent and nonpartisan, and shall in NO way or detail be inconsistent with the election-related provisions of this Constitution, and PROVIDING the actions of the EROs so comply with all the provisions of Article 16 herein, determinations of the EROs regarding an election contest, and/or the results and outcomes thereof, shall be final and binding.
- 16.9 Upon election of a candidate for an office or function, the EROs shall collectively certify, in a written statement, the candidates that have been duly elected, and shall set forth in one document the full names of all the elected persons in that election, and the number of votes cast in favor of each candidate in respect of each position. The written certificate shall specify the period of time to be covered by each elected person's term of office and shall contain the date of the elections and the full names and signatures of the EROs.
- 16.10 SWEARING-IN OF OFFICERS: All officers, upon being newly elected or otherwise appointed on an interim basis, shall be sworn in on a Holy Bible by the Returning Officers before assuming office. The oath of office by which they shall be sworn shall read as follows:
- "I (each name, respectively) do solemnly swear by the Almighty God and my conscience, that I will faithfully and honestly execute the office of _____, and will, to the very best of my ability, preserve, protect, defend and comply with the Constitution and By-laws of ASA, USA, Inc. So help me God."
- 16.11 HANDING OVER: Following an election, the outgoing officers, whether retired or continuing in office by re-election, shall work closely and cooperatively with other newly elected officers between the time of the election and the next scheduled general meeting. However, all outgoing officers shall promptly hand over at the convention, all documents and property of the Union in their custody, possession or control, to the newly elected successors upon their being sworn in, including completion by the National Secretary of the convention report and it's handover to the existing NEC for circulation pursuant to his/her duties under Article 11.4.F of this Constitution. A \$1000.00 penalty shall be imposed for non-compliance and possible legal action may be considered.

ARTICLE 17: CONDUCT OF MEETINGS AND OTHER PROCEEDINGS

- 17.1 Official meetings and events of the Organization shall be opened and closed by the President; or, by the Vice President if the President is unavailable or unable or unlikely to be present. The NEC shall determine the date, time and the most practical means of conducting ASA general meetings as and when necessary.
- 17.2 All official meetings of ASA shall be summoned by the Secretary upon consultation with the President. In official meetings, the minutes of the previous meeting shall be read by the Secretary immediately after the opening prayers and remarks by the President. Amendments shall be made, as necessary, and a motion moved and then seconded for adoption of the minutes. Upon adoption, the minutes shall be signed by both the President and the Secretary.
- 17.3 The agenda for the meeting shall be followed in sequence. The President, or the Secretary, or any other person the President may appoint for that purpose, shall introduce the matters on the agenda and clearly explain same, as they are brought up by the President.
- 17.4 A person wishing to speak at a meeting shall so indicate by the raising of hand, and shall speak only upon the Provost or President giving him or her a go-ahead. A speaker may sit or stand while addressing the meeting.
- 17.5 Two or more members shall not speak at the same time. Where this occurs, the Provost shall promptly remind such persons of the Constitutional prohibition against unauthorized speaking and/or against two or more persons talking at the same time; and if such person(s) persist, both (or more) persons who continue in violation thereto shall be sanctioned as NOISEMAKERS under Article 22 of this Constitution, and subject to the penalties therein.
- 17.6 No member shall interrupt a person who has been officially permitted to speak and has the floor; in the event of such interruption, such act shall constitute NOISEMAKING under Article 22.4
- 17.7 No smoking, snuffing, music playing or noisemaking shall be permissible during meetings.

