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CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE IOWA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

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RATIFIED OCTOBER 23, 1937

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

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CONSTITUTION OF THE IOWA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

PREAMBLE

We, the Indians of the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, in order to promote our common welfare and to secure to ourselves and our descendants the rights, powers and privileges offered by the Thomas-Rogers Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of June 26, 1936 (49 Stat. 1967), do establish this organization and adopt the following constitution and by-laws pursuant to that Act.

Article I—Name

The name of this organization shall be the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma.

Article II—Membership of Tribe

The membership of the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma shall consist of the following persons:

Section 1. All persons of Indian blood whose names appear on the official census roll of the Tribe as of January 1, 1937.

Sec. 2. All children born since the date of said roll, both of whose parents are members of the Tribe.

Sec. 3. Any child born of a marriage between a member of the Iowa Tribe and a member of any other Indian tribe who chooses to affiliate with the Iowa Tribe.

Sec. 4. Any child born of a marriage between a member of the Iowa Tribe and any other person, if such child is admitted to membership by the Council of the Iowa Tribe.

Sec. 5. The Business Committee shall have the power to make rules and regulations, subject to review of the Secretary of the Interior, governing the adoption of members not otherwise provided for in this Constitution and By-laws and governing future membership and loss of membership.

Article III—Membership of Council

The supreme governing body of the Tribe shall be the Iowa Council. The membership of the Council shall be all the members of the Iowa Tribe, 21 years of age and older, residing in Oklahoma.

Article IV—Officers

Section 1. The officers of this Tribe shall be the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and one Councilman. The term of officers shall be for two years, or until their successors are elected and installed.

Article V—Committees

Section 1. There shall be a Business Committee which shall consist of the officers and councilman as provided in Article IV. This

Committee shall have power to transact business and otherwise speak or act on behalf of the Tribe in all matters on which the Tribe is empowered to act. The powers of the Tribe shall be set forth in detail in the corporate charter to be requested by the Business Committee.

SEC. 2. *Grievance Committee.*—This committee shall consist of three members who shall be elected by the Council and shall not include any members of the Business Committee.

ARTICLE VI—MEETINGS

SECTION 1. Annual meetings of the Council shall be held on the second Wednesday of June for the purpose of receiving reports and transacting any other business which may come regularly before the Council.

SEC. 2. Special meetings of the Council may be called at the discretion of the Chairman, and shall be called by him upon the written request of a majority of the Business Committee or upon the written request of twenty-five members of the Tribe, provided that at least ten days' notice shall be given in each instance.

SEC. 3. The principal object of a special meeting must be stated in the call for same and may include the words "and for the transaction of other business that may be presented." Unless these words are added no other business can be transacted except for the object stated in the call.

SEC. 4. The regular meetings of the Business Committee shall be held on the second Wednesday in each month unless otherwise provided by resolution.

SEC. 5. Special meetings of the Business Committee may be called by the Chairman at his discretion, and shall be called by him upon the written request of three members of the Business Committee.

ARTICLE VII—ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. Within 30 days after the adoption of this Constitution and By-laws, an election of officers of the Tribe and members of the Grievance Committee shall be held by the Council. The officers of the Tribe and the members of the Grievance Committee elected at this election shall serve till the next regular election provided for in section 2 of this Article or until their successors are elected and installed.

SEC. 2. Regular elections of officers and members of the Grievance Committee shall be held by the Council at its regular annual meeting on the second Wednesday in June, 1939, and on the second Wednesday in June of each second year thereafter.

SEC. 3. Election shall be by standing vote, a majority vote of the membership present being necessary to elect. Where there are more than two candidates for an office and no one receives a majority vote, the low candidate shall be eliminated and voting shall proceed until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast. Nominations may be made from the floor. The newly elected officers shall be installed immediately upon their elections.

Article VIII—Vacancies

Vacancies in any elective office shall be filled for the unexpired term at any special or regular meeting of the Council.

Article IX—Removal of Officers

The Grievance Committee shall investigate complaints of misconduct in office of the members of the Business Committee and upon a proper showing shall call a special meeting of the Council to act upon such complaints. The Council shall have power, by a majority vote, after giving the accused a hearing, to remove him from office and proceed to elect a successor.

Article X—Bill of Rights

Section 1. All members of the Tribe shall enjoy without hindrance, freedom of worship, conscience, speech, press, assembly and association.

