

# MACEDONIAN AMERICAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

(HURBERT H. HUMPHREY, WILLIAM FULBRIGHT, RON BROWN...)

## CONSTITUTION

**Motto: One individual can make a difference**

### **Preamble**

We, the participants of U.S. Exchange Programs (Hubert H. Humphrey, William Fulbright, Ron Brown and other programs), hereby agree to form an Alumni Association for promoting professional contacts and organised exchange of academic ideas among ourselves and Fellows and Alumni associations of other countries, and by affixing our signatures on this document, adopt this Constitution of the Association.

### ***Article 1***

#### **Name**

The name of the Association shall be "Macedonian American Alumni Association" (hereafter referred to as Association, or abbreviated as "MAAA"). The Association is a non-political, not for profit, and entirely private voluntary organization.

The seat of the Association is in the city of Skopje, Republic of Macedonia.

The Association shall maintain regular contacts and cooperation with other U.S. alumni associations, especially with the Humphrey Fellowship alumni associations all over the world, as well as with the Institute of International Education in Washington, DC, USA, which plays a coordinating role on behalf of all alumni associations.

### ***Article 2***

#### **Objectives of the Association:**

- 1) To establish and maintain a network of the Macedonian fellows/alumni of the government supported and other fellowship programs in the USA;
- 2) To create a forum for sharing ideas and experiences in our diverse fields thus strengthening Fellow's commitment to play a significant role in programs which would contribute to national development and democratic transition;
- 3) To promote and support professional development, by knowledge, skills and capacity building among fellows for the benefit of our institutions and the country;
- 4) To initiate discussion on national development issues with objectivity and impartiality. In this way, the Association will function as a "think tank" of creative initiatives and actions;
- 5) To dedicate our services to the people and nation benefit by organising and participating in community activities through lectures, seminars, workshops, voluntary work, etc. and to demonstrate in our leadership roles, the humility expected in serving humanity;

6) To support the Humphrey, Fulbright and Ron Brown Programs and other Fellowship programs in U.S.A. with publicity, recruitment of candidates for future fellows and demonstrable excellence in public and private service;

7) To foster lasting social, cultural and economic links between citizens and institutions in the USA and Macedonia and to serve as a channel for strengthening the bilateral relations of the two countries;

8) To network with other national as well as regional U.S. alumni associations with emphasis on associations of neighbouring countries with a view to foster social, cultural and economic ties, to contribute to the organisation and performance of the International and Regional Humphrey alumni conferences and thus to strengthening international peace, security and economic cooperation;

9) To cooperate with the Embassy of the United States of America in Macedonia and with the Office of Public Affairs within the Embassy in carrying out educational and cultural activities, as well as with U.S. experts in Macedonia working on projects in various fields.

### **Article 3** **Membership**

#### (1) Types of membership

There shall be three types of membership in the Association:

- general membership,
- associate membership, and
- honorary membership.

*General membership:* All Hubert H. Humphrey, William Fulbright and Ron Brown Fellows of Macedonia will be eligible to obtain general membership.

*Associate membership:* All Fellows of Macedonia who have been awarded any other fellowship and completed at least three months in the USA will be eligible to obtain associate membership.

*Honorary membership* to the Association may be awarded to any person who has provided contributions in promotion of peace and understanding in the national, regional or international area, as well as in development of the cooperation with the U.S. Exchange Programs and alumni associations around the world. The Executive Committee of the Association at the Annual General Meeting shall award such membership by consensus or by a two-thirds majority decision.

General and associate membership is voluntary and is open to all individuals who have participated in the Humphrey, Fulbright and Ron Brown Program, as well as in the other fellowship programs in the USA.

#### (2) Register of members

A register of members shall be kept by the Secretariat of the Association. By signing a membership statement and being registered in the registration book for members, one becomes a member of the Association.

#### (3) Dues

All general and associate members, as members in good standing, will be obliged to pay an agreed annual membership fee for basic maintenance of the activities of the Association.

#### (4) Meeting & Quorum

The Association shall meet every quarter. Any number of members, including the president or vice-president, and the general secretary shall constitute a quorum for working meeting.

#### **Article 4**

##### **Patrons**

The Association shall have at least four (4) patrons consisting of two or more (2) eminent citizens of Macedonia (the president of the Macedonian Academy for Sciences and Arts, the rector of the University "St. Cyril and Methodius"-Skopje, and the minister of science and/or the minister of education, for example), as well as two (2) eminent U.S. citizens in the R. Macedonia (the Ambassador of the United States of America to Macedonia and the Public Affairs Officer of the Office of Public Affairs within the Embassy, Skopje).

#### **Article 5**

##### **Organs of the Association**

#### **1. Annual General Meeting**

This shall be the supreme organ of the Association. The General Meeting will be held once a year and at such meetings only fully paid up members shall be entitled to vote or either nominate or be nominated for a post.

