

WLCU DRAFT BYLAWS USA & CANADA

CHAPTER 1. NAME AND MAIN OFFICE

Article 1. NAME OF THE ORGANISATION

The World Lebanese Cultural Union (WLCU) Geographic-Regional Council (Committee) (GRC) for **USA** and **Canada** is one of six Regional Councils and the exclusive affiliate of the World Lebanese Cultural Union (WLCU). WLCU was established in Mexico in 1959, is recognised as INGO and is associated with DPI of the UN. WLCU is an independent civil institution, non-governmental, non-political, non-racial, non-religious and non-profitable, duly recognised as the sole representative of the Lebanese expansion in the World. WLCU (also referred to as "Union" within this constitution) is governed by its statutes and its by-laws and its organisms are entitled to bear the name of the State/City/Province of the country in which it is located along with its name.

Article 2. MAIN OFFICE ADDRESS

The office and its mailing address may be transferred from time to time in accordance with the location of a newly elected President and Secretary-General until such as time when the GRC has a permanent address. The GRC shall have a PO Box address instead of a residential address and must be registered (both the WLCU name and Logo) with the authorities of the relevant country.

CHAPTER 2. AIMS AND MEANS

Article 3. ITS OBJECTIVE

- a. To enhance and promote the spirit of allegiance and patriotism among members of the Union and through the countries in which they live, and to share actively for the benefits of those countries in the fields of education, culture and society.
- b. To consolidate the ties of friendship and concord among its members and hence promote the links of friendship and mutual understanding among the countries in which members of the Union live.
- c. To create and promote the ties of friendliness and mutual understanding and enhance such ties among all those countries and Lebanon, and encourage the cultural, social, touristic and economic activities which are of mutual interest between Lebanon and the countries of residence, on one side, and among Lebanese citizens and the Lebanese descendants, on the other side.
- d. To promulgate the Lebanese heritage in countries of residence of the Union members and promulgate countries among themselves and in Lebanon
- e. To acquaint people of Lebanon's civilisation and of the integral role it has played throughout its history in the service of humanity, and safeguard the Lebanese existence and entity in order to enable Lebanon to pursue its efforts in the service of world peace and understanding among peoples.
- f. To fostering faith, peace and understanding among peoples by encouraging members of the Union to serve their communities irrespective of any,

personal or material gain, and seek to promote the standards of moral values in the field of commerce, public works and private life.

- g. Establishing and administering National Lebanese Information Centres to provide both the Lebanese and wider communities in both USA and Canada, with the appropriate facilities and services to foster and enhance the aims and objectives of the WLCU.
- h. To support, respect and promote the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to declare that its Mission Statement is consistent with those principles, as appears above and hereafter, and to achieve, by all means possible, the attainment of the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations for all peoples throughout the world through the organization of the WLCU.

Article 4.

The Union aims also to achieve its objectives with respect to:

- a. a. Respecting the entity, independence and sovereignty of Lebanon as a final homeland for all the Lebanese citizens.
- b. Promoting the distinctive Lebanese identity of citizens from Lebanese origin.
- c. Granting facilities and services available to the Lebanese emigrants and their descendants.

CHAPTER 3. MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION

Article 5.

- a. The Union is composed of branches, clubs, associations, leagues, institutions and federations, joining Lebanese Citizens and descendants of Lebanese origin who believe in Lebanon as a final homeland for all compatriots and who are not affiliated to other institutions whose objectives contradict the Lebanese entity.
- b. The aforementioned chapters of the Geographic-Regional Council shall formalise their membership by contributing to the administrative expenses of the Council such sum each year as determined by the executive committee. A chapter shall not be entitled to its rights and privileges as a member unless the membership fees are paid at least three months prior the annual general meeting.
- c. The GRC President of WLCU, at his/her discretion, may issue honorary membership cards to a non-member who is in good standing at the request of the latter.

Article 6.

The Union includes the aforementioned members which are disseminated throughout all the provinces and Territories of Canada , all the states of the USA .

CHAPTER 4

Article 7.

a. Chapters of the Geographic-Regional Council shall consist of branches, clubs, associations, youth committee/leagues, institutions and federations having at least thirty members who have a common interest or purpose, in good standing and hold valid and current membership cards. Each member is entitled to one vote in the election of the Branch Board. No one is permitted membership in more than one branch. A branch shall be registered with the local authorities of USA and Canada (federal or provincial or states) A branch is then approved and recognised by their respective State or provincial council and subsequently by the Geographic-Regional Council, which authority shall refer all necessary documents to the Secretary-General for registration and formal recognition. Chapters and Provincial / State / National Councils shall have PO Box addresses instead of residential addresses.

b. USA

WLCU State Councils - Each State Council shall be composed of the President or one (1) delegate from each chapter. From amongst them they shall elect a President and Committee in accordance with the requirements of their respective State Constitution. State Council Presidents are members of the World Council.

