

Bylaws of the Maronite League

Founded by virtue of notice of acknowledgment No. 2647/1952
and amended by the Extraordinary General Assembly held on
February 4, 2007 at the head office of the League

2007

Amended Bylaws of the Maronite League

Article 1 Denomination:
Maronite League

Article 2 Head office:
Beirut
The head office may be transferred to any other place in Lebanon upon resolution of the executive board adopted by the absolute majority of its members.

Objectives of the Maronite League

Article 3

The Maronite League aims at achieving the following objectives:

A :

- To promote a secular movement witnessing to the Gospel, that is based on the synergy between the role of the laymen of the Maronite Church and their active presence in their environment and their community.
- To enhance the efforts of the Maronites in Lebanon and in the world, and unite their message in order to spread the Lebanese heritage at all civilization, ethical, political, administrative, social, economic, educational, cultural, scientific and media levels, as well as other public affairs in the light of the teachings and instructions of the Maronite Church.

B :

- To reinforce the cooperation between the Maronite religious and secular bodies in Lebanon and abroad.
- To promote the cooperation with the Maronite Patriarchate and to assure that the Maronite Patriarchate remains the reference of the league since it falls within the mission of the Church without being included in its hierarchy.

C :

- To advance the Lebanese nation in fulfillment of the mission with which they have been entrusted throughout the history to safeguard the independence of Lebanon, its existence, its sovereignty and the freedom of its citizens.
- To strengthen the basics of the belonging to Lebanon and to promote the national agreement based on freedom, justice,

consensual democracy, respect of human rights and adherence to coexistence apart from the sectarian political attractions between the Maronites.

D :

- To preserve and defend the rights and interests of the Maronite community in the political, economic and social fields, as well as in the civil, military and security public functions and in the cultural, media and spiritual fields in Lebanon.
- To ensure that the Maronites maintain their vitality and their prominent position in these fields under the State of Law which safeguards the coexistence, defends the national agreement and dedicates justice, consensual democracy, freedom and equality among all citizens before the law.

E :

- To ensure the relations of cooperation and solidarity are maintained and consolidated between Lebanon and other Arab countries, as well as the friend countries which received and adopted the Lebanese community.
- To promote the Christian-Muslim dialogue as part of the communication between religions, civilizations and peoples of the world according to the Apostolic Exhortation “New Hope for Lebanon”, and the conclusions of the “Maronite Patriarchal Synod”.
- To keep on promoting the Arab culture where Maronites have a major role in its progress and achievements, and protecting and developing it in Lebanon, in the Arab world and in the diaspora countries, and to disseminate the Antioch Syriac heritage.
- To maintain the universal cultural and academic level by which Lebanon has been recognized over the centuries and to support the teaching of foreign languages in Lebanese schools and institutions, particularly the languages of the countries where the Lebanese diaspora is present.

F :

- To attach to the matter of the Lebanese diaspora, especially the Maronite one, the necessary exceptional importance, since it is a major and vital objective for the Maronite League requiring an utmost attention. The League must rely on the instructions and recommendations of the Maronite Patriarchal Synod held in Saydet El-Jabal convent (Adma) between 2003 and 2006,

underlining the diaspora matter, after having particularly noticed how poor Lebanon, and the Maronite Church as well, has become because of the dispersed Maronite spiritual family which is essential to building the identity of Lebanon and of its State, and securing its social formula of coexistence. This also urged the Synod to call for reinforcing the communication between the Mother Church and its sons abroad, and between the mother country and the Lebanese diaspora.

