Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan

(M. E. Ch. A.)

Midwest Regional Constitution

Article I: Name

Section 1 The name of this organization shall be the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (M.E.Ch.A.) Midwest Region.

Article II: Purpose

Section 1 M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Region outlines the following organizational objectives:

A) To execute the objective set forth in the M.E.Ch.A. National Constitution, El Plan de Santa Barbara, El Plan Espiritual de Aztlan, the M.E.Ch.A. Position Papers on Philosophy, Constitutions, Relationships to Outside Organizations, and Goals & Objectives.

B) To establish and maintain a regional communication center whereby all M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Region information shall be kept, archived, and distributed pon request.

C) To recruit, educate, and nurture collegiate and high school campuses wishing to form a M.E.Ch.A. Chapter

D) To unite M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional chapters and their communities in activities for empowerment within the Chicana/o community.

E) To promote the education of all MEChistas.

Article III: Membership

Section 1 Only collegiate and high school campuses that have a recognized M.E.Ch.A. chapter, as set forth by NMCC, and lie within the regional boundaries, as set forth by the National M.E.Ch.A. Coordinating Council (NMCC), may be eligible to participate in the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Region.

Section 2 The M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Region shall consist only of NMCC and MMROC recognized

MEChA Chapters.

Section 3 Individuals wishing to form a MEChA Chapter must meet and adhere to all of the following criteria:

A) Must be a currenly enrolled student in the high school, college, or university in which the MEChA Chapter is to be formed.

B) Must contact the Midwest Regional Communication Center (MRCC) and Midwest Regional Orientation Committee (MMROC) with written intent to establish a MEChA Chapter at the interest party's respective high school, college, or university.

C) Must be a registered student organization as verified by the interested party's respective high school, college, or university.

D) Must have been oriented and have read the historical documents of our Movimiento including: El Plan de Santa Barbara, El Plan Espiritual de Aztlan, and the M.E.Ch.A. Position Papers of Philosophy, Constitutions, Outside Organizations, and Goals & Objectives.

E) Must possess extensive knowledge of an experience in the application of Robert's Rule of Order.

F) Must be oriented under the auspice of and the criteria set forth by MMROC.

G) At least one (1) representative, appointed by their respective interest party petitioning for recognition, must attend at least one (1) Regional meeting per academic year, September 1 to August 31.

H) Must comply with all guidelines set forth by the M.E.Ch.A. National and M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Constitutions.

Section 4 At least one (1) recognized representative member appointed by their respective M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional chapter, must attend at least one (1) Regional meeting per academic year, September 1 to August 31, in order for the chapter to be recognized as a M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional chapter.

Section 5 All recognized M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Chapters must comply with all guidelines as set forth by the M.E.Ch.A. National and M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Constitutions.

Section 6 Membership is excluded to those chapters in violation(s) of the MEChA National or M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Constitutions, El Plan de Santa Barbara, El Plan Espiritual de Aztlan, and the M.E.Ch.A. Position Papers of Philosophy, Constitutions, Relationships to Outside Organizations, and Goals & Objectives.

Section 7 Sanctioned M.E.Ch.A. Midwest chapters require a two-thirds (2/3) vote by all recognized M.E.Ch.A. Midwest chapters in the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Region and must adhere to all membership criteria in the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Constitution to be reinstated as a M.E.Ch.A. chapter.

Article IV: Voting Privilege

Section 1 To be recognized as a M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional voting chapter, each chapter must adhere to the following criteria:

A) Must be a recognized National and Midwest Regional M.E.Ch.A. chapters, as defined by Article III in the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Constitution.

B) At least one (1) representative member, appointed by their respective recognized M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional chapter, must attend two (2) out of three (3) M.E.Ch.A.

Midwest Regional meetings per academic year, September 1 to August 31.

Section 2 Each recognized M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional chapter shall have one (1) vote at the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Meetings.

Section 3 Newly established chapters, recognized by the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Region, will be granted voting privileges will be granted at the begining of the second M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional meeting attended om am academic school year, September 1 to August 31.

