



**Constitution  
of the  
German-American Men's Club  
of  
Middle Franconia**

# **German-American Men's Club of Middle Franconia Constitution and By-Laws**

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## **Article I Name**

The name of the Club shall be the "German-American Men's Club of Middle Franconia".

## **Article II Location**

The location of the Club shall be in Fürth, Germany.

## **Article III Purposes**

The purposes of the Club shall be:

1. To bring together Germans, Americans and English speaking people of other nations for educational, recreational, and social activities sponsored by the Club.
2. To encourage and support community undertakings, excluding political activities.
3. To foster appreciation of the traditions, customs, historical background, cultural and other aspects of the American and European way of life, with a view towards achieving mutual understanding and confidence, and a sincere desire for friendship.

## **Article IV Membership**

1. The Club's membership shall be comprised of active, honorary and corresponding members. No discrimination shall be made for reasons of race, class, creed or political affiliation as long as it has a democratic base. However, persons engaged in activities considered detrimental to the purposes of the Club shall be excluded from membership.
2. Membership may be acquired only by submitting a written application to the Board of Governors carrying the signature of one active member as sponsor. Acceptance shall require a two thirds vote of the members of the Board of Governors.
3. Honorary members shall be nominated by the Board of Governors and confirmed by a majority vote of members present at any regular meeting.
4. Members who have moved from the Middle Franconian area may continue as corresponding members upon request and after approval of the Board of Governors.
5. Honorary and corresponding members shall not pay dues.
6. Membership may be terminated voluntarily, or under such administrative procedures as the Board of Governors may determine.
  - a) Resignations must be transmitted in writing to the Secretary.
  - b) Reasons for the expulsion of a member may be non-payment of dues, or activities detrimental to the purposes of the Club.
  - c) If any member desires to recommend expulsion of a member for activities considered detrimental to the purposes or the best interests and repute of the Club, the reasons shall be stated in writing to the Board of Governors, which shall review the allegations and give the member involved an opportunity to be heard. A member may appeal this decision at the next scheduled Board meeting.

## **Article V Meetings**

1. The Club shall normally conduct meetings for its members.
2. A general membership meeting for the conducting of elections and/or other Club business shall be held annually. The Board of Governors shall convene general membership meetings by sending announcements

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to the members at least one month prior to the meeting. Announcements shall include the agenda for the meeting.

3. Special general membership meetings may be convened if and when deemed necessary by the Board of Governors, or when one fourth of the membership submits a written request to the Board of Governors, giving the reason for their request.

### **Article VI Board of Governors**

1. The Board of Governors shall conduct the business and control the activities of the Club.
2. The Board of Governors shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and max. 5 additional members, each having 1 vote.
3. The officers and other members of the Board of Governors shall be elected for a term of two years.
4. Honorary and corresponding members shall not be eligible for office or to serve as members of the Board of Governors.
5. Vacancies on the Board of Governors shall be filled by direct appointment by the Board of Governors. Applications from the General Membership to fill a vacancy on the Board must be mailed to the Secretary within 1 month of the date of publication of the vacancy to the membership. Persons so appointed shall serve until the next general membership meeting where open elections must be held.

### **Article VII Committees and Audits**

1. The President may appoint special committees as he may deem desirable.
2. An Auditor shall be appointed prior to the general membership meeting, to audit and verify the Club's financial records. The auditor's report shall be submitted at the annual general membership meeting.

### **Article VIII Parliamentary Authority**

All meetings of the Club, the Board of Governors, and other committees shall be conducted in accordance with the pertinent provisions of the German Civil Code (BGB) on "Vereine", Sections 21-79.

### **Article IX Amendments**

1. This constitution may be amended by an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the membership present at a general membership meeting. Notice in writing that a vote shall be taken on a proposed amendment (or amendments) must be furnished to each member at least one month in advance.
2. The by-laws may be amended by the Board of Governors, subject to confirmation by a majority vote of the members at the next general membership meeting.
3. In the event of dissolution of the Club, its assets shall be turned over to a community welfare organization to be selected, on the recommendation of the Board of Governors, by a majority vote of the membership present at a final meeting.

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## **By-laws of the**

## **German-American Men's Club of Middle Franconia**

### **Section I General**

#### **Club Meetings**

Meetings of the German-American Men's Club of Middle Franconia shall be held at such places as the Board of Governors may elect.

#### **Club Activities**

The Club shall

1. Normally sponsor meetings for the purpose of assembling the membership to participate in a program that shall provide interest and enjoyment for all.
2. Conduct one general membership meeting a year. Normally, this meeting shall be held in the first quarter of the calendar year.
3. Sponsor appropriate social gatherings. Participate in or sponsor such community, sports or other activities as the membership may determine.

#### **Source of Income**

The revenue of the Club shall be derived from initiation fees, monthly dues, grants, and other such income-producing activities as may be approved by the Board of Governors.

