

## CHAPTER V

# *The Constitution*

The first Constitution of the Maryland Chapter of 4-H Club All Stars was adopted from the West Virginia All Star Chapter in 1922. Minor changes were made at that time to make it appropriate for the work of the Maryland Chapter. The initial Constitution was used for nine years before any revision was attempted. This was the longest period that any of the later revised Constitutions remained unchanged. Evidently, the first group of All Stars were very sound thinkers and foresaw the changes that would be necessary and planned the first Constitution accordingly. Since the revision in 1930, the Constitution has been in a state of almost constant revision until 1948, when the present Constitution was adopted. It seems strange to many people that the All Stars continually revised their Constitution, but as the active membership kept pace with the modern era, so did the thinking. Therefore the revisions became a necessary part of All Star work. It is only to keep the Constitution in accordance with the wishes of the group that it has been revised so often. Until such time as the All Stars become more standardized in their ideas concerning the meaning of "All Stars" and the manner of selection of candidates, revisions in the Constitution will be made from year to year. To reflect the trend of All Star thinking, the first published Constitution has been incorporated in this chapter with a short review of the yearly changes, and finally the 1948 Constitution.

## THE ORDER OF "ALL STARS"

### CONSTITUTION

#### ARTICLE I—NAME

This Order shall be known as the Beta Chapter of "All Stars" and shall be connected with the 4-H Development Program of the Boys and Girls of the State of Maryland.

#### ARTICLE II—OBJECT

The object of this Order shall be to encourage the initiative on the part of the Boys' and Girls' Agricultural Clubs, and to assist in making the work better and more effective each year, and further to provide a means of recognition for the boys and girls who become outstanding leaders in the work, thus giving them inspiration to put forth their best efforts. It shall also promote that higher type of fellowship which only exists among those of refined tastes, cultured minds, tender sympathies and undefiled bodies.

#### ARTICLE III—MOTTO

The motto of this Order shall be "SERVICE" and it shall ever stand ready to lend its aid in any worthy cause for the benefit of humanity.

#### ARTICLE IV—MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this Order shall be limited, except in rare cases, to those who have won the four H's in Club work and have shown by their attainments that they are worthy of receiving higher recognition, and then they must be voted on and receive the unanimous vote of the Order before they shall be eligible for membership. The State Director of Club

work shall be considered good authority for recommending names to the Order to be voted on. In rare cases the Order may decide to elect some one to membership who has not won the four H's, but who has been connected with the Club work for at least two years, as a camp instructor or leader in some other phase of the work, and has shown exceptional qualities of leadership and interest in the work.

#### ARTICLE V—OFFICERS

The officers of this organization shall be: Big Chief, Lesser Chief, Scribe, Medicine Man and Scout. The officers shall be elected annually by ballot, and no officer shall serve in the same position for more than two terms in succession.

#### ARTICLE VI—MEETINGS

The Order shall have a regular annual meeting each year at the time of the annual gathering of the Club boys and girls to the State Convention. This meeting shall be the Grand Assembly of the Order, and shall be for the purposes of outlining plans for the ensuing year; election of officers; selection of new members, which shall be known as the Consecration Service; and the initiation of the members selected. Other meetings may be held at any time and place desired by the Order, and the Big Chief shall have authority to call a meeting at such time as he may deem it necessary or for the good of the Order.

#### ARTICLE VII—SECRET WORK

This Order shall have a regular ritual containing the secret work of the Order. Not more than five copies of this shall be in use and they shall be carefully guarded so that none of the work may be exposed. There shall be five ranks or degrees in the Order and each shall have its pass word, which may be changed each year or retained two or more years as the Order may decide.

#### ARTICLE VIII—RECALL

The Order shall have the recall of pin and membership of any one they deem unworthy at any time by a unanimous vote of those present. The name of such member must be presented to the entire group at two meetings previous to taking the vote.

#### ARTICLE IX—DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Sec. I. The Big Chief shall preside at meetings of the Order, and shall have general supervision over the work and shall also see that the work of the Order is pushed in accordance with its object.

Sec. II. The Lesser Chief shall assist the Big Chief in his work, preside over meetings in case the Big Chief is absent, and render such assistance as the Big Chief may require of him.

Sec. III. The Scribe shall keep a record of all meetings, act as correspondent for the Order, render reports, make announcements and such other duties as the Big Chief may require.

Sec. IV. The Medicine Man shall have charge of the sacred property of the Order, such as: ritual, shields, money and equipment. He shall be trustworthy and of exceptionally good character, and shall be subject to such other duties as the Big Chief may request of him.

Sec. V. The Scout shall serve as Sergeant-at-Arms, and in initiatory work he shall be the guide for the new members, also in the Consecration Service it shall be his duty to go out in search of the worthy boys and girls. It shall also be his duty to obey any special requests of the Big Chief.