- The task of bringing the Maronite immigrants back to Lebanon is essential and crucial and is the responsibility of the Church and the homeland. Among its key strategic priorities, the Maronite League must look after the affairs of the huge number of the Lebanese scattered all over the diaspora countries, in their cities and villages.
- The Maronite League must perform all activities pertaining to the Maronite diaspora matter to allow the Maronite Mother Church to keep in touch with its sons abroad, to promote the feeling of the Maronite belonging and the Lebanese nationality of the Maronite diaspora, to raise their awareness about the heritage, to tie their links to Lebanese and Maronite roots, to activate their political, cultural, economic and social participation in the public Lebanese arena and to reconcile the unity of the Maronites belonging to a single patriarchal church with the global aspect of their diaspora.
- The League must perform all activities and take the practical measures and procedures that help the Maronite immigrants and facilitate their formalities with the public Lebanese administrations, the Maronite Church administration and the civil status departments in particular, which are all in charge of registering the Lebanese and encouraging the Maronite immigrants to register their marriages and births in the civil status registers.
- The League must also ensure the contact with the Maronite immigrants who are of Lebanese origin to help them as well as their children have their Lebanese nationality back and to perform all activities and take the necessary measures and procedures which ensure close ties between Lebanon and its citizens abroad, so as to facilitate their return and attachment to their roots, and preserve them.

Article 4

- The Maronite League took note that the Maronite Patriarchate has founded the Maronite Institution of the Diaspora which is exclusively intended for the Lebanese diaspora affairs and the funding of the related activities.
- The diaspora matter is at the heart of the objectives of the Maronite League, and the Maronite Institution of the Diaspora is the right framework that governs the necessary basics, areas and conditions of cooperation and coordination between them in order to achieve the objectives and the tasks with which they are entrusted.

Membership of the League

Article 5

Are entitled to be members of the Maronite League, according to the conditions set out in these bylaws, the resident Maronites, men and women, who are 25 years of age and who hold public responsibility offices or senior positions in both public and private sectors, particularly in the political, administrative, judicial, economic, cultural, social, pastoral and educational areas, as well as in media and unions, the liberal professionals and the retired members of the military provided the candidate believes in the League's objectives and is honest, competent, of good manners and a committed Christian.

Article 6

The candidate wishing to become a member of the League shall submit a written request to the executive board in which he undertakes to comply with its objectives and resolutions. He must attach to such request his résumé (CV), a copy of his individual civil status record and indicate his mail or e-mail address and phone and fax numbers, if any.

Article 7

The number of the successful candidates must be no more than 100 members per year, in compliance with the provisions of article /50/ under the "Transitional Provisions".

Article 8

The membership requests shall be submitted by order of appearance to the executive board which shall accept or reject a request by secret ballot and by

an absolute majority of its members within no later than three months of the date of submitting the request.

Should this period elapse with no decision taken by the board in this regard, the request is deemed rejected.

The board may suspend the membership of any member of the League for a specific period upon resolution adopted by the absolute majority of its members.

The executive board may also strike out the membership of any member who does no more meet the qualifications mentioned in article /5/ above, or if three years elapsed since the suspension of his membership with his situation still not remedied.

Article 9

All the aforementioned sectors of the Maronite community are represented in the League as follows:

- 1- Politicians (ex-Presidents of the Republic of Lebanon, former and current deputies and ministers and heads of parties whose objectives are consistent with those of the League), presidents of municipalities and prominent figures committed to the public interest and to church mission.
- 2- Magistrates, lawyers and jurists.
- 3- Current or retired high-ranking officials and retired members of the armed forces, holding the rank of “General” or a higher one.
- 4- Physicians and pharmacists.
- 5- Economists, traders and industrialists.
- 6- Engineers and computer engineers.
- 7- Journalists, intellectuals, authors and holders of recognized university degrees.
- 8- Educational body (university professors and high school teachers).
- 9- Unions of employees, workers, technicians and administrative servants.

The abovementioned representation of all the sectors must be observed when new members are chosen, provided that the maximum percentage of the members of each of the abovementioned sectors does not exceed 15% of the total number of the League members constituting the General Assembly.

