

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
50th National Convention
National Council Meeting
Salt Lake City, UT
August 1, 2019

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT FORM

Part 1. This is an amendment to the (CONSTITUTION / BYLAWS) of the Japanese American Citizens League (ADDING/AMENDING) Article IV, Sections 2 and 4 relating to National Council meetings and Article X, Section 1 relating to National Convention.

Part 2. ARTICLE IV, SECTION 2 of the (CONSTITUTION / BYLAWS) of the Japanese American Citizens League is (ADDED/AMENDED) to read as follows:

Note: ~~Strike through~~ text to indicate any deletions to the current language; underline any new language.

ARTICLE IV. NATIONAL COUNCIL POWERS AND MEETINGS

SECTION 2. ~~Annual~~Biennial Session

The National Council shall meet in general session ~~annually~~biennially during the National Convention.

SECTION 4. Notice

a.(2.) in the case of the ~~annual~~biennial meeting, those matters which the National Board, at the time of giving notice, intends to present for action to the National Council.

ARTICLE X, SECTION 1 of the BYLAWS of the Japanese American Citizens League is AMENDED to read as follows:

ARTICLE X. NATIONAL CONVENTION

SECTION 1. ~~Annual~~Biennial Convention

The National Convention of this organization shall be convened every two (2) years in the even numbered years at a place designated by the National Board.

Part 3. ARTICLE(S) _____, SECTION(S) _____ (IS/ARE) renumbered as _____ respectively.
(indicate one)

Part 4. This amendment shall become effective (IMMEDIATELY UPON ITS ADOPTION / AS OF January 1, 2021.)
(State proposed date)

Part 5. Sponsor: _____ Dated: _____
 (Optional) Chapter Name / Youth Rep Month/Date/Year
Sponsor by: _____ E-mail: _____
 Printed Name (individual)
Signed: _____ Title: _____
 Signature

Part 6. Moved: NCWNP District Council Dated: 5/05/2019
 (Required) District Council - National Youth/Student Council - National Board Month/Date/Year
Moved by: Carol Kawase E-mail: _____
 Printed Name (individual)
Signed: /s/ Title: Governor
 Signature

Part 7. Name the designated contact person authorized to communicate with the Constitution & Bylaws Committee in order to discuss changes:

Name: Carol Kawase E-mail: _____ Tel: _____

Part 8. Will there be any fiscal impact associated with implementation of this amendment? (YES / NO)
 (indicate one)

See attached Fiscal Impact Statement and 2010 – 2018 Convention profit and loss summary.

Part 9. Rationale (Provide a concise explanation of the reasons/background for the proposed change)

The NCWNP District Council submits this proposed bylaw amendment to return to a biennial national convention schedule that had been changed to an annual convention schedule beginning with the 2011 national convention in Los Angeles. Upon considering the impact on both the national organization's finances and programming that switching to an annual convention schedule has had, the NCWNP District Council has concluded that the change has not met the goals of the National Council decision to change to an annual convention schedule. Switching back to a biennial convention schedule would mitigate the impact of annual convention expenses and would also allow the reallocation of organizational resources to programming and advocacy at the district and national levels of JACL.

Our annual conventions have underperformed in their intended fundraising function since our switch to an annual convention schedule and have shown to exceed budgeted expenditures in some years. The rationale of having an annual convention in order to attract sponsors who prefer annually recurring sponsorship opportunities has not yielded significantly increased outside fiscal support and partnerships for the national organization. Most recent conventions have not met its \$150,000 goal for sponsorships.¹ Staff has been exceptionally impacted by annual conventions. Over the past few years there are fewer staff members to spread the workload.² In the past 10 years, JACL has lost annual revenue of \$395,800 to our general operating revenue due to loss in membership.³

¹ Convention P&L Summary – 2017 Washington DC \$136.6K and 2018 Philadelphia \$119.6K.

² There is a current hiring freeze in effect.

³ 2018 Financial Report Membership Revenue page 4 – 2007 revenue \$943.7K to current 2018 revenue \$541.9K.

90 Additionally, our annual convention schedule has doubled the financial burden on chapters that offset
 91 costs for their delegates and other convention attendees. The annual convention schedule has become an
 92 increasingly prohibitive cost for smaller chapters, forcing a decision to send fewer delegates or using a
 93 proxy for representation instead. Less participant attendance and more proxy representation results in
 94 lower fees and registration revenue. When hotel booking minimums are not met, unexpected expenses
 95 are incurred to meet the hotel contract.⁴

96 Concerns regarding major sponsors preferring to fund annually recurring events with national reach and
 97 visibility may in part be addressed by approaching sponsors with the possibility of extending their support
 98 to National JACL's participation in regional programs and activities that are held in years between
 99 biennial national conventions. Staff hours in years without a national convention would need to be
 100 allocated to programs and functions of the organization that would generate a comparable amount of
 101 revenue to make up for the fiscal impact of the resulting adjustment to staffing and operations.

102 National conventions have been increasingly ineffective in serving as an opportunity to promote the
 103 engagement of the JACL's broader membership. JACL's uncertain finances have led to a decline in the
 104 programming offered at national conventions, leaving very little incentive for members who are not
 105 National Council delegates to attend. A biennial convention schedule would reopen programming
 106 opportunities such as a young professional conference or regional convenings such as the
 107 CCDC/NCWNP/PSW Tri-District PNW/IDC Bi-District and other multi-district conferences that were
 108 previously held in odd-numbered years prior to the adoption of an annual convention schedule. Districts
 109 would need to take on the challenge of creation of more local conferences with the assistance of National
 110 JACL to engage district members.

111 Annual conventions also greatly impact how JACL's staff resources are committed. In the months leading
 112 to convention, staff are required to adjust their focus away from administrative, programming and
 113 advocacy functions and allocate a large amount of their time to working on conventions. Staff is allotted
 114 850 hours for convention planning and over an 8 year average has dedicated 1500+ hours for convention
 115 planning.⁵ 650 staff hours have to be diverted from other programs in order to fulfill the needs for
 116 convention. The organization has moved away from its reliance on host chapters to coordinate
 117 conventions in some years, increasing the workload of staff and interns to produce national conventions.
 118 Convention requires the additional expense of hiring an event planning team to help oversee convention
 119 logistics.⁶ Return to a biennial convention schedule would also allow for a better use of organizational
 120 resources to conduct and offer programming opportunities to a broader number of constituents as well as
 121 to pursue our organization's civil rights advocacy mission.

122 Finally, concerns as to how the organization will be able to address emergent situations on the odd year
 123 when conventions are not held are no different than the rest of the year of any annual convention. The
 124 National JACL Board meets quarterly and have the benefit of technology to conduct conference calls to
 125 address emergent situations. Staff and National Board will continue to follow the precedent resolutions
 126 passed in previous conventions, as well as, utilize the strategic plan to guide their decisions. Each chapter
 127 can convey their concerns to their District Governor who represents them at any National Board meeting
 128 at any time of the year.

⁴ Convention P&L Summary – Philadelphia 2018 fees and registration revenue \$54K below 8 yr. avg. of \$70K.

⁵ Convention P&L Summary – 8 yr. avg. for personnel is \$65.3K exceeding budgeted amount of \$36.9K.

⁶ Convention P&L Summary – 8 yr. avg. for contract services \$19.9K.