

YMCA

1.

In Athens, this day of the month of
1921, on day of the week at a.m., the
undersigned have met in the office of the Y.M.C.A. on
Metropolitan Street 44 and proceeded to form an Association
bearing the name of the YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
OF ATHENS, voting to adopt the following constitution of the
organization, composed of fifteen Articles reading as follows:-

Article 1.

NAME AND EMBLEM.

An Association is founded in Athens bearing the
name of the "Young Men's Christian Association of Athens."

The emblem of this organization is the world-wide
recognised emblem of the Association, i.e., a red triangle
symbolizing the symmetrical development of the Spirit, Mind
and Body of young men striven for, with the Greek initials
X. A. N. across it.

Article 2.

OBJECT.

The object of the Association shall be to minister
to and develop the intellectual, social, moral and religious
life, as well as the bodily well-being of young men.

Article-3.

MEANS.

(a) The Y.M.C.A. being an independent branch of the world-wide organizations of the Y.M.C.A. and affiliated with the International Committee of Y.M.C.A. of North America in New York, and associated with the World's Committee of Y.M.C.A. in Geneva, Switzerland, endeavours through the activities of its members to realize the object of this organization as it is defined in Article 2 of this Constitution, in full harmony with the laws of the Greek State and the Statutes of the Greek Orthodox Church.

(b) The Y.M.C.A. may own and control property, money and securities and shall have power to receive or transfer gifts of property or money, or solicit contributions through its properly constituted officers and in accord with the terms of this Constitution and the laws of Greece.

Article 4.

MEMBERSHIP.

(1) This Association is composed of "Members" and "Novices". The Members are elected by the Board of Directors after a proposition of two of the members of the Board of Directors and provided they have the qualifications defined hereinafter.

(2) a. AS "Members" may be accepted those men over 18 years of age who accept faithfully and in writing the following fundamental principle of the Y.M.C.A. (Basis of the

(Article 4. Contd.)

resolution of the first International Convention of Y.M.C.A's in Paris, 1855):- "The Young Men's Christian Association seeks to unite those young men who regarding Christ as their God and Saviour according to the Holy Scriptures and the teachings of their Mother Church, desire to be His Disciples in their principles and life, actively associating their efforts towards the development of a christianlike community."

b. Only the "Members" have the right to vote, to elect and be elected.

(3) Any male over 12 years of age of good and moral character may become a "Novice" of this Association, contributing to the carrying out of its purpose but without assuming the rights or obligations of the Members, and according to the terms of the By-Laws.

(4) Members of this organization who cease to show an active interest in the affairs of this Association, or whose life does not conform to the obligations taken up by their Membership pledges, shall be dropped from the Membership roll by decision of the Board of Directors and shall be deprived of the right to vote from date of such action.

(5) Members, or Novices of this Association may withdraw from this Association by written notice to the Board of Directors.

Article 5.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

(1) The founders of this Association having met this

(Article 5. Contd.)

day have elected an Organizing Committee of seven Members who shall have all the rights and responsibilities of the Board of Directors as defined hereinafter. This Organizing Committee will hold office from this day until March, 1923, when the regular Board of Directors will be elected.

(2) The direction of this organization after March, 1923, shall be vested in a Board of Directors of fifteen Members elected with relative majority from the membership in the General Meeting. The Members of the Organizing Committee, as well as those of the Board of Directors, shall be Greek citizens not deprived of their political rights. However, this Association shall have power to make use of the Royal Decree of October 13th, 1918, or of any other Royal Decree that may be issued later, granting to foreigners the privilege of membership in the Board of Directors as well as in the Organizing Committee.

(3) The Members of the regular Board of Directors will be elected as follows:- Five Directors will be elected annually for a term of service of three years, except at the first General Meeting of this organization to be called in March, 1923, when five Directors will be elected for one year, five for two years and five for three years. After that at each annual General Meeting of this organization five Directors shall be elected to fill the vacancies caused by the expiration of the terms of office of the five Directors whose terms then end.

