

By-laws relating generally to the conduct
of the affairs of

SOCIETY FOR GERMAN GENEALOGY IN EASTERN EUROPE

(the "Corporation")

BE IT ENACTED as a by-law of the Corporation as follows:

1. Definition

In this by-law and all other by-laws of the Corporation, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Act" means the *Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act* S.C. 2009, c. 23 including the Regulations made pursuant to the Act, and any statute or regulations that may be substituted, as amended from time to time;

"articles" means the original or restated articles of incorporation or articles of amendment, amalgamation, continuance, reorganization, arrangement or revival of the Corporation;

"board" means the board of directors of the Corporation and "director" means a member of the board;

"by-law" means this by-law and any other by-law of the Corporation as amended and which are, from time to time, in force and effect;

"meeting of members" includes an annual meeting of members or a special meeting of members; "special meeting of members" includes a meeting of any class or classes of members and a special meeting of all members entitled to vote at an annual meeting of members;

"ordinary resolution" means a resolution passed by a majority of not less than 50% plus 1 of the votes cast on that resolution;

"proposal" means a proposal submitted by a member of the Corporation that meets the requirements of section 163 (Shareholder Proposals) of the Act;

"Regulations" means the regulations made under the Act, as amended, restated or in effect from time to time; and

"special resolution" means a resolution passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast on that resolution.

2. Interpretation

In the interpretation of this by-law, words in the singular include the plural and vice-versa, words in one gender include all genders, and "person" includes an individual, body corporate, partnership, trust and unincorporated organization.

Other than as specified above, words and expressions defined in the Act have the same meanings when used in these by-laws.

3. Execution of Documents

Deeds, transfers, assignments, contracts, obligations and other instruments in writing, with the exception of cheques, requiring execution by the Corporation, may be signed by the President together with any one of the Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer. Any signing officer may certify a copy of any instrument, resolution, by-law or other document of the Corporation to be a true copy thereof.

Any cheque on behalf of the Corporation shall be signed by the Treasurer alone. The Treasurer shall obtain approval of the President or the Vice President for all payments in excess of \$2,000 or for any other requested payment where the Treasurer believes there is insufficient information to justify payment. In the event that the position of Treasurer is vacant, either of the President or Vice President shall be authorized to sign cheques until a Treasurer has been named to the Board.

4. Financial Year

The financial year end of the Corporation shall be April 30 in each year.

5. Banking Arrangements

The banking business of the Corporation shall be transacted at such bank, trust company or other firm or corporation carrying on a banking business in Canada or elsewhere as the board of directors may designate, appoint or authorize from time to time by resolution. The banking business or any part of it shall be transacted by an officer or officers of the Corporation and/or other persons as the board of directors may by resolution from time to time designate, direct or authorize.

6. Borrowing Powers

If authorized by a by-law which is duly adopted by the directors and confirmed by ordinary resolution of the members, the directors of the corporation may from time to time:

- a. borrow money on the credit of the corporation;
- b. issue, reissue, sell, pledge or hypothecate debt obligations of the corporation; and
- c. mortgage, hypothecate, pledge or otherwise create a security interest in all or any property of the corporation, owned or subsequently acquired, to secure any debt obligation of the corporation.

Any such by-law may provide for the delegation of such powers by the directors to such officers or directors of the corporation to such extent and in such manner as may be set out in the by-law.

Nothing herein limits or restricts the borrowing of money by the corporation on bills of exchange or promissory notes made, drawn, accepted or endorsed by or on behalf of the corporation.

7. Annual Financial Statements

Annual financial statements and other documents referred to in subsection 172 (1) (Annual Financial Statements) will be published in the Journal prior to the next annual Members' meeting.

8. Membership Conditions

Subject to the articles, there shall be one class of members in the Corporation. Membership in the Corporation shall be available only to individuals interested in furthering the Corporation's purposes and who have applied for and been accepted into membership in the Corporation by resolution of the board or in such other manner as may be determined by the board. Each member shall be entitled to receive notice of, attend and vote at all meetings of the members of the Corporation.

Pursuant to subsection 197(1) (Fundamental Change) of the Act, a special resolution of the members is required to make any amendments to this section of the by-laws if those amendments affect membership rights and/or conditions described in paragraphs 197(1)(e), (h), (l) or (m).

