

# **Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (M.E.Ch.A.)**

## **Tierra Mid-Atl Regional Constitution**



### **Article I: Name**

**Section 1** The name of this organization shall be the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (M.E.Ch.A.) Tierra Mid-atl Region.

### **Article II: Purpose**

**Section 1** M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl 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 Aztlán, 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. Tierra Mid-atl Region shall be kept, archived, and distributed upon 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. Tierra Mid-atl 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 National M.E.Ch.A. Coordinating Council (NMCC), and lie within the regional boundaries, as set forth by the NMCC, may be eligible to participate in the M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Region.

**Section 2** The M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl 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 currently enrolled student in the high school, college, or university in which the MEChA Chapter is to be formed.

**B)** Must contact the Tierra Mid-atl Regional Communication Center (TMCC) and M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional Orientation Committee (MTMROC) with written intent to establish a MEChA Chapter at the interested 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**D)** Must have been oriented and have read the historical documents of our Movimiento including: El Plan de Santa Barbara, El Plan Espiritual de Aztlán, and the M.E.Ch.A. Position Papers of Philosophy, Constitutions, Outside Organizations, and Goals and 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 MTMROC.

**G)** At least one (1) representative, appointed by their respective interested 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. Tierra Mid-atl Regional Constitutions.

**Section 4** At least one (1) recognized representative member appointed by their respective M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl 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. Tierra Mid-atl Regional chapter.

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

**Section 6** Membership is excluded to those chapters in violation(s) of the MEChA National or M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional Constitutions, El Plan de Santa Barbara, El Plan Espiritual de Aztlán, 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. Tierra Mid-atl chapters require a two-thirds (2/3) vote by all recognized M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl chapters in the M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Region and must adhere to all membership criteria in the M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional Constitution to be reinstated as a M.E.Ch.A. chapter.

## **Article IV: Voting Privileges**

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

**A)** Must be a recognized National and Tierra Mid-atl Regional M.E.Ch.A. chapters, as defined by Article III in the M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional Constitution.

**B)** At least one (1) representative member, appointed by their respective recognized M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional chapter, must attend two (2) out of three (3) M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional meetings per academic year, September 1 to August 31.

**Section 2** Each recognized M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional chapter shall have one (1) vote at the M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional Meetings.

**Section 3** Newly established chapters, recognized by the M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Region, will be granted voting privileges at the beginning of the second M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional meeting attended on an academic school year, September 1 to August 31.

## **Article V: M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional Orientation Council**

**Section 1** M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional Orientation Council (MTMROC) shall consist of one elected representative member of their respective recognized M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional Chapter.

**Section 2** M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional Orientation Council (MTMROC): 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. Tierra Mid-atl Region have the following duties:

**A)** To orient and guide interested parties seeking to establish a M.E.Ch.A. chapter to be recognized by the M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Region under strict criteria and procedure as set forth by the MTMROC.

**B)** To serve as counsel to the M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Region in determining whether the interested party in question should indeed be recognized by M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Region.

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

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

## **Article VI: NMCC Tierra Mid-atl Regional Representatives**

**Section 1** Two (2) NMCC Tierra Mid-atl representatives, one male and one female, will be elected annually at the National M.E.Ch.A. Conference, to represent the M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Region on the NMCC. However, should there be dire circumstances e.g. distinct demographics that would prevent the Tierra Mid-atl region to elect representatives on a gender balance; the Tierra Mid-atl region holds the right that two representatives be of the same gender to represent the NMCC position. Gender balance will always be taken into account as the Tierra Mid-atl Region elects NMCCs.

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

**Section 3** The two (2) NMCC Tierra Mid-atl Regional elected representatives must be from two distinctly recognized M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional chapters.

**Section 4** The two (2) NMCC Tierra Mid-atl representatives must be elected by a majority (50% + 1) ballot vote.

**Section 5** The NMCC Tierra Mid-atl Regional Representatives will serve as liaisons between the national M.E.Ch.A. and the M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Region.

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

**Section 7** The NMCC Tierra Mid-atl Regional Representatives are responsible for voting on issues in the manner upon which the M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Region has decided and for representing the M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl 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. Tierra Mid-atl Regional chapters and the M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional Communication Center must have at least a thirty-five (35) day notification of a M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl 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. Tierra Mid-atl Regional Communication Center and all recognized M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional chapters at least twenty (20) days prior to the M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl 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. Tierra Mid-atl Regional meetings must be hosted by a nationally recognized M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl 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. Tierra Mid-atl Regional meetings, functions, or activities sponsored by the M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl 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* one of the following criteria is met:

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

**B)** the party is a nationally and regionally recognized M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional Chapter who has relinquished voting privileges.