##### 1.0 Functions of the Annual General Meeting:

- 1.1 to clarify, and amend or replace the Constitution of the Association;
- 1.2 review and approve the annual Program of activities of the Association;
- 1.3 review and approve the annual income and expenditure (annual budget);
- 1.4 receive audited reports and accounts from the Executive Committee and provide guidelines for the future activities and prescribe or modify the duties, responsibilities and authorities of the Executive Committee as required;
- 1.5 conduct the elections for executive positions; election to the Executive Committee will be done by simple majority of registered members in good standing, present and voting at a meeting called for the purpose. The quorum shall be fifty percent of registered members.

#### **2. The Executive Committee**

There shall be a 5 (five) persons Executive Committee which will comprise the following positions: President, Vice-President, General Secretary, Organising Secretary and Treasurer. The Executive Committee will be elected among general and associate members (except the president of the Association) for a period of two years. They may stand for re-election but the total number of years to be served shall not exceed a continuous period of four (4) years at the same position.

##### 2.0 Functions of the Executive Committee

- 2.1 The Executive Committee shall meet at least once every three months. The quorum for the meeting shall be three members of the Executive Committee, including the President;

- 2.2 shall be responsible for initiating programs of activities of the Association and implementing such programs once approved by the Annual General Meeting of the Association. The programs will be presented to the Association at the beginning of the year for approval. Approval will be by unanimous decision;
- 2.3 shall have the power to raise funds, acquire and dispose assets, open and operate bank accounts, sign contracts and documents and deal with all financial matters on behalf of the Association;
- 2.4 shall prepare the budget and present it to the Annual General Meeting of the Association for consideration and approval;
- 2.5 from time to time, adopt rules, regulations, by-laws and standing orders to facilitate effective functioning of the Association. Such facilitating arrangements shall be placed before the General Meeting for consideration.

### **3. The President**

The President will be elected by the Annual General Meeting, by voting of the general and associative members, with a mandate of two years and may stand for re-election for the following two years.

#### **3.0 Functions of the President**

- 3.1 shall chair all meetings of the Association and the Executive Committee;
- 3.2 shall represent the Association between meetings;
- 3.3 shall be the official spokesperson of the Association;
- 3.4 shall exercise administrative responsibility of the Executive Committee;
- 3.5 shall present an annual report on the Association's activities to the Annual Meeting of the Association and to other relevant bodies.

#### **4. Functions of the Vice President**

- 4.1 Vice President shall act in the absence of the President;
- 4.2 The President may delegate some other functions to the Vice President.

#### **5. Functions of the General Secretary**

- 5.1 shall submit an annual report of the Association's activities to the president before the Annual Meeting of the Association;
- 5.2 shall prepare minutes of all meetings of the Association and those of the Executive Committee and circulate said minutes to members in reasonable time for subsequent meetings;
- 5.3 shall prepare programs of activities in consultation with the President and other executive members;
- 5.4 shall perform other functions and duties delegated or authorised by the President.

#### **6. Functions of the Organising Secretary**

- 6.1 Shall be responsible for the publicity and protocol functions or aspects of the Association;
- 6.2 Be responsible for mobilising resources;

6.3 Shall act in the absence of the General Secretary;

6.4 Shall also perform other duties assigned by the President and the General Secretary.

#### **7. Functions of the Treasurer**

7.1 shall be responsible for maintaining and operating the funds of the Association;

7.2 shall collect membership fees and other receipts of the Association;

7.3 shall keep records of all finances pertaining to the Association;

7.4 in consultation with the President, the Treasurer shall present yearly audited accounts to the Annual General Meeting.

#### **Article 6**

##### **External Auditor**

The Association shall appoint an External Auditor for the purpose of auditing the accounts of the Association.

#### **Article 7**

##### **Funds of the Association**

7.1 The sources of revenue of the Association shall be:

- a) admission and annual fees paid by the general and associate members;
- b) donations given by any national or international society, association or organisation;
- c) fees charged on any social and cultural programs organised and conducted by the Association;
- d) any other receipts.

7.2. The funds shall be maintained by opening an account with a bank designated by the Executive Committee. The bank account shall be operated jointly by signature of the Treasurer and President or General Secretary.

#### **Article 8**

##### **Amendments to the Constitution**

This Constitution may be amended or modified only by the Annual General Meeting. Any member or group of members in good standing may propose amendments to any part of this constitution. A proposed amendment shall be in written form, circulated and endorsed or seconded by two-thirds of registered members in good standing. The proposed amendment shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting and two-thirds of members in good standing present and voting should approve it.

**Article 9**

**Effectivity of the Constitution**

This Constitution shall be effective when ratified by the first Constitutive General Meeting of the Association and after the registration of the Association in the Court register.

INITIATIVE BOARD:

- Doncho Donev
- Emilija Geleva
- Lela Jakovlevska-Josevska
- Pande Lazarevski
- Antonie Mitrev