



# CONSTITUTION

Founder: Dr. Samuel Awe



## **ARTICLE I: THE CORPORATION**

### **Section 1: Name of the Corporation**

The name of the corporation is O'DUA ASSOCIATION in Milwaukee, Inc.

### **Section 2: Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the corporation shall be January 1 through December 31 each year.

### **Section 3: Nature of the Corporation**

This Corporation is a non-stock, non-profit corporation organized under Chapter 181 of the Wisconsin Statutes. This corporation has Tax exempt 501(c) (3) status.

### **Section 4: Powers**

This Corporation shall have and may exercise all powers and privileges of a corporation organized under Chapter 181 of the Wisconsin Statutes, which are necessary to effectuate its declared objectives.

## **ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES**

### **Section 1**

The objectives of this Association are:

1. To promote and protect the welfare of the association's members.
2. To promote the Yoruba culture to Association members.
3. To serve as a networking organization for promoting economic development, by sharing information and patronizing one another.

## **ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1A: Eligibility**

Membership shall be open to all Yorubas and any member of the general public who subscribes to the objectives of the Association.

### **Section 1B: Types of Membership**

There will be two types of membership:

1. Regular membership
2. Members at Large.
  - 2.1. Members at Large are unable to attend meetings due to disability, work schedule and/or distance of residence from metro Milwaukee.
  - 2.2. Meeting requirements shall be waived for members at large.
  - 2.3. Members at large cannot hold any elective office.

### **Section 2: Membership Requirements**

To be a member in GOOD STANDING, the following requirements must be met:

1. All members shall pay annual dues, levies and fines by the due date, as determined by the Association, for the calendar year.



2. A new member shall pay a \$50 dollar registration fee on the first day of joining the Association. Annual membership dues shall be prorated on a quarterly basis for the new member and shall be paid before 90 days within the calendar year.

3. Regular members must attend a minimum of seven meetings within a calendar year.

4. All members must abide by the rules and regulations of the Association.

Section 3: Termination of Membership

***Membership shall be terminated by:***

1. Resignation.

2. Failure to pay annual dues, fines and/or levies within the stipulated time.

3. Disruptive behavior by any member while a meeting is in session.

4. Failure to attend a minimum of seven meetings within a calendar year; this requirement shall be waived in cases of extreme hardship only.

5. A formal letter of intent to terminate membership will be written to a member who is not in compliance with Article III provisions, by the October meeting.

6. Anyone whose membership is terminated could reapply for membership after a full year of absence. A \$50.00 registration fee is required to reapply.

**ARTICLE IV:  
OFFICERS**

**Section 1A: Founder**

In honor of Dr. Samuel Awe, the founder of O'dua Association in Milwaukee, his name will be imprinted on the front page of our constitution as the founder.

**Section 1 B: Elected Officers**

The elected officers of the Association shall be:

1. The President

2. The Vice President

3. The Secretary

4. The Treasurer

**Section 2: President**

The President shall provide the vision and set the directions for the Association. As the chief executive officer of the Association, the President shall preside over every meeting of the Association. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall preside. The President is one of the three approved signatories. The President must also verify the total number of attendees at every meeting.

**Section 3: Vice President**

The Vice President shall serve as the Acting President in the absence of the President. The Vice President shall also be the Public Relations Officer of the Association and the chairperson of any ad-hoc committee.

**Section 4: Secretary**

The Secretary is the chief scribe of the Association and maintains the records of the Association. The Secretary shall take attendance at every meeting. The Secretary shall send official notices with the approval of the President. In the absence of the Secretary, the President shall appoint a temporary



secretary. The Secretary shall provide the minutes of the previous meeting. The Secretary is one of the three approved signatories.

#### **Section 5: Treasurer**

The Treasurer collects all funds (dues, levies and others) for the Association, and deposits them in the bank within two business days. The Treasurer also maintains all financial records. The Treasurer shall also read the financial record at every meeting. The Treasurer is one of the three approved signatories.

#### **Section 6: Executive Committee**

The executive committee shall consist of the current officers and an ex-officio member. The ex-officio member shall be the most recent past President. The Executive Committee shall serve as the standing Constitution Committee.

### **ARTICLE V: ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

#### **Section 1**

The Secretary shall notify all members of the Association of the upcoming election by August of the election year. All nomination papers shall be submitted to the Secretary by September of the election year.

#### **Section 2**

Elections shall be held every two years at the regular membership meeting held in November.

#### **Section 3**

Election shall be open to all members in good standing and shall be by secret ballot.

#### **Section 4**

No member shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms.

#### **Section 5**

All officers shall be elected by a simple majority vote.

#### **Section 6**

All newly elected officers shall assume their duties in January following the election.

#### **Section 7: Bye Elections**

Vacancies of offices shall be filled during any REGULAR MEETING in accordance with Article V, section 3.

#### **Section 8: Tie-Breakers**

1. An ad-hoc electoral committee shall be appointed by all members of the association, prior to an election.
2. The membership of the electoral committee shall be an odd number.
3. In case of a tie in a general election, the electoral committee shall elect the candidate with a simple majority.



#### Section 9: Sergeant-at-arms

A sergeant-at-arms will be appointed by the president and the tenure will expire with that president, or when otherwise terminated by the president. The duties of the sergeant-at-arms will be as follows:

1. To ensure all members sign in upon arrival at the meeting.
2. To keep track of lateness to meetings or absence by members.
3. To ensure orderly conduct during the meeting.
4. Enforcement and collection of payments of all fines in conjunction with the Secretary and Treasurer.
5. Enforcement of all disciplinary actions as determined by the executive.

