

**ALL SLAVONIC-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA**

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ESTABLISHED THE 4TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 1904

Amended April 14, 1991

Amended April 29, 2001

Amended March 16, 2021

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The All Slavonic-American Association of the San Joaquin Valley wishes to acknowledge the contribution of the following persons in the translation and editing of the constitution and by-laws. Our thanks go to STANA DULCICH for her translation of the original constitution and by-laws of our Association from Serbo-Croatian to English. The translation and new constitution and by-laws were edited and drafted by JOHN S. DULCICH, Attorney-at-Law.

The new constitution and bylaws were developed by the following members: MARY ZANINOVICH; ALEX BULAICH; NETTIE BULAICH; DICK TIMSAK; STEPHANIE TIMSAK; MIKE JERKOVICH; TOM IGERCICH; GEORGE ZANINOVICH and BETTY ZANINOVICH, who transformed the original constitution and by-laws from the purpose of ensuring the member's health and burial to that of a constitution and by-laws that mirrors the Association's present goals of not only fostering an organization to preserve Slavic culture but to promote the educational needs of the children of its members. 4/4/91

The constitution and by-laws were amended by the general membership on April 29, 2001 to improve the ability of the Association to function efficiently and effectively providing direction, authority, and discretion for the conduct and operation of the business of the Association. Committee members who framed the amendments were BOB GRUICH, chair; TOM IGERCICH; and NICK PAVLOVICH. 4/29/01

The constitution and bylaws were amended by the general membership on March 16, 2021 to further delineate and clarify the responsibilities of committee chairs and Board Members, and to bring the language of the constitution into accordance with the expectations of the Internal Revenue Service and its requirements for nonprofit organizations. Committee members who framed the amendments were NICK PAVLOVICH, chair; MARC HURE; and DONNA SMITH. 3/16/21

FOUNDERS

In 1904, a group of South Slavic immigrants from the former country of Yugoslavia organized the “Benevolent Association of all Slavs of America” in Fresno, California. This group was organized to help one another, and to preserve the ethnic heritage of all Slavs. Today, their foresight in such an organization survives some 117 years later in their descendants. The first members of the Association were:

First Board of Directors:

N. BERBORA, A. LOPIZICH, S. M. MITROVICH, T. SUBOTICH, AND G. B. VLAHUSIĆ

Founding Members:

G. BARISIĆ	B. LOPIZIĆ	M. STANJEVIĆ
I. BAUK	P. LUCIĆ	F. STEFANIĆ
I. BECIĆ	I. MAROVIĆ	T. SUBOTIĆ
M. BEGOVIĆ	S.N. MITROVIĆ	MAR SULJAN
I. BRBURA	S. NJIRE	MIHOVIL SULJAN
N. N. BRBURA	G. NJIRE	NIKOLA SULJAN
G. COTIĆ	A. NJIRIĆ	N.M. SULJAN
P. CRNOKUS	N. NJIRIĆ	PETAR SULJAN
G. CRNOKUS	T. PAVLOVIĆ	VINKO SULJAN
P. DUBRETA	G. PECAR	V.L. SULJAN
D. DULCIĆ	N. PETKOVIĆ	J. SAMBUK
G. DULCIĆ	J. PERTORIĆ	T. SURJAK
N. FABRIS	M. PETRIĆ	S. TODOROVIĆ
M. GOSPIĆ	V. POLJTEO	B. TRIPCEVIĆ
S. GOSPODNETIĆ	P. POPJEVALO	S. TRIPCEVIĆ
G. JOVOVIĆ	L. POPOVIĆ	A. VLAHOVIĆ
I. JURLINA	A. RADIĆ	N. VLAHOVIĆ
N. KACIĆ	S. RADIS	VID VLAHOVIĆ
P. KLAPCIĆ	I. REPANIĆ	V. VLAHOVIĆ
A. KOVACEVIĆ	N. SABLJIĆ	G.B. VLAHUSIĆ
I. KOVACEVIĆ	G. SETENCIĆ	J. VRANJICAN
V. KOVACEVIĆ	I. SKALCIĆ	L. VRANJICAN
B. KUSALO	J. SKALCIĆ	VOJIN ZAMBELIĆ
G. KUSALO	M.M. SILJE	B. ZANINOVIĆ
N. KUSALO	B. SLADOVIĆ	G. ZANINOVIĆ
B. LAKONIĆ	A.J. SLAVIĆ	SAVO M. ZEĆ
A. LOPIZIĆ		