Article 10

In addition to the members listed above, the following persons may submit a membership request as members of the League for the conditions required for this purpose, including the payment of the annual subscription and any other obligations provided for in these bylaws, except the condition of introducing them, namely:

- Two representatives of each Maronite diocese existing in Lebanon and abroad, delegated by the vicar of each diocese.
- One representative of each Maronite Episcopal committee already existing or to be set up later, delegated by the bishop in charge of the Episcopal committee in question.
- One representative of each Maronite university, delegated by the president of the university.
- One representative of “Caritas” association.
- One representative of the general board of the Maronite charitable organizations in Beirut.
- One representative of the Catholic Information Center.
- One representative of the administrations of “Télé Lumière” and “the Voice of Charity”, delegated by the officials in charge of these two administrations.

Those persons are not included in the calculation of the maximum percentage of the members set forth in article /9/ hereunder.

Article 11

The executive board shall fix the annual subscription following preparation and approval of the annual balance sheet by this board before the end of November of each year. The members should obligatorily pay their subscriptions in advance at the head office of the Maronite League before the end of February of each year. While calculating the annual subscription for the next year, the executive board must take into consideration the annual ordinary operating costs for the current year, based on the data and figures of this year, subject to the transitional provisions hereunder.

During the month of December of each year, two notices shall be published in three local daily newspapers, one issued in French to remind the members that they should settle their due subscriptions within the period fixed above under penalty of suspending their membership as provided for in the following article.

Article 12

The right to participate in the general assembly of every member who is late in paying his subscriptions on their due date shall be suspended until his situation is remedied. And as long as his membership is suspended, he may not participate in the activities of any general assembly. If the defaulting

member wishes to resume his participation in the general assembly's activities, he must first pay his overdue subscriptions at least one month prior to the meeting of the ordinary general assembly in which he wishes to take part. Only then, it is up to the bureau of the board to reinsert his name in the membership list.

Meetings of the General Assemblies

Article 13

All the annual ordinary general assemblies, the ordinary ones held extraordinarily and the extraordinary ones shall be composed of all the members of the League whose subscriptions were settled for the current year, inclusive, one month at least prior to the date of meeting of these assemblies. The members failing to pay their subscriptions as specified above may not attend the meetings of the said assemblies or take part in its deliberations.

Ordinary General Assembly

Article 14

The general assembly shall hold its annual ordinary meeting during the first half of the month of December of every year.

The executive board shall fix the date, time and place of this meeting and shall call the members to the meeting by notice published for two days in three local daily newspapers, one in French, fifteen days at least prior to the date of the meeting. The notice must contain a detailed agenda, while indicating that should the quorum not be met, the assembly shall convene as provided for in the following article.

Article 15

The quorum shall be deemed reached in the meetings of the ordinary general assembly if the absolute majority of the League members meeting the conditions of participation is present. Should the quorum not be reached, the general assembly shall hold de facto a second meeting one hour after the first meeting, in the place and time fixed in the abovementioned notice. The meeting is deemed legally held with the present members and the resolutions are adopted by the majority of the present members.

Article 16

The annual ordinary general assembly may consider and adopt resolutions in the following matters:

- a. Elect the chairman, the vice-chairman and the members of the executive board.
- b. Oversee the League's policy and plan of action in the light of the objectives hereunder.
- c. Watch the implementation of this policy and the performance of the executive board in general.
- d. Approve the income and expenses account of the previous year and the budget plan of the year to come.
- e. Fill any vacancy in the executive board.
- f. Deliberate on different issues put to discussion by the executive board or upon written request submitted by 10% of the members of the general assembly to the executive board ten days prior to the date of the meeting.

Ordinary General Assembly Held Extraordinarily

Article 17

The ordinary general assembly shall convene extraordinarily when need be, and in the following cases, conditions and procedures:

- 1- Upon direct convocation by the executive board.
- 2- Upon written request addressed to the executive board by 10% of the members of the general assembly whose subscriptions, including those of the current year, were fully paid prior to the date of this request and within the periods determined in the aforementioned articles.
- 3- The executive board must convene the general assembly that the party specified in clause /2/ above requested to hold, within a period of no later than five days of the date of its receiving the request, and provided the meeting of the general assembly is held no later than fifteen days of the date of such convocation.