- 17.8 Upon a request for same being made and permission being granted by the Provost or the President, a question may be asked at any stage during the meeting, and shall be directed to the President who may personally answer or defer same to an appropriate officer or person to answer. Except that the President shall reserve the option at all times to overrule a given question as frivolous, irrelevant or out of order, or inflammatory and divisive.
- 17.9 A speaker who deviates from or veers away from the issue at hand or of direct or immediate relevance while addressing a meeting, may be called to order by a person from the floor by raising a "point of information," or of "Order" or "Correction," as may apply, with the Provost's support for the challenger to do so, and such move, upon being made, shall be addressed or deemed addressed to the President or presiding chairman who shall promptly rule on and dispose of the point of challenge raised to allow the deliberations to proceed.
- 17.10 The President (or the chairing officer) shall be in ultimate charge and control over the proceedings at any meeting, and shall call to order any person or persons who, in the President's judgment, hinder(s) the peace and progress of the meeting, and/or impose fines or other sections he/she may deem appropriate pursuant to his/her powers under Article 11.2(e) herein.
- 17.11 Whenever a deadlocked division of opinion or situation arises in a matter, such matter shall be decided by a motion which shall be duly moved and seconded and then voted upon and decided by a simple majority vote, subject only to Article 16.7(d) herein. Any counter-motions shall operate under the same terms and conditions.

ARTICLE 18: QUORUM

Thirty-three and one-third (33 1/3) percent of the total membership of the ASA administrative body or organ involved in a matter, as listed in Article 6, shall constitute a quorum at any duly summoned and publicized meeting, providing the President, or the Vice President, or the Secretary of the Union, if a Union-wide national meeting, or the Chairperson or Secretary of the body or organ, is present. Only decisions or actions taken at and by meetings having a proper quorum, as stipulated herein above, shall be deemed binding and a legitimate ASA, USA act.

ARTICLE 19: NATIONAL CONVENTION

- 19.1 The Association shall hold a conference annually **third weekend of October** each year. The specific date, and the place and time of the Conference or Convention, as well as the arrangements bearing on the convening and hosting of the convention, shall be undertaken and overseen by the National Convention Committee working in close conjunction with the President and the NEC.
- 19.2 The hosting of a Convention shall be by bidding by the chapters. Chapters interested in hosting the convention for a given year shall submit proposals for same to the Convention Committee or the NEC (or both) one year in advance of the proposed conference date.
- 19.3 The National Convention Committee, working in conjunction with the NEC, shall have the power to select a conference site from the list of the chapters bidding for the convention; or, if no bid is received within a reasonable timeframe, to organize and execute a convention accordingly. Decisions on the selected site and host for next year's convention, shall be made by or before this year's convention, and announced at this year's convention.
- 19.4 The hosting local chapter for a convention shall have the financial responsibility for the conference hall, entertainment, refreshments, and other related incidentals.
- 19.5 Pursuant to Article 16 herein, the election of officers shall be held during the annual conventions in an election year.
- 19.6 The agenda for the convention shall be determined by the National Executive Council but in close consultation and coordination with the Convention Committee and the hosting chapter; but shall include, and not be limited to, presentation of Annual Reports of their activities by the members of the Executive Council and the Committees to the General Assembly, and presentation of the Annual Budget, proposed (or already executed) plans and agenda, for debate and consideration by the General Assembly, and general discussions by members and invited guests alike on issues of public interest to Anambra State.
- 19.7 National conventions shall be open to, and subject to full participation by, all members and organs of the Union designated in Article 6 of this Constitution.
- 19.8 **Convention Fees:** Pursuant to Article 21.6, the National Union shall donate an amount of \$1000.00 to the hosting chapter to assist in defraying the cost of hosting the convention. The net profit realized from the convention by the hosting chapter shall be shared equally between the hosting chapter and the national Body. This provision shall be subject to automatic review every two years in respect to the dollar amount.

ARTICLE 19.9 CONVENTION ISSUES

The annual Convention shall be the chief legislative body of the Association comprising of the National Executive Council, the House of Delegates, the Board of Directors, the Board of Trustees, the Standing Committees, the national Auditors, Legal Counsels and the

General Assembly. There shall be two sessions of the annual convention, the Business Session and the General Session.