(4) Vacancies on the Organizing Committee of the Board of Directors may be filled temporarily by decision

(Article 5. Cont.)

appointment of the said Committee or the Board of Directors until the call of the next annual General Meeting, at which time the vacancies are filled by the vote of the membership and for a term of office equal to ^{the remainder of} the one that became vacant.

(5) The Board of Directors shall elect from among themselves by ballot annually a President, two Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary and a Treasurer, and these five officers of the Board of Directors will form the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors. The President, and in his absence or hindrance, the first Vice-President, and in his absence or hindrance, the second Vice-President, and at their absence or hindrance the eldest of the Members of the Board of Directors, except the General Secretary and the Treasurer, may call a Meeting of the Board of Directors and preside at such Meetings, as well as at the General Meetings of the Members and shall represent the Association before all authorities. The receipts and expenses as well as the general financial representation of the Association are in charge of the Treasurer, who signs with a Director appointed by the Board all financial documents.

(6) The duties of the Board of Directors are those of the general management of this Association in accordance with the laws of the State, the terms of this Constitution, the decisions of the General Meetings and the By-laws that will be formulated by the Board of Directors. Specifically the Board of Directors directs the property of the Association

(Article 5. Cont.)

and assumes in its name all kinds of rights and responsibilities, ordering the President or any other of their number to proceed to relative action.

(7) The Board of Directors will draw the By-laws (Greek internal regulations) on the basis of which the general activities or action of the Board of Directors will be regulated, as well as the relationship of the Members and Novices to each other.

(8) All sub-Committees of this Organization are appointed by the Board of Directors and such appointment shall be a matter of record. The President or his substitute may appoint in the interim between Meetings of the Board of Directors temporary sub-Committees, but said appointment must be submitted to the approval of the Board at its next Meeting.

(9) Members of the same Board of Directors cannot be related to each other, except beyond the fourth degree of relationship.

Article 6.

ADVISORY BOARD.

The international Committee of Y.M.C.A.'s of North America appoints an Advisory Board of three Members which takes part in the Meetings of the Board of Directors and the General Meetings of the Members. This Advisory Board shall represent the International Committee of Y.M.C.A.'s of North America in all matters regarding the rights and interests of the said International Committee.

Article 7.

MEETINGS.

1. A General Meeting of the members is called annually in the month of March. Notice of this Annual General Meeting must be published by the President or his substitute in at least one of the daily papers of Athens and must be posted conspicuously in the Headquarters of this organization at least two weeks prior to the date of such a meeting. Such a notice shall contain the "order of the day" (Schedule of Business) and only such business as is thus announced shall be transacted at the said Meeting.

2. Twenty-five per cent of the membership constitute a quorum at a General Meeting. Provided a quorum is not present in this first General Meeting, a second General Meeting is called for discussion and decision on the same business schedule within eight days from date of the postponed meeting and notice of this second Meeting must be published as per Section 1 of this Article at least five days after the Meeting. At such a second General Meeting any number of members present will constitute a quorum.

3. The Board of Directors may call an Exceptional General Meeting by notice published as per Section 1 of this Article whenever the Board considers such action advisable, but obligatorily whenever such a call is made in writing for the consideration of definite business by a petition signed by one-twentieth of the Members who have fulfilled their obligations

(Article 7. Contd.)

towards the Association. In such a case the Board of Directors is obliged to publish the notice of the call to the General Meeting not later than twenty days after the receipt of the said petition.

4. It is the business of the Annual General Meeting to ^{reach} ~~take~~ all decisions on ^{any} ~~every~~ question regarding the Association and specially (a) The approval of the Report of the Board of Directors, (b) Election of the Members of the Board of Directors, (c) Decisions on amendments of the Constitution, on dissolution or on fusion of the Association, etc.