**Section 7** All M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl 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. Tierra Mid-atl Regional chapters.

**Section 9** The hosting chapter of a M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional meeting shall facilitate the meeting.

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

**Section 11** Only two recognized M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional Chapter representative members may speak on behalf of their nationally recognized M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional chapter and shall conduct business during the M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl 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. Tierra Mid-atl Regional meeting shall be verbally bid and voted upon by nationally recognized M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl 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. Tierra Mid-atl Regional Communication Center**

**Section 1** A M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional Communication Center will be established where all NMCC and M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional information will be archived.

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

**Section 3** There shall be no term limits on the M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional Communication Center.

**Section 4** The M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional Communication Center shall be responsible for maintaining access to:

- 1) Record of the NMCC and M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional mailing lists, and
- 2) Record of all NMCC and M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional meeting minutes, constitutions, and documents.

**Section 5** The M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl 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. Tierra Mid-atl Regional Chapters.

**Section 6** Only NMCC and recognized M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional chapters shall have access to the M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional Communication Center.

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

## **Article IX: Acknowledgement of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, and Queer Community**

**Section 1** Acknowledgement of the GLBTIQ community

**A)** As new MEChistas enter, we must inform and educate those who are unfamiliar to the GLBTIQ community.

**B)** We must take it upon ourselves to educate one another about the community that exists within our own.

**C)** If necessary, training or a teach-in shall be allowed into the organization to allow us to better understand the community that exists within our community but is forgotten and ignored.

## **Section 2** Reinforcement of acceptance within our community

**A)** MEChistas should acknowledge the community and refrain from using homophobic remarks in and out of the M.E.Ch.A. space, meetings, and social events on their personal times. The purpose behind this would be because, even though you are outside of M.E.Ch.A. business you are still a representative of our organization and your actions do reflect on M.E.Ch.A. as a whole.

**B)** Fellow MEChistas should also enforce these requirements with outside organizations that do business with M.E.Ch.A.

**C)** MEChistas should also enforce these requirements with those who are in communication with the organization on different levels, be it with acquaintances or formal/informal gatherings of people.

## **Section 3** Creating a safe zone

**A)** MEChistas shall take it upon themselves and make sure that any M.E.Ch.A. space is a safe zone for the GLBTIQ community.

**B)** M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Region shall take it upon itself to promote itself as a welcoming organization to all and accepting to all within the organization and outside as well.

**C)** M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional chapters shall promote themselves as GLBTIQ community accepting organizations.

**D)** M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional chapters shall develop a working relationship with the GLBTIQ community to better develop programs and include one another in activities/business.

## **Article X: Removal Procedure**

**Section 1** Any M.E.Ch.A. member, NMCC Tierra Mid-atl Regional Representative, and/or M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl chapter, as defined under Article III of the M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional Constitution, who does not follow any single section of the National M.E.Ch.A. Constitution, M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional Constitution, El Plan de Santa Barbara, El Plan Espiritual de Aztlán, the M.E.Ch.A. Position Papers on Philosophy, Constitutions, Relationships to Outside Organizations, and Goals & Objectives, whose actions threaten or jeopardize, as interpreted by NMCC, in any way the, National M.E.Ch.A., NMCC, M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl 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 Tierra Mid-atl Regional Representative, and/or a M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Regional chapters are as follows:

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

**B)** At the next scheduled recognized M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl 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. Tierra Mid-atl 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 Tierra Mid-atl Regional Representative and/or M.E.Ch.A. chapter from the M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Region.

**E)** Results of all disciplinary actions and/or proceedings must be disseminated via the NMCC and the M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl 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. Tierra Mid-atl Region may apply to the M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-atl Region for re-evaluation 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 XI: Amendments**

**Section 1** Amendments to this constitution:

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

*Amended on March 3, 2001, at the March 3, 2001  
M.E.Ch.A. Midwest Regional Meeting  
Hosted by St. Cloud State M.E.Ch.A.*

*Amended on February 7, 2004 at the February 7, 2004  
M.E.Ch.A. Tierra Mid-Atl Regional Meeting  
Hosted by M.E.Ch.A. at the University of Wisconsin - Madison*