c. Canada

WLCU provincial Councils - Each provincial Council shall be composed of the President or one (1) delegate from each chapter. From amongst them they shall elect a President and Committee in accordance with the requirements of their respective provincial Constitution. Provincial Council Presidents are members of the World Council.

d. In the presence of only two chapters in one provincial or State Council, they shall form a Provincial or State Council composed of two chapters, the Council shall alternatively be presided every year by rotation between the Presidents of the two chapters. The chapter President who enjoys age seniority shall assume the Presidency the first year.

e. The Geographic Regional Committee for USA and Canada shall be composed of the Presidents of the State Councils. Presidents of the State Councils are duly members of the Regional Board of Directors. They shall elect, not necessarily only from amongst themselves, the Executive Committee of the Regional Board of Directors. The Commissioners and other members of the Board of Directors are to be appointed by the GRC after consultation with the Board of Trustees.

f- The Regional Board of Directors consists of, but not limited to, the following positions:

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Regional President

Regional Vice President

Regional Secretary General (appointed according to article 8.a)

Assistant Regional Secretary General ((appointed according to article 8.a)

Regional Treasurer

Advisors

COMMISSIONERS and members
Two Representatives with the Local Authorities
Regional Commissioner for the Youth
Regional Commissioner for Ladies of Lebanese descent
Regional Commissioner for Information and Communications.
Regional Commissioner for Social Affairs.
Regional Commissioner for Cultural and Heritage Affairs
Regional Commissioner for Finance.
Legal Advisor
Chairperson of the board of trustees

g. -these commissioners shall also be members of International Committees within WLCU.

h. If a State Council does not exist; or has not been formed i.e. a State then, the Chapter of the WLCU or equivalent in that State shall be entitled to have its President as delegates on the Geographic-Regional Council.

i. If any of the Executive Committee and delegates to the Geographic-Regional Council

1. Is convicted of an indictable offence; or

2. Fails to comply with any of the provisions of this constitution; or

3. Conducts himself or herself in a manner considered to be injurious or prejudicial to the character or interests of the Geographic-Regional Council, the Geographic-Regional Council shall consider whether the person's representation on the Council shall be terminated.

4. The person concerned shall be given a full and fair opportunity of presenting their case and if the Council resolves by ordinary majority to remove the person, the Secretary-General shall inform the person in writing of their removal from the Council.

CHAPTER 5

Article 8.

a. The Geographic-Regional Council shall propose names of suitable candidates for the positions of Regional Secretary General and Assistant Regional Secretary General to the World Secretary General for approval and appointment. The RSG will act also as a board secretary . The term of the RSG and his assistant extends until the end of the term of the world president .

b. The Executive Committee of the Geographic-Regional Council (committee):

- I. Shall retain office for a period of two years with the right to be nominated for office for further two years (upon re-election, and no immediate extension). Such right shall be exercised once only.
- II. If a State or provincial I Council President or delegate ceases to hold his/her position on their respective State or provincial Council, he/she shall automatically forfeit his/her position on the Geographic-Regional Council and shall be replaced by the newly elected President or delegate, with the exception of the members of the Executive Committee who are elected for two years.

c

- d. Members of the Union living in the above mentioned Geographical region shall commit themselves to honour the Union's objectives and shall be subject to the provisions of this constitution immediately after their affiliation to the Union. The conditions of affiliation of the branches, clubs, associations, leagues, institutions and federations will be stipulated upon their application for membership.

The Geographical -Regional Council (GRC) is empowered to execute:

- e. the decisions of the World Conference, and to coordinate the work and decisions of the provincial and State Councils to ensure cooperation and integration between all parties
- f. The Geographical- Regional Council (GRC) shall document their internal regulations having consideration for the objectives of WLCU and abiding by the World Constitutional Basic Bylaws and World Internal Regulations and civil laws of the host countries. A copy of the regulations shall be signified to the World Secretariat General

Article 9.

The Power and duties of the President of the Geographic Regional Council for USA & Canada of the World Lebanese Cultural Union:

1. The President is the most senior official of the World Lebanese Cultural Union in this Geographical region;
2. The President will at all times be the sole spokesperson for and on behalf of the World Lebanese Cultural Union for USA & Canada .
3. The President of the Geographic-Regional Council for USA & Canada . shall at all times represent the world President in this Geographical region, unless the World President is here present in person.
4. In the event of a need arising for a delegation to travel outside this Geographical region on World Lebanese Cultural Union business/congress, then the President shall head such a delegation and lead all discussions for the benefit of the Geographic-Regional Council for USA & Canada .and the World Lebanese Cultural Union in general.
5. The President of the Geographic-Regional Council:
 - a. Shall represent the Council judicially and administratively before all public and private bodies.

