

**Alta Califas Norte Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (M.E.Ch.A.)
Regional Constitution**

PREAMBLE

As Chicana/Chicano students of Northern California, we must take upon ourselves the responsibility to promote and encourage nuestra Gente to pursue higher education, graduate, and promote Chicanismo within the community, as well as politicize our Raza and continue the struggle for self-determination of the Chicano people and the liberation of the nation of Aztlán, we hereby establish this constitution.

In the past, the structure of M.E.Ch.A. allowed any individual wanting to organize a chapter on any campus the opportunity to do so. This could occur without prior knowledge of the history and philosophical objectives of M.E.Ch.A. Thus, vast numbers of M.E.Ch.A chapters were created with dissimilar and contradictory objectives as well as conflicting philosophies

Recognizing the ineffectiveness of the previous M.E.Ch.A organizational structure and the philosophical polarity that it allowed, the following structure will make every Mechista accountable to its Chapter, every Chapter accountable to its Central, and every Central accountable to its Region.

ARTICLE I - NAME & SYMBOL

- Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Alta Califas Norte M.E.Ch.A Región.
- Section 2. The official symbol of this organization will be the eagle with its wings spread, bearing a macahuittle in one claw and a dynamite stick in the other with a lighted fuse in its beak. The acronym M.E.Ch.A. will be above the symbol with the phrase, “La Union Hace La Fuerza” below.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

- Section.1 The Alta Califas Norte M.E.Ch.A. Región outlines the following organizational objectives
- A. To carry out the objectives established in El Plan de Santa Barbara, “El Plan de Aztlán,” and “The Philosophy of M.E.Ch.A.”
 - B. To establish a working network amongst our regional chapters to carry out plans of action concerning Chicanas and Chicanos.
 - C. To retain our Chicana/Chicano identity and to promote our culture and history.

ARTICLE III- REGIONAL MEETINGS

- Section 1. Regional meetings shall convene once a month with a quorum of 50% + 1 of all officially recognized voting campuses.
- Section 2. Attendance requirement is $\frac{3}{4}$'s of the Agenda of a regional meeting. Failure to abide by this rule will constitute an absence. The Hosting Campus and Communication Center shall record arrival and departure times of each campus.
- Section 3. Voting Campuses within the Regional boundaries shall alternate in hosting Regional meetings.
- Section 4. The Hosting Campus:
- A. Shall be responsible for facilitating the meeting and recording minutes;
 - B. Shall be responsible for providing one copy of minutes to the Mesa Directiva and all voting chapters within the Región;
 - C. Shall be in charge of informing the Communication Center of the location of the next meeting three (3) weeks in advance;
 - D. Shall provide an educational segment for the meeting.
- Section 5. A tentative agenda for each regional meeting will be drawn up at the previous regional meeting.
- Section 6. Regional meetings shall be conducted by Robert's Rules of Order until an alternative method can be found.
- Section 7. All non- M.E.Ch.A. individual(s) and/or organization(s) who wish to attend a regional meeting must meet the following criteria:
- A. Have sponsorship from a voting M.E.Ch.A. chapter within our Región;
 - B. Be Approved by all voting M.E.Ch.A. Chapters present at the meeting.
- Section 8. When M.E.Ch.A. action items are being discussed, the non- M.E.Ch.A. individual (s) and/or organization(s) present may be asked to leave, upon a voting chapter's request.

ARTICLE IV – VOTING PRIVILEGE

- Section 1. Regional members shall have one vote per campus.
- Section 2. Any new campus wanting to become part of the regional process must first gain its affiliation through their recognized Central.
- Section 3. Procedure for Regional Recognition (voting rights):

- A. A college campus must attend three (3) consecutive regional meetings. A high school, Jr. High school or elementary school campus must attend two (2) consecutive regional meetings.
- B. On the 2nd/3rd consecutive regional meeting, campuses must submit a written and verbal proposal to the Región outlining their Chapter goals, their reasons for joining the Alta Califas Norte Región, and a payment plan for their regional dues (see Article IV, Sec 5).
- C. A motion to grant voting rights must be made by a voting campus within the Región and must be passed by consensus.

Section 4. If a campus fails to attend two (2) consecutive regional meetings and/or fails to pay their regional dues, then they will lose their voting rights. IN order to reinstate voting rights, a campus must follow the same process as described in Article IV, Section 3.