PART ONE CONSTITUTION

CHAPTER 1

NAME OF ASSOCIATION

§1. The name of this Association shall be: ALL SLAVONIC-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY.

CHAPTER II

PURPOSES OF THE ASSOCIATION

§1. OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES OF THE ASSOCIATION

The purpose of this Association is to unite all members of the Great Slavic Tree and their spouses under one Association, under one name, governed by the same constitution; to promote love and peace, understanding and brotherly fellowship among their members; to encourage Slavic consciousness and love for the old country and toward this country; to promote the scholastic, intellectual, moral, social, and material progress and well-being of its members; to have their own halls in which to conduct business, meetings and other social events of the Association; to own, hold, and sell real and personal property; to borrow or loan money for the purposes of the effective functioning of this Association. This Association is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations described under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding sections of any future federal tax code.

§2. SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Association shall establish and promote a Scholarship Fund for the benefit of the issue of the general membership.

§3. DEDICATION OF ASSETS

The Association's assets are irrevocably dedicated to public benefit purposes. No part of the net earnings, properties, or assets of the Association, on dissolution or otherwise, shall inure to the

benefit of any private person or individual, or to any director or officer of the Association. Upon the dissolution of the Association, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

CHAPTER III

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

§1. The officers of this Association will be: the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Auditor, Social Chairperson, and Scholarship Chairperson, collectively known as the Board of Directors. In the event of a vacancy, the board shall appoint a member to fill the unexpired term.

§2. In addition to the Board of Directors, this Association has a right to select and elect additional officers as may be necessary from time to time. When such additional officers are elected, they shall have the same status as members of the Board of Directors.

§3. The Board of Directors shall meet and be elected annually at the annual spring general meeting.

§4. Additional meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the president or upon the request of any board member to the President, and the Secretary will notify the other board members of the time, date and place of meeting. All meetings will be open to the general membership.

§5. The Board of Directors may establish various committees for the efficient conduct of business of the organization, including but not limited to the area representatives, and the scholarship fund committee and to establish those committees' scope, duration and rules. The President may remove any person from such committee for good cause with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors.

§6. All actions by the Board of Directors shall be by majority vote.

§7. All members of the Board of Directors shall serve their entire term of one year and shall not be removed without good cause. The board of directors or the General Membership may call a special meeting for removal and/or election in the event of a vacancy.

CHAPTER IV
ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OTHER OFFICERS

§1. The Board of Directors will be elected by a majority of those present at the annual membership meeting conducted each spring.

§2. To be elected to the Board of Directors, as defined by Chapter 3 or other office, the candidate must win a majority of the votes present.

§3. A member elected to the Board of Directors may accept other duties or offices of the Association.

§4. All the members of the Board of Directors and other officers will do their duty without pay.

§5. All members of the Board of Directors will serve without bond.

§6. The Board of Directors manages the association's assets and are accountable to the Association.

CHAPTER V
ASSOCIATION'S FLAGS AND INSIGNIAS

§1. The flags of the Association will be first: a tri-color flag, divided as follows: first white, second blue, third red in color, and embroidered in gold thread, the Association's name. Second: the flag of the United States of America.

§2. Tri-color silk banner in the colors and divided as described in the above paragraph and with the Association's name on it.

§3. Tri-color golden medallion with colors divided as in the two previous paragraphs, with the initial letters of the Association's name.

§4. The Association's colors shall be blue and gold.