- b. Shall preside over sessions of the Geographic-Regional Council.
- c. Shall convoke the ordinary and extraordinary sessions of the Geographic-Regional Council for USA & Canada . , through the RSG.
- d. As a member of the World Council; Shall implement or ensure the implementation of the decisions of the World Council and the Geographic-Regional Council, and to supervise the activities of the State and provincial Councils in this Geographical region.
- e. Shall exercise any other powers necessary and conferred upon the President by the constitution of this Geographic-Regional Council, in order to realise the objectives of the World Lebanese Cultural Union and this Geographic-Regional Council of the World Lebanese Cultural Union.

6. The President has the power to delegate responsibilities to other members of the Council.

Article 10.

Powers and duties of the Vice-President:

- a. To replace the President in case of absence, physical impediment, resignation or death.
- b. To support and assist in all facets of the organisation as requested by the President.

Article 11.

Should the office of the President become vacant due to resignation or death then the Vice-President shall assume the responsibilities and duties of that office until the election of a new president which must take place within ninety days from the date of the President's ,resignation or death.

Article 12.

Duties of the Assistant Regional Secretary General:

- a. To replace the Regional Secretary-General in case of absence.
- b. To assist the Regional Secretary-General in his/her duties.

Article 13.

Duties of the Treasurer:

- a. To collect revenues and issue receipts.
- b. To pay expenses.
- c. To prepare annual budgets.

- d. To operate bank account/s and co-sign cheques with President or Secretary-General. Cheques shall be co-signed by any two of: President, Secretary-General and Treasurer.
- e. To keep proper sets of books relating to funds of the Council.
- f. To present an audited annual statement and balance sheet to the Council.
- g. To execute any other relative function assigned by the President of the Council.

Article 14.

Duties of the Regional Secretary-General:

- a. To carry out all responsibilities pertaining to this office such as drafting of documents, implementation of the resolutions of the Geographic-Regional Council for USA & Canada . .
- b. To draw up the minutes of each Council meeting and forward to each Council member within thirty days of the relevant meeting. .
- c. To support and assist the Regional President in the facets of the President's functions and responsibilities.
- d. To fulfil all duties assigned to him/her by the President.
- e. The Regional Secretary-General or his appointed Assistant shall supervise all the elections of this Geographical Region.
- f. Shall assist the World Secretary General upon the latter's delegation, who summons the RSG to the Secretariat General, ordinary and extraordinary, and provide a progress report on any assignment.
- g. The Regional Secretary-General cannot be removed from office unless he/she violates the constitution of the Geographic-Regional Council for USA & Canada ., or fails to fulfil the duties assigned to him/her.
- h. The World President may dismiss the Regional Secretary General upon the justified recommendation of the World Secretary General and If the Regional Secretary-General is found to have acted contrary to his/her obligations under this constitution.
- i. The Regional Secretary-General and or his/her assistant shall coordinate between the United Nations Headquarter in New York , the WLCU NGO Committee and the World Secretary General.

Article 15.

- a. The Geographic-Regional Council USA & Canada of the World Lebanese Cultural Union shall hold its ordinary session at least once each year. The Quorum shall consist of 75% of its members or their representatives. Otherwise; by attendees of the second session, irrespective of their number,

which will be held, under normal circumstances, after two hours of the posted time of the first meeting.

- b. The Geographic-Regional Council shall convene an extraordinary session upon written request of two members specifying the reasons for such a session and directing their written request to the Secretary-General. The President shall instruct the Secretary-General who will then invite the Council to convene within thirty (30) days. The Quorum of an extraordinary session shall consist of 75% of its members or their representatives. Otherwise; by attendees of the second session, irrespective of their number, which will be held, under normal circumstances, after two hours of the posted time of the first meeting.

CHAPTER 6

Article 16.

The relationship between the World Lebanese Cultural Union (associated with the DPI of the UN) and the Geographic-Regional Council for USA & Canada .shall be as follows:

- a. All State Councils throughout USA and the provincial Council of New Zealand and any other similarly established organisation/s in any other island/country within the region of Oceania shall form the Geographic-Regional Council(Committee) of Australia and New Zealand.
- b. The Geographic-Regional Council for Australia and New Zealand shall be the exclusive affiliate and representative of the World Lebanese Cultural Union.
- c. All individuals, chapters, clubs, branches and organisations who wish to become financial members of the World Lebanese Cultural Union must apply through the Geographic-Regional Council of the World Lebanese Cultural Union for USA & Canada .and its affiliate associations.
- d. The Geographic-Regional Council for USA & Canada, shall at all times give due consideration to the spirit of the World Lebanese Cultural Union constitution and by-laws. The GRC should participate in all World Council meeting and World congress of the WLCU and to be an active part of the World decision making .
- e. The World Council of the World Lebanese Cultural Union also shall at all times give due consideration to the worldwide community of Lebanese origin by demonstrating unity, loyalty, honesty and commitment to the objectives of the constitution of the World Lebanese Cultural Union.

