

Statuten
des
Burgenländer
Unterstützungs-Bundes
in America
Passaic, N. J.

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Gegründet am 22. Dezember, 1922

Inkorporiert am 16. Februar, 1929

Constitution
of the
Burgenlaender
Unterstuetzungs-
Bund in America

Passaic, N. J.



Founded, December 22, 1922

Incorporated, February 16, 1929

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I.

Name of the Society

The name of this Society is: Burgenländer Unterstützungs-Bund in America, Passaic, N. J.

ARTICLE II.

Object of the Society

1. The object of the Bund is the union of all Burgenländer and their descendants and their mutual assistance in cases of need, sickness and death.

ARTICLE III.

The Executive Board

1. The meetings shall be conducted in the German language. In case one of the members desires information or to make a motion in the English language, that language may be employed, but only when necessary.

2. The management of the Bund shall rest with an Executive Board, consisting of: a president, a vice-president, a recording and corresponding secretary, a financial secretary, a treasurer, three trustees, and a door-keeper and banner carrier. The Executive Board shall be newly elected every year.

3. No member may be elected to the Executive Board by acclamation. The election of members shall be decided by a majority of votes.

ARTICLE IV.

Admission of Members

1. Only Burgenländer or their descendants of both sexes, from the age of seventeen (17) and not over

Recording Secretary

President

thirty-five (35) years, may be admitted to membership in this Bund. Only recent immigrants, who have not been in this country longer than a year, are excluded. In case a Burgenländer should marry a woman of some other nationality, she also may be admitted as a member of the Bund. Israelites cannot be admitted to membership.

2. Every applicant for membership must be recommended by a member, and must be personally present when he is admitted to membership, at which time he shall pay \$..... as initiation-fee. In case there should be objection for any reason, the admission of the new member may be postponed until the next quarterly meeting.

3. A secret vote shall be taken on every admission of a new member.

4. Applicants for membership, who are not well known to the membership, must furnish evidence of an official character to the effect that they are Burgenländer.

5. No woman shall be admitted to membership in the Bund, if her husband is not a member. Exception to this rule is made only in case the husband is too old to be admitted, and when there is evidence that such men had no opportunity for joining the Bund before they reached the age limit.

ARTICLE V.

Dues and Benefits

1. The monthly membership dues are at present \$..... and are payable to the Financial Secretary at the first meeting of every month.

2. The Bund reserves the right to raise or lower the dues, in accordance with conditions. In keeping therewith, also the sum of benefits paid can be changed, which, however, can be done only at a quarterly or special meeting.

3. Every applicant for membership shall pay, at the time of his admission to the Bund, the sum of \$..... for a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws and the sum of \$..... for a badge, which articles shall be given him at the time of his admission.

4. Newly admitted members shall have a claim to one-half of the death-benefit three (3) months after their admission, and to the full sick- and death-benefits six (6) months after their admission.

5. Every member entitled to full benefits shall have a claim to \$468.00 sick-benefits, and this shall be paid at the rate of \$9.00 per week for 52 weeks. The death-benefit at present is \$200.00.

ARTICLE VI

Privileges and Claims of Members

1. Every member shall be entitled to receive \$9.00 a week sick-benefit, in case of sickness, as long as the dues are in keeping therewith, as previously indicated.

2. Members residing more than six (6) miles from Passaic are entitled to the death-benefit only.

3. In case a member is confined to her bed in child-birth, she shall be entitled to nine (9) days sick-benefit. In case such member should, at the same time, contract an illness of longer duration,

she shall be entitled to the regular sick-benefit as in other cases. In the latter case, the Sick-Committee shall visit and report thereon.

4. In case a member shall become confined in child-birth within six (6) months after her admission to membership, she shall not be entitled to the nine (9) days' sick-benefit, when in such cases it seems that the Bund was joined deliberately for that purpose.

5. Members suffering from chronic diseases or from diseases resulting from immorality have no claim to benefits.

6. Unmarried women, undergoing confinement in child-birth, shall not be entitled to sick-benefit at such time. Likewise women members, who have separated from their husbands, shall in such cases have no claim to sick-benefit. In case such members, as a result of such occurrences, contract an illness of longer duration, they shall also forfeit their claim to regular sick-benefit.