CHAPTER VI

MEMBERSHIP AND DUTIES

§1. Membership in the Association may be acquired by any Slav of any branch of the Great Slavic Tree, or spouse of said member if he or she is not less than eighteen (18) years of age.

§2. Every member of the Association is required to give notice to the secretary in the event of his or her change of address.

§3. Every member, who is initiated into this Association, must subscribe and swear to accept every part of this constitution and by-laws of this Association and that he or she will faithfully and honestly perform his or her duties which are prescribed and that he or she will, according to his or her ability, care for the growth and progress of this Association.

§4. Every member shall pay his or her dues as may be from time to time established by the Board of Directors.

§5. Any member, who has been a member in good standing for 50 years or more, shall be considered an honorary member, with all rights and privileges of a full member , and is exempt from the payment of dues.

CHAPTER VII

FELLOWSHIP AMONG MEMBERS/EXPULSION/SUSPENSION

§1. In all disputes and arguments which may arise among any of the members, this Association will strive to resolve, and settle them by every possible peaceful manner and to reconcile conflicts, without resorting, if possible, to their resolution by the public courts of America.

§2. If the matter is one that this Association would not be proper for its resolution and the matter enters the public courts and the member is convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude, or found civilly liable for an act involving moral turpitude under the laws of the state of California or any other state, or of the United States of America, the finding of the court will be sufficient for the member to be expelled from the Association without any right to return, and he or she will lose

all the rights and monies paid into the Association prior to the date of the finding. That some will be left for the benefit of the Association.

§3. The duty of the Association is to support, help and stand by their members, as stated in Chapter II.

§4. If a member fails to pay his or her dues for a period of three years, that member shall be suspended from membership until such time as the outstanding dues are paid in full at which time his or her rights and privileges in this Association shall be reinstated.

§5. The suspension for non-payment of dues may be waived by the board of directors for good cause.

CHAPTER VIII

DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

§1. This Association shall not be dissolved as long as seven members are remaining, in good standing, who are obedient to the Constitution and By-Laws. In the event of dissolution, any and all funds remaining as a surplus shall be distributed, according to the guidelines in Chapter II, Section 3 of this Constitution, to a scholastic or other charity as may be agreed upon by a majority of the remaining members.

CHAPTER IX

ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE ASSOCIATION

§1. This Association will annually celebrate the 4th day of November as the anniversary of the founding of this Association.

CHAPTER X
AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

§1. This constitution shall not be amended or otherwise changed in whole or individual sections, unless acted upon at the general annual meeting of the Association, or on a specifically called meeting for voting any changes; nor shall any resolution or decision be made without at least 2/3 of the members present voting for that change.

CHAPTER XI
BY-LAWS

§1. This Association has the authority to create and promulgate by-laws by which it will conduct itself in discussing and resolving the Association's business. However, those by-laws must be consistent with the Association's Constitution and inspired by the same spirit.

CHAPTER XII
CONSTRUCTION OF THE CONSTITUTION

§1. This Constitution consists of twelve (12) chapters.

PART TWO

BY-LAWS

CHAPTER I

THE TIME AND CONDUCT OF REGULAR AND ANNUAL MEETINGS

§1. An annual meeting of the Association and the Board of Directors shall take place in the spring at a time and place at the discretion of the President; and the secretary shall notify the general membership. All other regular meetings of the Association shall be conducted at such time and place as the Board of Directors deems, from time to time, appropriate to conduct the business of the Association. The order of business for meetings shall be stated in Chapter IX of these By-Laws.

§2. The President will call the meeting to order at the time set for the meeting to begin.

§3. Those who wish to speak on any business item will ask the President for permission to speak at the appropriate time.

§4. If permission is granted, that member will present his or her thoughts in a short and concise statement of his or her motion which must only be in connection with the Association's business.

§5. If the member's motion is seconded by one or more members with the words: "motion seconded," the President then will repeat that motion clearly to the meeting so that it can be discussed and resolved.