CHAPTER 7. ADMINISTRATION

Article 17.

The President and executive committee of the Geographic-Regional Council shall determine the method and required documentation for a chapter to become a part of World Lebanese Cultural Union:

- a. An application for establishing an affiliated branch shall be submitted to the Secretariat General upon its endorsement by either the provincial or the State Council, whichever is applicable in the country of the applicant.

b. The provincial or State Council shall forward the application to the Secretariat General by no later than two months from the date of its receipt, otherwise the branch affiliation application may be submitted by the branch directly to the Secretariat General.

c. Each Branch shall pay a minimum of US\$100.00 for World Treasury, US\$100 for the State Treasury, and US\$100.00 for the Regional Treasury in annual dues to the World treasury no later than the end of the month of February. The Youth organizations shall pay half the amount or \$50.00 annual dues to the World treasury.

d. The Geographic-Regional Council for USA & Canada of World Lebanese Cultural Union, shall as soon as is practicable, employ a “Administrative Clerk” for a minimum of 20 hours per week.

CHAPTER 8. AMENDMENT OF THIS CONSTITUTION

Article 18.

This constitution can be amended by a two-thirds majority of the members of this Geographic-Regional Council for USA & Canada .of the World Lebanese Cultural Union, at any Extraordinary or General Meeting in accordance with the following:

a. The proposal for amendment must be as formally submitted in writing by any chapter or any member of this Geographic-Regional Council to the President.

b. Notice of intention to submit a proposal to amend this constitution of this Geographic-Regional Council must be received by the President in writing sixty (60) days before the proposed Extraordinary or General Meeting together with a copy of the proposed amendment.

c. The President of the Geographic-Regional Council shall forward the proposed amendment to all members of this Geographic-Regional Council, to be received by them thirty days before the date of the Extraordinary or General Meeting.

d. Voting is to be carried out either by secret ballot or by a show of hands. Members unable to attend the meeting may appoint any other Council member by proxy to vote on their behalf. Online voting may also be available once the technical facilities have been setup.

d. Proxy votes can be granted for any voting purpose, by the individual/chapter member eligible for such vote. Proxy notice should be confirmed in writing to the delegated voter, and a copy of the same written confirmation of proxy must be also received by the Secretary-General no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting during which the voting is expected to take place.

CHAPTER 9 :Board of trustees:

Article 19: Description : The Board of Trustees shall operate as a “Consultative Committee”.

The purpose of the Board of Trustees shall be to provide meaningful advice and consultation to the Board of Directors regarding the mission, vision and values of the Organization, and to provide significant Moral and financial support to the WLCU.

Article 20: Members :

The Board of Trustees shall be formed and consists of permanent members within the relevant Region :

- Past World Presidents
- Past Vice World Presidents
- Past Regional Presidents,
- Past Regional Secretaries General

Article 21: Modus Operandi of the Board of Trustees

A) The Board of Trustees shall convene under the chairmanship of the most senior of its members, to elect a Chairperson .

The Annual or ordinary meetings shall be called through the RSG , one month before its assigned date.

B) The **Chairperson** is also a voting member of the **Geographic-Regional Council (Committee)** .

C) The Board of Trustees shall, under normal circumstances, meet annually at the same location and at the same time as the annual Regional Council meeting to agree on naming or electing its new Chairperson for a two-year term, and to provide comments on any subject proposed by the Regional Board of Directors or the Secretariat General including agreements, protocols, and contracts.

D) In case of absence the Chairperson, the most senior attending member shall chair the meeting.

E) The Regional Secretary General or his Assistant shall be the reporter to the Board of Trustees.

F) The reporter shall write the minutes of the meetings and submit them to the Regional Board of Directors .

G) Quorum for the meetings shall be the absolute majority of the registered members. All decisions shall be taken by the majority of the attending members.

H) President of the Regional Board of Directors or his delegates may attend the meetings.

I) The Board of Trustees gives the necessary directives for consolidating cooperation between Lebanon and the Geographical region of **USA & Canada** .

j) The Board of Trustees does not have jurisdiction over media issues or issuing press releases of any sort.

Article 22 : Dissolution of the Board of Trustees:

The Regional Board of Directors can dissolve the Board of Trustees by a two third majority if found in violation of the WLCU regulations, in violation of the decisions of the World Conference or the World Council or for any damages caused to the WLCU.

GENERAL RULES :

1. The official language of this constitution is English.
2. This constitution shall come into effect immediately.
3. Until such time as this Geographic-Regional Council appoints its own Arbitration Committee, all decisions regarding any disputes shall be undertaken by this Council and all decisions shall be final.

HISTORY AND AMENDMENT TABLE:

Date	Clause or Article	Amendment