- 4- The quorum of the assembly held extraordinarily is deemed reached according to the same provisions governing the convocation of the annual ordinary general assembly.

Article 18

All general assemblies shall be presided over by the chairman of the executive board or, in case of absence, by his vice-chairman. In their absence or default, the meeting shall be presided over by the secretary general, otherwise by the oldest present member of the executive board.

Extraordinary General Assembly

Article 19

The general assembly may amend these bylaws upon proposal of the executive board adopted by the absolute majority of its members, provided at least nine members are present and the resolutions are adopted by the majority specified in the following article.

The extraordinary general assembly shall be convened by the same means and within the same deadlines by which the annual ordinary general assembly is convened as stated above.

Article 20

The quorum shall be reached in the extraordinary general assembly convened to amend the bylaws if the majority of the two thirds of the League members meeting the conditions of participation as stated above are present. Should the quorum not be reached in the first meeting, the general assembly holds a second meeting one hour after the first meeting. The quorum shall be reached if the absolute majority of the members constituting the general assembly is present. Should the quorum not be reached in the second meeting, the general assembly holds de facto another meeting one week after the second meeting in the same place and time. And the quorum shall be reached if at least one third of the members constituting the general assembly and meeting the conditions is present.

Article 21

The extraordinary general assembly shall adopt its resolutions by the majority of the three quarters of the members present at the first session, and then by the majority of the two thirds of the members in the next sessions.

Executive Board

Article 22

The executive board is composed of 17 elected members, including the chairman, the vice-chairman and fifteen members elected by the ordinary general assembly in a meeting held for such purpose by secret ballot voting pursuant to the rules defined in the following articles.

In addition to the aforementioned members of the board, the ex-presidents of the Maronite League are de facto non-elected members of the executive board, thus attending its meetings, if they wish to, and participating in the discussions, but not in the voting, provided they are notified in advance of the date of the meetings of the executive board.

Article 23

The term of office of the chairman, the vice-chairman and the members shall be three years that may be renewed only once through election. None of those may be reelected unless after three years have elapsed since their second term, so that none of them ever holds a position at the executive board for more than six consecutive years, irrespective of their position or capacity at the said board.

Candidacy for the Executive Board

Article 24

The application for candidacy for the executive board shall be made in writing with the general secretariat of the Maronite League ten days at least prior to the date of election provided the candidate specifies the office he is running for.

Article 25

The offices of the chairman, vice-chairman and member of the executive board may not be held simultaneously with any of the following political, public positions: President of the Republic, deputy, minister, judge, head of party, civil servant of any kind, president of municipality or mayor.

Article 26

Any member who applies for candidacy or accepts to be candidate or to be elected or designated for any of the offices specified in the previous article shall be deemed as having de facto resigned.

Elections of the Executive Board

Article 27

The general assembly shall elect during one single meeting and one single electoral process and in two separate boxes, the chairman and his vice-chairman from one hand, and the members of the executive board from the other.

The voting shall be made in the first box with one ballot paper containing the names of the candidate for the chairmanship and of that for the vice-chairmanship, and in the second box for the members of the executive board according to the following rules:

- a. The executive board shall designate a supervisory committee to oversee each of the ballot boxes, and each committee shall be composed of a president and a secretary selected among the members of the general assembly. And each candidate may delegate any person among the members of the assembly to attend and supervise the voting process for him.
- b. The committee overseeing the election process shall count the votes of the voters publicly at the polling station and once the count is completed, the committee shall draw up a report of the results signed by its president and its secretary as well. Then in the absence of a conflict, the ballot papers shall be destroyed. But if a conflict arises within the supervisory committee or any objection is made by any candidate or his delegate, the count shall be repeated in presence of the delegates of the candidates, provided the ballot papers are not destroyed unless after signature of the report by all the attending members listed in section “a” above. Should the conflict persist, the executive board shall immediately decide by the absolute majority of its present members to put an end to it.

