

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS
TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CONFERENCE
OF
LIBERIAN ORGANIZATIONS IN THE SOUTHWESTERN UNITED STATES, INC.
(COLOSUS, INC)

ADOPTED ON JULY 22, 1995
IN DENVER, COLORADO, U.S.A.

Preamble (Proposed)

We, the citizens and friends of the Republic of Liberia, West Africa, residing in the Southwestern regions of the United States of America, with firm commitment and belief in our utmost desire to foster unity among ourselves and friends of Liberia; in addition to recognizing the importance of maintaining unity, understanding and pursuing social, educational and economic viability, and being equally aware of the mutual benefits inherent in such pursuits, do hereby declare our intention to pursue these noble objectives through an organization to be known as: The Conference of Liberian Organizations in the Southwestern United States.

Article I: Name (Proposed Amendment)

The name of this organization shall be The Conference of Liberian Organizations in the Southwestern United States of America; and it shall be officially abbreviated as COLOSUS, Inc. and hereto referred to as the General Organization.

Article II: Purpose (Proposed Amendment)

The purpose of this organization shall be to generate, administer and expend funds and other goods and services on a Not-For-Profit basis in connection with the following:

1. To maintain regional cooperation, support and harmony amongst accepted chapters and toward this end, take effective and collective measures for the good of unity within the region of these Southwestern United States.
2. To educate, inform and mobilize Liberians and friends thereof to become active in support of causes which reflect social and economic issues, and uphold by all lawful means mutual cooperation among all Liberians and friends of Liberia in the restoration, reconciliation, reconstructions of economic and social justice in Liberia; and also to promote cultural exchange between Liberians and citizens of the United States.
3. To develop friendly relations among member chapters based on the respect democratic principles of equal rights and self-determination.
4. To aid in the dissemination of information that promote and encourage social justice, economic prosperity and political stability. However, this General Organization shall not be empowered to endorse political candidate(s) seeking Elective position(s) in the Republic of Liberia.
5. To assist in any way possible our local communities in these southwestern regions of the United States in case of need.
6. This General Organization shall engage in any and all lawful activities, incidental to the foregoing purposes and/or otherwise advised.

Article III: Location (Proposed Amendment)

The headquarters of The Conference of Liberian Organizations in the Southwestern United States, Inc., (COLOSUS, Inc.) shall be located in any state within the Southwestern United States. Article I, Section II of two.

Article IV: Organizational Structure (Revision)

The General Organization shall be comprised of a General Assembly – referred to as in Article IV, Section A; Board of Directors, referred to as in Article IV, Section B; and the Executive Committee, referred to as in Article IV, Section C.

Section A: General Assembly

4A(1): The General Assembly shall consist of all officers of COLOSUS, members of the Board and representatives of member community associations. All meetings of the General Assembly shall proceed according to the agenda of the Secretary General; all debates and proceedings shall be in accordance with the latest edition of the Roberts Rules of Order and to effect its own Rules of Order.

4A(2): Each member community association shall be entitled to have five

(5) voting representatives in the General Assembly.

4A(3): The General Assembly shall be the supreme policy making body of COLOSUS, Inc. Decisions shall be made by the simple majority of voting members.

4A(4): The General Assembly shall receive and consider annual and special reports of the Board of Directors.

4A(5): The General Assembly shall consider and approve the annual budget of COLOSUS, Inc. Moreso, it shall approve expenditures of all funds that supersede the annual budgetary appropriations as mandated by the General Assembly.

4A(6): Each community association within the General Assembly that fails to meet its financial obligation(S) shall be denied its voting privileges at General Assembly meetings and conferences until all obligations are fulfilled.

4A(7): The General Assembly shall, as recommended by the Secretary General, consider and/or establish committees as deemed necessary for the execution of its functions.

Article IV Section B: The Board of Directors (Revision)

4B(1): The Board of Directors shall comprise of the head and/or interim leader of each member community association. The Secretary-General I shall serve as member Ex-officio of the Board.

4B(2): The Board of Directors shall elect a chairperson rotational basis from among the Chapter president(s) and/or Interim Leader(s)

4B(3): A member of the Board shall head the Grievance Committee that will handle constitutional, inter and intra communities conflicts/matters thereof. However, only in the absence of the General Assembly shall the entire Board act as a mediator and present its decision in a dispute to the General Assembly for approval.

4B(4): The Board of Directors may develop and propose new program and fiscal policies for the approval of the General Assembly.

4B(5): The Board shall meet quarterly on a rotational basis, and in the event of an increase in membership, meeting shall be held in combination of state levels rather than regional levels.

4B(6): The Board shall adopt the Robert Rules of Order to conduct its affairs. The board shall also present an annual report of its activities at the annual independence (July 26th) convention.

