

By-Laws

Germania Maennerchor

DBA: German Club of Binghamton

Incorporated February 18, 1897

Organized January 22, 1923

Objective

- A. Propagation of Song
- B. To maintain proper standards of manner and customs
- C. To promote sociability and friendship among the members

1. General

- A. A Persons who have reached the age of 18 years and over, and who are reputed to be of good moral character and honest, are eligible for membership in the German Club of Binghamton.
- B. Candidates for membership shall be proposed, in writing, by one member, the said proposal to be submitted to the Recording Secretary. Candidates shall be proposed not less than one month prior to admission to membership. Candidates for general membership shall be encouraged to render services as members of the singing society.
- C. Applications for membership are acted upon by means of ballot at a general membership meeting. A simple majority is required for membership.
- D. Lawfully initiated candidates are accorded the privileges of membership and are at once subject to the laws of the Club E. General Membership should possess such vocal ability as may be required by the director of the singing society.

F. Singing ability shall not be a requirement as long as said member is willing to perform duties as may be required or needed by the Club to maintain the facility, and to volunteer their services for bartending, kitchen help, grounds keeping, etc. required to put on social or fund raising functions or parties.

G. The annual dues shall be established by the membership at a regular membership meeting. One year's dues are required at the time of a new member's initiation, regardless of what month it is.

2. Honorary

A. Those general members who have, in some special manner, distinguished themselves for the benefit of the Club maybe be eligible to be awarded an honorary membership by the Board of Directors.

B. A certificate shall be awarded to duly selected members showing them to be honorary members.

C. The annual dues shall be waived for honorary members.

3. Life members

A. Members in good standing for at least ten (10) years may be eligible for life membership at the retiring age of 65 years with the consent of the General Membership.

B. The annual dues shall be waived for life members.

4. Termination of membership

A. Any member shall submit his/her resignation of membership in the German Club, in writing, to the recording Secretary. In such case the

member shall give up all of their privileges of said membership.
Membership is defined by general, honorary of life members.

B. Members may be expelled from the German Club for the following infractions:

1. If guilty of conduct or acts detrimental to the honorable career or honorable spirit of the Club.
2. If in arrears with dues covering a period of one (1) year and failing to remit same within four (4) weeks after being duly notified by the financial Secretary.
3. For failure to transfer money, the property of the Club, or failure to surrender any other effects of the Club, after being notified to do so.
4. For display of any paraphernalia, propaganda, talk, salutes or other gestures pertaining to NAZI-ism or any related organizations.

5. Board of Directors

A. The Board of Directors shall serve the general membership, and shall act at their direction. They shall have charge of the property of the Club and insist upon its correct management, inspect and direct payment of bills, shall have the supervision of the rooms of the Club.

B. The Board of Directors shall hold regular monthly meetings and submit the records of same for the approval at the regular membership meeting of the Club.

C. They shall make every effort to promote the interests of the German Club and act in an advisory capacity.

D. The Board of Directors of the German Club of Binghamton shall be:
Elected: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Assistant Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Financial Secretary.

Appointed: Bar Director, Kitchen Director, Property Director, Entertainment Director

E. Election of Officers:

1. Officers are elected for one (1) year
2. All members in good standing and possessing the necessary qualifications to hold office for which they are nominated may be elected.
3. All officers of the Board of Directors are elected except the Bar Director, Entertainment Director, and the Property Director who are appointed by the President.
4. Nominations of officers shall take place during the membership meeting in the month of October. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the election meeting provided that there is a second to said nomination.
5. The Election of officers shall take place during the membership meeting in the month of November. Election shall be by a simple majority of those members present.
6. Officers will be sworn in by the Recording Secretary during the annual banquet and their term will start January 1st following the election.
7. Vacancies in offices during the term will be filled by appointment of the President with the agreement of the Board of Directors.

F. Duties of the members of the Board of Directors

President – The president shall preside over all membership and Board of Director meetings and shall only have the privilege of voting in case of a tie. It is the duty of the President to enforce the proper adherence of the rules of the German Club, to propose the chairperson of all committees and will be an ex-officio member of all committees.

Vice President – The Vice President shall assume all responsibilities of the president in his/her absence and shall assist the President in all possible manners. He or she will be responsible for manpower at all events. He/She will establish committees for female manpower and male manpower.

Recording Secretary – The Recording Secretary shall keep a correct record of the proceedings at all regular and Board of Directors meetings, insure that all members are notified of General Membership meetings, perform all clerical duties as directed by the President or Board of directors, assume charge of all correspondence to the Club and to assist the appointive committees when requested to do so.

Assistant Recording Secretary – The Assistant Recording Secretary shall assist the Recording secretary in his/her duties and act in their stead in their absence.

Treasurer – The Treasurer shall receive all moneys of the German Club from the Financial Secretary and pay all bills having the approval of the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall deposit said money at banks designated by the Club and supply proper and ample security for the faithful performance of his/her duties. The Treasurer shall give a report at all general and Board of Directors meetings.

Assistant Treasurer – The assistant Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer in his/her duties and act as their stead in their absence.

Financial Secretary – The Financial Secretary shall maintain the membership Roster, He/She shall receive all monies other than bar income. These monies shall be deposited in account 27, 27.1, or turned over to the Treasurer for deposit. The financial Secretary may at times control the income and expenses at large festivals where tickets are exchanges for cash. The Financial Secretary shall keep a correct account of money remitted by members and notify members who are in arrears with their dues for a period of one year or more.

Assistant Financial Secretary – The Assistant Financial Secretary Shall assist the Financial Secretary in his/her duties and act in their stead in their absence.

Bar Director – The Bar Director shall be responsible for all activities of the bar at the German Club grounds. This shall include all regular Club activities, weddings, parties, festivals, etc. He shall maintain an inventory of all supplies and order said supplies as he deems necessary. He shall maintain proper financial records and shall give a financial report at all monthly membership meetings.

Kitchen Director – The Kitchen Director shall be responsible for all activities which involves the kitchen. This shall include all regular Club activities, weddings, parties, festivals, etc that directly involve the kitchen. He shall maintain an inventory of all supplies(including food items) and order said supplies as he deems necessary. He shall maintain proper financial records and shall give a financial report at all monthly membership meetings.

Property Director – The Property Director shall be responsible for the maintenance and repair of the German Club grounds and Clubhouse. He shall submit a verbal report to the members at all monthly membership meetings.

Entertainment Director – The Entertainment Director shall be responsible for providing entertainment at all Club functions as requested and needed by the membership. He shall provide a verbal report to them members at all monthly membership meetings.

6. There shall be the following standing committees of the German Club as appointed by the President, with the approval of the Board of Directors.

A. Singing Society

1. The Director of the Singing Society shall be selected by the members of the Singing Society and shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

2. Financial Consideration of the Director shall be recommended by the members of the same and shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

3. The Singing Society may keep a separate treasury for the purpose of attending competitions associated with the NY State Saengerbund. They may also raise funds to place in a separate account for this

purpose. Should it become necessary for the General Fund to require funds for the purpose of maintaining the Club, the Board of Directors may request from the singing society such funds to be transferred. The Singing Society shall appoint a Treasurer to safeguard and invest funds as they seem prudent and such account shall be audited by the Board of Directors. Although these funds are in control of the Singing Society, they are in fact, part of the German Club of Binghamton. The Singing Society shall provide a financial report at the monthly membership meeting.

4. It shall be the duty of the Director to conduct all rehearsals, concerts, and entertainments and especially to render prompt and conscientious service for the substance and furtherance of the societies reputation, from a musical standpoint.

5. The music committee, consisting of 4 active members, and shall cooperate with the Director and select songs for rehearsals, arrange programs for future programs. The music committee shall maintain the proper spirit among its members and submit a report pertaining to the attendance at rehearsals every quarter. Members who attend less than 60% of all rehearsals may be asked to resign from the Singing Society.

6. The singing rehearsals are held every Friday evening at 8:00pm. Other evenings may be selected, provided the interests of the Society warrant the same. All members shall be notified of any alterations in this respect.

B. Finance Committee – The Finance Committee shall inspect and audit the books of the officers as their correctness and render a written report regarding the condition of the same, quarterly and annually.

C. Archivist Committee – The Archivists shall take possession of notes and/or other musical articles and report any incidental damage to the Society.

D. Press Committee – It shall be the duty of the Press Committee to keep in contact with the daily press and to vigorously represent the German Club therein in order to benefit the Club and Further its interests.

E. Color Bearers – The Color Bearers shall carry the flags during all parades, afford them protection against damage, and deposit same for safe keeping in quarters designated by the Club.

7. Meetings

A. Annual – The Annual meeting shall be held on the Second Tuesday of the first meeting following January 1st. The annual report of the officers and committees shall be submitted, the salaries of employees(including the music director) shall be established and the security to be rendered by the Treasurer at this meeting.

B. General – The regular monthly General Membership Meetings will be held on the Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm.

C. Board of Directors – The monthly Board of Directors meetings will be held on the Thursday before General Membership Meeting at 7:30pm.

D. Special or Emergency Meetings – Any Special or Emergency Meeting may be called by any member and notice of such must be given to all members 10 days prior to such meeting. A Special Board of Directors Meeting may be called by any member of the Board of Directors and notice of such meetings must be given to all members of the Board.

E. Agenda – The following agenda(orders of the day) shall apply to all regular membership meetings or Board Director Meetings:

Call to Order

Nomination of Officers (October Meeting Only)

Election of Officers (November Meeting Only)

Proposal of Candidates (Membership Meetings Only)

Presentation of new members

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report

Correspondence

Reports of all Standing Committees

Reports of all Temporary or Special Committees

Old Business

New Business

Adjournment

The following will be the agenda for Special Meetings:

Call to Order

Presentation of Reason for Special Meeting

Adjournment

F. Rules of Order for all Meetings – Robert’s Rules of Order shall apply at all General Membership and Board of Director meetings.

8. Amendments

A. These by-laws may be amended by a two thirds (2/3) majority of those present at a General Membership or Special (Called for that purpose) Meeting.

B. Notice of proposed by-law amendments must be submitted in writing to the membership before they may be proposed at a meeting.

These by-laws are effective as of June 9, 1998 as approved by the members at a General Membership meeting.

Amendments

1. July 14, 1998 – Section 5 A. 7 – The annual dues shall be established by the membership at a regular membership meeting.

2. July 14, 1998 – The Official name of the organization will be Germania Maennerchor, DBA: German Club of Binghamton.

3. July 14, 1998 – Add new director – Assistant Financial Secretary

4. March 17, 2024 - Added expulsion clause pertaining to display of any paraphernalia, propaganda, talk, salutes or other gestures pertaining to NAZI-ism or related organizations