§6. If a member's motion is not seconded, the President will not repeat it to the meeting, which will indicate that the motion is not accepted nor will there be any more discussion about it at that meeting.

§7. During discussions and dialogue concerning the Association's business, all members present shall remain peaceful, quiet, and orderly.

§8. No member shall speak on the same subject more than once at the same meeting unless it is allowed for a second time by the President.

§9. No member shall interrupt the speaker except the President.

§10. The members are strictly forbidden to laugh and talk among themselves while one of the members is making his or her motion during the time the meeting is in session.

§11. No member is allowed to speak more than ten (10) minutes at one time.

§12. No member is allowed to smoke during the time the meetings and assemblies are in session.

§13. It is strictly forbidden to put forward and discuss political matters or matters that pertain to religion or religious beliefs.

§14. If the motion is not clearly expressed and understandable, then the President shall order that it be made in written form.

§15. If there are simultaneously two or more members requesting permission to speak, the President will decide who first, second, and so on.

§16. In general, it is advisable to the members that they are respectful, peaceful, orderly, and dignified in their behavior during the Association's meetings and assemblies as good, intelligent, orderly, and honest people would behave in similar situations and thereby not provide a reason to be punished by these by-laws.

CHAPTER II

DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT

Duties of President:

- §1. Preside over all of the Association's meetings and assemblies and keep the order, peace, and decorum.
- §2. Decide by his or her vote, in the event that there is a vote at any meeting, or assembly, general, regular, or special, about a subject and where there are the same amount of votes for the acceptance or non-acceptance of the discussed subject.
- §3. Call meetings or special meetings to discuss and resolve Association business.
- §4. Determine the time to bring new members into the Association, then to announce them at the next meeting formally with these words: *"I have the honor to present to you our new member(s) _____ name(s) _____. Honor them and love them the same way that he/she/they will love and honor you."*
- §5. Sign all of the Association's documents and receipts of the Association's debts, bonds, rents, loans, settlements, minutes, announcements, notices, letters, etc., and to serve without bond.
- §6. Lawfully represent the Association in every public or private transaction or event.
- §7. Teach new members of the Association about their duties and rights.
- §8. Appoint members to the various committees established by the Board of Directors for the efficient conduct of business of the Association, including but not limited to the area representatives, and the scholarship fund committee, with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors.

Duties of the Vice President:

§9. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President conducts his or her duties and if he or she is absent that duty will be assigned to one member of the Board of Directors in the order provided in Chapter III of the constitution.

CHAPTER III

DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY

§1. The duty of the Secretary of the Association is to keep clear minutes of the Association's meetings and assemblies in which he or she will record all the motions, discussions, and decisions made and resolved at the time of the meetings and assemblies.

§2. Keep the roster of all names of the Association's members and the attendance at the meetings and assemblies.

§3. Keep and conduct all communications of the Association's business with its members and the public in general and to keep a duplicate of these communications.

§4. Draft and prepare and keep a duplicate of all notices and announcements that the Association gives from time-to-time.

§5. Keep all of the above-named material available for the inspection of the Association or its committees such as the roster of names, communications, notices, announcements, etc.

§6. Sign all of the above-named documents.

§7. Send a newsletter to members to notify them of upcoming social events, meetings, and elections.

§8. Report to the Association at the meetings about the matters that were entered into the Association's minutes, about all correspondence, and like matters which he or she received in the time between meetings and which pertained to the Association's business.

§9. In his or her absence, his or her duties will be delegated to a member of the Board of Directors in the preference given in Chapter III of the Constitution.

CHAPTER IV

DUTIES OF THE TREASURER

§1. To keep and hold the Association's money safe at one of the secured banks locally; be answerable for the money entrusted to him or her; and to keep and save all receipts, documents, and deeds to all assets.

§2. Receive and disburse monies on behalf of the Association and to keep a clear account of the income and expenses of the Association's money and to daily enter into the books every change or amounts paid.

