



Western Australian Branch

RULES

Updated and reprinted 16 November 2023

Adopted 4 November, 1926;
Amended 23 August, 1928; 18 September, 1930;
14 October, 1937; 20 September, 1949; 27 November, 1963;
23 April, 1970; 10 January, 1972; 29 September, 1982;
13 November, 1991; 4 December, 1991; 11 November, 1998,
10 November 2004; 4 December 2013; 8 November 2018,
16 November 2023

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

FORMATION OF THE BRANCH

At a meeting of Members of the Western Australian Parliament convened by the President of the Legislative Council (Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom, K.C.M.G., MLC) and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (Hon. Thomas Walker, MLA) on 17th December, 1925, it was unanimously decided to form a Branch of the Empire (now Commonwealth) Parliamentary Association.

The first Committee appointed consisted as follows:
Joint Presidents: The President and the Speaker;
Vice-Presidents: the Premier (Hon. P. Collier, MLA), the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Sir James Mitchell, K.C.M.G., MLA), the Leader of the Country Party (Mr. A. Thomson, MLA), and the Chief Secretary (Hon. J. M. Drew, MLC), together with the Minister for Lands, Hon. W. C. Angwin, MLA; Hon. A. Lovekin, MLC; and Hon. J. W. Kirwan, MLC as Members of the Committee, with Hon. J. W. Kirwan, MLC as Secretary *protem*.

On the following day the Branch invited the Hon. A. J. H. Saw, MLC, Hon. G. W. Miles, MLC, and Messrs A. Clydesdale, MLA, C. G. Latham, MLA, and E. B. Johnston, MLA, to join the Committee, and elected Mr. F. G. Steere the Clerk-Assistant (later Clerk) of the Legislative Assembly as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

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1. NAME

The name of the Society is the "Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Western Australian Branch)" (Hereinafter called "the Western Australian Branch" or "This Branch").

2. AIMS

- (a) This Branch shall do all such things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of the aims of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (hereinafter called "the Association") as set forth in Clause 3 of its Constitution.
- (b) No funds of the Branch, however obtained, shall be applied to, and no activities of the Branch shall be directed towards any purpose that is inconsistent with the Aims of the Branch or that would cause the Branch to lose the status of a body established for charitable purposes.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Any sitting Member of either House of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia shall be entitled to become a Member of this Branch without election on payment of the subscription for the current year.

4. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Ex-Members of either House of the State Parliament, or ex-Members of any Dominion Parliament permanently residing in Western Australia, may be elected by the Executive Committee of this Branch (hereinafter called "the Executive Committee") as Associate Members of this Branch.

Associate Members shall not be entitled as such to take part in the management of this Branch. All candidates for Associate membership must be proposed by a Member of this Branch, and seconded by another Member.

5. VISITING ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Members or Associate Members of the Branch Association in any overseas Parliament who may be visiting Western Australia shall be accepted without election and without subscription as Associate Members of this Branch during their visit to the State.

For the purpose of this Rule a visit to the State shall mean a visit of not more than 3 months in duration, but the Executive Committee shall have power, if they so think fit to treat a visit to the State of more than 3 months as being a visit within the meaning of this Rule.

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6. LIFE MEMBERS

At the Annual General Meeting the Branch may elect as an Honorary Life Member any member of the Branch who -

- (a) is no longer a Member of Parliament;
- (b) has served at least 3 full terms or 12 years as a Member of the Western Australian Parliament and as a member of the Association; and
- (c) has made a significant contribution to the Branch.

Life Members shall be entitled without further payment to the same privileges as Associate Members.

7. SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Annual Subscription of this Branch for all Members and for all Associate Members, other than visiting Associate Members, shall be payable on the 1st January of each year.

The Executive Committee shall have power to alter the amount of the Annual Subscriptions from time to time as it may deem fit.

8. SUBSCRIPTIONS PAYABLE

Every Member shall, upon joining the Association, and every Associate Member (other than visiting Associate Members) shall, upon election, pay the Annual Subscription for the year then current; but if the joining or election takes place subsequently to the 31st October the first payment shall cover the period until the close of the following year.

9. UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS

If any Member's Subscription remains unpaid for 3 months from date on which it becomes payable, a notice shall be sent to such Member requesting them to pay the same within a month, and if such Subscription remains unpaid for a month after the date of such notice, the Member shall thereupon cease to be a Member of this Branch, and their name shall be removed from the list of Members of this Branch.

10. RESIGNATION OF MEMBERSHIP

A Member may, at any time, resign their Membership by notice, in writing, to the Secretary. No refund of subscription shall be payable in the event of resignation.

11. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO MANAGE BRANCH AFFAIRS

Subject to any direction made by a General Meeting, the control and management of branch affairs is vested in an Executive Committee comprising the Joint Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and 10 Members of the Branch, appointed in accordance with Rule 13, as well as the WA Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) representative, as determined by the WA CWP membership.

12. TERM OF OFFICE

Subject to these Rules, a Member appointed under Rule 11 holds office for a period of 12 months but is eligible for reappointment.

13. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The 10 Members provided for in Rule 11 are appointed by their respective political parties or groups in proportion to the number of Members comprising each political party calculated as a fraction of the whole number of Members of Parliament as they are immediately following a general election for the Legislative Assembly.

14. VACANCIES

Where a vacancy occurs for any reason among the Members appointed in accordance with Rule 13, the vacancy shall be filled by the political party or group by whom the Member creating the vacancy was appointed.

15. JOINT PRESIDENTS

The Joint Presidents shall be the President of the Legislative Council and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and they shall be Joint Presidents during the period they shall hold the offices of President and Speaker respectively. In the event of the holder of either of such offices declining to act as a Joint President of the Association, the Executive Committee shall have power to elect a Joint President or Joint Presidents from among the Members of the Association subject to confirmation at the Annual General Meeting then next ensuing.

16. VICE-PRESIDENTS

The Vice-Presidents shall consist of the Premier and the Leader of the Government and Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council and the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly for the time being. In the event of a holder of the offices mentioned above declining to act as a Vice-President

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of the Association, the Executive Committee shall have power to elect a Vice-President, or Vice-Presidents, from among the Members of the Association, subject to confirmation at the Annual General Meeting then next ensuing.

17. HONORARY TREASURER AND HONORARY SECRETARY

The Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary shall be appointed by the Executive Committee, but such appointments may be reviewed at the Annual General Meeting following their appointment. The Honorary Secretary shall be appointed for a term not exceeding 6 years. The Executive Committee may appoint an Assistant Honorary Secretary. The offices of Honorary Secretary and Assistant Honorary Secretary shall alternate, as far as possible, between each House. Provided that if a Member of the Branch is appointed Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer, he shall retain all the rights and privileges of a Member.

18. COMMONWEALTH WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

For the purposes of furthering the representation of women in Commonwealth Parliaments and enhancing the participation of women Members in the Association's affairs, the Annual General Meeting may approve the establishment of a body, to be

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known as the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians, with authority to determine its own rules and procedures but so as to be compatible with the provisions of this Constitution and decisions of the Annual General Meeting and the Executive Committee.

19. MEETINGS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee may meet together for the despatch of business, adjourn and otherwise regulate its meetings as it thinks fit. Questions arising at any such meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes. In case of an equality of votes the questions shall resolve in the negative.

The Secretary shall, at the request of any 5 Members of the Executive Committee, at any time summon a meeting of the Committee.

The quorum necessary for the transaction of business of the Committee may, from time to time, be determined by the Committee; and unless otherwise determined, 5 Members shall be a quorum.

20. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The Annual General Meeting of this Branch shall be held during the month of September each year, or on such other date as the Executive Committee shall direct. At this meeting the Annual Report and the accounts of the Committee shall be received and considered, the Officers and the Members present shall be at liberty to decide on any question that may have been proposed relative to the affairs of the Association of which notice has been given not less than 3 days before the date of the meeting and has been placed on the Notice Boards of each House. Provided that the Chair of the Meeting may, in their discretion, dispense with the requirement of the period of notice for the consideration of any important matter.

21. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

A Special General Meeting of the Association may be summoned at any time and place by the Executive Committee to consider and determine any matter of interest or importance that may arise, and to pass, abrogate, or amend Rules.

If a requisition, in writing, of not less than 6 Members stating the objects for which a Special General Meeting be demanded, shall be addressed to the Secretary, the Executive Committee may thereupon

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summon a Special General Meeting to be held within 21 days of the receipt of the requisition.

22. NOTICE OF ANNUAL AND SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice of the Annual General Meeting or of any Special General Meeting of this Branch shall be delivered or posted to each Member of this Branch resident in the State not less than 10 clear days before the date appointed for such meeting, showing the business to be transacted thereat. In the case of a Special General Meeting no business shall be transacted except that stated in the note convening the meeting. Any notice so delivered or posted shall be deemed to be a notice duly given.

23. QUORUM AT GENERAL MEETINGS

No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum is present at the time when the Meeting proceeds to business. Until otherwise determined by the Executive Committee, 10 Members personally present shall be a quorum.

If a General Meeting has to be adjourned for want of a quorum, no quorum shall be necessary for the adjourned meeting provided that the adjourned meeting shall not be held at a notice of less than 3 days.

24. VOTING

Every Member shall have 1 vote, but no Member whose subscription for the current year is unpaid shall be entitled to vote. Questions shall be determined by the majority of persons present and voting. In case of an equality of votes the question shall resolve in the negative.

25. ALTERATION OF RULES

Any alteration in these Rules may be proposed at the Annual General Meeting, or may be submitted at any Special General Meeting, notice thereof having been given in accordance with these Rules.

26. DISSOLUTION

Where the Branch is dissolved, surplus funds shall be given or transferred to any other Australian Branch or Branches of the Association as shall be determined by a General Meeting of the Branch called for the purpose, but if no such determination is made, those funds shall be given or transferred to the Association or, if the Association has ceased to exist, to some other charitable organization having aims and objects similar to those of the Association.