- c. The candidate who receives the majority of the votes wins the elections. And in case of a tie, the oldest candidate is considered the winner.
- d. The president of the League shall announce the results right after the close of the voting process. Failing to do so, the task shall be undertaken respectively by the vice-president, the secretary general or the oldest present member of the executive board.
- e. Any envelop with an identification mark or containing more than one paper shall be considered void. Only the first fifteen names in the list of election of the members of the executive board are counted, and any additional name is not to be taken into account.

Moreover, any paper shall be considered as void if it contains more than one name for the offices of chairman and vice-chairman in the list of election of those two persons.

- f. In case of a vacancy in the executive board, the latter carries on its activities with the remaining members, and a substitute member is elected in the first next ordinary general assembly for the rest of the term of the holder of the vacant position.
- g. Should the half of the membership positions on the executive board become vacant for any reason whatsoever, the board shall be deemed as having resigned. The persons specified in section “d” above shall forthwith and hierarchically convoke an ordinary general assembly held extraordinarily to elect a new executive board within no later that thirty days of the date of the notice of call to such assembly.

Election of the Secretary General and the Treasurer

Article 28

Within seven days of the election date, the elected chairman shall call the members of the new executive board to a meeting in order to elect the secretary general and the treasurer by secret ballot and by the absolute

majority of the members of the board. In case of a tie, the oldest candidate is considered the winner. Should the office of the secretary general or of the treasurer becomes vacant for any reason whatsoever, a substitute shall forthwith be elected by the abovementioned majority to fill the vacancy.

Meetings of the Executive Board

Article 29

The executive board shall hold an ordinary meeting at least once per month, and the chairman may call to urgent meetings when necessary. The chairman must hold an extraordinary meeting upon request of at least five members of the board, provided such request specifies the urgent matters required to be discussed.

Article 30

The quorum shall not be deemed met in the meetings of the executive board unless by the absolute majority of the members of the board (i.e. at least nine members).

The resolutions shall be adopted by the majority of the present members and in case of a tie, the chairman shall have a casting vote.

Powers and Obligations of the Executive Board

Article 31

The executive board shall undertake the following tasks:

- a- To put in place the League's policy and plan of action in the light of the objectives hereunder.
- b- To run the League's affairs.
- c- To work on carrying out the League's objectives hereunder and to put in place the plan of action in application of these objectives and the general assembly's instructions.
- d- To decide on the membership requests.
- e- To elect the secretary general and the treasurer, to appoint specialized committees and to oversee their work.
- f- To fix the annual subscription and determine its way of payment, to refer the members to the disciplinary committee and suspend their membership should they breach their obligations or fail to pay their annual subscriptions as provided

- for in the previous articles, in compliance with the transitional provisions stated here below on the fixation of the subscription of the first year after ratification of these bylaws.
- g- To put in place the project of the income and expenses account of the previous year and that of the balance sheet of the year to come, as well as the budget of the Diaspora's activities in a special clause of the balance sheet.
 - h- No member of the executive board or of the League elected in any specialized committee may enter into a contract with the League or receive any consideration for any work undertaken for it or by delegation of the latter, except the cost and expenses of such work or the travel expenses resulting from such work, where necessary.

Powers of the Chairman

Article 32

- The chairman of the executive board is the president of the League, and shall preside over the meetings of the executive board, of the general assemblies and of the specialized committees and sub-committees whenever he is present.
- He shall represent the League before all authorities and departments.
- He shall act as the spokesman of the executive board at the official and media levels under the League's principles, objectives and resolutions, and according to the tasks with which he is entrusted upon a resolution of the board or previously adopted resolutions.
- He shall take steps to activate the role of the League under the provisions hereunder.
- He shall, jointly with the treasurer, open accounts before the banks accredited by decision of the executive board.
- He shall, jointly with the treasurer, sign all deposits and withdrawals.

