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Young Men's Debate Club, Constitution By Laws

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E. E. Smith

“Καιρὸν Γνώσι.”

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

OF THE

Young Men's Debating Club



STATE NORMAL AND TRAINING SCHOOL,

CORTLAND, N. Y.

Room No. 85, Normal Building.

DEMOCRAT STEAM PRINT, CORTLAND, N. Y.

Order of Exercises:

The order of exercises at a regular meeting shall be as follows except when ordered otherwise by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

- 1—Roll call.
- 2—Reading of minutes of preceding meeting.
- 3—Election of members.
- 4—Applications for membership.
- 5—Election of officers.
- 6—Treasurer's report.
- 7—Fines and excuses.
- 8—Reports of committees.
- 9—Selection of questions for following debates.
- 10—Miscellaneous business.
- 11—Debate.
- 12—Report of critic's.
- 13—Arrangements for next debate.
- 14—Adjournment.

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CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

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STATE NORMAL AND TRAINING SCHOOL,

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Room No. 85, Normal Building.

CONSTITUTION,

ARTICLE. I.

NAME.

This society shall be known as the Young Men's Debating Club.

ARTICLE II.

OBJECT.

The object of this club shall be the cultivation of its members in the art of oratory, in parliamentary usage, and to extend their general information.

ARTICLE III.

MEMBERSHIP.

§1. Any gentleman being a member of the Normal or Academic department of this school shall be eligible to membership.

§ 2. Any gentleman wishing to become a member of this club shall make an application in writing, which shall be read by the Secretary at the first business meeting after the date of said application, and said application shall be referred to a committee of inquiry consisting of three members appointed by the president, which shall report at the next regular meet-

ing when a ballot shall be taken ; said members shall be received, unless there be three or more negative votes, and when so received shall become a member upon signing the Constitution, By Laws and Rules of Order.

§ 3. The members shall be designated as Active, Honorary and Retired.

§ 4. A four-fifths vote shall be necessary to expel a member from this club.

ARTICLE IV.

DUTIES AND PRIVILEGES.

§ 1. Active members shall attend all meetings of the club, take part in all regular debates, and support the Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules of Order.

§ 2. Honorary members shall be entitled to the same rights as active members except voting, holding office, and serving on committees.

§ 3. Retired members shall be allowed to attend all meetings of the club, but not to take part except upon invitation.

ARTICLE V.

OFFICERS.

§ 1. The officers of this club shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Critic and Librarian.

§ 2. The officers shall be elected separately by a majority of the voters present, on the second, sixth,

tenth, fourteenth, and eighteenth, weeks of each term, and shall enter upon their duties one week thereafter.

§ 3. A vacancy may be filled at any business meeting.

ARTICLE VI.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

§ 1. *Duties of the President.* It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the club, and to enforce a right observance of the Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules of Order. He shall appoint all committees unless otherwise ordered ; shall inspect and announce the result of all voting ; shall fill all vacancies for any meeting, and shall appoint the chief disputants in all debates. He shall take no part in the debate while in the chair. In all cases of balloting he shall not be allowed to vote ; except in cases of a tie when he shall have the casting vote.

§ 2. *Duties of the Vice-President.* It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to perform all the duties of the President in the absence of that officer.

§ 3. *Duties of the Secretary.* It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep the minutes of the club ; to notify the candidates of their election, to issue all notices required ; and to perform such other duties pertaining to his office as may be required of him by the club.

§ 4. *Duties of the Treasurer* It shall be the duty of the treasurer to take charge of all money and other property placed in his hands by the club ; to keep a written account of the same, and to make a report at the close of his term of office.

§ 5. *Duties of the Critic.* It shall be the duty of the Critic to criticise personally all proceedings at the regular meeting of the club.

§ 6. *Duties of the Assistant Secretary.* It shall be the duty of the Assistant Secretary to have the care of the bulletin, and otherwise assist the Secretary in the discharge of his duties.