Article V: M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Orientation Council

Section 1: M.E.Ch.A Midwest Regional Orientation Council (MMROC) shall consist of one elected representative member of their respective recognized M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Chapter.

Section 2: M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Orientation Council (MMROC): To more effectively achieve its goal of successfully orienting interested parties seeking to establish a M.E.Ch.A. chapter to be recognized by the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Region have the following duties:

1) To orient and guide interested parties seeking to establish a M.E.Ch.A. chapter to be recognized by the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Region under strict criteria and procedure as set forth by MMROC.

2) To serve as counsel to the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Region in determining whether the interested party in question should indeed be recognized by M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Region.

3) To orient interested parties seeking to establish a M.E.Ch.A. chapter to be recognized by the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Region, on El Plan de Santa Barbara, El Plan Espiritual de Aztlan, and the M.E.Ch.A. Position Papers of Philosophy, Constitutions, Relationships to Outside Organizations, Goals & Objectives, and Midwest M.E.Ch.A Regional Constitution.

4) To determine by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote which of the interested parties currently petitioning for recognition by the M.E.Ch.A Midwest Region would be able to sit in on M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional meetings

5) To orient and guide interested parties seeking to establish a M.E.Ch.A. chapter to be recognized by the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Region under strict criteria and procedure as set forth by MMROC.

Article VI: NMCC Midwest Regional Representatives

Section 1 Two (2) NMCC Midwest Regional representatives, one male and one female, will be annually elected at the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional meeting held at the National M.E.Ch.A. Conference, to represent the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Region on the NMCC.

Section 2 The two (2) NMCC Midwest Regional representatives must be from nationally and regionally recognized M.E.Ch.A. chapters and must be recognized members of their respective high school, college, or university M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional chapters.

Section 3 The two (2) NMCC Midwest Regional elected representatives must be two distinctly recognized M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional chapters.

Section 4 The two (2) NMCC Midwest Regional representatives must be elected by a majority (50% + 1) ballot vote.

Section 5 The NMCC Midwest Regional Representatives will serve as liaisons between the national M.E.Ch.A. and the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Region.

Section 6 The NMCC Midwest Regional Representatives are responsible for submitting all information obtained at all NMCC meetings to the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Communication Center within two weeks after the NMCC meeting.

Section 7 The NMCC Midwest Regional Representatives are responsible for voting on issues in the manner upon which the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Region has decided and for representing the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Region's best interests at all NMCC meetings and/or National M.E.Ch.A. events.

Article VII : Regional Meetings

Section 1 All recognized M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional chapters and the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Communication Center must have at least a thirty-five (35) day notification of a M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional meeting and an agenda from the chapter hosting the regional meeting.

Section 2 All amendments to the agenda must be submitted in writing to the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Communication Center and all recognized M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional chapters at least twenty (20) days prior to the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional meeting; such amendments will be voted upon in accord with Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 3 The M.E.Ch.A. regional meetings shall be held at least three (3) times per academic year, September 1 to August 31, and be alternated from campus to campus.

Section 4 All M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional meetings must be hosted by a nationally recognized M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional chapter.

Section 5 Individuals or groups with a documented history of party-building and/or cadre raiding inside of M.E.Ch.A. will not be able to participate or attend the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional meetings, functions, or activities sponsored by the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Region.

Section 6 Non-voting individuals and/or groups cannot attend or participate in any workshops, meetings, or activities wherein M.E.Ch.A. constitutional issues, resolutions, or M.E.Ch.A. business will be discussed and/or voted upon, unless at least one of the following criteria is met:

A) a two-thirds (2/3) vote by MMROC determines an interested party under orientation procedure, as set forth by MMROC, can participate

B) the party is a nationally and regionally recognized M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Chapter who has relinquished voting privileges.

Section 7 All M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional meetings shall be conducted by Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 8 The quorum shall consist of 50% plus 1 nationally recognized M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional chapters.

