

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

OF THE

OREGON STATE SECULAR UNION.

INCORPORATED JAN. 13, 1893. REINCORPORATED NOV. 12, 1898.

ARTICLE I.—NAME.

The name of this society shall be the OREGON STATE SECULAR UNION.

ARTICLE II.—OBJECTS.

FIRST.—The promotion of a higher state of society through the teaching of social purity, law-abiding citizenship, temperance and mental liberty and by confining our work to things pertaining to this life only.

SECOND.—The eradication of superstition from the minds of men by teaching the natural sciences and the history of ancient religions, showing their origin, similarities and absurdities.

THIRD.—For all mankind freedom of thought and equal rights and privileges in all matters concerning religion, and to this end the repeal of all laws that exempt church property from taxation; that force the observance of Sunday as the Sabbath; that appropriate public funds for sectarian institutions; that tolerate any religious exercises, readings, display or prayer in any public school, body or institution maintained wholly or in part at public expense, and generally, to accomplish the total separation of church and state and effect the total secularization of government—local, state and national.

FOURTH.—To charter, organize and assist auxiliary Secular organizations and Secular Sunday schools for the teaching of science and morality throughout the state, and appoint and commission lecturers and teachers.

FIFTH.—To prescribe, adopt, publish, sell and distribute books, pamphlets, leaflets and papers advocating its objects and principles.

SIXTH.—To protect, by every lawful means, any member whose equal religious or civil rights are infringed.

SEVENTH.—Generally, to do and encourage every act, proceeding and thing necessary or conducive to the attainment of its objects.

SOURCES OF REVENUE AND INCOME.

Membership fees, charter fees, dues, donations, contributions, gifts, legacies, bequests and devices.

ARTICLE III.—MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 1.—Any person in sympathy with the objects of this organization, who will make a statement in writing of his or her willingness to live an honest, moral life, to assist this Union and his or her local auxiliary Secular organization and do all in his or her power to advance the cause of Secularism, is eligible to membership in the Oregon State Secular Union, and may become a member by paying into the Treasury the sum of twenty-five cents, which is to be regarded as full payment of dues to the beginning of the next quarter.

SEC. 2.—All members of auxiliary Secular organizations shall be members of the Oregon State Secular Union and be furnished with a certificate of membership signed by the President and Secretary, and sealed with the seal of the Union.

ARTICLE IV.—DUES.

SEC. 1.—All members of the Oregon State Secular Union, who are not members of an auxiliary organization, shall pay quarterly dues of twenty-five cents, payable in advance, to the Secretary of the state organization on or before the first Sunday in January, April, July and October. All auxiliary organizations shall make a report each quarter, and shall pay to the Secretary of the O. S. S. U. a per capita tax of ten cents per quarter on each and every member.

SEC. 2.—Any member failing to pay dues at the expiration of thirty days from the date

they become due shall be notified by the Secretary, and if dues are not paid within thirty days from date of such notification, such member's name may be stricken from the roll.

SEC. 3.—Members stricken from the roll on account of non-payment of dues, may be reinstated on the payment of one dollar and complying with Article III., Sec. 1, of the Constitution.

ARTICLE V.—OFFICERS.

The officers of this organization shall be a President, four Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, Treasurer and a State Superintendent of Sunday Schools, and these officers shall constitute the Executive Board. All these officers shall be elected at the annual Congress, and shall hold their offices for one year, or until others are elected in their stead. The number of Vice-Presidents may be increased at the option of the Union.

ARTICLE VI.—DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

SEC. 1. DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT.—The President shall preside at all meetings of the Union and of the Executive Board; shall countersign all orders upon the Treasurer, duly drawn by the Secretary; counsel, suggest and devise ways, means and methods to carry out the objects of the Union, and to perform such other duties as usually pertain to the office of President of similar organizations.

SEC. 2. DUTIES OF VICE-PRESIDENTS.—The Vice-Presidents shall aid and assist the President in promoting the aims and objects of the Union; shall be eligible to election to act as President at the annual Congress, special meetings and meetings of the Executive Board. And to do and perform the duties of Directors as required by law, in regard to benevolent incorporations, and perform such other duties as may be assigned them, or each of them, at any meeting of the Executive Board.

