

# THE DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF DELAWARE TOWNSHIP

Transcription from  
Constitution and By-Laws of the Democratic Club of Delaware township,  
Hunterdon County, N. J., Adopted July 4, 1863.  
Trenton, N.J.: Printed at the "True American" Office, 1863.  
[note in margin: "Deats Bequest, 1963"]

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## Preamble

Whereas, The sad history of our beloved country during the administration of Abraham Lincoln proves that the fallacious political dogmas of the so-called Republican party are entirely adverse to, and in direct violation of, the principles upon which the Federal Republic of the United States was established ;

And Whereas, the precepts of the Democratic party are in strict accordance with the principles upon which the Government of the United States was founded, and are the only polical[sic] tenets upon which it can be successfully administered ; it therefore behooves every lover of Constitutional liberty to exert his every ability and influence to advance the interests, and secure the success, of the only political organization having a platform based upon a Constitution[al] foundation. In obedience to a deep sense of our duty as citizens of a Federal Republic, the existence of which is in imminent danger, the members of the Democratic Club, of Delaware Township, in order to render our organization more efficient, agree to adopt the following Constitution and By-Laws.

## Constitution

Article I.

Section 1.—This organization shall be styled "The Democratic Club of Delaware Township."

Article II.

Section 1.—The object of this society shall be "to disseminate a knowledge of the principles of American Constitutional Liberty ; to inculcate correct views of the Constitution of the United States, of the powers and rights of the Federal Government, and the powers and rights reserved to the States and the people ; and generally to promote a sound political education of the public mind, to the end that usurpations may be prevented, that arbitrary and unconstitutional measures may be checked, that the Constitution may be preserved, that the Union may be restored, and that the blessings of free institutions and public order may be kept by ourselves, and transmitted to our posterity."

Article III.

Section 1.—The officers shall be, one President, and one Vice-President for each school district in the township, one Secretary, and one Treasurer.

Article IV.

Section 1.—The duty of the President shall be, to preside at all meetings of the Club, to preserve order thereat, to state and put questions, call for reports of committees, and to enforce an observance of all laws passed, and resolutions adopted by the Club.

Section 2.—In the absence or indisposition of the President, one of the Vice-Presidents, in his numerical order, shall take the chair and perform the duties of the President.

Section 3.—Each Vice-President shall superintend the interests of the Club within his district, in such manner as the Club may direct.

Section 4.—The Secretary shall have the custody of the books and records of the Club, and of all letters and correspondence. He shall keep a minute of all proceedings of the meetings of the Club, and record them in a book, kept for that purpose, after they have been approved at any legitimate meeting of the Club.—He shall give notice of all meetings of the Club, when ordered to do so by a vote of the Club, or by the President, as directed by Article I, section 2, of the By-Laws. He shall notify (if absent) every chairman of a committee of his appointment, giving the names of the members of the committee, and the subject referred to them, and furnish the necessary papers, if in his hands. He shall file all communications received, for future reference, subject to the directions of the Club. He shall answer all letters, when necessary, and manage all matters of correspondence.

Section 5.—The duty of the Treasurer shall be, to receive all moneys due the Club, keep an account of the same, stating from whom received ; and pay all orders drawn upon him—if signed by the President and Secretary—from any funds he may have in his hands belonging to the Club.

Article V.

Section 1.—This Constitution, and any By-Laws that may be adopted under it, shall not be altered or amended, unless the proposition so to do shall have been read before a regular meeting of the Club, at least one month previous to its adoption.

Section 2.—Resolutions, if not in violation of this Constitution, may be adopted or repealed at any legitimate meeting of the Club.

**By-Laws.**

Article I.

Section 1.—The stated meetings of the Club shall be held on the third Saturday night of each calendar month, at seven o'clock, at such place as may be agreed upon. Seven members shall constitute a quorum, though a small number may adjourn from time to time, to meet at such time and place as they may deem expedient.

Section 2.—The President shall call special meetings at any time, upon application being made to him in writing, signed by five or more members

of the Club, and setting forth the object for which the meeting is called. Upon the receipt of such application, the President shall countersign the same, and forward it immediately to the secretary, who shall, without delay, transmit a copy of the same to each Vice-President and each Vice-President, thus notified, shall make known to all the members of the Club, residing within his district, the time and object of the meeting.

#### Article II.

Section 1.—The annual election for officers shall be held at the stated meeting in October, and nominations for this election shall be made at the stated meeting in September ; and should no stated meeting take place in September a special meeting shall be called for this purpose.

Section 2.—The first nomination and election for officers under this Constitution shall be held at the stated meeting in July, instant, and the officers thus elected, shall hold their respective positions until the annual election in October, or until an election takes place.

Section 3.—All vacancies that may occur from death, resignation, or neglect of duty, shall be filled by nomination and election, at any stated meeting.

#### Article III.

Section 1.—Any white male inhabitant of the township of Delaware, above the age of eighteen years, may become a member of this Club, by signing the Constitution, and paying the sum of ten cents into the Treasury, upon which he shall receive the badge of the Club ; *provided*, that where an objection is urged against the applicant for membership, a vote shall be taken to decide the question.