4B(7): The Board of Directors shall be empowered to approve all newly associated and/or full accredited member associations in accordance with Article III of this constitution.

4B(8): Vacancies occurring among Board members shall be filled at the next meeting upon the presentation of the proper written document by the member's association. However, in the case such vacancy is of the chairperson of the Board, the electoral procedure shall be followed as stipulated in Article V Section 5.5 of the constitution.

Article IV Section C: The Executive Committee (Revision)

4C(1): The Executive Committee shall be comprise of the Secretary General, the elected and appointed officers, and/or interim leaders, and a member of the Board of Directors.

4C(2): The Executive Committee shall execute the decisions of the General Assembly, propose new policies and programs for the approval of the General Assembly, and carry out the day-to-day operation of the General Organization.

4C(3): The Secretary General, on behalf of the Executive Committee shall make a yearly report at the general convention during the weekend of the 26th Independence Celebration.

4C(4): The Executive Committee shall submit an annual budget no later June 30th of each calendar year, in keeping with the fiscal year as stipulated in Article 8.3 of this constitution, to the General Assembly. However, same shall follow the notification process of election as prescribed in Article 5.3.

Article V: Officers (Proposed Amendment)

5.1 Titles:

The elected officers of this organization shall be: Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General, Recording Secretary, Financial Officer, Information/protocol Officer, Social Secretary and Chaplain.

5.2 Terms:

The officers shall be elected bi-annually at the third quarterly meeting of each bi-annual calendar year. They shall take office or be installed at the July 26 Independence Celebration.

5.3 Notice of Election:

Notice of the organization election of officers shall be reasonably provided to all community associations no later than (2) months prior to the election date.

5.4 Nomination:

Nomination of candidates of the General Organization shall be from the floor by any representative/current officer, whose community is in good standing with the General Organization.

5.5 Election Procedure:

The officers of this conference/General Organization shall be elected by a simple majority vote by the permanent representatives of each association, member of Board of Directors and the current officers of the General Organization. However, in order to be eligible for a representative and/or current officer to be elected and/or cast a vote, their respective community association shall have paid their annual dues prior to the election date. The executive officers shall not exceed two consecutive terms (four years).

5.6 Vacancies:

Vacancies occurring among officers shall be filled at the next quarterly meeting.

5.7 Removal:

Any officer may be removed for failure to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the office for which he was elected to serve and/or for engaging in acts of conducts contrary to the objectives of the General Organization. Two-thirds of the vote of officers and permanent representatives present at the regular quarterly meeting of the general body is required for removal.

Article VI: Duties of officers (Revision & Amendment)

6.1 (a) Secretary General (Revision)

The Secretary General shall be the Chief Administrative Officer of the General Organization. This person shall preside over every meeting of the General Assembly and all special sections. Any matter may be brought forth which may threaten the welfare of the General Assembly and/or Board of Directors.

6.1 (b) The Secretary General shall prepare and forward all correspondence to the General Organization as well as shall present an annual report of the organization activities and fiscal policies, and make recommendation during the convention assembly of the July 26 Independence activities.

6.1 (c) The Secretary General and staff shall refrain from any action directly or indirectly that reflects the Executive Committee's position concerning a conflict that interferes with the sovereignty granted each association prior to the Grievance Committee's recommendation. Failure to comply shall subject the Secretary General and/or staff to disciplinary actions or fine.

6.2 (a) Deputy Secretary General (Proposed)

The Deputy Secretary General shall serve as the principal deputy to the Secretary General in the overall administration of the association.

6.2 (b) The Deputy Secretary General, in case of the death, inability, or removal of the Secretary General, shall assume the office of the Secretary General, pending an election within sixty (60) days by the permanent representatives and officers to be presided over by the Chairman of the Board of Director. (See Appendix 5.5).

6.2 (c) The Deputy Secretary General shall be in charge of the educational aspect of the general organization, and under the guidance of the Secretary General, shall coordinate and/or formulate programs and other activities of the General Organization.

6.2 (d) The Deputy Secretary General shall from time-to-time serve as ambassador-at-large and chairperson ex-officio of all standing committees.

6.3 (a) Recording Secretary

The Recording Secretary shall record and keep the minutes of all meetings of the General Assembly and executive committee.

6.3 (b) The Recording Secretary shall also keep a copy of all proceeding(s) of the general organization including membership rolls and fees, financial intake and disbursements. This person shall in time, turn all monies and receipts of the General Assembly to the Financial Officer and obtain a receipt thereof.

6.3 (c) The Recording Secretary shall prepare a journal of the general organization activities at the end of each quarter, for the record and tax accounting purposes.

6.4 (a) Financial Officer (Revision)

The Financial Officer shall, under the supervision of the Secretary General, be responsible for the collection of dues, assessments, taxation and/or contributions and general fees of the General Organization.