§3. Prepare a financial report to the Association at every regular meeting about the status of the association's assets.

§4. The Treasurer shall serve without bond.

§5. He or she will inform in writing and remind all the members of the Association that are late in dues or any other debts and to make them current according to the constitution and the By-Laws.

§6. He or she will collect from all the members of the Association their dues and fines, which are due and receive all gifts and donations or any valuable gift by anyone to the Association and provide a receipt for such funds.

§7. He or she will report to the Association if any of the members are late with his or her dues or any other obligation.

§8. The Treasurer shall make available the books, records, and receipts of the Association for viewing and inspection by the Auditor and its committees.

§9. In his or her absence, his or her duties will be delegated to a member of the Board of Directors in the preference established in Chapter III of the Constitution.

CHAPTER V

DUTIES OF THE AUDITOR

§1. The Auditor will conduct an annual accounting of income, expenditures, and financial condition of the Association. The auditor shall prepare a formal report of the findings and present said report to the General Membership at the annual meeting.

§2. In his or her absence, his or her duties will be delegated to a member of the Board of Directors which is selected by the Board for that purpose.

CHAPTER VI

DUTIES OF THE SOCIAL CHAIRPERSON

§1. Coordinates and organizes social events and functions for the Association.

§2. Makes arrangements for meetings and social events including locations.

§3. Provides the Board with written reports on social activities including estimated versus actual revenues and expenditures.

CHAPTER VII

DUTIES OF THE SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRPERSON

§1. Scholarship Program: Coordinates and administers the Scholarship Program for the Association.

- a) Receives donations and keeps an accurate account of all funds received which are then given to the Treasurer for deposit into the Fund.
- b) Prepares a monthly activity report of donations to the Board.
- c) Prepares and mails “Thank You” cards to Donors and “In Memory Of” cards to the Family when appropriate.

§2. Scholarship Awards Program: Coordinates and administers the Program by

- a) notifying membership about the Program and how and when to apply;
- b) establishing student eligibility guidelines;
- c) screening applicants to confirm that they meet eligibility guidelines prior to applying;
- d) maintaining a current application form;
- e) appointing a Selection Committee of three Association members to evaluate and recommend scholarship recipients to the Board for final approval;
- f) maintaining a record of student scholarship award recipients and names of scholarship donors who meet special recognition criteria set by the Board.
- g) working with the Board to publicize and encourage members to contribute and sustain the fund.

CHAPTER VIII

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

§1. The financial committee consists of the President, Treasurer, and Auditor, under the supervision of the Board of Directors.

CHAPTER IX

ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OTHER OFFICERS

§1. As defined in chapters three and four of the constitution, selection of the members of the Board of Directors and other officers will be held at the annual meeting called each spring.

§2. Every member of the Association must be notified about the annual meeting and election by mail in the form of a postcard or newsletter at least 15 days before the date selected for the election. The postcard or newsletter will be sent to his or her last address known to the Secretary and included in the notice will be the date, time, and place where the Association's annual meeting and election will be held.

§3. At any time before the annual meeting, the incumbent President shall appoint a nominating committee of three (3) persons to supervise the nominations. The President shall preside over the election meeting with the assistance of the nominating committee. At the time of the election meeting, any member of the Association in good standing may nominate another member for office with a second from any other member in good standing. At such time, the nominating committee shall announce all candidates nominated by the general membership. Election shall be by ballot. The nominee with the majority of votes shall be elected to the designated office. The nominating committee shall canvass the ballots cast, then immediately announce the results to the general membership.

§4. If two or more members for the same office receive the same number of votes, the membership cell continued to cast ballots until the tie is broken and a candidate is elected to office.

§5. Every member of the Association is eligible for a position as member of the Board of Directors or any other office.

§6. Elected members will take their office immediately upon the first regular meeting of the Association which occurs after the election and the previous officers and Board members on the same day step down and give the newly elected officers all the associations records, documents, treasury, etc.