9. Membership Transferability

A membership may only be transferred to the Corporation. Pursuant to Section 197(1) (Fundamental Change) of the Act, a special resolution of the members is required to make any amendment to add, change or delete this section of the by-laws.

10. Notice of Members' Meeting

Notice of the time and place of a meeting of members shall be given to each member entitled to vote at the meeting by the following means:

at least once in a publication of the corporation that is sent to all its members, during a period of 21 to 60 days before the day on which the meeting is to be held; or

Pursuant to subsection 197(1) (Fundamental Change) of the Act, a special resolution of the members is required to make any amendment to the by-laws of the Corporation to change the manner of giving notice to members entitled to vote at a meeting of members.

11. Members Calling a Members' Meeting

The board of directors shall call a special meeting of members in accordance with Section 167 of the Act, on written requisition of members carrying not less than 5% of the voting rights. If the directors do not call a meeting within twenty-one (21) days of receiving the requisition, any member who signed the requisition may call the meeting.

12. Absentee Voting at Members' Meetings

Pursuant to Section 171(1) of the Act, a member entitled to vote at a meeting of members may vote by proxy by appointing in writing a proxyholder, and one or more alternate proxyholders, who are not required to be members, to attend and act at the meeting in the manner and to the extent authorized by the proxy and with the authority conferred by it subject to the following requirements:

A proxy is valid only at the meeting in respect of which it is given or at a continuation of that meeting after an adjournment;

Pursuant to subsection 197(1) (Fundamental Change) of the Act, a special resolution of the members is required to make any amendment to the by-laws of the Corporation to change this method of voting by members not in attendance at a meeting of members.

13. Membership Dues

Membership shall be for a period of one year, from January 1 to December 31. The annual cost of membership shall be set by the board. Details of the membership term and cost structure shall be advised in the Journal and appear on the website.

The board may, at its discretion, waive a member's dues in view of particular circumstances. The board shall review any such waivers annually at the beginning of the membership year.

14. Termination of Membership

A membership in the Corporation is terminated when:

- a. the member dies or resigns;
- b. the member is expelled or their membership is otherwise terminated in accordance with the articles or by-laws;
- c. the member's membership dues have not been paid within two months of the membership renewal date;
- d. the Corporation is liquidated or dissolved under the Act.

15. Effect of Termination of Membership

Subject to the articles, upon any termination of membership, the rights and privileges of the member including access to information in the members' only section of the website, and any rights in the property of the Corporation, automatically cease to exist.

16. Proposals Nominating Directors at Annual Members' Meetings

Subject to the Regulations under the Act, any proposal may include nominations for the election of directors if the proposal is signed by not less than 5% of members entitled to vote at the meeting at which the proposal is to be presented.

17. Cost of Publishing Proposals for Annual Members' Meetings

The member who submitted the proposal shall pay the cost of including the proposal and any statement in the notice of meeting at which the proposal is to be presented unless otherwise provided by ordinary resolution of the members present at the meeting.

18. Place of Members' Meeting

Subject to compliance with Section 159 (Place of Members' Meetings) of the Act, meetings of the members may be held at any place within Canada determined by the board or, if all of the members entitled to vote at such meeting so agree, outside Canada.

19. Persons Entitled to be Present at Members' Meetings

The only persons entitled to be present at a meeting of members shall be those entitled to vote at the meeting, the directors and the public accountant of the Corporation and such other persons who are entitled or required under any provision of the Act, articles or by-laws of the Corporation to be present at the meeting. Any other person may be admitted only on the invitation of the chair of the meeting or by resolution of the members.

20. Chair of Members' Meetings

In the event that the President and Vice President of the board are absent, the members who are present and entitled to vote at the meeting shall choose one of their number to chair the meeting.

21. Quorum at Members' Meetings

A quorum at any meeting of the members (unless a greater number of members are required to be present by the Act) shall be a majority of the members entitled to vote at the meeting. If a quorum is present at the opening of a meeting of members, the members present may proceed with the business of the meeting even if a quorum is not present throughout the meeting.

