

# **GOVERNING DOCUMENT**

## **ByLaws of Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana**

### **And**

## **Tribal Membership Criteria**

(See attachments of supporting documents)

### Introduction

The Application for Federal Recognition will be following the most recent Bureau of Indian Affairs rules of 25 CFR Part 83, version 4/17/2025. According to 83.11(d) criteria: "...In the absence of a governing document, a written statement describing in full its membership criteria and current governing procedures" will fulfill the requirement for the "Governing document."

Since October 28, 2018, the business functioning of the Tribe has been conducted under 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana and the ByLaws serve as the governing document. In addition to the current ByLaws, we also submit two past attempts at development of a "tribal constitution" which have not been successful.

We submit these ByLaws as acceptable governing procedures as approved by this BIA statement:

"Many tribes have constitutions, others operate under articles of association or other bodies of law, and some have found a way to combine their traditional systems of government within a modern governmental framework. Some do not operate under any of these acts, but are nevertheless organized under documents approved by the Secretary of the Interior."

See source: <https://www.bia.gov/frequently-asked-questions>: How are tribal governments organized?

## **Part One**

### **History of the Governing of the Tribe**

Fred Dale Simon began the tribal genealogy research years ago and increased involvement in 2008 when he moved to Louisiana. His research led to family members, from which he began to develop the first "Tribal Registry." On May 16, 2015, he convened a first meeting with family-related members, wherein the first Tribal Council was elected, consisting of 7 members. Four other family members participated by telephone. Only hand-written notes were kept. These notes refer to Federal rule change of May 22, 2014, regarding changes being made in the Federal recognition process. Council members were assigned to specific regions. Motion was made to re-organize the tribe under the name "Lac Noir Tribe." (See Attachment 1)

Hand-written notes also serve as the record of the second Tribal Meeting, held on June 6, 2015. These notes discuss the reading of a "constitution" which Fred Dale Simon had developed as a draft during his years of research. The individuals present "approved" this draft, which was to be

mailed to others. Officers were elected. A motion was made to “reestablish Tribe of Natchitoches” but another motion to keep tribal name of “Lac Noir Tribe Black Lake of Louisiana”. Motion was made for Fred Simon to be “in charge” of the “non-profit” organization development. (Attachment 2)

The language in this “draft” constitution continually pointed out that **final approval of this constitution would not occur until BIA Secretary of the Interior “approves” the constitution.** The reader is referred to the following “bracket” sections (Attachment 3):

- a) Page 2, Article IV, Section 2: “Upon approval of this Constitution by the Secretary of the Interior...”
- b) Page 3, Article VI, Section 1: “...and upon approval of this Constitution by the Secretary of the Interior...”
- c) Page 4, Article VII, Section 4: “...on the date on which this Constitution is first approved by the Secretary of the Interior...”
- d) Page 5, Article VIII, Section 4: “...on the date on which this Constitution is first approved by the Secretary of the Interior...”

This constitution was never ratified by entire vetted individuals appearing on the Tribal Registry by the end of 2015 (150 people Members).

On November 18, 2015, nonprofit corporation application was formalized. It was submitted to State of Louisiana on January 12, 2016, with Articles of Incorporation for **non-membership** Nonprofit Corporation of “Lac Noir Black Lake Tribe of Native Americans of Louisiana” (“Lac Noir”) with Louisiana State Charter number 42013374N. (See Attachment 4)

On June 17, 2016, Fred Simon, **sole proprietorship**, registered a business in the State of Louisiana under the FEIN 81-2980752, as non-corporate entity, without employees, and registered for a sales tax account, under the name of Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana (“NTL”). On that date, Fred Simon agreed to license use of his business name “NTL” to “Lac Noir.” This name change was not completed until July 20, 2018 (two years later). However, the State of Louisiana name change amendment does indicate the “Date Amendment Adopted: 06/17/2016,” and “Manner of Adoption: No shareholders, unanimously approved by Directors.” Fred Simon retained ownership of Intellectual Property, referred to as the Tribal Registry. He began the development of the Tribal Registry in 2008 and officially named it on June 17, 2016, as the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana Tribal Registry (“**Tribal Registry**”). He maintains separate ownership of this name and this Intellectual Property to this date. (Attachment 5)

In August, 2016, the secretary of the “Lac Noir” Non-Profit Corporation submitted an updated “draft” constitution for making further progress on a governing document. The vetted members listed on the Tribal Registry began to develop this “draft” constitution which continued to point out that **final approval of this constitution would not occur until BIA Secretary of the Interior “approves” the constitution.** Furthermore, other short-comings prevented this second

draft from ever being ratified by entire vetted individuals appearing on the Tribal Registry by the end of 2016 (441 Members). (Attachment 6)

