

## ARTICLE II

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the Association is:

To promote the social cultural and economic welfare of its members and the public

To create a forum where individual members would be encouraged to express their ideas

To promote our cultural heritage in Southern California

To **promote** social and economic benefits to the members in accordance with the by-laws of the Association.

To promote educational, health, and welfare services to third world countries

## ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

### SECTION I

Membership to the Association is open to:

- 1) All citizens of Aguata-Orumba, 18 years of age and over
- 2) All women married to Aguata-Orumba citizen
- 3) All interested members of the public who has been attested to by at least three (3) active members of the organization.
- 4) A dismissed member can apply for re-admission under conditions set forth in ARTICLE X No. 6

### SECTION II

Any person 18 years and above, as in Section I of this article after May 10, 1992 is eligible to join the Association by paying membership dues.

### SECTION III

#### **Active Membership:**

All registered members are considered active by:

- 1) Full payment of annual dues and contributions by the due date
- 2) Attendance of at least 50% of the meetings held within the Association's calendar year or from the date the member joined the Association **except** a member relocates outside Southern California and indicates interest to remain an active member.

### SECTION IV

#### **Inactive membership:**

1.) An active member of this association becomes an inactive member if he or she fails to meet any of the requirements of SECTION III and/or

2.) Other matters that the Association deems appropriate. Such a member shall lose all privileges, including the right to vote and/or be voted for, except that the member can attend any meetings as an inactive member. To regain active status and accompanying membership privileges, such a member must:

A. pay a fine of \$300.00;

B. pay all dues and levies outstanding in the current year;

C. and attend three (3) consecutive meetings. However, a member who has been in inactive status for more than 2 years will be on probation for one year before regaining active status.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES**

The structure of this association shall consist of the following

- The Board of Directors
- The Executive Committee
- The Standing Committee
- The General Assembly

### **MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **SECTION 1- Election**

The Board shall be for a period of 3-year term, and comprises of (3) three members including the current president himself and 2 active members appointed by the president. Board term is for a maximum of two terms (6years total) except for the president (4years total). The president shall in no circumstance be elected as the president of the board.

#### **SECTION 11- Duties of the Board**

The board shall:

1. Meet at least three times in a year
2. Generally oversee the activities of the Association
3. Resolve issues beyond the executive
4. Provide advice and guidance to the executive as needed
5. Propose long term goals for discussion and implementation
6. Have the power to summon a general meeting of the Association, if the executive fails to convene general meeting on two consecutive regularly scheduled meetings.
7. Have the power to call an emergency meeting of the Association if the executive fails to call such a meeting within a reasonable time.
8. Have the power to deal with other matters as requested by the executive or the general membership.
9. Shall review policies, and to see that the organization's objectives and policies are implemented.
10. Have the power to call general meeting of the association if the executive fails to convene general meeting on two consecutive regularly scheduled meetings.
11. Shall have responsibility to deal with other matters as requested by the executive or the general membership

## **ARTICLE V**

### **BENEFITS**

**All Association benefits are due to active new members after one (1) year probationary period from the time of joining.** Any active member owing the organization shall pay all outstanding debts to the association before receiving benefit due to the member. Such debt(s) cannot be deducted from benefits.

#### **SECTION I – Marriage (Onetime benefit)**

A gift of a plaque and cash or money order totaling hundred dollars (**\$100.00**) payable in U.S. currency shall be made to a member who gets married upon official notification.

#### **SECTION II – Birth**

Gifts for new-born babies shall be fifty (**\$50.00**) per **delivered pregnancy regardless of the number of babies.**

### **SECTION III – Hospitalization for 72 hours or more**

Gift(s) shall not exceeding fifty (**\$50.00**) dollars with a visit by an official representative. Gift is limited to a total of one (1) in any 12 month period.

### **SECTION IV – Death**

Members: A cash gift of two thousand dollars (**\$2,000.00**) and a traditional cultural gift of cloth (igha Akwa) not exceeding sixty dollars (**\$60.0**) shall be given to the family of a bereaved member. A levy of one hundred dollars (**\$100.00**) for member's death shall be assessed on each member to cover the above cash gift of **\$2,000.00** and any necessary assistance to be given to the family.

**In addition, the association will collaborate with the family of the bereaved and a \$300.00 will be given to the bereaved family toward wake keeping expenses**

Spouse: A cash gift of one thousand dollars (**\$1000.00**) and a traditional cultural gift of cloth (igha Akwa) not exceeding sixty dollars (**\$60.0**) shall be given to any member who loses a spouse. In addition, a levy of fifty dollars (**\$50.00**) shall be assessed each member to cover the above cash gift.

Children: A child of a member can only be a rider on the parent up to the age of 25th birthday. Upon the death of a child of an active member, a cash gift of (**\$300.00**) three hundred dollars will be given to the member

Primary Parents: **Primary Parent is defined as follows: (a) biological parent (b) parent that legally adopted the member.** A cash gift of three hundred (**\$300.00**) dollars shall be given to any member who loses any of the primary parents.

Wake Keeping: **On the day of a wake keeping for a deceased member, each member must be on AGORA uniform. There shall be a twenty five dollars (\$25.00) fine for not wearing the uniform and seventy five dollars (\$75.00) for not attending the wake except a member is known to be outside Southern California, out of the country, or health problem known to the organization.**

**On the day of a wake keeping for a deceased member's Spouse, Children or Primary Parents, each member must be on AGORA uniform. There shall be a twenty dollars (\$20.00) fine for not wearing the uniform, and Twenty dollars (\$20.00) for not attending the wake, except a member is known to be outside Southern California, out of the country, or health problem known to the organization.**

### **Uniform**

A one-time uniform levy of \$50.00 shall be paid by each member for a set of uniform, which must be given to the member at the time of payment. Any member may choose to purchase an additional set of uniform at the price of \$50.00 at any time from the association. Every member is required to attend an Official wake-keeping event organized by a member in good standing by wearing our uniform.

The secretary shall maintain a register of attendance, which must be brought to all Official wake-keeping event of the association, and members present must register their attendance accordingly

**\*\*\*ARTICLE XIII  
BYLAW AMENDMENTS:**

- (1) This by-law shall be amended by a two-third vote of members present in a general meeting
- (2) All by-law amendments shall subject to
  - a) the procedures of ARTICLE X
  - b) such motion for an amendment shall be publicized through the circular for its voting in the next meeting
- (3) Any amendment so ratified shall immediately become an integral part of the by-law

\*\*\*Propose complete deletion of ARTICLE XIII: BYLAW AMENDMENT, because whenever we embark on Constitutional Amendment, we are in essence amending the BYLAWS...