6.4 (b) The Financial Officer, along with a member of the Board of Directors, and a member of the permanent representative, selected from the floor as stipulated in Appendix 5.4 and 5.5 shall issue and/or sign all checks and vouchers for the settlement of the General Organizations financial obligations.

The Financial Officer shall also transact all banking (with the stipulated signatories mentioned above) activities, including investments and deposits to and collection from a financial institution designated by the General Organization.

6.4 (c) The Financial Officer shall prepare and/or receive and analyze all fiscal reports of the General Organization and make said information available to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors for policy development prior to the June 30th deadline to the General assembly for financial approval. The Financial Officer, nevertheless, must forward same as stipulated in the Notification Process of Election in Article 5.3 so that a thorough examination may be presented by the General Assembly thereby avoiding long-term arguments or filibustering.

6.4 (d) The Assistant Secretary General shall work with all Fund-Raising Committees and shall undertake any other assignment given by the Secretary General.

6.4 (e) All financial reports shall be audited and same shall be compiled and kept in the quarterly journal of the Recording Secretary. Along with the yearly fiscal report, the Financial Officer shall also present a quarterly financial report to the General Assembly and/or Executive Committee and shall follow the same notification guideline, one (1), (in this case) month prior to the quarterly meeting as stipulated in 5.3.

6.5 (a) Informational/Protocol Officer

The Information/Protocol Officer shall serve as the medium of publicity of the Secretariat. This officer will be responsible for the publication of six (6) yearly newsletters of the General Organization.

6.5 (b) The Information/Protocol Officer shall preside as the chief protocol officer of all the General Organization's activities, and programs.

6.6 (a) Social Secretary

The Social Secretary shall be responsible for the planning, organizing and supervising of recreational activities including sporting events, parties, fund raising activities and all social undertaking of the General Organization.

6.6 (b) This officer shall submit a calendar (Activities) of events and a budget to the Secretary General no later than June 30th of each fiscal year, and the same shall be approved by General Assembly.

6.7 Chaplain

The Chaplain shall inspire the religious activities of the General Organization and shall open and close all meetings with a prayer.

Article VII: Membership

7.1 Membership in the General Organizations is open to all Liberian Community Associations and Interim Associations and Friends of Liberia within the southwestern region of the United States which will accept and abide by these stipulations as described and presented by the present charter and, in the judgment of the Organization carry out these obligations.

7.2 Admission of any new member association/community shall be affected by the recommendation of the Executive Committee by a written petition as mandated in Article III – by the said Association/Community upon the approval of the Board of Directors.

7.3 Any chartered member of the General Assembly that has persistently isolated the principle herein contained or mandated by the constitution of the aforementioned association and failure to comply with dues and taxation obligations, may be suspended by the General Assembly by a 2/3 majority vote. Same shall hold true of associated members.

7.4 Procedure For Suspension

Any member/associate/association/community who has failed to meet up with its financial obligations and taxation for one calendar year, shall be forewarned with copies of said warning forwarded to the Board of Directors. However, after three warnings to the Association/Community's leader, the Secretary General shall recommend (upon the approval of the General Assembly) the suspension of said Community/Association from all activities of the General Assembly for a period of three (3) months. Nevertheless, at the end of the three (3) month period they may be reinstated upon the payment of specified fine and payment of all taxation and dues previously owed.

7.5 Associate Membership

Associate membership may be granted to any Liberian community And/or organization within the Southwestern region of the United States, who so desire to associate with the General Organization, upon submitting a written application. The association and/or organization, however, may petition the General Organization any time for full membership.

7.6 Associate members shall part-take in the debate, voting and deliberation of all the General Organization activities. Consequently, as opposed to the five (5) permanent representatives of full members, they shall be entitled to three (3) official representations.

7.7 Honorary Membership

Honorary membership may be granted to any non-Liberian or Outsider, who has, or wishes to make a yearly contribution to a Liberian Community Association or the General Organization.

7.8 Honorary Membership with Ceremonial Title

I.E., "Clan Chief" and "Paramount Chief". Membership with the title of "Honorary Clan Chief" may be conferred by the Secretary General at the installation ceremony and/or the independence 26th convention program, upon the approval of the Executive Committee on any individual(s) who made a substantial contributions to the socio-economic, general welfare, and humanitarian needs of Liberia and/or a local association and General Organization.

Article VIII: Dues and Assessments (Revision)

8.1 All member associations shall be taxed a yearly assessment as stipulated by the General Assembly and same shall be paid on/or before the beginning of each fiscal year.

8.2 During the seating of the annual convention assembly, each member of the convention assembly shall pay a seating fee as stipulated by the General Organization.

