

NEW ENGLAND REGION TEEN SOYO CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

Section 1. The Name

The name of this organization shall be the New England Region Teen SOYO, hereinafter referred to as NER Teen SOYO.

Section 2. Authority

This organization derives its authority to function by virtue of the consent and blessings of His Eminence, the Most Reverend Metropolitan and Primate of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.

ARTICLE II

Section 1. Purposes

To promote among the young people of the New England Region of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, hereinafter referred to, respectively, as the Region and as the Archdiocese, a complete devotion to the Holy Orthodox Church, its Faith, Canons, and Worship.

Section 2. To encourage the young people of the Region to actively participate in the many functions and programs of the Archdiocese and to promote a deeper understanding of the Holy Orthodox Church.

Section 3. To initiate and coordinate the spiritual and charitable works and activities of the youth groups of the parishes within the Region.

ARTICLE III

Section 1. Jurisdiction

The parish subdivisions of NER Teen SOYO shall be comprised of duly chartered chapters of the member parishes of the Region, and they shall correspond geographically to the regional subdivision of the Archdiocese,

Section 2. The chartering of the local chapters of the Region shall be the prerogative of NER Teen Soyo. Chapters being chartered, however, must conform to the provisions set forth in Article I and II of the By-Laws of NER Teen SOYO.

Section 3. In fulfilling the purpose set forth in Article IT of this Constitution, NER Teen SOYO shall exercise governing and advisory authority over the local parish Teen SOYO chapters comprising the Region. NER Teen SOYO and the its parish chapters must accept and abide by the provisions of the Region Constitution and By-Laws as adopted and amended.

#### ARTICLE IV

##### Section 1. Membership

Membership in NER Teen SOYO shall consist of all Region chapters described in Article III, Section 1.

Section 2. Each chapter shall be entitled to six (6) delegates to the General Assembly of NER Teen SOYO, including the officers of NER Teen SOYO.

Section 3. Any chapter that, fails to conform to the provisions of the NER Teen SOYO Constitution and By-Laws as adopted and amended, or is involved in a serious breach of discipline that retards the progress of this organization and the fulfillment of its purposes as set forth in Article II, shall have its membership suspended in the manner prescribed by Article IV of the By-Laws.

#### ARTICLE V

Section 1. The officers of NER Teen SOYO shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Sergeant-at-Arms. The authority and duty of each shall be as defined in tile Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 2. Each officer shall he an active member in good standing of a chapter of the Region, and must have been designated as a delegate from his chapter to NER Teen Soyo.

Section 3. All officers shall be elected at the Annual General Assembly of delegates in the manner prescribed by Article VIII of the By-Laws, After which they shall take office and serve for a period of one (I) year, or until their successor(s) is(are) elected or installed.

Section 4. The NER Teen SOYO spiritual advisor shall appoint a member of the Laity to serve as Lay Advisor.

#### ARTICLE VI

##### Section 1. Administration

There shall be an executive board composed of the officers of NER Teen SOYO and the presidents of the Region chapters.

Section 2. The executive board with the advice and consent of the Advisors as provided in Article V, Sections 4 and 5, shall define the policies and shall have administrative authority on all matters involving NER Teen SOYO. The Region, however, may amend or rescind any action of the Executive Board at its Annual General Assembly or any special meeting called for the purpose of review of any of its actions.

Section 3. The interpretation of this Constitution and By-Laws by the executive board shall be final and binding unless such interpretation be amended or rescinded at a subsequent meeting of NER Teen SOYO.

#### Article VII

##### Section 1. Finance

Each chapter shall pay to NER Teen SOYO before the convening of the Annual General Assembly, a fixed sum. This amount may be increased or decreased by majority vote at any General Assembly at which a quorum is present.

Section 2. The contributions of the chapters as outlined in Section 1 of this Article, together with any other general contributions shall be deposited in the name of this organization and shall constitute its general fund.

Section 3. NER Teen SOYO or its Executive Board as defined in Article VI, Section 1, may institute special projects with the advice and consent of its Advisors, for obtaining additional revenues to be used for designated charitable works in the fulfillment of its purposes as outlined in Article II of this Constitution.

Section 4. All funds received by this organization from sources as outlined under the provisions of Section 3 of this Article shall be designated as special funds and their use shall be restricted to the fulfillment of the specific purpose for which they were raised.

#### ARTICLE VIII

##### Section 1. Meetings

Regular meetings of this organization shall be held once each calendar year at a time and place coinciding with the Region's Parish Life Conference.

