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Constitution and by-laws

1900

Marion By-Laws

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

OF

WHITE SUPREMACY CLUB.

L. M. UZZELL, PRINTER AND BINDER, RALEIGH.

PREFACE.

Our State is the only community in the world with a majority of white voters where it is seriously proposed to take the control of the public affairs of the State out of the hands of the white people and commit them to a political combination composed chiefly of negroes and dominated almost entirely by negro influence.

By the united effort of the good white people of the State, irrespective of party, in 1898 the State was rescued from negro rule and the amendment to the Constitution to be voted upon by the people in August is submitted for the purpose of forever removing the danger of recurrence of negro ascendancy in the State.

The necessity for the continued co-operation of the white people of the State for self-protection is shown by the fact that the party which so recently negroized the State, and which for this and its other short-comings was hurled from power in 1898, is again seriously asking the people to restore it to the control of the State, and actually indulges the hope that, with the aid of 120,000 negro votes solidly cast for it, it may succeed in regaining control of the government.

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THE
WHITE GOVERNMENT CLUB.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

The name of the organization shall be THE WHITE SUPREMACY CLUB.

ARTICLE II.

The purpose of the organization shall be to fully restore and to make permanent in North Carolina the SUPREMACY of the WHITE RACE; to promote individual effort in behalf of the party and its candidates on the part of the voters, and to bring the head of the organization in the counties and State more closely and easily in touch with the Township Organizations and the individual party voter.

ARTICLE III.

Neither oaths, grips, signs nor passwords shall be allowed, and meetings shall be open.

Any Club may, if it so desires, adopt a badge, button, insignia, or uniform.

ARTICLE IV.

The organization shall be divided into County Clubs and Township Clubs.

ARTICLE V.

Every WHITE MAN who desires WHITE GOVERNMENT in North Carolina, and is willing to use every practicable and honorable means to restore and permanently establish WHITE SUPREMACY therein, and who proposes to support candidates pledged to effect that purpose, in the ensuing election, shall be eligible to membership of the Township Club.

ARTICLE VI.

The County Club shall be composed exclusively of the Chairmen of the several Township Clubs and the Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee of the county, who shall preside over its meetings.

ARTICLE VII.

Each Township Club shall elect a President, Vice-President, and such other officers as may be deemed proper, and the President of each Township Union shall be, *ex officio*, a member of the County Club.

ARTICLE VIII.

The Clubs will meet at least once a month, but the work shall be constant, and each member of the Township Club will be advised by the President of his Club as to the work expected of him, and he will report, from time to time, *personally* to the President as to the progress he is making.

ARTICLE IX.

The Township Clubs will be purely working bodies, and their work will be:

1. To organize, register and bring out the party vote in the township.
2. To ascertain and report to the State and County Chairmen the doubtful and floating votes in the township, to the end that they may supplement the efforts of the Club to win the votes of all white voters for the party by sending literature, public speakers, etc.
3. To arrange and organize for effective party work at the polls on the day of election.
4. To foster and stimulate individual work on the part of the members of the Club in securing a full registration, in winning doubtful and floating voters, and in persuading those white men who have been alienated from the Democratic party of their duty to their race, themselves, and their families.

ARTICLE X.

The object of the County Club is—

1. To secure concert of action between the several Township Clubs in the county.
2. For the purpose of discussing with the Chairman of the County Executive Committee and determining questions relating to matters of organization and party work.
3. Arranging for speakings in different parts of the county, and providing attractions and means for securing large attendance at such meetings.
4. For the purpose of receiving from the County Chairman such literature as he may have for distribution among members of their respective Clubs.

5. For receiving instructions concerning any plan of campaign that the State or County Chairman may desire to put in operation through the Clubs in the county, and to agree upon a program to secure concert of action in inaugurating such work or plan of campaign.

ARTICLE XI.

Each Club shall be permitted, if it sees fit to do so, to admit as members women and boys under twenty-one years old, but such members shall not be entitled to a vote.

ARTICLE XII.

In addition to the individual work, before provided for, it shall be the duty of the members of these Clubs to promote, in every honorable and legitimate way, the success of the Democratic party, the ratification of the amendment to the Constitution and the election of its candidates, by assisting in the advertisement of Democratic meetings, and in securing the attendance at these meetings of as large crowds as possible; in distributing Democratic literature; in registering Democratic voters; in ascertaining and reporting the names of all doubtful voters, and in seeing that every Democratic vote is polled.

ARTICLE XIII.

It shall be the duty of the voting members of the Club to attend at the polls on election day, and, if practicable for them to do so, to give their whole time, on election day, to the service of the party.

ARTICLE XIV.

The Clubs, in their organized capacity, shall not seek to influence the nominations of candidates, nor to influence conventions. Their work will be confined to building up and promoting the interests of the party generally, and the election of candidates, after the same have been regularly nominated, and inculcating among the people the necessity of establishing and maintaining *white supremacy*, as the only hope for the preservation of our civilization.