Sec. 2. This Constitution shall not in any way, alter, abridge or otherwise jeopardize the rights and privileges of the members of this Tribe as citizens of the State of Oklahoma or the United States.

Sec. 3. The individual property rights of any member of the Tribe shall not be altered, abridged or otherwise affected by the provisions of this Constitution and By-laws without the consent of such individual member.

Article XI—Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution and the attached By-laws may be proposed by a majority vote of the Business Committee or by a petition signed by 30 per cent of the adult members of the Tribe, and if approved by the Secretary of the Interior, shall be submitted to a referendum vote of the adult members of the Tribe, and shall be effective if approved by a majority of the votes cast.

BY-LAWS OF THE IOWA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

Article I—Duties of Officers

Section 1. The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Council and of the Business Committee. He shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Council and of the Business Committee and shall perform all duties appertaining to the office of chairman.

Sec. 2. *Vice-Chairman.*—In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall perform the duties of that office. In case of vacancy, the Vice-Chairman shall succeed at once to the office of the Chairman until the next special or regular election for the office of Chairman.

Sec. 3. *Secretary.*—The Secretary shall keep an accurate account of all proceedings and official records of the Council and of the Business Committee. He shall be responsible for the prompt and efficient handling of all correspondence pertaining to the business of the Council and of the Business Committee. All official records of the Secretary shall be open to inspection by the members of the Council,

in the presence of the Secretary, upon the order of the Grievance Committee. He shall keep a correct list of all members of the Council, shall authenticate all accounts or orders of the Council and, in the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall call meetings to order until a chairman pro tem is elected. He shall render a written report at the annual Council meeting and, at the expiration of his term of office, the records and all papers in his possession shall be turned over to his successor.

SEC. 4. *Treasurer.*—The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all funds in possession of the Council from any source. He shall keep an accurate record of all such funds and shall disburse the same in accordance with the vote of the Business Committee. He shall render a written report at the annual Council meeting and at such times as he is requested to do so by the Business Committee. He shall keep all tribal moneys entrusted to his care in a special account. At any time that such account shall amount to more than $50.00, he shall file a bond satisfactory to the Business Committee, and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The cost of such bond shall be paid out of tribal money. At the expiration of his term of office, the records and all papers and funds in his possession shall be turned over to his successor.

ARTICLE II—QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS

Any person elected to membership on the Business Committee shall be not less than 21 years of age and a member of the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma. At the time of his election, he shall be a bona fide resident of the territory known as the Shawnee Indian Agency jurisdiction in Oklahoma. Any person holding an elective office removing from the Shawnee Agency jurisdiction shall automatically lose office.

ARTICLE III—PLACE OF MEETINGS

All regular and special meetings of the Council and of the Business Committee shall be held at the Iowa Community House unless some other point under the Shawnee Agency jurisdiction is designated in the call or notice.

ARTICLE IV—QUORUM

SECTION 1. Twenty members of the Council shall constitute a quorum to transact business at any meeting.

SEC. 2. Three members of the Business Committee shall constitute a quorum to transact business at any meeting.

ARTICLE V—ADOPTION

This Constitution and By-laws shall be effective when approved by the Secretary of the Interior and ratified by a majority vote of the members of the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma voting at an election called by the Secretary of the Interior under rules and regulations which he may prescribe pursuant to section 3 of the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of June 26, 1936.

I, Oscar L. Chapman, the Assistant Secretary of the Interior of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority granted me by the Act of June 26, 1936 (49 Stat. 1967), do hereby approve the attached constitution and by-laws of the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, and hereby call a special election for its ratification by the Indians to be held on October 23, 1937.

OSCAR L. CHAPMAN,
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.
[SEAL]

WASHINGTON, D. C., *September 22, 1937.*

CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION

Pursuant to an order, approved September 22, 1937, by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, the attached constitution and by-laws was submitted for ratification to the members of the Iowa Tribe and was on October 23, 1937, duly ratified by a vote of 19 for, and 18 against, in an election in which over 30 per cent of those entitled to vote cast their ballots, pursuant to section 3 of the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of June 26, 1936 (Pub., No. 816, 74th Cong.)

ROBERT SMALL,
Chairman, Business Committee.
JACOB DOLE,
Secretary, Business Committee.

F. E. PERKINS,
Superintendent, Shawnee Agency.

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