Section 2. A. Special meetings of this organization shall be called by the President upon the request of two-thirds (2/3) of the chapters or the unanimous request of the executive board; but in all events with the advice and consent of the advisors.

The president, when calling a special meeting, under the provisions of paragraph A of this Section, shall set the time and place for such special meeting and shall notify all chapters through their respective Presidents no less thirty (30) days prior to the date set for such meeting

Section 3. The Executive Board shall meet at least once each calendar year. The President shall advise the members of the Executive Board and Advisors of the time and place of such meeting at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of such meeting.

#### ARTICLE IX

##### Section 1. Standing Committees

Standing Committees shall be established by the President and shall perform such duties as specified in Article X of the By-Laws.

##### Section 2. Special Committees

On the advice of the Executive Board and Advisors, the President may create and appoint such Special Committee(s) as is deemed necessary for any special purpose.

#### ARTICLE X

Section 1. Ratification of this Constitution may be had by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Region's delegates to NER Teen SOYO

#### ARTICLE XI

Amendments to the Constitution

NEW ENGLAND REGION TEEN SOYO  
BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

THE REGION

- Section 1. The officers of NER Teen SOYO shall be those as designated by the Region's Constitution.
- Section 2. NER Teen SOYO shall hold one regular annual meeting coinciding with the Region's Parish Life Conference. Special meetings may be called under conditions and terms provided by the NER Teen SOYO Constitution. Meetings of the NER Teen SOYO executive board shall be held as often as necessary.
- Section 3. NER Teen SOYO shall hold election of officers once a year at their regular annual meeting. These officers shall serve one year or until their successors are duly elected and qualified.
- Section 4. The Secretary of NER Teen SOYO shall, within thirty (30) days, certify to the North American Council of Teen SOYO the names and addresses of the officers elected to serve for the ensuing year together with the name and address of the Region's lay advisor, spiritual advisor, chapter presidents, regional committee chairmen, and chapter lay advisors and spiritual advisors.
- Section 5. The NER Teen SOYO President shall submit an annual written progress report to the North American Council of Teen SOYO.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. Any person between the ages of thirteen (13) and nineteen (19) inclusive, who is a member of good standing of a church in the Region is eligible for membership in their local chapter.
- Section 2. Any person between the ages of eighteen (18) and nineteen (19) may be a member of Teen and/or Senior SOYO, but under no circumstances be an officer in both.

ARTICLE III

CHARTERING OF CHAPTERS

- Section 1. The chartering of individual chapters shall be the prerogative of NER Teen SOYO. All chartered chapters must conform, however to the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of NER Teen SOYO.

ARTICLE IV REGULATION OF THE REGION'S CHAPTERS

Section 1. Within ninety (90) days after the adoption of this Constitution and By-Laws, the chapters of the Region shall submit copies of their chapter constitutions and by-laws to the credentials and membership committees for review. Any provision of the chapter constitution that does not conform to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Region as adopted shall be returned to the chapter for the amendment of that provision(s) to an acceptable form.

Section 2. If a Region chapter is charged by the membership and credential committee with a violation of or non-compliance with the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws, or a serious breach of discipline that retards the progress of this organization and the fulfillment of its purposes as set forth in Article II of this Constitution as adopted and amended, shall upon the consideration of NER Teen SOYO at its regular annual or special meeting called for that purpose, upon a finding that the charges made are well taken, be given sixty (60) days period in order to correct the violation of non-compliance, The period of sixty days shall commence after mailing of registered notice by the Secretary of NER Teen SOYO to the last reported President and Secretary of the chapter. If the offense(s) complained of have not been corrected at the conclusion of that period, and it is so determined in a meeting of the executive board held for that purpose, the executive board shall with the consent and approval of the spiritual and lay advisor suspend the chapter.

Section 3. If a chapter is suspended under the provisions of Section 2 of this Article, it may present a written application for reinstatement at the next regular annual meeting of NER Teen SOYO at which a quorum is present. Upon presentation of acceptable evidence of compliance or correction of the offense complained of such, the chapter may be reinstated to full membership by a majority of members present.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS AND DUTIES

Section 1. President: The President shall preside at all meetings. He shall perform all those duties usually associated with the office of President and exercise general supervision of the work and activities of NER Teen SOYO. He shall issue the call for the meetings and he shall appoint such committees as may be deemed necessary by the Region.