- (a) The Business Session: The business Session shall deal with all the business of the Association with the President as the presiding officer. All annual reports from the executives, the Board and the standing Committees shall be presented and discussed. The agenda for the Business Session shall include Elections, discussion and approval of the current year agenda, long and short term projects, Constitutional issues, procedural matters, Anambra State Affairs and Matters Arising. Only eligible chapter representatives shall be able to vote and be recognized to speak or given the Floor at the business meeting. **Registered members who are in good financial standing shall be able to participate fully in all deliberations of the Convention, but may not vote. Non-Chapter delegates may be appointed to the positions of Committee Chairpersons by the chief legislative body. Voting on all issues shall be by raising of hands only and decisions shall be reached by a simple majority** .In a situation where there is a deadlock, the President shall cast the second deciding vote. If a new President is chosen or elected, the new President shall present his Agenda for the new term at the session for approval
- (b) **The General Session:** The current or outgoing President, assisted by the hosting Chapter President shall run the General Session, which shall be open to the general public. The current President shall address the session and speak on his/her agenda for the year if he is still the President. If a new President is selected, the outgoing President shall introduce the new President who will be sworn in by an appointed person after which he shall address the Session and present his or Agenda for the year in question. This Session shall also be devoted to general discussions, promotion of Anambra State Issues, recognition of delegates and VIP's, and announcements.

ARTICLE 19.10 CONFLICTS WITHIN CHAPTERS

In order not to disrupt the National Convention, Chapters are advised to resolve all conflicts dealing with National delegates within them three months before the National Convention. The National Executive Council should be informed immediately a conflict arises. If a Chapter fails to resolve its internal conflict three months before the National Convention, the National Executive Council shall be empowered to hear the complaint and take a decision before the Convention. The decision of the National Executive Council and the Board may be appealed after the Convention. No chapter conflicts shall be addressed during National Conventions.

ARTICLE 19.11 PROJECTS AND FUND

- (a) The Association shall, if needed, embark on meaningful projects that are aimed at benefiting our State. The House of Delegates must approve all projects.
- (b) A project fund shall be established for the purpose of financing projects approved at the Conventions and shall be maintained in a bank approved by the National Executive Council.
- (c) All withdrawals of project funds must be approved by the House of Delegates.

ARTICLE 20: ASA, USA BANK ACCOUNT(S)

- 20.1 The NEC shall determine the financial institution and the type of account for the maintenance of the Association's funds.
- 20.2 Subject to article 20.3, the AUTHORIZED SIGNATORIES in financial and banking matters, as well as in matters relating to vital legal instruments, papers and documents, shall be the following: (i) the President or the Vice President (in the event that the President is incapacitated or absent), (ii) the Treasurer; and (iii) the National Secretary.
- 20.3 To effectuate an authorized and legal withdrawal, endorsement, negotiation or the cashing of the Association's funds and bank accounts, the JOINT signatures of the President, **OR** of the Vice President, in absence of the President, plus either one of the other two officers, are required absolutely.
- 20.4 No expenditures shall be incurred for or by the Association, or payments made thereto, without the overall approval of the reason, purpose, and project underlying same by the membership.

ARTICLE 21: FINANCES AND SOURCES OF FUNDS

The funds of the Association shall be derived from the following sources:

- 21.1 Membership registration by chapters (one-time payment).
- 21.2 Membership annual dues, as set forth in Article 4.10 herein.
- 21.3 Special levies — as and when necessary, on agreed amount.
- 21.4 Donations — from individuals, organizations, corporations, ASA members, and chapters, etc.

- 21.5 Promotions, and/or fundraising and income generating activities and events, as approved by Fundraising Committee, the NEC, and/or the House of Delegates.
- 21.6 A convention fee of \$100.00 shall be paid by each chapter to the National Treasurer each year, to reach the Treasurer no later than 30 days prior to the year's convention.
- 21.7 All checks in favor of the Association shall be made payable to Anambra State Association, USA.
- 21.8 Under no circumstances shall anyone misappropriate the Association's Funds.
- 21.9 TRAVEL REINBURSEMENT: The National Treasurer, with the approval of the President and the House of Delegates, shall pay the travel expenses of the members of the NEC for all authorized meetings.

