

PREAMBLE

We, The Yoruba people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria residing in the Greater Miami Valley (the State of Ohio) of the United States of America, are proud of our cultural heritage and aware of the need to achieve unity and cultural enrichment by understanding our roles as Yorubas and, indeed Nigerians, solemnly declare and affirm our determination to form this organization.

ARTICLE I

SECTION 1

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

The organization shall be called and addressed as the EGBE OMO YORUBA OF GREATER MIAMI VALLEY.

SECTION 2

THE CONSTITUTION

This constitution and all its subsequent amendments shall be binding upon approval by, at least, two-thirds (2/3) of financial members of the organization.

ARTICLE II

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the EGBE OMO YORUBA OF GREATER MIAMI VALLEY is to promote and celebrate our socio-cultural heritage, community involvement, economics (patronizing members businesses, job leads etc), and health education.

The EGBE OMO YORUBA OF GREATER MIAMI VALLEY shall promote public enlightenment on issues concerning Nigeria.

Goals and Objectives:

1. Organize a united and active body of Yorubas in the Greater Miami Valley.
2. Promote sound advancement and intellectual welfare of the members and their families.
3. Mentor and prepare younger Yorubas and/or their families to understand the Yoruba cultural heritage.
4. Promote a positive image of Nigeria in the community.
5. Promote and support activities that would enhance Nigerian Public health.
6. Respond to issues raised in the mass media that affect Nigeria in a responsible and educational manner.
7. Serve as the liaison between the American public, and private and academic institutions to support Nigeria's interests.
8. Promote philanthropic community involvement of members.
9. Serve as a catalyst for economic opportunity awareness of our members and the community.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership is open to every Yoruba by marriage, birth, or adoption.

2. An individual (not described in number one (1) above) could become a member through sponsorship by a current member(s) and supported by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members' votes by secret ballot.
3. Membership shall become effective upon admission into the organization.
4. Membership shall be kept active by payment of monthly dues.
5. The organization shall practice the principle of one person, one vote. A couple must declare their individual intention to be a member of the organization and each will be entitled to vote.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS

The types of meetings of the organization shall be:

1. General Meeting
2. Standing Committee Meeting
 - Scholarship committee
 - Banquet committee
 - Budget committee
 - Constitution and Bylaw committee
 - Nominating Committee
3. Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting

Quorum for Meetings

1. The quorum for all general meetings shall be one-third (1/3) of the membership in good financial standing, two of whom are elected officers. Any decision reached shall be binding on all members.
2. Committee meetings do not require a quorum.

Dates, Frequency and Duration of Meetings

1. The general meeting shall be held on the third Friday or Saturday of every month.
2. The time for the meeting shall be 7:00 p.m. on Friday, and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and shall be held for no more than two hours (excluding social hour).
3. Meetings shall be held at such places as predetermined by the Organization.
4. Special meetings may be called by the President, as needed.
5. No other business shall be transacted at special meetings, other than the purpose for which a meeting is called.
6. Meetings shall be conducted in Yoruba language as much as possible.
7. Non-members and visitors shall not be accorded organizational meeting minutes.

Notice of Meetings

1. Notice of general meetings shall be prepared and distributed by the Secretary at least one week prior to the meeting date.
2. Notice of emergency meetings shall be via any means of communication.

Minutes of Meetings

1. Shall be recorded and distributed by the secretary of the organization
2. Shall be made available at least one week before meeting date.
3. Visitors and non-members shall not be accorded organizational meetings minutes.

ARTICLE V

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

1. Nominating Committee shall present a slate of nominees to be voted upon at the September meeting of the election year.
2. Election of officers shall take place by secret ballot.
3. No member shall run or be voted for office in absentia.
4. Election to any leadership position shall be by simple majority vote.
5. Election shall take place annually at the September meeting.
6. Term of office is one calendar year, January thru December.
7. No individual shall be elected to the same leadership position for more than two terms, though such individual shall be eligible to hold any other office.
8. To be eligible to hold an office, a candidate must:
 - a. have been a member of the Organization for a minimum of one (1) year;
 - b. be an active participating member in good financial standing.

ARTICLE VI

LEADERSHIP OFFICES AND DUTIES

The leadership of EGBE OMO YORUBA OF GREATER MIAMI VALLEY shall consist of:

1. The President
2. The Vice President
3. The General Secretary
4. The Financial Secretary/Treasurer
5. The Social, Welfare and Community Involvement Coordinator

THE PRESIDENT

1. Shall preside over all general, executive and special meetings.
2. Shall be responsible for major policy initiations for administration of the organization.
3. Shall co-sign on all correspondence and all financial transactions for and on behalf of the organization.
4. Shall not vote in meetings except to cast a deciding vote in case of a tie.
5. Shall be responsible for promoting the progress of the organization.
6. Shall appoint chairs and members of the standing committees at the beginning of his/her term.

THE VICE PRESIDENT

In the absence of the President, the Vice President:

1. Shall perform all duties of the President as listed in Article VI.
2. Shall perform other duties as may be assigned by the Organization.
3. Shall not vote when serving as acting President except to cast a deciding vote in case of a tie.

THE SECRETARY

1. In consultation with the President, the Secretary or designee shall facilitate all meetings by preparing the agenda and notifying all members prior to the general meeting.
2. Shall record and disseminate minutes of all meetings.
3. Shall be responsible for the preparation of all correspondence

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY/TREASURER

1. The Financial Officer or designee shall collect all revenue or dues.
2. Shall keep records of all financial transactions.
3. Shall be responsible for prompt safekeeping of all monies at a previously designated and agreed upon Bank; as well as safekeeping of articles of trade belonging to the organization.
4. Shall present receipts of deposits regularly at our monthly meetings.
5. Shall chair budget committees.

THE SOCIAL, WELFARE AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COORDINATOR

1. Shall arrange for all social, welfare and community activities.
2. May involve any member of the organization in planning social and community involvement activities.
3. Shall present an annual calendar of events to the organization at the March meeting

ARTICLE VII

SPECIAL COMMITTEE

The President shall appoint special committees based on the needs of the organization.

ARTICLE VIII

FINANCE

The organization and its members shall demonstrate organizational and individual financial responsibility at all time in all matters related to the organization.

BANK SIGNATORIES

The organization's bank signatories shall consist of any two of the following:

- The President or Vice-President
- The Treasurer
- The General Secretary

EXPENDITURES

No expenditure shall be made without the approval of the members at a general meeting by simple majority vote of dues paying members.

ARTICLE IX

AMENDMENTS

A member or a committee may initiate amendments to the Constitution by following a process:

1. The proposed amendment shall be submitted and read at a meeting thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which it shall be discussed and voted upon.
2. The proposed amendments must pass with two-thirds (2/3) votes of members in good financial standing.



The Constitution

Of

**Egbe Omo Yoruba of Greater Miami Valley,
Dayton, Ohio**

The Egbe Omo Yoruba of Greater Miami Valley
P. O. Box 148
Wilberforce, Ohio 4538
Website: www.VoiceOfYoruba.org

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