### **ARTICLE VI: FINANCES**

#### **Section 1**

Revenues shall be derived by:

1. Monthly dues
2. Levies
3. Fines
4. Endowments
5. Donations/Fund raising

#### **Section 2**

Membership dues shall be determined annually at the November meeting.

#### **Section 3**

The President, the Secretary and the Treasurer shall be the signatories to the Association's bank accounts. The signatures of any two officers mentioned above are required for funds disbursement.

#### **Section 4**

The financial records of the Association shall be audited annually by a committee appointed by the Association.

### **ARTICLE VII: BENEFITS**

#### **Section 1: Benefit Eligibility**

1. To qualify for benefits, members must be in good standing.
2. Any outstanding balance owed to the Association from annual dues, levies, fines, etc., shall be deducted from any monetary benefit to be paid to a qualified member.

#### **Section 2**

Members shall be free to promote their businesses during the regular meetings.

#### **Section 3**

1. The Association will make donations to members or their children, as applicable, for celebrations, as listed below. Graduation benefits are a one-time benefit for members.



Children of members are eligible for graduation and wedding benefits. The benefits for the children of members are a one-time benefit per child.

1.1. High School graduate: \$100

1.2. College graduate: \$200

1.3. Wedding: \$200

1.4. Childbirth: \$100

1.5. House warming: \$100

2. Donation of \$100, through levy of members, for the loss of a sibling; such donation shall be limited to once per calendar year.

3. Donation of \$500.00, through levy of members, for the loss of a parent.

4. Donation of \$1,000.00, through levy of members, for the loss of a member.

#### **Section 4**

Members are encouraged to seek assistance from and to give assistance to other members.

#### **Section 5**

Members are encouraged to bring to the Association any interpersonal conflicts or disagreement for resolution.

#### **Section 6**

The Association shall organize and raise funds to assist the families of any deceased member.

#### **Section 7: Benefits for hardship**

The purpose of this benefit is to help members in hardship, such as loss of income and/or out of pocket medical expenses. A member requesting hardship benefit has to prove eligibility with receipts of paid medical bills, and loss of income due to protracted illness and/or extended unemployment. Such proof shall be provided to the executive officers or a designated benefit review committee.

*This benefit is payable under the following conditions:*

1. A member incurs a minimum of \$1,000.00 of out of pocket expenses, excluding insurance premiums. The benefit paid shall be limited to 10% of qualifying expenses up to a maximum of \$500.00.

2. A member suffers at least three months of loss of income due to protracted illness and/or extended unemployment.

3. Qualified members are entitled to \$500.00 per family once in two years.

## **ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS**

#### **Section 1**

The regular meeting of the Association shall be held on the last Sunday of every month. In December, the Association shall hold an end of the year celebration in place of the regular meeting.

#### **Section 2**

The Association's meetings shall start at 5:00 PM and shall not last longer than two hours unless waived by the members present.



**Section 3**

The meeting place shall be designated and communicated to members. However, any member may request to host the meeting at a location of their choice.

**Section 4**

For any regular meeting of the Association, one third of the membership, including two officers, is required to form a quorum.

**Section 5**

At any regular meeting, a simple majority is required for the passage of a resolution.

**ARTICLE IX:**

**REMOVAL FROM OFFICE**

Any officer of the Association deemed incompetent shall be given notification of the charges. The officer in question must respond in writing or in person within ten days to a committee appointed by the Association. Should the committee recommend removal from office, the officer in question shall be voted out of office by a simple majority at a regular meeting.

**ARTICLE X:**

**AMENDMENTS**

A written notice identifying the area and sections to be amended and the proposed amendment shall be sent to the Secretary and every member of the Association at least ten days before it is included in the agenda. Upon consideration, the amendments shall be adopted by a simple majority.



## **REVISION HISTORY**

**First adopted: Sunday, April 27, 1997**

**Amended: Sunday, March 28, 1999**

- **ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1: Amended to be inclusive of the general public

- **ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS**

Section 6: Added Section 6 to define the composition of the Executive Committee

- **ARTICLE V: ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Section 8: Added Tie-Breaker rules for the election of officers

- **ARTICLE VIII MEETINGS**

Section 2: Changed the meeting start time from 6:00 PM to 5:00 PM

**Amended: Sunday, April 25, 2004**

- **ARTICLE VII: BENEFITS**

Section 3: Added donation of \$100 to members for loss in the family

**Amended: Sunday, June 28, 2009**

- **ARTICLE VII: BENEFITS**

Section 3: Amended to define different donation amounts based on loss

**Amended: Sunday, May 25, 2014**

- **ARTICLE V: ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Section 9: Added the role and responsibilities of a Sergeant-at-Arms

**Amended: Sunday, September 24, 2017**

- **ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

o Section 3.2: Added failure to pay levies as reason for membership termination.

o Section 3.6: Added the requirement of a \$50 registration fee to reapply for membership

- **ARTICLE VII: BENEFITS**

Section 3: Increased donation for college graduation and wedding celebrations from \$100 to \$200.

**Amended: Sunday, April 29, 2018**

- **ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP**

o Section 1A: Renumbered Section 1 to Section 1A to accommodate the addition of Section 1B

o Section 1B: Added Section 1B to define two types of membership:

(a) Regular member and (b) Member at Large and its requirements

o Section 2: Amended to clarify meeting attendance and payment obligations of Regular members and Members at Large

- **ARTICLE IV OFFICERS**

o Section 1A: Added Section 1A to recognize and add our founder's name to the Constitution

o Section 1B: Renumbered the original Section 1 to Section 1B

- **ARTICLE VII: BENEFITS**

Section 7: Added membership benefit for hardship for loss of income or out of pocket medical expenses



# CONSTITUTION



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