7. In case a member should suffer an injury or sickness as a result of an attempt at suicide and be unable to work as a result thereof, he shall not be entitled to sick-benefit.

Special Benefit

1. In case a member shall be in need otherwise, for instance, as a result of a fire or other causes, so that assistance on the part of the Bund is needed, such member shall state his case at a meeting of the Bund or, in case assistance is needed speedily, he shall inform the President thereof, who shall

then call a special meeting as soon as possible for the purpose of considering and granting such assistance.

2. Such special assistance shall be deducted from the sum of sick-benefit to which the member is entitled.

ARTICLE VII.

Duties of Officers

The President

1. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings and to cast the deciding vote in case of a tie vote.

He shall be a member of every committee and shall supervise all committees.

He shall decide all points of order. He shall be free to speak on every question. It shall further be his duty, to see to it that the other officers properly fulfill their duties in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

He shall be free to visit every sick member at any time.

He shall be authorized to call to order any member causing disturbance or, if necessary, to have such member removed from the meeting hall or the Bund's festival.

He shall look to the keeping of the provisions of the Constitution and to insist that the members comply therewith. In case he cannot be present at a meeting, he shall inform the Vice-President thereof; in case he cannot be present at a festival of the

Bund, he shall inform both the Vice-President and the Festival President.

He shall sign all documents of the Bund, which shall be written by the Recording Secretary and signed by the Treasurer.

He shall take good care of the Bund's seal.

The Vice-President

2. In case of absence of the President, the Vice-President shall take his place and shall conduct all matters of the Bund in the same manner as the President; and he shall assist the President in the discharge of his duties, wherever required.

The Recording Secretary

3. It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary, to keep accurate minutes of the meetings of the Bund, in a book specially provided for that purpose, and to read them at the next following meeting.

He shall receive all complaints and to record them; it is his duty to submit all complaints to a meeting of the Bund.

He shall record all applicants for membership, together with the names of those recommending them.

He shall appoint the Sick-Committee, in the order of the names on the membership list and, namely, men visitors for men members who are sick and women visitors for women members who are sick. He shall promptly report every case of sickness to the President.

It shall further be the duty of the Recording Secretary to attend to all correspondence of the

Bund, and to fulfill all such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Bund. He shall promptly attend to all communications and keep copies thereof.

He shall keep a record of the members with their addresses, as also the names of the members of the several committees. It shall be his further duty, to report the number of members at the close of every year. Those representing increase and decrease in the membership shall be read by name; the reason or occasion for the decrease shall as far as possible be stated.

He shall notify the members, in writing, of all quarterly and special meetings.

The Financial Secretary

4. It shall be the duty of the Financial Secretary, to keep an accurate record of the financial standing between the Bund and the members, wherein also it shall be recorded, if a member has left or been expelled from the Society.

He shall keep a primary financial record of the Bund, wherein all receipts and expenditures of monies of the Society must be itemized. His books shall be kept in such a way, that his work may be supervised by the other members of the Executive Board.

He shall deliver all Society monies paid him to the Treasurer, in return for his receipt.

He shall report the receipts and expenditures at every monthly meeting, and at every quarterly

meeting he shall explain fully the financial standing of the Bund.

He shall notify every member in arrears for three (3) months with the payment of dues, and, in case such member does not, after a further period of grace of one (1) month after such notice, pay such dues, the Secretary shall strike such member from the membership list. Such notice shall be sent by registered mail.

The Treasurer

5. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer, to receive all monies from the Financial Secretary, in return for a receipt. He shall make no payments without orders from the President, or only by voucher signed by the President.

Whenever the Society funds in his possession exceed \$200.00, he shall deposit the money in a bank designated by the Bund.

He shall bring the treasury record to every meeting of the Bund; all receipts and expenditures shall be correctly itemized therein. At the end of his term of office he shall deliver all property of the Bund in his possession.

The Trustees

6. It shall be the duty of the Trustees, to examine all the books of the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer every quarter-year and to report thereon to the Bund.