#### ARTICLE X—BY-LAWS

From time to time the Order may amend this Constitution and pass such By-Laws as may seem wise in carrying forward its work.

The revisions in 1930 were, in the most part, only small changes to give the group more freedom in setting times and dates for meetings. "Exceptions" and the number of years of project work required were deleted in this revision. There was also a major change made to the effect that twenty-five members would establish a quorum at the spring meeting and that material be presented at only one meeting prior to final vote rather than at two meetings, as previously required. The articles concerning membership, duties of officers, recall,

By the time of the 1940 Club Week, the Maryland All Stars felt that the Constitution was in excellent form, for it had not been revised since 1936. A committee was appointed to rewrite the Constitution and have it printed to be distributed at the 1941 Spring Conference. Included in this revision was the removal of sections outlining several of the original objects of the Organization: namely, the consecrating of the members to lives of higher service and the sentence "By promoting the type of fellowship which exists only among those of refined tastes, cultured minds, tender sympathies, and undefiled bodies." The sentence concerning fellowship, which was a major contribution of the older All Stars, was removed. An article setting forth the duties of the members was also included for the first time. These duties were essentially the same as those outlined in the 1948 Constitution. The sentence, that limited the service of officers in the same office for more than two years in succession was also removed at this time. The article pertaining to amendments was also changed in such a manner that it would take at least two sessions or conferences to make any future amendments. This evidently was intended to reduce the number of revisions in the future. The By-Laws, Article I, Selection of Members, was changed to outline form, and an example of the ideal type of 4-H Club member to be selected for All Star membership was included. A definite method of making recommendations for membership was established and accepted. The amendment regarding admission of county Extension agents was withdrawn. Then in order to help maintain accurate records, the Big Chief was required to submit an annual report of the Chapter's activities. The 1935 idea of having two Scribes did not work out satisfactorily, so the 1940 revision re-established the original idea of one Scribe. This same year a new committee, the auditing committee, was added to the list of standing committees. The article referring to the duties of the All Stars in regards to their county activities and the reporting to be done at the Spring Conference by the official county delegate was not included as a part of the 1940 revision. To settle the questions covering the interpretation of the Constitution, which continually arise at various meetings, the words "session" and "regular meeting" were defined.

At the second meeting of the Spring Conference on April 26, 1942, at Vindabona Hotel, Braddock Heights, Maryland, a motion was made and passed that any parts of the Constitution which conflicted with the following committee report be waived for the duration of the war. The recommendations in the report for consideration of accepting new All Stars were as follows:

1. The county submit All Star nominations by June 1 of each electing year.
2. The State Office scout the nominees.
3. The final selection to be made by the All Star Executive Committee and the State Office.
4. That the candidates so selected be notified before the summer meeting in order that they may be present for the Consecration Ceremony.
5. Those unable to attend the summer meeting be taken in at a later meeting.

honorary membership shall consist of adults who have been selected for their outstanding service in 4-H Club work.

#### ARTICLE IV—OFFICERS

The officers of this Organization shall be Big Chief, Lesser Chief, Scribe, Medicine Man, Scout and additional Scouts if necessary. These officers shall be elected annually by ballot; or if there is only one nomination for any office the Scribe can be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot.

#### ARTICLE V—MEETINGS

A conference shall be held each year in the spring for the purpose of conducting the business of the Chapter and making plans for the coming 4-H Club Week. The Big Chief shall call meetings previous to, or during the first day of the annual 4-H Club Week for the purpose of conducting the business of the Organization. The Big Chief shall have the authority to call other meetings at such time as he or she deems necessary for the good of the Chapter.

#### ARTICLE VI—AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to this Constitution must be approved by the Executive and Constitution Committees. If approved they shall be acted upon as follows:

a. Presented in writing to the members in attendance at a regular called session of the Chapter, whereupon a preliminary vote shall be cast.

b. If so approved the proposed amendments shall be finally voted upon at the first regular business meeting following the session at which the preliminary vote was taken. Copies of the amendments having been submitted in writing to the membership at large, as an enclosure accompanying the announcement of the session.

## BY-LAWS

#### ARTICLE I—MEETINGS

Section 1. A mid-season conference shall be called each year in the spring by the Big Chief for the purpose of conducting the business of the Chapter and making plans for the coming 4-H Club Week.

Section 2. The Big Chief shall call meetings previous to, or during the first day of the annual 4-H Club Week each year for the purpose of conducting the business of the Organization. A meeting for the purpose of electing officers shall be held during the annual 4-H Club Week. Officers to assume duties following the installation of officers.