§ 7. *Joint Duties.* It shall be the joint duty of the Vice-President, Critic, and Assistant Secretary to prepare and place in the hands of the Secretary, before the second regular meeting following the one at which they are elected, twelve questions from which four may be chosen in order for the four regular meetings following the next election ; and it shall be the further duty of said Vice-President, Critic and Assistant Secretary to print the same or cause them to be printed, and placed in the hands of the Secretary for distribution to the members before the next regular meeting following their adoption.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

MEETINGS.

§ 1. The regular meeting of this club shall be held on every Friday evening of the school term commencing at seven o'clock

§ 2. A special meeting may be called at any time by the President, upon a written request signed by three active members ; notice to be given from the Normal and Academic chapel desk, or from the club bulletin at least one day previous to the meeting.

ARTICLE II.

QUORUM.

Five active members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE III.

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

The order of exercises at a regular meeting shall

be as follows except when ordered otherwise by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

- 1—Roll call.
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- 12—Report of critic's.
- 13—Arrangements for next debate.
- 14—Adjournment.

ARTICLE IV.

VOTING.

§ 1. Election of officers and members shall be by ballot, all other voting shall be done by the uplifted hand unless ordered otherwise by a majority of the members present.

§ 2. When three or more members are candidates for the same office, if no election shall occur on the second ballot, the name of the one receiving the lowest number of votes on said ballot shall be dropped ; and on each succeeding ballot the name of

the one receiving the lowest number of votes on the previous ballot shall be dropped until the number of candidates shall not exceed two.

§ 3. No member in arrears for taxes two weeks or more, or for fines to the amount of fifty cents shall be allowed to vote or speak on any question or to hold office until the arrearages are paid.

ARTICLE V.

FINES AND EXCUSES.

§ 1. Any member who shall absent himself from any meeting without satisfactory excuse shall be fined ten cents for every offense.

§ 2. No person having an excuse due, or that has been acted upon shall be allowed to make or second a motion, or to vote upon any excuse that comes in question during the evening on which action is taken on such excuse.

§ 3. All other excuses shall be decided by the President subject to an appeal by the club.

ARTICLE VI.

RETIRED LIST.

§ 1. Any member may have his name placed upon the retired list at his request upon giving good reasons, by a two thirds vote of the active members present.

§ 2. Any active member not attending school at the first meeting of the club in any term, and who is

not expected to attend during that term, shall have his name placed upon the retired list provided he has no fines or taxes unpaid; a member leaving school at any time shall be allowed the same privilege even though he neglect to request it.

ARTICLE VII.

HONORARY LIST.

The name of any person may be placed upon the Honorary list upon a four-fifths vote of the members present at any regular meeting

ARTICLE VIII.

EXPULSION.

§ 1. Any member withdrawing from the club without satisfactory reasons or with unpaid fines or taxes shall have his name stricken from the roll.

§ 2. A member may be expelled or otherwise punished for misconduct.

§ 3. A motion to expel with the reasons therefor shall be made in writing and laid on the table at least one week before acted upon.

ARTICLE IX.

TAXES

Should the funds of the club become exhausted, or inadequate to meet its demands, an equal tax may be levied upon each active member to make up the

deficiency, by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular meeting.

ARTICLE X.

ADJOURNMENT.

A four-fifths majority of the members present shall be necessary to adjourn.

ARTICLE XI.

AMENDMENTS.

These By-Laws may be amended in the same manner as the Constitution by a three fourths vote.

ARTICLE I.

PRIVILEGED QUESTIONS.

§ 1. Motion to Adjourn.

1—Point of order.

3—To amend.

4—To refer

5—To lay on the table.

6—Previous questions.

7—Reading of papers

8—Suspension of rules

9—To reconsider.

§ 2. These questions shall have precedence in the order above stated.

ARTICLE II.

No member shall speak more than twice upon the same question without unanimous consent.

ARTICLE. III.

All questions not herein decided shall be referred to Cushing's Manual.

ARTICLE IV.

No alteration shall be made in these rules of order without a two-thirds vote of the members present, one week's notice being given, neither can they be suspended but by a like vote, and for one evening only.



Privileged Questions.

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