The Door-Keeper

7. It shall be the duty of the Door-Keeper to see to it, that no member of the Bund leaves the meet-

ing room during the meeting without permission of the President, and that no one not a member will enter the room.

8. At the expiration of their terms of office, all officers shall deliver in good order all property of the Bund to their successors or to the Bund.

Every officer is bound to be present in due time at every meeting or whenever the nature of his duties require it, unless he has good cause.

Officers neglecting their duties or absenting themselves three (3) times in succession from meetings, without good cause, shall be deprived of their offices.

Officers who have been thus deprived of their offices and who seemingly sought to be relieved thereof, shall be deprived of membership for six (6) to twelve (12) months.

ARTICLE VIII.

Sick-Committee

1. The Sick-Committee shall be appointed monthly by the Recording Secretary in the order of the names on the membership list and, namely, men visitors for men sick members and women visitors for women sick members.

2. It shall be the duty of the Sick-Committee to visit the sick member once every day, and to report to the Recording Secretary or to the President once a week.

3. Members suffering from an illness of long duration shall be visited as directed by the Society's physician and the President. In case a member shall

have contracted a contagious disease, he shall not be visited by the Sick-Committee; however, the Committee shall then get in touch with the Society's physician treating the sick member and inquire about his condition and then report thereon to the President and to the Bund.

4. Every neglect of duty on the part of the Sick-Committee shall be punished with a fine of fifty (50) cents.

ARTICLE IX.

Rights and Duties of Members

1. Every member of the Burgenländer Unterstützungs-Bund shall sacrificially and willingly assist another member of the Bund in case of need, sickness or death.

2. Members in arrears with the payment of their dues for three (3) months will be notified by the Secretary. In case such member does not meet his obligations in this matter after a month's grace after such notice, he shall be expelled from membership.

3. Members desiring to be excused from service on committees shall pay a fee of \$5.00 annually in advance.

4. Members absenting themselves from meetings without reason and good cause, shall be fined as follows:

- a. For a quarterly meeting.....25c
- b. For a special meeting.....25c
- c. For non-payment of dues.....10c a month

Only sickness in the family, duties of one's

trade or business or extraordinary occurrences in the family will be accepted as sufficient cause.

5. Members absenting themselves from the annual anniversary celebration shall be fined the sum of one (1) dollar.

6. Every member is bound to report a change of address promptly, either verbally or in writing, to the Recording Secretary.

7. In case a member is in arrears with the payment of dues and during that time becomes ill, the sum of dues in arrears shall be deducted from the sick-benefit. The day of notice of illness will be figured in the payment of benefit, if the notice is received by the Recording Secretary before 4 o'clock. The day on which recovery is reported or death occurs is not figured in.

8. In case a member contracts illness through improper conduct or quarreling or the like, he shall be entitled to death-benefit only and not to sick-benefit.

9. In case a member conducts himself improperly at festivals of the Bund, so as to cause a disturbance of peace and order, the President or the Festival President shall be authorized to have such member escorted from the place by the police. Should the case be of such serious nature, that a fight takes place, the member responsible for it shall be deprived of the privilege of attending the festivals of the Bund for one (1) year and shall be fined the sum of from two (2) to five (5) dollars.

10. The following members are excused from service on committees and from attending meetings:

- a. Servant girls.
- b. Women, in whose families there are small children.
- c. Widowers, who must keep house for themselves. In case, however, the members here mentioned are able to attend the meetings, they should consider themselves bound to do so.

11. In case a member should find cause to object to some provision of this Constitution, he shall bring up the matter at a quarterly meeting, where it shall then be considered; but, under no circumstances, shall he mention it in private conversation or make any remarks or accusations against the Bund or its Constitution. Members violating this point will be deprived of membership.

12. Members performing committee service at some festival, whereby they must handle money, and failing to report promptly for the checking-up, will be fined the sum of two (2) dollars.

13. In case a member embezzle funds of the Society, the Bund shall be authorized to prosecute such member in court and to have recourse to any legal means to recover such money.

ARTICLE X.