ARTICLE 22: CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

- 22.1 Any and every member of the Union shall abide by all provisions of this Constitution in his or her deeds, works or actions, pursuant to Article 5 of this Constitution.
- 22.2 Pursuant to Article 10.8 of this Constitution, the NEC shall try all cases of non-criminal nature involving non-officer members. In the event that an officer or a member of the Executive Council shall behave or act contrary to this Constitution, the NEC, upon making or receiving a credible allegation, charge or complaint of mismanagement or poor or bad governance by an officer (or functionary) of the Union, shall promptly appoint an impartial and independent 3-person panel to hear the case, which panel shall, after a fair hearing of the accusing as well as the accused parties and due deliberations thereof, make a report of either impeachment or of exoneration of the accused party to the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall try any impeached officers, and may impose penalties, including fines, suspension, and/or removal from office, or even legal action, as it may deem fit and proper.
- 22.3 Absence of a chapter from the annual convention, unless with a reasonable or cogent excuse, is subject to a fine of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) in addition to the convention fee.
- 22.4 **Contravention of Articles 17.4, 17.6, 17.7 of this Constitution**, namely talking when not permitted to do so, or noisemaking during a meeting, shall attract a fine of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) for each occasion or act, and shall be paid promptly each time the contravening party is cited for it by the Provost and/or the President, before he/she may speak again at that or subsequent meetings.
- 22.5 Fighting at meetings, whether general meeting or otherwise, shall warrant a fine of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00).
- 22.6 Oral abuse, use of offensive and abusive language, personal attacks or quarreling at any meeting or event of ASA shall be subject to a fine of Ten Dollars (\$10.00).
- 22.7 Smoking or unauthorized music-playing during meetings shall be subject to a fine of Five Dollars (\$5.00).
- 22.8 No member (or chapter) of ASA, USA shall bring a lawsuit against a fellow member (or chapter), unless he/she has first made a complaint of the disputed matter to the NEC, through the National Secretary, and allowed the Union to mediate and troubleshoot for a fair settlement or resolution of the issues involved. whenever such a complaint is lodged with the Union, the President shall promptly act to satisfactorily resolve the issues pursuant to his/her obligations under Article 11.2(i) of the Constitution.
- 22.9 Any member (or chapter) who fails to comply with Article 22.8 above, shall be subject to the disciplinary procedures of Articles 10.8 and 22.2 of this Constitution, except, however, that a fine of not less than Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00), plus any other disciplinary measures the ASA, USA adjudicating panel may deem fit, shall be imposed, which may include but is not limited to, ostracism and/or expulsion from the Association.

ARTICLE 23: REMOVAL OR SUSPENSION OF OFFICERS

- 23.1 Subject to Article 22.2 of this Constitution, any officers (or functionaries) of the Association failing or neglecting to do his/ her duties under the Constitution and/or the By-laws, may be removed or suspended from an office upon the following grounds: a) gross, reckless, negligent or callous use and abuse of power; b) embezzlement of the Union's funds; c) use of the ASA, USA position or office for personal gain or profit; d) non-performance or neglect of duties and responsibilities; e) engaging in any acts, actions or activities considered to be prejudicial or detrimental to the best interests and good name of the Association; and (f) failure to follow or to be consistent with the provision of this constitution.
- 23.2 In the event that an officer resigns or is relieved of his/her position, or is otherwise unavailable or unable to discharge the duties of his/her office for any reason (such as prolonged absence of six months or more from meetings or the U.S., prolonged illness or other incapacity such as old age or death), the assistant to that office shall assume the position pending

an election; or where there's no assistant position to that post, the President, in consultation with the NEC, shall appoint an interim replacement.

ARTICLE 24: INTERPRETATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

- 24.1 Whenever an issue or question arises concerning the interpretation of any clause or provision of this Constitution, the same shall be determined by the President in consultation with the legal advisor or consultant of the Organization.
- 24.2 In any matter(s) on which the Constitution is silent, the power to decide and determine same shall be vested in the General Assembly in consultation with the President and the legal advisor or consultant of the Union.