Section 3. The Chapter shall have a meeting each year on the last evening of the annual 4-H Club Week at which time new members selected shall be received into the Organization. The meeting shall be known as the Consecration Service.

Section 4. The Chapter shall have a regular meeting following the Consecration Service and before the close of the 4-H Club Week for the purpose of outlining plans for the ensuing year and for the annual installation of officers.

Section 5. Other meetings may be held at any time and place desired by the Chapter, and the Big Chief shall have authority to call for a meeting at such times as he or she may deem necessary for the good of the Chapter.

Section 6. As used in Constitution and By-Laws the term "session" shall include all Chapter meetings at either the Spring Conference or Club Week or other conference. The term "regular meeting" shall mean any called meeting within a session at which a quorum is present.

#### ARTICLE II—DUTIES AND PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

Members shall conduct themselves at all times in a manner in keeping with the objectives and ideals of the Organization.

Keep informed relative to the 4-H Program of their county and in co-operation with the Extension workers of their county render some specific service in carrying on the 4-H and other Extension programs.

Demonstrate their loyalty to the All Star Organization by attending meetings as far as possible.

Give practical application to the personal motto "I SERVE," by active participation in some co-operative community development program or activity.

Honorary members may have the privilege of attending and participating in the activities of all meetings of the Chapter and enjoy the privileges of the organization with the exception of holding office, making nominations, making motions and voting.

#### ARTICLE IV—DUES

The annual dues of the All Star Organization shall be one dollar per member, August 1st being the beginning of the fiscal year of the Chapter. New members shall be exempt from dues for the first year.

a. Any member failing to pay the dues for two consecutive years shall be considered as inactive.

b. Active membership shall be restored upon payment of two dollars—one dollar to be reinstatement fee, the other to be payment of dues for the current year.

#### ARTICLE V—RECALL

Section 1. The Chapter shall have the right to expel from membership any one it deems unworthy by a three-fourth vote of those present at any regular meeting. Charges brought against a member must be referred to the Executive Committee for investigation at which time the accused shall have the privilege of defending himself. The voting shall not be done until after the recommendation of this committee.

Section 2. The Chapter may, by a three-fourths vote, at any meeting discipline its members for unworthy conduct in any manner deemed advisable by the Executive Committee.

#### ARTICLE VI—DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Duties of the Big Chief:

a. To call and preside at all meetings of the Chapter.

b. To be informed and responsible for the work of all committees and officers.

c. To write an explanatory letter to accompany recommendation blanks sent to county home demonstration agents and county agents or their assistants, by the Scribe following the Spring Conference.

d. Prepare and submit an annual report of the activities of the Chapter. Such report shall be prepared in quadruplicate and subscribe to the provisions here and after provided:

(1) Report the year (date).

(2) List officers and members of committees.

(3) Report of the Scribe.

(4) Report of the Medicine Man.

(5) All committee reports.

(6) Report of delegates representing this Chapter.

(7) Short narrative of the year's activities.

(8) Copies of this annual report shall be transmitted to the State 4-H Club Department, to the Big Chief, to the Scribe and one copy placed in the All Star files.

Section 2. Duties of the Lesser Chief:

a. The Lesser Chief shall assist the Big Chief in conducting the work of the Chapter and in his absence assume his duties.

b. The Lesser Chief shall act as Chapter parliamentarian.

Section 3. Duties of the Scribe:

a. At the call of the Big Chief, the Scribe shall notify the membership of the meetings. Any pertinent information for the membership shall be enclosed in such notifications.

b. The Scribe shall keep a record of all meetings in triplicate, properly dated and signed: one copy to be submitted to the State 4-H Club Department, one to be assembled as a part of the Scribe's annual report to the Big Chief, and one to be retained by the Scribe.

This annual report to the Big Chief shall include in addition:

(1) A record of attendance at all sessions by name and address.

(2) A record of new members with addresses.

(3) A list of active and inactive members.

c. The Scribe shall send out recommendation blanks and the Big Chief's letter of explanation to all home demonstration agents and county agents, or their assistants, immediately following the Spring Conference.

Section 4. Duties of the Medicine Man:

a. It shall be the duty of the Medicine Man to receive and disburse all funds of the Organization. These funds shall be kept in a bank account entitled "Maryland 4-H All Stars." Insofar as possible he shall pay all bills by check. He shall make a report at each annual meeting, giving receipts and disbursements. Such report shall be presented at a regular meeting during the annual 4-H Club Week in triplicate, one copy to be presented to the Big Chief for inclusion in the annual report, one copy to be submitted to the State 4-H Department, and one to be retained by the Medicine Man.

Section 5. Duties of the Scouts:

a. The duties of the Scouts shall be to locate and present the selected members to the Big Chief at the time of Consecration.