

STATEMENT
OF THE
CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF SAN DIEGO (CASD)

April 10, 2008

Foreword

- Knowing the importance of unity among Africans, particularly Congolese,
- Knowing that dialogue is a tool to maintain and insure peace among people,
- Knowing the necessity to revitalize the Congolese culture,
- Knowing that the economic well-being of a people is one of the most indispensable factors in personal as well as communal well being,
- Knowing the importance of sharing and evaluating different ways of addressing daily obstacles,

An Association has been formed and created for Congolese in an effort to foster and cultivate relationships as well as to assist one another.

Title I: Name, Address and Goal of the Association

Division 1: Name and Address

The Congolese Association of San Diego (CASD)
P.O. BOX 28322
San Diego, CA 92198-0322

Division 2: Main Goal and Objective

The purpose of the Congolese Association is for establishing and maintaining peace, cultivating and fostering relationships, ensuring the continuation of the Congolese culture and traditions as well as assisting its members. The

Association will strive for the overall education and economic development of the Congolese people.

Title II: Obligations of the Association

Division 1: Responsibilities

The Association has the obligation to:

- Promote Congolese culture and traditions.
- Assist in the betterment of the Congolese people and community.
- Assist the Congolese ex-patriots during difficult times.
- Help new immigrants resettle in the United States.
- Guide our youth against crimes, violence, gangs, prostitutions and drugs.

Division 2: Limits

The Association of Congolese of San Diego is not and will not be responsible for any criminal acts committed by any of its member. No member shall engage in any personal and/or political activities in the name of the Association.

Division 3: Collaboration

In order to achieve its assigned main goal and objective, the Congolese Association of San Diego is willing to collaborate with and receive help and donations from sources with which there are no conflicts of interest to the Associations' bylaws and the laws of land.

Title III: Membership

Division 1: Members

Based on their Congolese descent, everyone is welcome regardless of race, sex, physical condition, social standard and or religious affiliation. The applicant must be at least 18 years of age. The prospective member shall be able and willing to obey and abide by the rules and regulations of the Association.

For prospective members who are not of Congolese descent, the current active members reserve the right to approve or disapprove of the applicant's request.

Division 2: Members Responsibility/Obligations:

- Every member shall actively and voluntarily participate in the activities of the Association.
- No misconduct will be tolerated; every unethical behavior will be condemned and punishable according to the rules of the Association set forth in the section of the Bylaws dealing with disciplinary actions.
- No member shall engage into political activities in the name of the Association.
- Each member is required to pay a monthly contribution fee as set forth in the Bylaws and approved by the Board of Directors through the General Assembly.
- The amount of the monthly contribution shall be voted by the General Assembly.
- A member in good standing (no arrears in dues) is entitled to all discounts and privileges offered by the Association.
- A member in good standing is entitled to vote during the general assembly and special meetings.
- A member in good standing shall be eligible to run for different positions in the Association.
- A member's conduct shall be the determining factor in his/her continued membership in the Association.

Title IV: Structure of the Association

Division 1: General Assembly

The General Assembly is composed of all active members and it is the supreme institution of the Association. It elects members of the Executive Committee and has the power to amend any titles and/or rules. It is the last resort in conflict resolution.

Division 2: Executive Committee Members

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the following members elected by the General Assembly. They are elected for a period of two years.

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Treasurer
4. Secretary
5. Assistant Secretary

Responsibilities and Eligibilities of the Executive Committee Members

1. President

1.1 Eligibility:

The President shall be of Congolese origin regardless of gender or political orientation/affiliation.

He/She must be of good moral character and at least twenty five (25) years of age and be a member of the Association for at least one year.

In the event that a candidate is not a Congolese by birth, he/she could be eligible only by way of marriage to a person of Congolese origin by birth or naturalization.

1.2 Responsibility:

The President shall organize the General Assembly meetings and preside over them. The President shall represent the Association in policy, program and administrative matters. He/She may delegate any part of his/her tasks and responsibilities to any member of the Executive Committee when deemed necessary. The President along with members of the Executive Committee has the authority to enforce the Statement and Bylaws of the Congolese Association of San Diego.