ARTICLE 25: AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

- 25.1 The Constitution may be amended, in part or in whole, by a resolution in the General Assembly, PROVIDED that a resolution to amend shall be deemed passed and adopted only by a supporting, favorable vote of at least SEVENTY-FIVE (75) PERCENT of the delegates present and voting thereon at a General Assembly.
- 25.2 Any proposed amendment to the Constitution shall, however, be deemed a "vital issue," and in pursuance of that, a written notice and detailed write-up of any proposed amendment shall first be submitted by a member or chapter, in writing, to the Executive Council through the Secretary at least 120 days before the General Meeting at which it is proposed or intended to be considered for adoption. The written proposal shall set forth the proposed amendment to be made, and the grounds, reasons and basis for the amendments proposed. The Secretary shall promptly cause the proposal to be circulated to all chapters for their prior study and analysis, which circulation shall be made at least 90 days before the said General Assembly Meeting at which it is scheduled to be considered for possible adoption.

ARTICLE 26: DISSOLUTION

- 26.1 Seventy-five percent (75%) majority vote of all the active, financial delegates in good standing shall be required to pass a motion calling for the dissolution of the Organization, provided, however, that any motion or proposal for dissolution of the Organization shall be deemed a "vital issue," and in pursuance of that, shall meet all and the same conditions as are set forth under Article 25.2 of this Constitution in respect to a prior detailed write-up of the proposed dissolution plan and the justifications thereof, timely prior submission of same to the chapters, etc.
- 26.2 In the event that the above requirements are met, ASA shall stand dissolved and its assets, after its obligations are settled, shall be donated to an institution of public service, such as a school, or a library or hospital, in a town in Anambra State.

ARTICLE 27: JURISDICTION

- 27.1 The provisions of the CONSTITUTION shall be severable. If a court of competent jurisdiction shall rule that any provision or clause of this Constitution is invalid or unenforceable for any reason, such a ruling shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the other provisions of this Constitution, except that in such event the Constitution shall be deemed to be modified and amended to the extent of the remainder not ruled invalid or unenforceable.
- 27.2 This Constitution shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California in the United States of America, and its territories, or of the State of Anambra in Nigeria, whichever one first assumes jurisdiction in a given matter.

WE, the sons and daughters of Anambra State of Nigeria residing in and representing Chapters of ASA,USA in various towns and localities all across the United States of America, had, at a meeting held in the city of Dallas, USA, on October 27th 2001, duly constituted ourselves into a national organization, called Anambra State Association, USA (ASA,USA), and having elected these members: Prince Jimmy Asiegbu, Jerome Obinabo, Dr. Christie Dike, Dr. Anthony Ejiofor and Dr. Benjamin Anosike, to serve as the Constitutional Review and Draft Committee for the purpose of producing a final draft of the Constitution reflecting the views of the members; the said Constitutional Review and Draft Committee (CRDC) having fully deliberated and having duly taken into consideration the seeming consensus and guidelines expressed by the members at the said Dallas meeting, and having fully consulted with the chapters and their leadership on the various issues and provisions of the Constitution whereupon the said Constitutional Review and Drafting Committee produced the final version of the within Draft Constitution Document for their review, consideration and adoption;

NOW, WHEREFORE, the within Draft Constitution having earlier before now been submitted to and read, analyzed and thoroughly studied by the members and chapter representatives of ASA,USA; and the said members and chapter representatives herein gathered on this day having further freely debated the said Draft Constitution at this day's said general meeting of the Association held in Los Angeles, California on **the 26th day of October 2002**, and made corrections and refinements thereto as and where desired, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by unanimous vote that the within Document, hereinafter designated as the CONSTITUTION, is approved and adopted by ASA,USA, as its Constitution.

In witness thereof, the following under-listed chapters were present and duly represented on this day above stated, at this meeting and event:

1. Los Angeles
2. Dallas
3. New York
4. Oklahoma
5. Sacramento
6. Tennessee
7. South Carolina
8. San Francisco
9. Houston
10. Atlanta
11. Chicago
12. San Jose
13. New Orleans
14. Baton Rouge
15. Boston

The Constitution, Anambra State Association, USA (ASA-USA)

AMENDMENTS

The amendments hereinafter made to the within Constitution, shall be listed and numbered in chronological order, and shall be cited by the numbering attached to the Amendments. These AMENDMENTS, provided duly approved by the House of Delegates, shall be appended to the Constitution, at the back thereof, as part of the Constitution in every respect.