22. Votes to Govern at Members' Meetings

At any meeting of members every question shall, unless otherwise provided by the articles or by-laws or by the Act, be determined by a majority of the votes cast on the questions. In case of an equality of votes either on a show of hands or on a ballot, the chair of the meeting in addition to an original vote shall have a second or casting vote.

23. Participation by Electronic Means at Members' Meetings

Participation at meetings of members may not be by telephonic, electronic or other communication facility.

24. Members' Meeting Held Entirely by Electronic Means

Meetings of members may not be held entirely by telephonic, an electronic or other communication facility.

25. Number of Directors

The board shall consist of the number of directors specified in the articles.

26. Term of Office of Directors

All directors must be members of the Corporation.

At the first election of Directors following the approval of this by-law, one-third (1/3) directors shall be elected for a three-year term, one-third (1/3) directors shall be elected for a two-year term and one-third (1/3) directors shall be elected for a one-year term. Thereafter, except where an election is held to fill the unexpired portion of a term, newly elected directors shall be elected for three (3) year terms.

In addition to the directors elected as per the above paragraph, the immediate past president is automatically appointed a director for a period of one year. Such director will have all of the rights and responsibilities of the elected directors.

The board may, at its discretion, appoint by resolution replacement directors to fill any vacancies that exist or may occur. Such replacement directors shall serve until the next Members' meeting.

27. Calling of Meetings of Board of Directors

Meetings of the board may be called by the President, the Vice President or any two (2) directors at any time.

28. Notice of Meeting of Board of Directors

Notice of the time and place for the holding of a meeting of the board shall be given in the manner provided in the section on giving notice of meeting of directors of this by-law

to every director of the Corporation not less than 7 days before the time when the meeting is to be held. Notice of a meeting shall not be necessary if all of the directors are present, and none objects to the holding of the meeting, or if those absent have waived notice of or have otherwise signified their consent to the holding of such meeting. Notice of an adjourned meeting is not required if the time and place of the adjourned meeting is announced at the original meeting. Unless the by-law otherwise provides, no notice of meeting need specify the purpose or the business to be transacted at the meeting except that a notice of meeting of directors shall specify any matter referred to in subsection 138(2) (Limits on Authority) of the Act that is to be dealt with at the meeting.

29. Regular Meetings of the Board of Directors

The board may appoint a day or days in any month or months for regular meetings of the board at a place and hour to be named. A copy of any resolution of the board fixing the place and time of such regular meetings of the board shall be sent to each director forthwith after being passed, but no other notice shall be required for any such regular meeting except if subsection 136(3) (Notice of Meeting) of the Act requires the purpose thereof or the business to be transacted to be specified in the notice.

Meetings that are conducted entirely by electronic means are permitted.

30. Votes to Govern at Meetings of the Board of Directors

At all meetings of the board, every question shall be decided by a majority of the votes cast on the question. In case of an equality of votes, the chair of the meeting in addition to an original vote shall have a second or casting vote.

31. Committees of the Board of Directors

The board may from time to time appoint any committee or other advisory body, as it deems necessary or appropriate for such purposes and, subject to the Act, with such powers as the board shall see fit. Any such committee may formulate its own rules of procedure, subject to such regulations or directions as the board may from time to time make. Any committee member may be removed by resolution of the board of directors.

32. Election of Officers

Immediately following the meeting of members the board shall convene and elect officers of the corporation from among their number.

The board may on an annual or more frequent basis, specify their duties and, subject to the Act, delegate to such officers the power to manage the affairs of the Corporation. A director may be appointed to any office of the Corporation. Two or more offices may be held by the same person.