Section 2. Vice-President: The duties of the Vice-President shall be to preside in the absence of the President. The Vice-President shall be a member ex-officio of all committees. He shall perform such other duties as pertain to the office or as assigned to him by the President or Executive Board.

Section 3. Secretary: The Secretary shall attend all meetings and keep the minutes of all meetings, and shall keep the official copy of the Constitution and By-Laws current. He shall sign all documents issued by NER Teen SOYO when required. He shall assist the President and the Executive Board in the conduct of the business affairs of NER Teen SOYO and shall perform such duties as are specified or implied in the Region's Constitution and By-Law, or as may be assigned by the Executive Board.

Section 4. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall receive all funds paid to NER Teen SOYO and shall deposit same in the official depositories as designated by the Executive Board. His accounts shall be opened to the inspection of the President, the Executive Board, and any other auditors named by the Executive Board. He shall make a written report at the Annual Meeting of NER Teen SOYO and at such other times as the President and Executive Board may require.

Section 5. Sergeant-at-Arms: The Sergeant-at-Arms shall perform the functions and duties generally pertaining to a Sergeant-at-Arms at all meetings of the Executive Board and the meetings of NER Teen SOYO. Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority used by him for all matters of procedure not specifically covered by the Constitution and By-Laws of NER Teen SOYO.

#### ARTICLE VI

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. The Executive Board as constituted under Article VI, Section I of the Constitution shall meet at such times and places as may be determined by a call of the President, or by written request of a majority of the members. A written notice of the time and place of all meetings shall be mailed to each member by the Secretary not less than thirty (30) days prior to said meeting.

- a. There will be a meeting of the Executive Board at least once per year prior to the annual meeting of NER Teen SOYO. The Secretary shall give at least thirty (30) days written notice to all members prior to said meeting.

Section 2. The Executive Board may, without meeting together, transact business by any form of communication directed to them by the President or the Secretary with the approval of the President, When such transactions involve monies, the sum shall not exceed \$100.00 without the written approval of the lay and spiritual advisor. When meeting, two-thirds (2/3) of the executive board must be present or consulted before dealing with official business.

Section 3. Administrative Power of the Executive Board:

- a. In addition to the enumerated powers outlined in the Constitution and By-Laws, including raising revenues, management of the assets and properties, committees, control of Region chapters, and call of special meetings, the Executive Board shall execute any mandate of NER Teen SOYO.
- b. The Executive Board may expend such funds as are necessary for stationery, stamps and office supplies to conduct the organization's business.

Section 4. Powers of the Executive Board

- a. To initiate motions and resolutions.
- b. To authorize the expenditure of monies in a sum not to exceed \$100.00
- c. To conduct research and investigations either as a committee of the whole or by special committee responsible to the Board.
- d. To consider reports by officers and all permanent and special committees.

Section 5. Spiritual Advisor: He shall be appointed by His Eminence, the Most Rev. Metropolitan and Primate of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. He shall advise on spiritual matters at all Executive Board meetings and meetings of NER Teen SOYO.

Section 6. Lay Advisor: The lay advisor shall be appointed by the NER Teen SOYO Advisor. He shall attend all meetings of the Executive Board and NER Teen SOYO. His advice shall be sought and respected by the President, the Executive Board and NER Teen SOYO in all matters affecting the welfare of the Region and the fulfillment of its objectives. His consent shall be required on all matters where specifically stipulated in the Constitution and/or By-Laws.

ARTICLE VII

MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings of this organization or its executive board shall be held in accordance with the provisions of Article VIII of this Constitution.

Section 2. The President shall be responsible for the preparing of the agenda for all meetings of the Executive Board and NER Teen SOYO. In the event of a special meeting called under the provision of Article VIII, Section 2 of the Constitution, the agenda for the special meeting must be included with the notice sent. Business other than that listed on the agenda of the special meeting as circulated in an official notice may not be introduced during such meeting.

ARTICLE VIII

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President within thirty (30) days after installation shall appoint a nominating committee to serve for one year. Membership of this committee is restricted to official delegates of the meeting of NER Teen SOYO at which he/she was elected to office. The nominating committee shall be composed of three (3) members, one of whom shall serve as chairman and shall be designated so by the President. The duties of the committee shall be as follows:

- a. To encourage qualified members to accept nominations as candidates for the office of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Sergeant-at-arms,
- b. To present to the annual meeting of NER Teen SOYO a list of qualified candidates for the above-mentioned offices. Candidates submitted by the nominating committee must be official delegates to NER Teen SOYO and must be present at the time of election. All members of the Executive Board shall be considered official delegates with the right to vote and hold office whether or not they are certified as delegates by NER Teen SOYO.