5. The regular Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be called by the President or his substitute at least once a month. Special or extra Meetings of the Board of Directors can be called by the President or his substitute whenever he considers this advisable, but obligatorily at the request of a minimum of three members of the Board of Directors.

6. Four out of seven members present at a Meeting of the Organizing Committee, or eight out of fifteen Members present at a Meeting of the Board of Directors, constitute a quorum.

7. Voting at any General Meeting or Meeting of the Board of Directors shall be in person. No vote by proxy can be considered valid in a Meeting of this organization. Decisions at General Meetings and at Meetings of the Board of Directors are taken by absolute majority of the Members present.

Article 8.

REPORTS AND AUDITING.

The Board of Directors and Executive Committee of this Association shall submit to the Annual General Meeting of the members a yearly report of all that has been done during the past year by all the Departments of this organization. The report of the Treasurer on the general financial management must be attested to as correct and in order by two Auditors appointed by the Minister of Interior before the report is presented for approval to the General Meeting.

Article 9.

FEEES AND USE.

The members of this Association are not obliged to pay any regular fees. The Board of Directors has the power to fix in each instance the dues or fees to be paid by the members or others for services offered to them by the Association.

Article 10.

MONEY DEPOSITS.

Any amount of money belonging to this organization over one thousand drachmae must be deposited with the National Bank of Greece, or other Bank according to the requirements of the law.

Article 11.

PAID DIRECTOR AND PERSONNEL.

1. The Board of Directors shall employ a paid Executive Director who will direct the affairs of the Association. The remuneration

(Article 11. Contd.)

and selection of this Executive Director is within the control of the Board of Directors.

(2) The Director shall select his assistant personnel and fix their remuneration, with the approval of the Board of Directors. The Director and the other assistant personnel shall be persons eligible to the membership of this Association.

Article 12.

DISCIPLINE.

All matters of discipline of either the Directors or the Members or the Novices or the personnel of the Association shall come under the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors. No one can be dismissed from the membership roll or from his position in the Association unless he is first called to defend himself before the Board of Directors, if he so desires.

Article 13.

RESTRICTIONS.

This organization, interested exclusively in carrying out its object as it is set in Article 2 of this Constitution, excludes absolutely its engaging in any political, partisan or dogmatic controversy, and will not allow the use of the building or the property of this Association to be used to promote or hinder a political, partisan or dogmatic cause.

Article 14.

AMENDMENTS.

1. Any proposed amendment and especially any proposition

(Article 14. Contd.)

regarding the dissolution or fusion of this Association must be posted in a conspicuous place in the Central Office of the organization for at least two weeks prior to the General Meeting, at which such an amendment is to be only read and discussed. But such an amendment shall be acted upon only in a second General Meeting called together thirty days after the first General Meeting at which the amendment is read. No amendment can be put to vote unless at the general Meeting that was called for decision there is present at least one half of the members who have fulfilled their obligations towards the Association, and the amendment must be favoured by at least three-fourths (3/4th) of the votes present in order to carry.

2. Any Article or Section of the present Constitution may be amended as herein provided for, except Articles 1, 2, 3 Sect. (a), 4, 6, 13, 14, which cannot be brought up in a General Meeting with a proposition of amendment without the official agreement of the International Committee of North America, whose agreement must be sought by the Board of Directors and presented, together with the amendment, at the first of the said General Meetings. If this is not done the General Meeting for decision on the proposition is not called at all.

3. In case of dissolution of this Association, caused in any way, all its movable and immovable property is turned over to the International Committee of Y.M.C.A.'s of North America, which can use or dispose of it at its will; or in case said Committee would not accept the property or would not take charge of it within three months after the communication of the dissolution,

(Article 14 Contd.)

the property is turned over to a recognised Greek Association appointed by the General Meeting and by preference to a Young Men's Christian Association, one or many symmetrically.

Article 15.

The Organizing Committee of seven, which will act in the capacity of the Board of Directors until March, 1923, when a regular Board of Directors of fifteen Members will be elected, has been composed of:-