Section 5. The Alta Califas Norte M.E.Ch.A. Región establishes the following regional dues for all voting chapters within the Región:

- A. All post-secondary schools will have the following options for paying their regional dues:
 - 1. Monthly dues of \$20; or
 - 2. Bi-yearly dues of \$110; or
 - 3. Yearly dues of \$200.
- B. All Secondary schools will have the following options for paying their regional dues:
 - 1. Monthly dues of \$10; or
 - 2. Bi-yearly dues of \$55; or
 - 3. Yearly dues of \$100.
- C. All primary schools will be exempt from paying any regional dues.

Section 6. If a voting campus' rights are lost at the Central, then their voting privileges will be suspended at the regional level until voting rights are again reinstated under the following conditions:

- A. The Chapter must attend all regional meetings while on suspension.
 - 1. If not complied with, the campus must adhere with the provisions stated under Article IV, section 3.
- B. Their respective Central must contact the Communication Center Coordinator within 48 hours upon reinstatement of their Central voting rights.

ARTICLE V – REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Section 1. Campus Representatives will serve as a liaison between their campus and the Región.

- Section 2. Representative shall be responsible for submitting all Campus/Central proposals in writing to the Región for any discussion and/or action.
- Section 3. Representative shall be responsible for voting on issues in the manner their campus has decided.
- Section 4. Representatives shall provide a current constitution and school map of their campus to the Communication Center Coordinator
- Section 5. Representatives are responsible for submitting regional dues set by the Región to the Finance Coordinator.

ARTICLE VI- NATIONAL M.E.Ch.A COORDINATING COUNCIL (NMCC)
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

- Section 1. The Region shall annually elect two (2) NMCC Regional Representatives (one male and one female) as described by the Alta Califas Norte M.E.Ch.A. Región NMCC Representative Election Process (see Appendix A) for one (1) year terms.
- Section 2. NMCC Regional Representatives are eligible for re-election but will not serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms.
- Section 3. NMCC Regional Representatives must be fully recognized members of their campus M.E.Ch.A. Chapter that is officially recognized by the Región.
- Section 4. The two (2) NMCC Regional Representatives must be from separate Centrales within the Región.
- Section 5. NMCC Regional Representatives will have the following duties and responsibilities:
- A. Represent the Región and make decisions on its behalf on the NMCC;
 - B. Be the official spokesperson for the Región;
 - C. Be responsible for distribution of all information attained at all NMCC meetings to the Región;
 - D. Attend all NMCC meetings and vote on all matters that come before the NMCC;
 - E. Attend all Alta Califas Norte regional meetings;
 - F. Be directly accountable to the Región.
- Section 6. Any NMCC Regional Representative, who fails to fulfill their duties and responsibilities, as described in Article VII Section 5, may be removed from office.

- Section 7. Procedure for removal are as follows:
- A. A written statement against the NMCC Regional Representative shall be presented at a regional meeting by any voting campus within the Region.
 - B. At the next regularly scheduled regional meeting, the plaintiff and defendant shall present their case.
 - C. At the end of the proceedings, The General Body shall vote on the Grievance.
 - D. A majority vote (50% + 1) is necessary for the removal of the NMCC Regional Representative from office.

- Section 8. Any NMCC Regional Representative vacancy shall be filled immediately, once the vacancy becomes known, as described by the Alta Califas. Norte M.E.Ch A. Región NMCC Representative Election Process (see Appendix A).

ARTICLE VII – COMMUNICATION CENTER

- Section 1. A Regional Communication Center will be established where all M.E.Ch.A regional information. (i.e. minutes, mailing list, etc) will be kept.
- Section 2. The Communication Center will reside at the Communication Center Coordinator's campus.
- Section 3. The Región shall annually elect one (1) Communication Center Coordinator whose membership must reside at the same campus for the duration of her/his term.
- Section 4. The Regional Communication Center Coordinator:
- A. Shall keep an updated list of all campus M.E.Ch A Chapters within our Región;
 - B. Shall be responsible for notifying all recognized M.E.Ch A Chapters within our Región of the Regional meeting two (2) weeks prior to the meeting;
 - C. Shall keep current copies of the Chapter constitutions;
 - D. Shall keep campus maps of all M.E.Ch A chapters;
 - E. Must maintain communication with all National M.E.Ch A Regions;
 - F. Must report all information that involves the Alta Califas Norte Región;
 - G. Shall give monthly reports of the current status of all voting and non-voting chapters within the Región.
 - H. Must oversee that copies of minutes are distributed to the Mesa Directiva and recognized M.E.Ch A. Chapters within the Región.