ARTICLE XV.

Each Club shall have power to adopt all such by-laws and regulations as it shall find convenient or necessary, and it shall appoint such committees and elect such additional officers as it sees fit.

BY-LAWS.

The following By-Laws are suggested:

Each Club shall organize by electing the officers provided for in the Constitution, and such others as they may see fit.

The President, unless it should be decided otherwise, shall appoint all committees which may be raised by any Club.

The President shall preside at all meetings, and in his absence, the Vice-President shall preside.

The President shall assign to each member such campaign work as it is expected of that member to perform. This may, or may not be done at the meetings of the Club. (It is perhaps more practicable for it to be done at other times). The member, after having his individual work assigned to him by the President, shall report to the President from time to time, *but to no one else*, regarding the progress which he is making.

If it shall be decided to have but one meeting each month of the Township Clubs, such meeting shall be held on the last Saturday of the month, and the corresponding meetings of the County Club shall be held on the preceding Thursday.

If it shall be determined to have bi-monthly meetings of the Township Clubs, they shall be held on the third and last Saturdays in each month, and the meetings of the County Clubs shall be held on the preceding Thursdays.

The Chairman of the Township Club may, in his discretion, cause to be organized sub-Clubs in the several voting precincts in his township. The chief officer of each such Club shall report to and receive directions from the Chairman of the Township Club, in same manner as the Township Chairman reports to and receives directions, under this plan, from the County Chairman.

There shall be appointed by the Township Clubs the following Committees, each to contain at least five members, except the Committee on Challenges and Polls, which shall contain ten members:

1. *Committee on Registration.*—The duty of the Committee on Registration shall be to see that every Democratic voter is duly registered. They shall be especially charged with the duty of seeing that voters, who have arrived at the age of twenty-one since the last election, and those who have removed from one precinct to another, are properly registered. They shall also be charged

with the duty of ascertaining the names of such Democrats as have moved away from their township and to notify the Committee of the township to which they have moved, of their names. This committee will be expected to see that no Democratic vote is lost because of a failure to register.

2. *Committee on Campaign Literature.*—It shall be the duty of the Committee on Campaign Literature to aid the Chairman of the Club in distributing among the members of the Club and others such literature as he may receive for distribution. To urge upon Democrats to take at least one Democratic paper during the campaign, and see to it that every white voter in the township, whose mind is open to conviction, is supplied with Democratic literature. To furnish the Chairman of the Club with the names of persons to whom literature should be sent.

3. *Committee on Speakers.*—It shall be the duty of this committee to confer with the Chairman of the Township Clubs concerning times and places of speaking in their township, and to see that such speakings as are determined upon are thoroughly advertised, and to arrange conveyances for the speakers, and to see to their comfort as much as possible.

4. *Committee on Challenges and Polls.*—There shall be a committee of ten, known as Committee on Challenges and Polls, in each voting precinct, composed of carefully selected men, whose duty it shall be to look after challenges of illegal voters; to attend the polls on the day of election and to see that the Democratic vote is fully polled; that no injustice is done, and to arrange for conveyances to send for those who are not able, otherwise, to reach the polls, or who may, for any reason, fail to appear at the polls by 1 o'clock on day of election.

At every meeting of the Club every member of the Club shall hand to the President a list of persons to whom in his opinion literature should be sent, or whom he may regard as a doubtful voter, and the President shall furnish the County Chairman with a list of such names and post-office address, and the County Chairman will forward the same to State Chairman.

There shall be a meeting of all the Clubs in the county on Thursday before the election for the purpose of discussing questions concerning the organization, general work and status of the party, and hearing addresses from local and outside speakers.

HOW TO ORGANIZE.

The Chairman of the State Committee will supply the County Chairmen with the necessary blanks, Constitution, By-Laws, etc. The County Chairman should appoint one or more county organizers of Clubs, who should visit every township and arrange for the organization therein of at least one Club, and the County Organizer is expected to press the work, and to fully organize the party in his county into Clubs by the first of June.

If it shall be decided to organize sub-Clubs in any township, they shall be numbered and known as sub-Clubs, according to their numerical number.

The Clubs will be *working bodies, not dress-parade organizations*. Important work will be assigned to each member.

This work will be such as he can perform without loss of time from his own business. It will be such work as he can do, and no work will be assigned to any member to which he objects, and no work will be assigned to any member which is not honorable, legitimate and proper.

The Democratic party will appeal to the honor, character and highest aspirations of the people, and it will condemn any except honorable methods of campaigning.

The State Committee believes that a man can render the party better service by being a member than by remaining outside. But no man's Democracy or fealty shall be brought into question because he does not join. The propriety of joining is left to each person.

The State Committee has a definite plan of campaign which it will put into effect this year, and these Clubs will be a powerful ally, because for the first time definite, well-considered work will be assigned to each man.

In cities Clubs should be formed in the several wards or voting precincts.