SEC. 3. DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall keep correct records of the proceedings of all meetings of the Union and of the Executive Board; shall keep a correct roll of all the members, their full names and post-office addresses, and an account with each member of amounts due and amounts paid; shall receive all membership dues and pay the same over to the Treasurer, taking his receipt therefor; shall conduct and have charge of all correspondence of the Union, and perform such other duties compatible with the office as the Executive Board shall from time to time prescribe. In case of absence or disability of the Secretary, the President shall appoint one of the Vice-Presidents to act in his stead. The Secretary shall be paid such salary as shall be decided by the Executive Board at their first meeting after their election.

SEC. 4. DUTIES OF TREASURER.—The Treasurer shall have charge of all money of the Union, receipting for all funds received by him, and keeping correct record of the same; and shall, on the first Sunday of each and every month, deliver or mail to the President (and a copy thereof to the Secretary) a full list of all money received from any and all sources, for or on account of the Union, giving name of party from whom received, amount, and date of its receipt. The Treasurer shall pay out no money of the Union except on the order of the Secretary, countersigned by the President—or in case of the absence or disability of the President, such order must be countersigned by two of the Vice-Presidents—and he shall make full report of the financial condition of the Union to the Executive Board on the first Sunday in March, June, September and December. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all notes, securities, and all papers of value belonging to the Union, and shall deliver all such, together with all books, notes, bonds, securities and papers and money of the Union to his duly elected successor. The Secretary and Treasurer shall each give bonds for the faithful performance of their duties in such amounts as shall be decided by the Executive Board, the securities on such bonds to be approved by the President.

SEC. 5. DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.—The officers of this Union shall constitute the Executive Board, and shall meet on the first Sunday in March, June, September and December, and at such other times as they may elect, or be convened by the order of the President or the call of the Vice-Presidents. The Executive Board shall audit all bills, appoint committees, and shall grant certificates, under the seal of the Union and signatures of the President and Secretary, to such persons as, after due examination, they shall consider worthy and competent exponents of Secularism and the aims and objects of this Union, to lecture, teach, solicit members and organize auxiliary Secular organizations and Sunday schools; but no lecturer or teacher shall be granted a certificate who is an habitual user of intoxicating or liquors tobacco, or who advocates free love, libertinage, or any other principles or doctrines which are detrimental to our members, our homes or our state, and contrary to the teachings of Secularism. The Executive Board shall have power to fill any office of the Union that may become vacant, before the meeting of the Annual Congress succeeding their election, and perform all duties as the laws of the state prescribe. The President, Secretary, State Superintendent of Sunday Schools and Treasurer shall each make a full report in writing of all their acts and doings for the Union during their term of office, and present the same at the first session of the Annual Congress; and the Vice-Presidents shall make reports separately or collectively, as they may elect, but such reports shall be made in writing and presented to the Congress on the first day of its assembling.

SEC. 6. DUTIES OF LECTURERS.—It shall be the duty of licensed Lecturers of the Oregon State Secular Union to lecture, solicit members, receive donations and organize auxiliary Secular organizations and Sunday schools, and must confine their work to things pertaining to this life only. Lecturers may retain their licenses until revoked by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VII.—AMENDMENTS.

Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any annual Congress of the Union; but every proposed amendment must be presented in writing and first read aloud by the Secretary, then by the member proposing the amendment and by the President before submitting it to vote, and a two-thirds vote of all the members present shall be necessary for its adoption.

ARTICLE VIII.—BY-LAWS.

By-laws not inconsistent with this Constitution may be made at any annual Congress or special Convention by a two-thirds vote of such Congress or Convention.

BY-LAWS.

1. ANNUAL CONGRESS.—The Annual Congress and special conventions shall be held at such time and place within the state and with such sessions as the Executive Board may determine, or on petition of one third of the members. The call of the Annual Congress or special conventions shall be published in the official organ of the Union or some other Liberal paper of general circulation not less than three successive issues preceding the first day of the meeting of said congress or convention.

2.—All members of the Union in good standing shall be entitled to seats and votes in the annual Congress or special Conventions; but no person shall be entitled to voice or vote at any annual Congress of the Union unless such person shall have been a member for three months preceding such Congress; unless by unanimous consent of such Congress. No member in arrears for dues shall have vote or voice in any Congress in the Union.

3.—All meetings of this organization shall be governed by parliamentary law, and Rob-

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