- Section 5. Accessibility of all information shall be determined by officers list on file.
- Section 6. Should a campus need to disseminate information to the Región they may contact the Communication Center Coordinator who will in turn notify all M.E.Ch A's chapters within the Región.
- Section 7. The Communication Center Coordinator must attend all regional meetings.

ARTICLE VIII- MESA DIRECTIVA

- Section 1. The Mesa Directiva Coordinators will consist of the two (2) NMCC Regional Representatives, one (1) Communication Center Coordinator, and one (1) Finance Coordinator.
- Section 2. The Coordinator's specific duties will consist of the following:
- A. The NMCC Regional Representatives
 1. Shall fulfill their duties and responsibilities, as described in Article VI, Section 5.
 - B. Communication Center Coordinator
 1. Shall fulfill their duties and responsibilities, as described in Article VII, Section 4.
 - C. Finance Coordinator
 1. Shall be responsible for the collection of all regional dues owed to the Región;
 2. Shall provide invoices and receipts for all dues requested and received, respectfully, to each voting chapter;
 3. Shall provide a monthly fiscal written report to each voting chapter and the Mesa Directiva that will include, but not limited to, each of the following items:
 - a. Current balance of funds;
 - b. Description and amount of all income and expenditures since the previous fiscal report
 4. Shall appropriate regional funds as directed by the Región below:
 - a. All appropriations must be done in the form of a motion at a regional meeting;
 - b. Motions involving the appropriations of regional funds must be approved by two-thirds (2/) of all voting chapters present at the regional meeting when the motion is introduced.
 5. Shall be responsible for collecting and saving all original receipts of the Region's expenses;
 6. Shall provide and coordinate at least two (2) regional fundraisers a year.

- Section 3. All Coordinators must:
- A. Attend all Alta Califas Norte M.E.Ch A regional meetings;
 - B. Be fully recognized members of their campus M.E.Ch A Chapter that is officially recognized by the Región;
 - C. Be able to fulfill the duties and responsibilities outlined under her/his position (see Article VII, Section 2);
 - D. Be directly accountable to the Región;
 - E. Be responsible for upholding the Region's Organizational Goals (see Article II).

- Section 4. The Mesa Directiva will have the following duties and responsibilities:
- A. Ensure that the Alta Califas Norte M.E.Ch A Regional Constitution is upheld and abided by;
 - B. Work on the constant internal development of the Región;
 - C. Meet at least once a month;
 - D. Be responsible for the security of all regional funds;
 - E. Be directly accountable to the Región.

ARTICLE IX – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS OF COMMUNICATION CENTER COORDINATOR AND FINANCE COORDINATOR.

- Section 1. Only voting Chapters will be allowed to nominate individuals for the Communication Center and Finance Coordinator positions.
- Section 2. Only active members from voting chapters may be nominated for the Communication Center Coordinator positions.
- Section 3. Nominations
- A. Nominations will open up on the second to the last regional meeting before the M.E.Ch.A National Conference.
 - B. Nominations will close on the final regional meeting before the M.E.Ch A. National Conference.
- Section 4. Only voting chapters may cast ballots for the Communication Center Coordinator and Finance Coordinator positions.
- Section 5. Elections
- A. Each nominee will provide a presentation before the Región explaining their reasons for running for their respective position.
 - B. Questions by voting chapters will be accepted and answered by all candidates running for the specific position.
 - C. Upon the expenditure of all the questions by the voting chapters, the candidates will be excused from the regional meeting.
 - D. Once the Candidates are excused, the Región may discuss the different candidates in an open discussion.
 - E. Votes will be cast in a closed ballot once discussion ends.

- F. The Región will choose two active members from voting chapters that are not running for any positions to count the ballots.
 - G. Candidates with the most votes will be the elected Coordinator.
- Section 6. The Communication Center Coordinator and the Finance Coordinator will assume their respective positions immediately following the end of the National Conference for the year they were elected.
- Section 7. The Communication Center coordinator and the Finance Coordinator will hold their term in office for one year.
- Section 8. Special elections
- A. In the event of a vacancy, a special election will occur to fill the vacancy utilizing Article IX, Sections 1, 2, 4, and 5.
 - B. Nominations and elections may occur at the same regional meeting.
 - C. The elected Coordinators will assume their positions immediately following the election.
 - D. The elected Coordinators will hold their term for the remaining part of the term from which the vacancy occurred.