Section 2. Additional nominations for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Sergeant-at-Arms may be made from the floor. Candidates nominated from the floor must be official delegates to NER Teen SOYO and must be present at the time of election. Nominations from the floor must include information about the candidates.

Section 3. The voting shall be by secret ballot. No delegate

Section 4. A simple majority vote of all votes cast shall be necessary for the election of officers. In the event that any ballot cast does not show a majority, the nominee having the lowest number of ballots shall be dropped and on succeeding ballot(s) the same procedure shall be followed until some nominee shall have received the majority of all votes cast.

Section 5. Cumulative voting shall not be permitted.

Section 6. Nominees not elected for each office shall automatically have their names placed in nomination for the subsequent office to be voted upon unless such nominee (s) declines such nomination.

ARTICLE IX

VACANCIES IN OFFICE

Section 1. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President between the annual meeting of NER Teen SOYO, the Vice-President shall assume the office of President and serve out the unexpired term.

Section 2. In the event of a vacancy in any of the other offices, the Executive Board shall elect a qualified member to fill the office for the unexpired term and this person shall be elected from the list of delegates present at the immediately preceding annual meeting. The Executive Board shall determine when a vacancy exists.

r...

Section 3. In the event of a vacancy in any appointive office, such vacancy shall be filled by Presidential appointment with the approval of the lay and spiritual advisor.

ARTICLE X

COMMITTEES

Section 1. There shall be a number of permanent committees appointed by the President. The chairman of each of these committees shall report to the President and shall be invited to all meetings of the Executive Board.

Section 2. All committees shall make an annual written report at the annual meeting of NER Teen SOYO.

Section 3: Finance Committee:

- a. The President shall appoint a Finance Committee Chairman who shall conduct the activities of the committee.
- b. The Committee shall consist of one member from each chapter of the Region.
- c. The Committee shall consider the projects for the encouragement of revenues, consider requests for expenditure of funds, establish minimum reserves for the protection of credit of NER Teen SOYO and shall serve as Audit Committee as provided under Article XI of the By-Laws.

Section 4. Membership and Credential Committee

- a. The President shall appoint three delegates to the Membership and Credential Committee.
- b. As prescribed in Article IV of the By-Laws, the Membership and Credential Committee shall have the power to examine constitutions and activities of the chapters of the Region and make recommendations thereon.
- c. The committee shall formulate accreditation lists of delegates and shall supervise enrollment of delegates at meetings in compliance therewith.

Section 5. Resolutions Committee:

- a. The President shall appoint Resolutions Committee of three delegates and name the Chairman thereof, who shall in turn select a competent Secretary to serve the Committee
- b. The Committee shall screen all amendments, motions and resolutions for the proper form, duplications, conflict with prior enactments or constitutionality and submit the same together with its findings or recommendations to NER Teen SOYO.

Section 6. Committee on Constitution and By-Laws:

- a. The President shall appoint a committee on Constitution and By-Laws of as many delegates as he deems necessary, one of who shall he designated as Chairman.
- b. After having complied with the provisions of Article XI of the Constitution, the President shall then refer the proposed amendment or amendments to the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws for study.

The Committee shall study any proposed amendment or amendments referred to it by the President and shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the regular meeting of NER Teen SOYO at which such proposal is being considered for adoption, in compliance with Article XI, Section 5 of the Constitution.

ARTICLE XI

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

- Section 1. The finance Committee shall audit the books and accounts of the Treasurer during the annual meeting of NER Teen SOYO together with the Lay and Spiritual Advisors.
- Section 2. All records and funds are to be turned over to the newly elected Treasurer at the conclusion of the audit and a record and report of said audit shall he submitted to the delegates at the annual meeting.
- Section 3. The President will mail to tile Presidents of each of the chapters a balance sheet and statement of the receipts and expenditures of NER Teen SOYO as approved in final audit by the Finance Committee and Advisors.

ARTICLE XII

AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

- Section 1. By-Laws for the government to NER Teen SOYO, consistent with this constitution as adopted and amended, shall be enacted and may be amended from time to time, as provided in the following sections of this article, by majority vote of voting members present at any regular annual meeting of NER Teen SOYO at which a quorum is present with the advice and consent of the advisors and the Executive Board.