33. Description of Offices

All Officers shall be directors of the Corporation. Unless otherwise specified by the board (which may, subject to the Act modify, restrict or supplement such duties and powers), the offices of the Corporation shall have the following duties and powers associated with their positions:

- a. President – The President shall preside at all meetings of the board of directors of the Corporation and of the members. The president shall, subject to the authority of the board, have general supervision of the affairs of the Corporation.
- b. Vice President – If the President is absent or is unable or refuses to act, the vice-chair of the board, if any, shall, when present, preside at all meetings of the board of directors and of the members. The vice-chair shall have such other duties and powers as the board may specify.
- c. Secretary – The Secretary shall attend and be the secretary of all meetings of the board. The secretary shall enter or cause to be entered in the Corporation's minute book, minutes of all proceedings at such meetings; the secretary shall give, or cause to be given, as and when instructed, notices to members, directors, the public accountant and members of committees; the secretary shall be the custodian of Minute books, papers, records, documents and other instruments belonging to the Corporation.
- d. Treasurer – The Treasurer shall be responsible for making payment of all legitimate expenses of the Corporation. The Treasurer shall maintain the financial books and records of the Corporation and be responsible for timely production and circulation to the membership of the annual financial statements of the Corporation.

34. Vacancy in Office

The board may remove, for cause, any officer of the Corporation. Unless so removed, an officer shall hold office until the earlier of:

- a. the officer's successor has been appointed,
- b. the officer's resignation,
- c. such officer ceasing to be a member, or
- d. such officer's death.

If the office of any officer of the Corporation shall be or become vacant, the directors may, by resolution, appoint a person to fill such vacancy. Such officer shall serve until the next members' meeting.

35. Invalidity of any Provisions of this By-law

The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this by-law shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining provisions of this by-law.

36. Omissions and Errors

The accidental omission to give any notice to any member, director, officer, member of a committee of the board or public accountant, or the non-receipt of any notice by any such person where the Corporation has provided notice in accordance with the by-laws or any error in any notice not affecting its substance shall not invalidate any action taken at any meeting to which the notice pertained or otherwise founded on such notice.

37. Mediation and Arbitration

Disputes or controversies among members, directors, officers, committee members, or volunteers of the Corporation are as much as possible to be resolved in accordance with mediation and/or arbitration as provided in the section on dispute resolution mechanism of this by-law.

38. Dispute Resolution Mechanism

In the event that a dispute or controversy among members, directors, officers, committee members or volunteers of the Corporation arising out of or related to the articles or by-laws, or out of any aspect of the operations of the Corporation is not resolved in private meetings between the parties then without prejudice to or in any other way derogating from the rights of the members, directors, officers, committee members, employees or volunteers of the Corporation as set out in the articles, by-laws or the Act, and as an alternative to such person instituting a law suit or legal action, such dispute or controversy shall be settled by a process of dispute resolution as follows:

The dispute or controversy shall first be submitted to a panel of mediators whereby the one party appoints one mediator, the other party (or if applicable the board of the Corporation) appoints one mediator, and the two mediators so appointed jointly appoint a third mediator. The three mediators will then meet with the parties in question in an attempt to mediate a resolution between the parties.

The number of mediators may be reduced from three to one or two upon agreement of the parties.

If the parties are not successful in resolving the dispute through mediation, then the parties agree that the dispute shall be settled by arbitration before a single arbitrator, who shall not be any one of the mediators referred to above, in accordance with the provincial or territorial legislation governing domestic arbitrations in force in the province or territory where the registered office of the Corporation is situated or as otherwise agreed upon by the parties to the dispute. The parties agree that all proceedings relating to arbitration shall be kept confidential and there shall be no disclosure of any kind. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding and shall not be subject to appeal on a question of fact, law or mixed fact and law.

All costs of the mediators appointed in accordance with this section shall be borne equally by the parties to the dispute or the controversy. All costs of the arbitrators appointed in accordance with this section shall be borne by such parties as may be determined by the arbitrators.

39. By-laws and Effective Date

Subject to the articles, the board of directors may, by resolution, make, amend or repeal any by-laws that regulate the activities or affairs of the Corporation. Any such by-law, amendment or repeal shall be effective from the date of the resolution of directors until the next meeting of members where it may be confirmed, rejected or amended by the members by ordinary resolution. If the by-law, amendment or repeal is confirmed or confirmed as amended by the members it remains effective in the form in which it was confirmed. The by-law, amendment or repeal ceases to have effect if it is not submitted to the members at the next meeting of members or if it is rejected by the members at the meeting.

This section does not apply to a by-law that requires a special resolution of the members according to subsection 197(1) (fundamental change) of the Act because such by-law amendments or repeals are only effective when confirmed by members.