- He shall, jointly with the secretary general, sign all the correspondences of the executive board as well as the resolutions, statements and announcements of the League.

Powers of the Vice-chairman

Article 33

The vice-chairman shall replace the chairman in case he is absent. He shall also fulfill any task assigned to him by the executive board or delegated by the chairman, and during vacancy of the office of chairman for any reason whatsoever, he shall act as chairman for the rest of the term of office of the latter. And should both the offices of chairman and vice-chairman become vacant, then the secretary general shall act as chairman, or otherwise the oldest member of the executive board until new chairman and vice-chairman are elected by the ordinary general assembly which must be convened by the executive board within no later than thirty days of the date of the last vacancy of the said offices.

In case of vacancy of the office of the vice-chairman only, the secretary general shall act as vice-chairman, or otherwise, the oldest member until a new vice-chairman is elected in the first meeting to be held by the general assembly.

Powers of the Secretary General

Article 34

- He shall record the events of the meetings, prepare their minutes and sign them with the chairman.
- He shall oversee the administrative body of the League, maintain all records, archives and documents, and control the functioning of the committees.
- He shall, jointly with the chairman, sign all resolutions, announcements and statements of the executive board, at the exception of financial matters.
- He shall represent the board and act as its spokesman in the absence of the chairman and the vice-chairman, according to the tasks with which he is entrusted upon a resolution of the executive board.

Powers of the Treasurer

Article 35

- He shall put in place the project of the income and expenses account of the previous year and the budget plan of the year to come and submit them to the executive board for approval before the first of October of every year, provided the said projects are forwarded to the ordinary general assembly for approval in its meeting held during the first half of December of every year.

- He shall deposit all the League's funds for a specific interest rate in one or two banks of the executive board's choice, and may sign any withdrawals jointly with the chairman of the executive board. He shall also forbid any investment in the stock exchange and in the market of precious metals and raw materials.

- He shall oversee the collection of subscriptions, sign their receipts and raise donations. He shall also control the management of the League's assets.

- He shall submit to the executive board on a quarterly basis a report on the financial situation.

- He shall submit to the ordinary general assembly a global report on the financial situation after being submitted to the executive board for approval.

Administrative Bureau

Article 36

The executive board shall have an "administrative bureau" composed of the chairman, the vice-chairman, the secretary general and the treasurer, and that holds a meeting at least once every two weeks and whenever necessary to follow on the activities and deliberate on urgent matters and prepares the meetings of the executive board.

The Administrative Personnel of the League

Article 37

- The League's administrative personnel shall be determined by resolution of the executive board upon proposal of the secretary general. Such resolution shall include the conditions of appointment, promotion and payroll. The personnel must abide by the instructions of the president of the League.

- The appointment and the discharge of the administrative personnel shall be made by resolution of the executive board upon proposal of the administrative bureau should the administrative bureau, by the majority of its present members, deem it necessary to adopt such resolution, with the chairman having a casting vote.

Specialized Committees

Article 38

The executive board shall designate the following specialized committees:

1. Committee of the political and national affairs.
2. Committee of the constitutional and legal affairs.
3. Committee of the economic, financial and technical affairs.
4. Committee of the Maronite and Lebanese Diaspora.
5. Committee of the personnel's and public administrations' affairs.
6. Committee of the education, university, youth, sports and university student affairs.
7. Committee of the social affairs, social activities, seminars and events. It also deals with the affairs of the deportees until their file is closed, as well as the affairs of underage and handicapped persons.
8. Committee of environment and health.
9. Committee of cultural affairs as well as the heritage and the interfaith dialogue.
10. Committee of information.
11. Committee of the women's and children's affairs and rights.
12. Committee of the Lebanese citizenship.

The committees shall conduct studies and research upon request of the executive board.

Article 39

Each committee is composed of members of the League whose number is between five and fifteen specialists. The executive board may appoint experts, who are not members of the League, to assist any of these committees. The experts appointed from outside the Maronite League shall, where necessary, receive a remuneration fixed by the said board. The committees' opinions shall be advisory only, and all the committees shall connect to the executive board through the general secretariat of the League.