Expulsion of Members

1. Expulsion of a member results: In case a member made false statements at the time of his physical examination, concealed an ailment from which he

was suffering, or gave a wrong age at the time of his application;

In case a member shall defraud the treasury of the Bund, unlawfully appropriates money or property of the Bund for his own use, or withholds such from the Bund;

In case a member feigns illness or inability to work and thus draws sick-benefit or seeks to draw such; or in case a sick member works, tries to get work or attends to his business before he has reported his recovery to the Secretary, either verbally or in writing;

In case a sick member visits taverns or club-rooms, or indulges in intoxicating liquors without permission of the physician.

2. Should evidence be submitted that, in cases such as those just mentioned, there was no intention of fraud nor a deliberate misdemeanor, the member in question shall refund whatever sick-benefit he may have undeservedly drawn.

3. The Executive Board shall investigate every case of misconduct, as listed in the first paragraph here; the defendant shall be requested to attend the hearings, so that he may present his defense, as also witnesses shall be there.

4. The case shall be decided by the Executive Board; the defendant and also the plaintiffs shall be notified in due time of this session of the Executive Board.

5. After the verdict has been given, the defendant as well as plaintiffs may appeal to the next meeting of the Bund within thirty (30) days. The meet-

ing then has power either to confirm the verdict, or to make it more severe or less severe, or to refer it again to the Executive Board for further investigation.

6. Expelled members may apply for re-admission after the lapse of one (1) year. Such applications must be submitted to the vote of a quarterly meeting. Whenever granted, the provisions for admitting new members shall be followed.

7. Whenever a member leaves a fixed radius, so that the Society's physician cannot visit him, or whenever a member is three (3) months in arrears with the payment of his dues, or whenever a member incurs a fine for some cause, then no dues shall be accepted until all fines shall have been paid. In case a member does not comply with this provision, he shall be stricken from the membership list and forfeit all membership rights.

8. Members stricken from the membership list for non-payment of dues may appeal to the meeting of the Society within thirty (30) days; in case the Society admits that the reasons offered are sufficient, such member shall be reinstated as a member on the condition that he pays his arrearages plus costs.

9. Every member who goes on a journey for longer than a month shall report his absence to the Recording Secretary, and shall report his return within three (3) days after returning. Every member failing to comply with this provision shall be fined a sum of from two (2) to five (5) dollars.

10. Members leaving the prescribed limits, namely six (6) miles from Passaic, shall procure from

the Recording Secretary a traveling-certificate, valid for a period of six (6) months. Such certificate, however, may be renewed for another period of six (6) months, if requested before the expiration of the first period. All arrearages must be paid before such a certificate will be issued; and the member shall further see to it that his dues are paid six (6) months in advance. The holders of such certificates are not entitled to sick-benefits during their absence. In case, however, such member should meet with an accident on his journey, so that he must be cared for in a hospital, the sick-benefits will be paid, as also, in such cases, the beneficiaries will be entitled to receive the death-benefit.

In case no extension of time is requested before the expiration of the first certificate, such member shall be stricken from the membership list at the time when the certificate expires. Members failing to comply with the above provision have no claim against the Bund.

ARTICLE XI

Meetings

1. The regular meetings of the Bund shall be held once a month, and, namely, on the second Tuesday of the month.

General meetings of the Bund shall be held quarterly, as follows: January, April, July and October.

2. Special meetings may be called whenever the Executive Board shall so decide. The notification of such meetings shall be in writing, and the pur-

pose of the meeting shall be stated. The Executive Board is bound to call such meetings whenever seven (7) members shall request it. Members absenting themselves from such meetings without good cause shall be penalized in accordance with Article IX, Paragraph 4.

3. The meetings shall be conducted in German and all books shall be kept in the same language.

4. All matters not provided for by this Constitution shall be decided in accordance with the prevailing public laws.

ARTICLE XII.

Rules of Order

1. After the President has taken the chair and has called the members to order, all men members shall be seated with their hats removed.

2. No meeting shall be opened, if not at least seven (7) members beside the Executive Board, are present.

3. The President shall strictly maintain order, and shall state all decisions of the Bund on all matters.

4. He shall decide all points of order, which decisions shall be subject to an appeal of three (3) members. No one shall speak on the subject of such an appeal, and the Vice-President shall submit it to the Bund in the words: "Shall the decision of the President stand?" Whenever a member desires to speak, he shall rise and shall ask the President for the floor. The speaker shall adhere strictly to the subject under discussion. It is specially recommended that members address one another respectfully

and decently during the meetings. All personalities and offense shall be strictly avoided. Any member violating this provision shall be suspended, by the President, for that particular meeting.