§7. All the Association's officers will perform their duties without pay.

CHAPTER X

FINES AND PENALTIES

§1. The Association and the Board of Directors have a right to order penalties for the violation of the orders and rules established in these chapters of the Association's By-Laws and in cases that are not covered in previously mentioned sections of the same Chapters.

CHAPTER XI

ORDER OF BUSINESS

§1. The President will call the meeting to order with these words: “Attention and come to order, the meeting is open!”

§2. In case there is among the members at the meeting any ministers of any faith, he or she will say the prayer, otherwise any member of the Association will say or read the following while other members stand and solemnly listen: *“Almighty and merciful God, in whose hands are all mankind and their destinies without whose help there is no success in any human endeavor, enlightened today, we humbly pray with our souls and minds that you give us your almighty blessing that we harmoniously and wisely decide the things which we discussed here today to the benefit of our Association and to your highest glory and almighty mercy. Amen!”*

§3. The salute to the American flag shall be led by the Secretary.

§4. Approval of minutes.

§5. Treasurer’s report.

§6. Committee reports.

§7. New business.

§8. Old business.

§9. Other business.

§10. Adjournment.

CHAPTER XII
AMENDMENTS AND CHANGES TO THE BY-LAWS

§1. Amendments and changes of these By-Laws which consists of twelve (12) chapters will be entered in the Association's protocol from time-to-time and in time entered in the book of the Constitution and the By-Laws of the All Slavonic-American Association of the San Joaquin Valley. Those amendments and changes will be made under the conditions and rules as provided in the Constitution of the Association.

OATH

I, _____, DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR OR AFFIRM, WITHOUT RESERVATION, THAT I WILL SUPPORT AND ABIDE BY THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE ALL SLAVONIC-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY. I DECLARE THAT I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THIS ASSOCIATION. THAT I WILL PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF THIS ASSOCIATION AND ITS MEMBERS AND THAT I WILL RESPECT AND ASSIST MY FELLOW MEMBERS AS I HOPE THEY WILL RESPECT AND ASSIST ME. I, THEREFORE, FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY ACCEPT MEMBERSHIP IN THIS ASSOCIATION AND THAT I WILL FAITHFULLY DISCHARGE MY DUTIES THEREUNDER. SO HELP ME GOD.

CEMETERY RECITATION

WE ARE ASSEMBLED HERE TODAY IN MEMORY OF OUR DEAR MEMBER _____ . OUR LIFE ON EARTH IS NOT EVERLASTING, HOWEVER, HE/ SHE WILL BE FOREVER REMEMBERED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ALL SLAVONIC-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

AS A MEMBER, HE/SHE ENDEAVORED TO FOSTER THE GOALS OF OUR ASSOCIATION. HE/SHE CHERISHED OUR SLAVIC CULTURE AND ENCOURAGED THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN THROUGH OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

THE MEMBERS GATHERED HERE TODAY ALL REMEMBER HIS/HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION, THAT HE/SHE CARED FOR OUR ASSOCIATION. AND SO WE ARE GATHERED HERE TO SHOW OUR LOVE FOR HIM/ HER.

AT THIS TIME, AS YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS, WE EXPRESS OUR LOVE AND DEVOTION TO YOU. YOUR MEMORY WILL ENDURE FOREVER WITH US. TO YOUR LOVED ONES --- YOUR FAMILY, RELATIVES, AND FRIENDS, FAR AND NEAR, WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY.

MAY YOU REST IN PEACE. DO VIDJENJE (UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN.)



OATH FOR INSTALLATION OF ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

I, (*state your given and surname*) DO HEREBY SOLEMNLY PROMISE THAT I WILL FAITHFULLY AND CONSCIENTIOUSLY PERFORM THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE ENTRUSTED TO ME BY THE ALL SLAVONIC-AMERICAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, SO HELP ME GOD.

Sveslavensko Američko Dobrotvorno

Društvo,



FRESNO, KALIFORNIJA