[On motion of General Sergeant the Preamble and Resolutions adopted March 3d last, were re-endorsed, and ordered to be attached to the Constitution and By-Laws as part of the platform of the Club.]

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#### **Preamble and Resolutions**

Adopted March 3d and Re-endorsed July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1863.

Whereas, the right peaceably to assemble to discuss the acts of public men, and to express our opinions in regard to their measures, is guaranteed to us by the first article to the Amendments to the Constitution of the United States, and believing that a failure to do so, in the present crisis of our country's history, would be criminal on our part ;

And Whereas, we believe that the rapidly developing plot of Black Republican usurpation (as developed in the unconstitutional and revolutionary scheme of centralizing the powers of the government in the hands of a President who, by his arbitrary and tyrannical assumptions of authority, has already forfeited our confidence,) is a starting admonition to all true patriots that the liberties secured by our fathers are in danger—therefore,

1. *Resolved*, That while we will, as heretofore, give our cheerful aid and support to the Government of the United States in all its constitutional and legal acts, at the same time we enter our most solemn protest against

those unconstitutional and destructive measures instituted by the present Administration, which, while they have divided the people of the North, have united all classes at the South ; and believing that "*resistance to tyrants is obedience to God,*" we will use all proper means which he has given us to oppose their execution.

2. *Resolved*, That among these unconstitutional acts we recognize : arrests of our citizens without legal process ; the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus* ; the emancipation proclamation ; the appropriation of the money belonging to the people of one State to pay for slaves emancipated in another ; and last, though not least, that abominable and tyrannical conscription act recently passed by Congress, which places the life and liberty of every man, woman and child at the caprice of a set of contemptible pimps and spies, called *provost marshals*, and their *deputies* ; and that we cannot permit our most sacred rights, as citizens of a sovereign State, to be thus trampled in the dust without an entire repudiation of our manhood.

3. *Resolved*, That the present unhappy and sanguinary war (commence *ostensibly* for the restoration of the Union, the support of the Constitution, and the maintenance of the integrity of the Government established under it) is manifestly a contest for the emancipation of the so-called "*slave,*" and the equalization of the black with the white race, and in our opinion, *ought to cease*, and that negotiation should be entered into for the restoration of the Union upon such principles as would be alike honorable to all sections.

4. *Resolved*, That to our gallant sons and brothers in the field we tender our hearty thanks for the brave manner in which they have performed their duties, and our sympathy for the sufferings they have endured, and that we will welcome their speedy return to our midst with heartfelt joy and gratitude.

5. *Resolved*, That the principles and views enunciated by our Governor, Joel Parker, in his inaugural address, have inspired us with confidence in our Chief Magistrate, and we hereby pledge him our continued and earnest support, *so long as he adheres to the course therein marked out*.

6. *Resolved*, That we approve and endorse the Peace Resolutions now before our State Legislature, hoping that they may be "*the beginning of the end,*" sought to be accomplished.

7. *Resolved*, That the short, but brilliant, career of Hon. James W. Wall, in the Senate of the United States, has been alike honorable to himself, useful to his State, and satisfactory to his constituents, and that we call upon him to bide his time, assuring him that his name is held in warm remembrance by the friends of constitutional liberty, who will not fail, in due time, to reward him ; that we fully endorse the nomination of Hon. William Wright, of Essex, for the United States Senate, in whose integrity and love of constitutional democracy we have the most implicit confidence.

8. *Resolved*, That we hold abolitionism and secession to be rank political heresies—the last the offspring of the first,—and that while we abhor and detest the one for its pusillanimous attacks upon the principles of our

government, we protest against and condemn the other for its equally seditious, though more open and manly course.

9. *Resolved*, That we urge upon our representatives in the State Legislature the importance of any measure that will prevent the influx of negroes into our State, and that we request the passage of a law to obviate such mischievous intention ; and that we protest against the payment by our State of any portion of the appropriation for the emancipation of slaves, and that we desire such legislation as will protect us from all unconstitutional expenditure of our money.

[the end]

#### Officers

President, Joshua Primmer

Vice Presidents,

1<sup>st</sup>—J. M. Hoppock, Reading School District

2<sup>d</sup>—David B. Boss, Esq., Centre Bridge "

3<sup>d</sup>—Rev. Henry F. Trout, Vandolah's "

4<sup>th</sup>—John M. Bowne, Moore's "

5<sup>th</sup>—E. M. Heath, Locktown "

6<sup>th</sup>—Gen. J. T. Sergeant, Sergeant's "

7<sup>th</sup>—Henry Crum, Sand Brook "

8<sup>th</sup>—Bateman Hockenbury, Dry Brook "

9<sup>th</sup>—Isaac Horne, Harmony "

10<sup>th</sup>-- -- -- [no name] Kuhl's "

11<sup>th</sup>—J. V. C. Barber, Mount Airy "

12<sup>th</sup>—Jos. Williamson, Supreme "

13<sup>th</sup>—John Fisher, Ringoes "

14<sup>th</sup>—A. B. Rittenhouse, Oregon "

15<sup>th</sup>-- -- -- [no name] Rocktown "

Treasurer, Dr. I. S. Cramer

Secretary, Dr. H. B. Nightingale  
Post Office, "Stockton, N.J."