ARTICLE X – REMOVAL OF VOTING CHAPTER AND IMPEACHMENT OF COMMUNICATION CENTER COORDINATOR AND FINANCE COORDINATOR

- Section 1. Any voting chapter that works against anything outlined in this Constitution may be removed.
- Section 2. Any Communication Center Coordinator and/or Finance Coordinator that fails to fulfill her/his respective duties and responsibilities may be impeached from office.
- Section 3. Procedure for both Section 1 and Section 2 will be:
- A. A written grievance will be presented at a regional meeting by a voting chapter.
 - B. At the following regional meeting the voting chapter presenting the grievance will present its case
 - C. The voting chapter and/or coordinator in question will be allowed to present their case.
 - D. The Región will discuss the grievance and proceed with a vote on the grievance.
- Section 4. A two-thirds (2/3) vote is necessary for the removal of a voting chapter.
- Section 5. A majority (50% + 1) vote is necessary for the impeachment of the Communication Center Coordinator and/or Finance Coordinator.

ARTICLE XI – CENTRALES IN RESPECT TO REGIONAL

- Section 1. Centrales will be responsible for distributing regional information (i.e. time, date, location of next meeting) to individual campuses within its Central.
- Section 2. Centrales will be responsible for providing minutes of previous regional meetings to campuses not present at prior regional meeting.
- Section 3. Centrales shall report voting status of their respective Campuses to the Región.
- Section 4. Centrales shall give Central reports to the Región.
- Section 5. Formation of a new Central
- A. If the interest should arise for the formation of a new Central within the Alta Califas Norte Region, the following proposal should be presented to the region, by the chapters seeking to form the new Central, prior to the official formation:
1. Name of proposed Central
 2. Specific boundaries
 3. Chapters within the boundaries of the proposed Central
 4. Constitution
 5. Goals and objectives of the proposed Central.
- B. The following three step process shall serve as a structure for the formation of a new Central:
1. In the first month, the chapters within the boundaries of the proposed Central will present above proposal at the regional meeting.
 2. The second regional meeting will serve as discussion and question and answer for the chapters presenting the proposal.
 3. The third regional meeting will commence the discussion, at which time an official vote will take place regarding the approval or disapproval of the new Central. A 2/3 vote in favor of the formation of the new Central will be required by all voting chapters for the approval of the new Central.
 4. Attendance to second and third regional meetings is mandatory for all chapters proposing the new central.

ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS

- Section 1. Amendments to this constitution:
- A. Shall be first submitted in writing by a voting chapter(s) to an Alta Califas Norte M.E.Ch A regional meeting
- B. Shall be voted on by the Alta Califas Norte M.E.Ch.A. Región at the next regularly scheduled regional meeting.

C. Shall be made when two-thirds of the voting campuses approve of the amendment.

Section 2. The voting chapters) presenting the amendments will be responsible for presenting a revised version of the Constitution for all amendments approved by the Región to the Communication Center Coordinator within 10 days.

Section 3. The Communication Center Coordinator will have copies of the revised Constitution for the Mesa Directiva and all voting chapters within the Región by the next regional meeting.

ARTICLE XIII – ULTIMATE AUTHORITY

Section 1. Ultimate authority as to any interpretation of this constitution or anything not mentioned within this constitution shall be decided by the general body of the Alta Califas Norte M.E.Ch.A. Región by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

Drafted 5 Feb 1994 @ UCB: UCB, CSUS, Chabot College

Passed 5 Mar 1994 @ Ohlone: CSUS, UCD, SJSU, W Valley, Ohlone

Amended 20 Sep 1997 @ UCD: UCB, Ohlone, SFSU, USF, Solano CC, SCUS, UCD, SJSU, Santa Rosa JC

Amended 14 Aug 1998 @ SFSU: Ohlone, CSUS, UCD, UCB, De Anza CC, Santa Rosa JC, SFSU, Santa Clara U.

Amended 15 May 1999 @ CSUS: Ohlone College, Chabot College, UCB, CSUS, SSU, SRJC, CSUH, UCD

Amended May 2002 @ CSUC: Santa Rosa JC, Sonoma State, CSUC, CSUS, UCB, UCD, San Joaquin Delta CC, Franklin High School, Chabot College, Ohlone College, CSUH, SFSU