2. Vice-President

2.1 Eligibility:

The Vice-President may be of Congolese origin. In the event that a candidate is not a Congolese by birth, he/she could be eligible only by way of marriage to a person of Congolese origin by birth or naturalization.

He/She must be of good moral character and at least twenty five (25) years of age and be a member of the Association for at least one year.

2.2 Responsibility:

The Vice-President shall assist the President in the day-to-day operations of the Association and shall assume all the responsibilities of the President in his/her absence.

3. Treasurer:

3.1 Eligibility:

The Treasurer may be of Congolese Origin or any person who is affiliated to the Association by marriage or by birth to a person of a Congolese descent.

The Treasurer must be at least twenty (20) years of age and a person with good moral character as well unquestionable integrity.

3.2 Responsibilities:

The treasurer is the Chief Financial Officer and he/she shall:

- Have charge and custody of all funds and securities of the Association
- Receive and give receipts for money due and payable to the Association from all sources
- Deposit all funds in banks or other depositories selected by the Executive Committee and approved by the General Assembly
- Notify members of their financial obligations within the Association
- Disburse funds of the Association as directed by the Executive Committee and approved by the General Assembly
- Be in charge of the Financial book keeping
- Prepare financial reports for the Executive Committee and the General Assembly

4. Secretary:

4.1 Eligibility:

The Secretary may be of Congolese Origin or any person who is affiliated to the Association by marriage or by birth to a person of a Congolese origin.

The Secretary must be at least twenty (20) years of age and with good moral character.

4.2 Responsibilities:

The Secretary shall:

- Have custody of all the Association's documents.
- Have custody of the Association's seal and shall affix it when appropriate to all official documents.

- Have custody of the books and records of the Association, the responsibility for their storage, and in charge of submission of all reports, statements and certificates.
- Ensure that all notices are given in accordance with the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Association.
- Record and maintain all minutes of the Executive Committee as well as the General Assembly meetings.
- Keep the original or/a copy of the statements and bylaws of the association at all meetings.
- Certify “true” copies of all official documents when requested by the Executive Committee members and/or by the General Assembly.
- Sign with the President designated official documents.

5. Assistant Secretary:

5.1 Eligibility:

The Assistant Secretary may be of Congolese Origin or any person who is affiliated to the Association by marriage or by birth to a person of a Congolese descent.

The Assistant Secretary must be at least twenty (20) years of age and with good moral character.

5.2 Responsibilities:

The Assistant Secretary shall assist the Secretary in the day-to-day operations of the Association as set forth in paragraph 4.2 and shall assume all the responsibilities of the Secretary in his/her absence.

6. Board of Directors

SECTION 1. Composition:

The Board of Directors shall consist of seven (7) members elected at the General Assembly. The President of the Association shall attend all Board of Directors meetings only as an observer with no voting privileges. His or Her responsibilities shall be in clarifying issues that may arise.

The Board of Directors shall be organized in such a way to have a Chair, who shall preside over all meetings of the Board, a Vice-Chair who shall assist the Chair and preside

over meetings in the absence of the Chair, a Secretary who shall be responsible for informing all Board Members of meetings, coordinating the occurrence of special meetings and maintaining records of all the meeting minutes conducted either in person or electronically.

SECTION 2. Numbers of Directors:

The number of Directors shall neither be less than 7 nor more than 16. The General Assembly shall fix the exact number of Directors as it deems necessary. Initially, however, the number of Directors shall be 7.

All past Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Treasurers who have served two-full consecutive terms of two years shall automatically earn the right to become Board Members provided such an ex-officio has never been removed from the office or reprimanded by the Board as a result of inappropriate behavior.

No past Presidents, Vice-Presidents or Treasurers who resigned from office under circumstances other than hardships, family and/or professional commitments, shall never be honored to join the Board.

SECTION 3. Election/Eligibility of Directors:

The candidate for the Board, at the time of the nomination in the General Assembly and he/she must be a member of the Association for a minimum of 6 months prior.

Only members in good standing (no arrears in dues) at the time of such an election shall have the privilege to nominate a candidate and/or vote either directly during the session of the General Assembly or by proxy through written communication.

A voting member may designate for nomination an outsider provided that the potential nominee has demonstrated keen interest or involvement in the welfare of the Association or the Congolese community as a whole.