The members on the “Tribal Registry” worked together to achieve Louisiana State Recognition of the existence of a Tribe. However, this **State Recognition does not provide any legal status to the individuals enrolled on the “Tribal Registry.”** Legal operations were restricted to the “Lac Noir” nonprofit corporation. (Attachment 7)

The “Lac Noir” was officially renamed on July 20, 2018, by Louisiana State to the name “Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana” Non-Profit Corporation. Under this new name, the official IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exempt Non-Profit status was achieved on October 4, 2018 (referred to as “501c3 NTL”). (Attachment 8)

All “Tribal Registry” members have been aware of the two “draft” constitutions as being “works-in-progress” in our steps to Federal Recognition. But, at some point, the vetted members seemed to have been led astray. This confusion began in 2019, when a Board member of the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana Non-profit Corporation resigned and started another Tribe called “Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux.”

It seems that on-going education, provided by the subsequent Boards of 501c3 NTL and the current Board of 501c3 NTL, has been unable to correct the untruths which began circulating in 2019. A current “restructuring” of the 501c3 NTL began in December, 2024, with newly adopted ByLaws, new websites, and re-organization to counter-act the misunderstandings.

No Constitution was ratified by the end of 2017 (739 members) nor by the end of 2018 (1,089 members).

## **Part Two**

### **ByLaws and Tribal Membership Criteria**

ByLaws entitled “Repeal of 1/12/2016 Bylaws and Amendment/Replacement of 4/03/2025” have specific descriptions of the Tribal Membership, under Article 6 “Tribal Citizenship Vetting.” These rights are placed into the Bylaws due to the massive confusion developed over the years as result of foregoing events. (See Attachment 9)

**No individual who has been “vetted” for the “Tribal Registry” will be rejected for the Federal Recognition Application.** An individual has to “resign” from the “Tribal Registry” for that action to occur. It is NOT an action which the 501c3 NTL can do as the 501c3 NTL does not own the “Tribal Registry.”

As stated in the ByLaws, Article 6, Section 3:

Section 3. No Vetted and enrolled individual will lose the status of Tribal Register acceptance, which is not based upon “merit,” but solely upon being a descendant of the Natchitoches American Indian Tribe and not a member of another Tribe.

Each enrolled individual has options or status in the 501c3 NTL nonprofit corporation activities:

- A. they may choose to participate in the 501c3 NTL nonprofit corporation activities;
- B. they may choose not to participate in the 501c3 NTL nonprofit corporation activities;
- C. they may not be able to participate in the 501c3 NTL nonprofit corporation activities;
- D. they may have never participated in the 501c3 nonprofit corporation activities.

No reasons are required for any choice. They will not lose membership in the Tribal Register as a result of their choice.

The Documents required for Tribal Enrollment are located On-line:

<https://ntl-tribe.org/resources-and-links/>

(See Attachment 10)

Furthermore, no “Group” of vetted individuals who are enrolled on the Tribal Register have any legal power to prevent any vetted enrolled individual from participating in the Federal Application for Tribal Recognition. No “Group” of vetted individuals have any authority to declare that a “draft” constitution has legal authority over a State Registered Non-Profit Corporation nor an IRS authorized 501(c)(3) Non-profit Corporation. No “Committee” of vetted individuals hold any legal power to engage in any activities which harm the legal status of the State Non-profit Corporation nor the 501c3 NTL entity, which are one and the same in identity. The sole use of the licensed name of Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana for their vetted Tribal Registration does not give such individuals any legal power that comes with legal structure.

#### CERTIFICATION

I, Fred Simon, certify that the above History is true and correct. I am the sole incorporator of the original “Lac Noir” nonprofit corporation and am the sole owner of the Tribal Registry. I have served on the Board of Directors at various times. I have been elected as President/Primary Chief since June 6, 2015.

Signature and Date of Certification

*Fred Simon*

04 / 24 / 2025

# CERTIFICATE *of* SIGNATURE

REF. NUMBER  
9XHV9-C5Y27-VRNJE-ZJLBJ

DOCUMENT COMPLETED BY ALL PARTIES ON  
24 APR 2025 16:11:21 UTC

## SIGNER

**FRED SIMON**

EMAIL  
FREDDSIMON1@AOL.COM

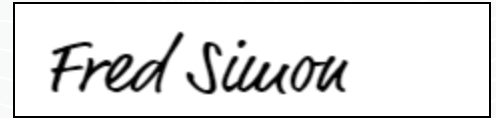
## TIMESTAMP

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24 APR 2025 16:11:21 UTC

## SIGNATURE



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## RECIPIENT VERIFICATION

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