#### **Initiation Fees and Dues**

The annual dues are payable in full by 28 February each year. The Treasurer shall notify the Secretary, in March, of the names of the delinquent Members who shall not be invited to the next activity.

#### **Disbursements**

The funds of the Club may be expended for entertainment, speakers, social functions, equipment or services which benefit the membership as a whole, or for activities on behalf of German-American friendship and understanding.

Disbursements made for the benefit of an individual member or for the benefit of a small group of members, must have the approval of the Board of Governors.

### **Section II The Board Of Governors**

#### **Functions**

1. To direct and supervise the business of the Club.
2. To plan, arrange, and conduct programs for all activities of the Club.
3. To determine the date, place and time of all activities of the Club.
4. To review and approve monthly financial statements by the Treasurer, subject to future audit.
5. To receive and act on applications for membership and recommendations for expulsion of members.
6. To amend the by-laws of the Club when deemed necessary.

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### Meetings and Quorum

1. The Board of Governors shall meet at the minimum of once every 3 months.
2. A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of five members of the Board of Governors. Duly elected officers of the Club shall be installed at the first meeting of the Board of Governors following their election.

### Nominations to the Board of Governors

1. To be nominated to the Board, a candidate must be a regular member in good standing.
2. The Board must announce elections one month preceding the actual elections, and request nominations for openings to the Board.
3. The election ballot shall clearly state which members have petitioned the Board, and which members have been appointed or recommended by the Board.
4. If there are no applications from the General Membership to fill vacancies, then the Board shall ask the Membership for a vote of confidence at the General Membership meeting to approve its recommendations.
5. If ballots are required, they shall be available at the General Membership meeting where voting shall take place, the votes shall be counted and the results announced during the meeting. Candidates must not be present to be elected..

### The Members of the Board of Governors

1. The **President** shall preside at all regular meetings; in case of a tie vote, his vote shall be decisive.
2. The **Vice President** shall preside at regular meetings, when the President is prevented from performing his assigned duty.
3. The **Treasurer** shall be responsible to the membership, through the Board of Governors, for the receipt, disbursement and accounting for all Club funds.
  - a) All funds, except as listed in paragraph (b) below, should be deposited on the day of receipt in a bank account established by and for the Club.
  - b) A cash fund may be retained on hand by the Treasurer. The establishment, maintenance and amount of this fund shall be determined by the Board of Governors and shall be specified in writing. One copy of the cash fund authorization shall be retained by the Treasurer; the other copy shall be retained in the permanent files of the Club Secretary. The amount of the cash fund shall not exceed the amount of money normally required to transact one month's business.
  - c) All transactions involving the expenditure of club funds shall be signed by the Treasurer on delegated authority. All transactions shall be documented, the transferring documents attached thereto, and all vouchers shall become part of the Treasurer's permanent records.
  - d) The Treasurer shall be responsible for submitting to the Board of Governors a monthly report on receipt, disbursements, and balances.
  - e) Approval by the Board of Governors shall not be required for routine minor expenditures of Club funds for such items as stationary, stamps, and dinners (regular dinner meetings). All other expenditures not considered to be normal shall require prior approval of the Board of Governors.
  - f) The Treasurer shall submit all records and funds for audit as the Board of Governors my direct.
  - g) Notices of delinquent dues shall be prepared and transmitted by the Treasurer .

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4. The **Secretary** shall perform all official Club correspondence except that which pertains to dues, and in addition he:
  - a) shall maintain a current membership list
  - b) shall notify the members of all meetings and gatherings, and shall inform the General membership of any vacancies occurring within the Board, as they occur, with the announcement of ne next club activity, or within six weeks of the vacancy.

**Members** may invite guests to Club activities except for business meetings, upon giving notice to the Secretary at least 48 hours in advance of the meetings. Guests shall be in accordance with accepted good taste. Members shall be held liable for the conduct and actions of their guests. The Club shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred by the entertainment of guests. Members inviting guests shall be responsible for the payment of such expenses.

Fürth, 20 January 2016

The Board of Governors of the "German-American Men's Club"

- I. Accepted at the Founders Meeting on Monday, 19 January 1970 at Nürnberg.
- II. Amended at the General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, 20 February 1973 at Nürnberg.
- III. Amended at the General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, 31 January 1989 at Nürnberg.
- IV. Approved by the Board and presented for ratification at the General Membership Meeting 15 October 1996.  
The Conistitutional Committee\_(1996):  
Herr Janos Aranyi, Mr. Paul Curzi, Mr. Roger Dennison, Herr Teoman Eris, Herr Ralph Hilpert, Mr. Abby Simon
- V. Amended at the General Membership Meeting on Monday, 25 January 2010 at Fürth.
- VI. New layout without any changes in the content on Friday, 23 March 2012 at Fürth by Bernd Jesussek.
- VII. Amended at the General Membership Meeting on Monday, 19 January 2016 at Fürth.  
Deletion of minimum numbers of events per year. Deletion of an initiation fee. Advanced notice of elections only one month in advance.