5. In case two members should ask for the floor at the same time, the President shall decide which of the two shall speak first.

6. No member shall speak more than once on the same subject, until all others who may wish to speak thereon have had occasion to do so. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, excepting that the President may call him to order.

7. In case some member is called to order, he shall take his seat until the question of order has been decided, whereupon, if given permission to proceed, he may again rise and speak.

8. The ordinary vote is taken by raising the hand. However, at the request of the majority of the members present, a vote by secret ballot may be taken. All votes on money matters must be by secret ballot.

9. Religion and politics shall be excluded from the transactions of the Bund.

10. The election of officers shall be held annually, during the quarterly meeting in October. The officers elected shall begin their term of office on the first of January following.

11. This Bund shall not be disbanded as long as five (5) members remain who are willing to carry on.

12. No money shall be appropriated from the treasury of the Bund for extraneous purposes.

13. The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended only at a quarterly meeting.

14. The Constitution and By-Laws of the Burgenländer Unterstützungs-Bund, as here given, were approved and adopted at the quarterly meeting on October 13, 1936, and become effective January 1, 1937. Previous ones are hereby annulled.

ARTICLE XIII.

Report of Illness

As soon as a member becomes unable to work and wishes to report himself ill, he shall have the Society's physician called, or if the condition of his illness permits, he shall personally call at the physician's office. The Society's physician will then give the member the physician's certificate, which shall be immediately delivered to the residence of the Recording Secretary. The Secretary will then issue the sickness record card and have it delivered to the sick member. Thereafter, the Secretary will provide a new record card every week, without further notice, until the member reports his recovery.

The sick member shall see to it that pen and ink are available, so that the members of the Sick-Committee can sign the record card.

ARTICLE XIV.

Report of Recovery

The Society's physician shall enter the date of recovery on the sickness record card and the member shall promptly report his recovery to the Recording Secretary.

The member shall also see to it that the record

card or cards are signed by the Society's physician.

In order to receive the sick-benefit, the member must deliver the record card or cards to the Financial Secretary, who will then issue the voucher therefor. This voucher must then be taken to the President for his signature and then to the Treasurer, who will pay out the money for it.

In case the physician should be guilty of neglect of duty during the illness of a member, the member is requested to report this to the President through the Sick-Committee.

ARTICLE XV.

The Society's Physician

1. The Society's physician is bound to take every sick member in treatment, if the member has not another family physician. In the latter case, the Society's physician shall note on the sickness record card the amount of time the sick member is permitted to be out, giving the exact number of hours, and shall sign the card. If required, he shall consult with the family physician. In case the sick member's condition is such that he can go out, he shall call on the Society's physician at his office.

2. Whenever the physician considers the member to be able to work, he shall report this to the Executive Board. The Bund shall be authorized, when advised by the physician, to determine upon the removal of the sick member to a hospital.

3. The physician shall visit the member in his care as often as his condition shall require, and so long as the member cannot call at his office.

4. The Society's physician shall thoroughly examine every applicant for membership, and shall certify to the fitness of the same to be admitted as a member. For his services in such examination the applicant shall pay him one (1) dollar.

5. In case a member should be ill with a contagious disease, the Society's physician shall immediately notify the Executive Board thereof, so that the Sick Committee may not be sent to this member.

6. The Treasurer shall settle with the physician at the close of every quarter-year.

ARTICLE XVI.

Order of Business

Business shall be transacted at the meetings in the following order, after the President has called the meeting to order:

1. Reading of the minutes.
2. Recommendations of applicants.
3. Admission of applicants.
4. Correspondence and bills.
5. Reading of the sick list.
6. Treasury report.
7. Reports of committees.
8. Unfinished business.
9. New business.
10. Motions or propositions.
11. For the good and welfare of the Bund.
12. Election of officers.
13. Payment of dues.
14. Adjournment.