Section 9 The hosting chapter of a M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional meeting shall facilitate the meeting.

Section 10 The hosting chapter of a M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional meeting must send a copy of the official the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Meeting minutes to the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Communication Center within two (2) weeks after the meeting.

Section 11 Only two recognized M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Chapter representative members may speak on behalf of their nationally recognized M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional chapter and shall conduct business during the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional meeting. Although both may speak, there shall be only one vote per chapter.

Section 12 The site of the next M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional meeting shall be verbally bid and voted upon by nationally recognized M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional chapters before the meeting is adjourned.

Section 13 Guest speakers will only be allowed in the meeting during the time of their presentation.

Article VIII: M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Communication Center

Section 1 A M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Communication Center will be established where all NMCC and M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional information will be archived.

Section 2 The regional body shall determine the location of the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Communication Center yearly, at the National M.E.Ch.A. conference during the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional meeting by majority vote.

Section 3 There shall be no term limits on the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Communication Center.

Section 4 The M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Communication Center shall be responsible for

maintaining access to:

1) Record of the NMCC and M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional mailing lists, and

2) Record of all NMCC and M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional meeting minutes, constitutions, and documents.

Section 5 The M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Communication Center shall be responsible for disseminating the results of all disciplinary actions and/or proceedings, as well as all unrealized attempts to bring forth such disciplinary actions, to all recognized M.E.Ch.A. regional communication centers and all recognized M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Chapters.

Section 6 Only NMCC and recognized M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional chapters shall have access to the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Communication Center.

Section 7 Should a nationally recogized M.E.Ch.A. chapter need to disseminate information to the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Region, they may contact the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Communication Center, who will in turn notify all recognized M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional chapters.

Article IX: Removal Procedure

Section 1 Any M.E.Ch.A. member, NMCC Midwest Regional Representative, and/or M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional chapter, as defined under Article III of the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Constitution, who does not follow any single section of the National M.E.Ch.A. Constitution, M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Constitution, El Plan de Santa Barbara, El Plan Espiritual de Aztlan, the M.E.Ch.A. Position Papers on Philosophy, Constitutions, Relationships to Outside Organizations, and Goals & Objectives. and/or whose actions threaten or jeopardize, as interpreted by NMCC, in any way the, National M.E.Ch.A., NMCC, M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Region or its members face disciplinary action and/or removal from M.E.Ch.A.

Section 2 Procedures for disciplinary action and/or removal of a M.E.Ch.A. member, NMCC Midwest Regional Representative, and/or a M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional chapter are as follows:

A) A written statement of the charges must be presented at the next recognized M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional meeting, following the incident, by any recognized M.E.Ch.A. member

B) At the next scheduled recognized M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional meeting the plaintiff(s) and the defendant(s) shall have a chance to present their case(s)

C) At the end of the proceedings, the General Body, consisting of recognized M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional chapters, shall vote on the grievance and on disciplinary action(s) to be taken.

D) A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote is needed to remove a M.E.Ch.A. member, a NMCC Midwest Regional Representive and/or M.E.Ch.A. chapter from the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Region

E) Results of all disciplinary actions and/or proceedings must be disseminated via the NMCC and the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Communication Center.

Section 3 Any expelled M.E.Ch.A. member and/or M.E.Ch.A. chapter from the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Region may apply to the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Region for re-evaltuation as a M.E.Ch.A. member and/or recognized M.E.Ch.A. regional chapter at the minimum time of two (2) years following the sanction, with the option to re-apply each subsequent year in the event that the re-evaluation is denied.

Article X: Amendments

Section 1 Amendments to this constitution:

A) Shall first be submitted in writing to the M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Communication Center thirty-five (35) days prior to the next M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional meeting.

B) Shall be voted on and passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at the next scheduled M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional meeting.

Adopted on November 23, 1997, at the November 22 - 23, 1997

M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Meeting

Hosted by M.E.Ch.A. at the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor