

**By-Laws of the  
German-American Club of the Carolinas**

**ARTICLE I (Name)**

The name of the association shall be 'German-American Club of the Carolinas' (herein and after referred to as GAC).

**ARTICLE II (Principal Office)**

The principal office of the GAC shall be in the City of Spartanburg, South Carolina (PO Box 1734 - Spartanburg, SC 29306).

**ARTICLE III (Purpose)**

The purpose of the GAC shall be the furtherance of German-American cultural activities and securing corporative action in advancing common purposes of the members of the association.

The GAC is organized and operated exclusively for the above stated purposes, and for other non-profit purposes, and no part of any net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any private member. In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the GAC will be tendered only to another organization which is itself exempt from income tax as an organization described in Section 501c (3) of the Internal revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any prior or future federal statute, or to the federal, state or local government for exclusively public purposes.

**ARTICLE IV (Powers)**

In furtherance of the objectives described above, but not in limitation thereof, the GAC shall have power to engage in various fund-raising activities, to conduct promotional activities, including advertising and publicity, in or by any suitable manner or media, and to hold such property as is necessary to accomplish its purposes.

#### ARTICLE V (Membership)

- a) **Active Membership:** Anyone is eligible to become an active member of the GAC, with full voting and other privileges, provided:
1. The member's dues are paid in full, and
  2. All new members must be sponsored by a member who has been an active member for at least one year.
- b) **Voting:** Each active member shall be entitled to one vote in the affairs of the GAC. Proxy voting is permitted.

#### ARTICLE VI (Dues)

The annual dues (currently \$40 for a family and \$25 for a single membership) shall be determined by the Executive Committee. Dues may vary from year to year, but may not be increased by more than the increase of the annual price index.

Dues shall be the same for all active members. Enrolled students are entitled to reduced annual dues of \$10. All members of the GAC shall be informed (via email or regular mail) by the Treasurer before the end of November that dues are due by January 31<sup>st</sup> of the upcoming year. A late fee of 20% will be applied to all past due payments.

New members who join the GAC after July 1<sup>st</sup> have to pay 50% of the annual dues for their first year's membership. New members who join the GAC after October 1<sup>st</sup> have to pay 50% of their first annual dues, but such amount will be fully applied to the dues of the following year.

#### ARTICLE VII (Annual Meeting)

- a) **Annual Meetings:** There shall be an annual meeting of the GAC during the month of February, unless otherwise ordered by the Executive Committee, for electing Officers & Board Members, receiving reports, and transacting other business. Business shall be open to all active members. Notice of business meetings, issued by the Secretary, shall be mailed to the last recorded email or street address of each member at least 14 days before the time appointed for the meeting.
- b) **Quorum:** A majority of the active members of this GAC, when present at any meeting, shall constitute a quorum, and in case there is less than this number, the presiding officer may adjourn and the next meeting called afterwards shall be able to conduct business provided there are at least 20% of the active members present.

## ARTICLE VIII (Officers and Board of Directors)

- a) **Officers:** The elective officers of the GAC shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and a Member-at-Large. The term shall be for two years.
- b) **Board of Directors:** The Board of Directors shall consist of:
1. Four active members
  2. Each serving a term of two years

Officers and the Board of Directors shall be elected at the annual membership meeting of the GAC. An officer shall not be a member of the Board of Directors at the same time and vice versa.

## ARTICLE IX (Duties of Officers)

**Section 1: President** - The President shall preside at all meetings of the Officers and Directors, with right to vote. He/she shall be an ex-officio member of all committees of the GAC. She/he shall, at the annual meeting of the GAC, and such other times as he/she deems proper, communicate to the Executive Committee such matters and make such suggestions as may, in her/his opinion, tend to promote and increase the usefulness of the GAC. He/she shall have power to appoint members of the Board of Directors to audit the books of the GAC once a year. She/he shall perform such other duties that are usually incident to the office of the President.

**Section 2: Vice-President** - In case of the death, resignation or absence of the President, or of his/her inability from any to act, the Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President.

**Section 3: Secretary** - It shall be the duty of the Secretary to give notice of all meetings of the club, the committees and the Board of Directors, and to keep record of their action.

**Section 4: Treasurer** - The Treasurer shall keep an account of the moneys received and expended for the use of the GAC and shall make disbursements only upon approval in writing/email by the President of the GAC if the amount exceeds \$25. He/she shall deposit all sums received in a bank or banks approved by the Board, and shall make a report at the annual meeting of the membership or when called upon by the President. Funds may be withdrawn only upon the signature of the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall give to GAC such security for the faithful discharge of her/his duties as the board may direct.

**Section 5: Member-at-Large** - The Member-at-Large shall attend all board meetings. He/she is the deciding vote in case of an impasse, when the Executive Committee cannot come to an agreement. She/he is a liaison and spokesperson between the Membership and the Board of Directors. He/she gets duties assigned by the President and reports on their status and progress.

**Section 6: General Provision** - Officers and Board Members may jointly appoint an acting replacement - until the general election at the next Annual Meeting - if an Officer or Member of the Board of Directors resigns from her/his position prior to the end of the two-year term.

**Article X (Past President)**

The immediate Past President of the GAC shall be an honorary member of the Board of Directors for one year after the term as President has ended.

**Article XI (Publication of these By-Laws)**

These By-Laws shall be published on the GAC's website. Copies of it shall be available at the Annual Membership Meetings.

**Article XII (Amendments to these Articles)**


These articles may only be amended or replaced, in whole or in part, by a majority vote of the Executive Committee at the Annual Business Meeting.

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These By-Laws and its amendment were presented and approved at the Annual Meeting on February 7, 2020. They replace the original By-Laws and the changes to it from November 18, 1994.

Spartanburg - February 7, 2020

  
Karsten Ingwersen - President

  
Beate Pirchmoser - Vice President

  
Oliver Kemme-Smith - Treasurer

  
Ingo Sachtler - Board of Directors

## **Amendment A**

### **Agreement with the Spartanburg County Foundation**

In July 1997, the GAC and the Spartanburg County Foundation entered into an agreement under which the Foundation administers the GAC funds dedicated to award students who demonstrated exceptional interest in German culture and/or German language.

- a) It shall be understood that the GAC by-laws and the agreement of the GAC with the Foundation shall not contradict each other. In such case, the GAC by-laws supersede the agreement with the Foundation. The GAC Awards Committee shall pro-actively discuss and agree with the Foundation's representatives the necessary changes. Any arbitration shall follow the provisions made in Section 9 and 10 of the GAC/Foundation agreement.
- b) The Awards Committee (as stated in Section 5 of the GAC/Foundation agreement) shall consist of the GAC's Vice-President, the Secretary and the Member-at-Large.

EoT

Recap of meeting regarding Scholarship Fund at the Foundation

January 3, 2020

Present: Oliver Kemme-Smith, Ingo Sachtler, Beate Pirchmoser

Scholarship Committee: Vice-President, Secretary, Member-at-Large (Beate, Susan, Tasso)

These names must be submitted to the Foundation

Amendments:

1. Front page – Item #2 – according to the first WHEREAS on page 1 of the Agreement, the scholarship fund is not limited to awarding money to students, but also includes cultural awareness.  
Suggestion: The possibility of awarding an amount of \$500 or \$1000 (still to be discussed) to a senior high school class in Spartanburg that is studying German, to provide the money to the teacher for books, classroom expenses related to the German study, to be discussed by the board and added to the Agreement, if approved.
2. Front page – Item #5 must be adhered to. We gave a scholarship to a student from Texas in 2019. Students should be a resident of South or North Carolina.
3. Any amendments to the Agreement must be made in writing to the Foundation and signed by GAC and the Foundation to become legally valid.

**Amendment B**

**Election Results March 11, 2023**

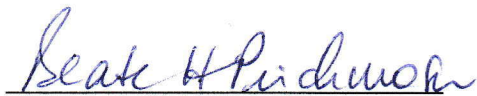
The following officers were elected to the GAC Board:

1. Treasurer – Ramona Platzek to replace Oliver Kemme-Smith
2. Secretary – Hannelore Kinder to replace Conny Linder

The current Board consists of:

President	Beate H. Pirchmoser
Vice-President	Gundolf Platzek
Treasurer	Ramona Platzek
Secretary	Hannelore Kinder
Member at Large	Tasso Ghionis
Board members	Dr. Alexander Lorenz
	Joanne Kopchik
	Frank Weihrauch
	André Amann

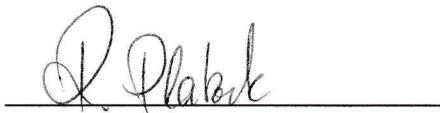
This Amendment was presented and approved at the April Board Meeting on April 10, 2023. It will be added to our By-Laws, dated February 7, 2020.



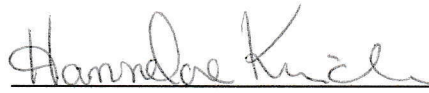
Beate H. Pirchmoser, President



Gundolf Platzek, Vice-President



Ramona Platzek, Treasurer



Hannelore Kinder, Secretary

## Amendment C

### Article III (Purpose)

According to a letter from the IRS, dated December 6, 2022, our organization is described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

### Article VI (Dues)

The annual dues (currently \$50 for a family and \$30 for a single membership) shall be determined by the Executive Committee. Dues may vary from year to year but may not be increased by more than the increase of the annual price index.

Dues shall be the same for all active members. Enrolled students are entitled to reduced annual dues of \$15.00. All members of the GAC shall be informed (via email or regular mail) by the Treasurer before the end of December that dues are due by January 31<sup>st</sup> of the upcoming year.

New members who join the GAC after October 1<sup>st</sup> shall pay 100% of their first annual dues, but such amount will be fully applied to the dues of the following year.

### Article XI (Publication of these By-Laws)

These By-Laws shall be available at the Annual Membership Meetings.

This Amendment was presented and approved at the June Board Meeting on June 12, 2023. It will be added to our By-Laws, dated June 12, 2023.



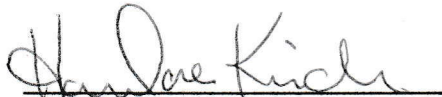
Beate H. Pirchmoser, President



Gundolf Platzek, Vice-President



Ramona Platzek, Treasurer



Hannelore Kinder, Secretary