Article 40

The executive board shall select by secret ballot the members of the committees among the members of the general assembly for the duration of its term. And the rapporteur of each committee shall be de facto a member of the executive board. The members of such committees must elect one of them as president by secret ballot.

Article 41

These committees must convene at least once per month. And the quorum shall be deemed reached when half of the committee members are present. If this quorum is not reached within half an hour, the meeting shall be deemed legally held if one third of the committee members are present.

Article 42

The executive board may when necessary appoint one or more temporary committees to accomplish a specific task and the term of such committee(s) shall end either by the cancellation of the resolution on its nomination, or once its task is accomplished.

Article 43

The executive board shall set up a special regulation that governs the activities and tasks of the committees and sub-committees, their relations with the executive board of the League and the coordination between them.

Finances of the League

Article 44

The finances of the league are mainly constituted of the subscriptions of the members which shall cover the League's general operational costs, as well as the proceeds of the social activities and the cash and in-kind contributions that the executive board can collect and which are to cover the exceptional expenses of the League, as well as the costs and expenses of travel and public relations. The finances allocated for the diaspora's activities shall include the funds that the League may earn from agreements set forth in article 4, section 2 of these bylaws and signed with "the Maronite Institution of the Diaspora" and other agreements that may be entered between it and other institutions whose goal is to take care of the Maronite diaspora's affairs, not to mention the exceptional donations and contributions.

The financial year shall start on the 1st of January and end on the 31st of December of each year.

Article 45

The executive board must submit the contracts referred to in the previous article to the general assembly in order to approve them as well as their conditions and all the clauses which subsequently become binding to the League.

General Provisions

Article 46

The extraordinary general assembly has the power to dissolve the League by a majority of three quarters of the members mentioned hereunder and who constitute such assembly, upon proposal of the executive board, or the Maronite Patriarch. Should the assembly decide to dissolve it and liquidate its assets, its movable and immovable properties will be transferred to the Maronite Patriarchate to be used in the projects determined by the Patriarch and distributed under his aegis.

Article 47

The provisions of these bylaws shall cancel and supersede the League's previous bylaws. They shall be the only provisions to come into effect and force as soon as they are ratified.

Transitional Provisions

Article 48

Following ratification of these bylaws, the ordinary general assembly shall be called to a meeting held on Sunday, March 25, 2007 to elect a new executive board of the League according to the provisions and conditions hereunder. This assembly shall be attended by the members who settled all their previous subscriptions, including those of the year 2007, fifteen days at least prior to the assembly's meeting and the date of the election session.

Article 49

The current general assembly shall, exceptionally and for the last time, fix the annual subscription due on the current and new members of the League for the year 2007 at one hundred thousand Lebanese pounds, that must be paid on a date no later than March 10, 2007.

Those who are in default of payment of their subscriptions for the previous years, including 2007, and whose names are listed in the general schedule until the date of ratification of these bylaws must settle them within the said deadline and on the basis of the former value of the subscriptions for the previous years including the one-hundred-Lebanese-pound fee for the year 2007.

The subscriptions for the next years shall be fixed pursuant to the provisions hereunder, particularly article /11/ hereof.

Article 50

The general assembly shall, exceptionally and once only, open the door for 180 new members of the League during the years 2007 and 2008, starting as of April 1st, 2007, in addition to the 100 members who may be annually accepted as members as of the year 2007 according to the provisions of article /6/ mentioned here above, provided the conditions and the new subscription set hereunder apply to them.

If the name of a member is stricken out of the records of the League, he may submit a new membership request, along with a written approval of the new bylaws, and must pay the new subscription as well as any previous arrears and unpaid subscriptions as provided for in the previous articles. In this case, he is not obliged to submit the documents specified in the aforementioned article /5/.

Final Provisions

Article 51

These bylaws shall come into force once they are ratified by the extraordinary general assembly.