

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA GERMANIC GENEALOGY SOCIETY

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Southwest Florida Germanic Genealogy Society, Inc. referred to as “the Society.”

ARTICLE II – MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

The Society shall provide fellowship, education and helpful support in doing research about the history and genealogy in regions where the German language and Germanic culture was, or is, prevalent.

The objectives of the Society shall be as follows.

1. To support and educate persons interested in learning and applying accepted practices for Germanic genealogical research.
2. To periodically disseminate information to the membership concerning events pertinent to German genealogical research, both current and historical.

ARTICLE III – NOT-FOR-PROFIT STATUS

The Society shall be operated as a non-profit organization. No part of the net earnings of the Society shall inure to the benefit of any private individual(s).

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1: Eligibility: Any person of good character interested in the purposes of the Society is eligible for membership upon payment of the dues.

Section 2: Dues: The dues of the Society shall be determined by the Board of Directors. Dues shall cover the membership for the coming fiscal year and shall be payable no later than the January meeting. There shall be no reduction in dues for membership for a partial year.

Section 3: Voting Rights: Each member in good standing is entitled to one vote on all matters brought before the membership.

Section 4: Termination of Membership: A member in the Society may be terminated by any one of the following provisions: Resignation, non-payment of dues, Board of Directors action (for cause) or death of member.

Section 5: Reinstatement of Membership: Membership may be reinstated by payment of dues unless membership was terminated for cause. In that case, reinstatement requires an action of the Board.

Section 6: The Fiscal Year: The fiscal year shall be the calendar year, January 1 through December 31.

Section 7: Rights and Equities: No member of the Society shall have any vested right, interest or privilege of, in or to the assets, functions or affairs of the Society. No member shall be held individually liable for the debts or obligations of the society. No person whose membership shall terminate shall have any right or interest in the property of the Society or any privilege in claim against the Society pertaining thereto.

Section 8: Limitations of Membership: There is no limitation to the number of members in the Society.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

Section 1: The Society shall meet in the months of January, March, May, September and November. A quorum at a regular membership meeting shall be a simple majority plus one of those members in attendance.

Section 2: Special meetings may be called by the President or by the Executive Board or upon the written request of ten (10) members of the Society. Due notice of the Special Meeting must be given, in writing, to the membership ten (10) days prior to the Special Meeting.

Section 3: A Board of Directors meeting shall be held prior to the regular membership meeting as necessary. It may be held by e-mail or as a meeting of the persons involved.

ARTICLE VI – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1: Nominations: A nominating committee of three (3) persons shall be appointed by the President at the September General Membership meeting. They shall be directed to find a slate of officers as follows: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and one Director at Large. The Committee shall report to the membership at the November meeting.

Section 2: Elections: Elections shall be held at the regular meeting in November. A majority vote cast by the members present shall be necessary for election.

Section 3: Term of Office: The officers shall serve a one (1) year term. Directors at Large shall be elected to a two (2) year term. One director shall be elected each year. Officers and Directors may be re-elected to their positions through the nomination and voting process.

Section 4: Installation of Officers: Installation of officers shall be at the January membership meeting.

ARTICLE VII - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: The Board of Directors shall be composed of the elected Officers, Immediate Past President and two (2) Directors at Large.

Section 2: The Board of Directors shall have the following authority.

- a. To conduct the business of the Society subject to the consent of the membership.
- b. To manage and control the operation of the Society between regular membership meetings.
- c. To establish the Society's bank account.
- d. To approve transfer of funds.
- e. To establish the maximum expenditure of funds without prior Board approval.
- f. To have the authority to change meeting dates if necessary.

Section 3: A quorum at the Board of Directors meeting shall be a simple majority.

Section 4: Vacancies on the Board of Directors may be filled by appointment of the President with confirmation of the Board.

ARTICLE VIII – SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Section 1: The President shall appoint Special Committees such as Bylaws, Budget, Audit, or other, and a Chairperson as needed. Each chairperson shall select a suitable number of members for their committee.

Section 2: The President may establish Ad Hoc Committees to accomplish a single objective as needed. Upon achievement of the objective, the committee shall make a written report to the President and shall disband.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS / REVISIONS OF THE BYLAWS

Section 1: Amendment: An amendment shall be a change in one (1) or more articles or sections of the bylaws. It may be proposed by a member in good standing at any regular meeting and shall be voted upon by the membership at the next regular meeting following presentation. An amendment shall be approved by majority vote of the membership present.

Section 2: Revision: A revision of the bylaws is a major re-writing of the bylaws. The Board of Directors shall vote upon the revision based upon the recommendation of the Bylaws Committee. If approved, the revision shall be presented to the general membership at two (2) regular meetings. The presentation may be published for membership review. A vote of the membership shall be taken at the next regular meeting following the presentations. A revision shall be approved by a majority vote of the membership present.

Section 3: If the Board of Directors rejects a proposed revision, the revision shall be returned to the Bylaws Committee for further consideration. If resolution between the Board of Directors and the Bylaws Committee cannot be accomplished, the Bylaws Committee shall retain the right to present the revision directly to the membership for a vote.

ARTICLE X – PARTIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The Society shall be governed by its Bylaws and its Board of Directors (hereafter called “the Board.” Parliamentary authority shall be the latest revision of Robert’s Rules of Order.

ARTICLE XI – DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY

Section 1: Determination

- a. A proposal to dissolve the Society must be made by a resolution of the Board or by a valid petition by members of the Society. Each valid petition shall bear the signature of at least fifteen (15) members in good standing and shall be submitted to the Recording Secretary.
- b. The decision to dissolve the society as an organization must receive an affirmative vote of at least fifty-one (51%) of the members in good standing.
- c. A written notice shall be sent to all members of record of the Society stating the reason for, and date of, dissolution of the Society.

Section 2: Assets Distribution: When all debts have been satisfied, the remaining assets and all other property of the Society shall be donated or applied to a society, library or other incorporated, 501 (c) 3 organization, incorporated or otherwise, which has similar purposes and objectives.

Approved: January 5, 2008
Revised: September 5, 2009