Amendment 1. MEMBERSHIP OF TOWN UNIONS.

1.1 In furtherance of Article of Article 4 of this Constitution, notwithstanding any other provision of the

Constitution to the contrary, membership of the Association shall be open to the Town Unions operating in the United States or Canada. Qualifying town unions shall be groups or organizations comprised of, and representing, persons who are Anambra State indigenes from a specific town therein living in the United States or Canada, except that the said town union shall be nationwide or national in character.

1.2 A qualifying town union of the Association, shall certify in writing to the National Executive Council (NEC) of ASAUSA, through its National Secretary, as to its existence and legitimacy as a credible representative in the United States or Canada, of persons who hail from a specific town in Anambra State.

1.3 Only one town union in either the United States or Canada, shall be recognized or registered, or be otherwise admissible, for membership for any given town in Anambra State.

1.4 REGISTRATION AND ANNUAL DUES. Duly constituted town unions shall be deemed registered which have paid a one-time registration fee of \$200 (in terms of U.S. currency, only). Each town union shall maintain its membership with \$US200 each year. EXCEPT, however, that the Annual Dues shall not be perpetually fixed, but shall be subject to automatic review every two years (or sooner) at the annual convention, and to an upward revision by a simple majority vote of the House of Delegates thereat.

1.5 In furtherance of Article 8 and 16.7 of the Constitution, each town union member of the Association shall have two (2) members in the House of Delegates, and be entitled to two (2) delegate votes in elections or other related voting.

1.6 Town Union members of, and membership in, the Association shall otherwise be subject to every other term, condition, rights and obligations, to which the Local Chapters are subject under the Constitution or otherwise.

AMENDMENT 2. MEMBERSHIP OF CANADIAN CHAPTERS.

2.1 In furtherance of Article 4 of this Constitution, notwithstanding any other provisions of the Constitution to the contrary, all references made therein to the Local Chapters or Chapters of the Association in Article 4 or in any other section of the Constitution, shall be deemed to be applicable, just as well, and in each and every respect, to duly constituted Chapters comprising Anambra indigenes resident in Canada.

AMENDMENT 3. HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

3.1 Article 8 of the Constitution is hereby amended as follows, only to this extent. This shall be composed of four (4) members from each Local Chapter.

AMENDMENT 4. CHAPTER VOTING.

4.1 Article 16.7 of the Constitution shall hereby be amended to read: There being only four (4) Delegates permitted for each Chapter, the delegates for each chapter shall have either 1 (one) vote each, or otherwise apportioned by them among the four or less delegates, as the case may be, to come to a sum total of four votes.

AMENDMENT 5. MEMBERSHIP OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

5.1. There shall be a body of at least seven (7) persons who shall constitute the Board of Directors, EXCEPT, however, that each Chapter of the Union shall, unless otherwise decided upon by a vote of the NEC or the House of Delegates pursuant to Article 13 of the Constitution, be entitled to a member in the Board of Directors.

5.2. Membership in the Board of Directors shall be for a four (4) year period, which shall run concurrently with the off-election year of the Association, but shall be subject to re-confirmation.

AMENDMENT 6. NOTICE OF INTENTION TO RUN FOR OFFICE

6.1 Persons wishing or intending to be candidates for election to any office, function or functionary, in the Association, shall declare such intention in writing and by oral pronouncement, to the Association three (3) months before the prospective date of the election, through the National President and the National Secretary, as well as to the public.

AMENDMENT 7. CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE AS A STANDING COMMITTEE

7.1. Article 15 of the Constitution is hereby amended as follows, only to this extent. The list of the Standing Committees of the Association shall include THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE.

Amendments 1 thru 7 are approved by the 2005 Convention in Houston, on _____