

UNITED STATES
CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS
of
**THE PROGRESSIVE FARMERS AND
HOUSEHOLD UNION OF AMERICA**
The Negro Business League

IN UNION IS STRENGTH

First organized under the act of Congress in 1865. Revised and organized by R. J. Lee in 1897. Revised and applied by Robert L. Hill, Counselor, V. E. Powell, M. D., Knox DeGraffenreid and Lewis Lagroon in 1918, for the benefit of the Negro Race.

Organized at Winchester. Ratified and incorporated at Little Rock, Ark., under orders of the Supreme Court of Arkansas.

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Constitution

NAME

This organization shall be known as THE PROGRESSIVE FARMERS AND HOUSEHOLD UNION OF AMERICA.

OBJECT

The object of this organization shall be to advance the interests of the Negro, Morally and Intellectually, and to make him a better citizen and a better farmer.

ARTICLE I

OFFICERS

SECTION 1. This organization shall have five (5) table officers; viz - President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer and Chaplain.

ARTICLE II

EXECUTIVE BOARD

There shall be an Executive Board consisting of nine members.

ARTICLE III

ELECTION

The officers shall be elected to serve three months, or until their successors shall be chosen and qualified.

A two-third vote of the membership of this order is necessary to elect any and all officers.

ARTICLE IV

This order shall have the power to enact any law for the protection and government of its members.

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ARTICLE V

This order shall have a pass word, door words, grips and signs for its members. The same sign shall be changed every three months. Ritual shall be gotten out by the President, Secretary and Chairman of the Executive Board. The President shall extend these pass words, signs, and grips to the members every three months. And if ever any of the signs or pass words should become exposed the President shall call the body together at once for the purpose of issuing new ones. Absence of the Secretary and Chairman of the Executive Board gives the President power to issue signs, pass words, etc., which shall remain in force until the next quarterly meeting.

ARTICLE VI

Any member known to expose any of the secrets of this order shall be tried by the order and upon conviction shall be fined and excluded.

ARTICLE VII

Any member excluded from this order as provided in Article VI shall not be allowed to rejoin within ninety-nine years. Members are forbidden to associate with such excluded members, and for violation of this provision they shall themselves be excluded.

ARTICLE VIII

This Union shall organize among its members a Joint Stock Company with a Capital Stock of One Thousand Dollars (\$1000.00).

SEC 1 Each member shall purchase at least one share at five dollars (\$5.00). Members may purchase

as many shares as they can at five dollars (\$5.00) each.

SEC 2 - When the Union shall have accumulated two Thousand Dollars (\$2000) they may invest the same in real estate for the Order.

SEC 3 - All money paid in the Union shall be deposited in the Bank of Winchester, Ark.

SEC 4 - No check shall be given on the Order, unless the bill be first presented to both the Supreme Commander and President. All checks must be signed by Supreme Commander, President and Secretary.

ARTICLE IX

A Grand Order meeting of this Union shall assemble semi-annually at the Court Houses of respective counties. The Order shall be composed of delegates from subordinate Lodges.

SEC 1 Each subordinate Lodge shall elect at a regular meeting three delegates to represent them at the County seat twice a year.

ARTICLE X

The Grand Lodge shall have six officers: Grand President, Grand Vice-president, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Grand Chaplain and an Executive Board of nine members. These Grand officers shall hold office for one year.

ARTICLE XI

The business of this Grand Lodge shall be to further advance the cause, uniting the race into a perfect Union in various counties. And to levy special taxes on subordinate Lodges for the purpose of purchasing land, Deeds and Titles to lands bought must be made in the name of the Order.

ARTICLE XII

Any member who shall fail to pay his dues after his arrear shall reach two months shall be suspended until same is paid.

ARTICLE XIII

SEC. 1--This Order shall elect a Deputy who shall hold office six months. He shall be a salaried officer and it shall be his duty to organize clubs in the county. He shall charge two dollars (\$2.00) per club organized, and the same shall be applied to his salary. He shall report monthly to the Order.

SEC. 2--If any Deputy be found guilty of collecting more than two dollars (\$2.00) from any Lodge, he shall be removed by the Executive Board and his vacancy filled by appointment of the President, and the appointee shall serve for six months from the day of appointment.

ARTICLE XIV

Each Lodge shall have a door keeper, and each member must give to him the pass word before being allowed to enter the Lodge. Any member forgetting the pass word must remain outside until ordered admitted by the President.

By Laws

1. The Union shall be opened and closed with prayer by the Chaplain.
2. Reading of minutes.
3. Reports of Committees.
4. Appointment of Committees.
5. Report of Treasurer.
6. Consideration of applications.
7. Receiving members.
8. The president shall preside at all meetings of this Order, and in his absence the Vice-President shall preside.
9. The President shall rule on all points of order and shall appoint all committees not otherwise provided for.
10. No member shall speak more than twice on any question without consent of the body.

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WE BATTLE

for

**The Rights
of Our Race**

“In Union is Strength”

We Champion the Moral, Material, Po-
litical and Intellectual Interests
of Our Race

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