8.3 All member associations shall be taxed a quarterly seating fee as approved by the General Assembly.

8.3 Associate members, however, shall be taxed half of yearly assessment and quarterly seating fee levied against full member organizations/associations. All yearly assessment must be paid on/or before the beginning of each fiscal year (July 1).

8.4 Payment

Payment of dues/assessment shall be paid annually. No community or association which has not paid its dues on/or before June 30th of each fiscal year, shall be entitled to vote at the regular quarterly and General Assembly meetings. The fiscal year of the General Organization shall begin July 1-June 30th.

All monies/funds that are not within the guidelines of the approved budgetary appropriation shall be presented to the Board of Directors for approval no later than two (2) weeks prior to expenditure funds.

8.6 All funds/allocations issued in the interest of the General Organizations are subject to budgetary appropriation unless otherwise approved by the Board of Director as stipulated in Appendix 8.6.

Article IX: Meetings (Proposed Amendment)

9.1 Frequency

The Board of Directors and Executive Committee shall hold regular meetings not less than once each quarter of the calendar/fiscal year.

9.2 (a) Regular Meeting(s)

Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held two (2) weeks prior to the quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee.

Notice of the quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given to all members in the most complete manner practicable not less than two weeks prior to the meeting.

9.2 (b) The Executive Committee shall meet quarterly, during the first weekend and/or during the last month of each quarter. Notice, including the Agenda of the quarterly meeting shall be forwarded to all member association/communities in the most complete manner practicable not less than one (1) month prior to the meeting.

9.3 Quorum

A quorum for a Board of Directors and/or Executive Committee meeting shall require no less than 2/3 of its members, in order to conduct the affairs of the Board of Directors and/or the Executive Committee.

9.4 Special Meeting

Special meeting(s) of the General Organization and/or of Board may be called by the Secretary General and/or the Chairman of the Board in the case of a special Board meeting upon the approval of ½ of the members of the Executive Committee and/or the Board. Provided that notice is given as stipulated/subscribed in Appendix 5.2.

9.5 Annual Convention

On July 26 of each calendar year and/or during the weekend that precedes or immediately follows July 26, the General Organization shall host its General Assembly meeting whereas the participating community may part-take in the discussion, deliberation, debate and have the opportunity to observe the working activities of the General Organization. However, visiting members/communities shall not be allowed to vote on issues of the General Assembly; same shall be done through their representatives.

Article X: Representation

10.1 Only those community associations and/or organizations duly admitted into the membership of the General Organizations shall use the name of the General Organization (COLOSUS, Inc.) and the

proper designation of the local community association or organization shall appear with the name of the General Organization, (COLOSUS, Inc.).

10.2 No individual shall solicit funds, enter into business and/or make representations in the name of the General Organization, (COLOSUS, Inc.) without the written authorization of the general assembly and signed by the duly elected officers with the power to sign such authorization. These restrictions shall also be applicable to both the community associations/organizations and/or the governing body of the General Organization. (COLOSUS, Inc.).

10.3 Any such violation and/or falsification of any such record of the General Organization (COLOSUS, Inc.) shall subject such individual and/or community associations/organizations to legal prosecution.

Article XI: (Amendment)-Revision

11.1 Any amendment or repeal of this constitution may be proposed by any member community association/organization provided it is proposed at a regular quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee, preceding the meeting at which it is to be considered. All amendment(s) must also be circulated to all community associations/organizations and/or associate organizations/communities preceding the meeting at which it is to be considered.

11.2 Passage

Article/Amendment(s) and/or by laws of this constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at the General Assembly meeting of the General Organization and shall take effect on the date indicated by the resolution, all amendment(s) must be circulated to all community and/or associate organization/associations.

We hereby certify that at a Regular Quarterly Meeting of the General Organization held with LCA, initially agreed upon this 5th day of November, 1994, A.D. The General Organization (COLOSUS, Inc.) adopted the foregoing instrument as the working tool and/or constitutional guidelines to administer its activities effective immediately as stipulated above.

May God bless the people of the Republic of Liberia, West Africa and the citizenry and people of the United States of America, and save both nations.

Signed and sealed in

The Committee Room by:

Kobel Goyah

Member, LCA-Dallas

Alfred T. Max Davis, II

Member, LCA-Dallas

Oscar Fahnbulleh

Member, LCA-Dallas

Arthur Wanquoi

Member, LCA-Tulsa

M. Tenniday Sayeh, Sr.

Member, LCA-Houston

Aurelius B. Weeks

Member, LCA-Houston

Rev. Dr. Bishop Bennie D. Warner

Advisor

Robert E. Knuckles, II

Member, LCA-Tulsa

Chairman, Constitution

Committee

Approved by:

Rev. Chancy Chea Bolo

Secretary General
