

Serbian Academic Club By-Laws

Article I.

NAME AND THE GOALS OF THE CLUB

- 1. The name of the club** is the Serbian Academic Club
 - a. The Club is a not-for-profit and a nonpolitical organization.
 - b. The Club has its registered office and an authorized representative – agent in Chicago Illinois. It can have other offices as well.

- 2. The goal and the purpose of the Club** is to foster and develop amongst its members and friends:
 - a. Friendship, understanding, agreement and mutual assistance.
 - b. Art, culture and national tradition.
 - c. Civic and social activities of use to all, but especially to new immigrants, which will assist them in becoming good U.S. citizens and remaining good Serbs.
 - d. Raising and educating of new generations in the spirit of Serbian culture and traditions.

Article II.

MEMBERSHIP

1. The Club has three types of memberships:

- a. Regular members – persons over 18 years of age
- b. The youth of the Club – children of the regular members under the age of eighteen
- c. Honorable members – persons who had extraordinary merits for the Club

2. Conditions for admission to membership:

- a. Possession of an academic education or corresponding experience.
- b. Being of Serbian nationality, Serbian extraction, or friends of Serbs.
- c. Being citizen of the U.S. or to have a status of permanent residence in the U.S.
- d. Loyalty to the social structure of the U.S. and respect for fundamental principles upon which its basic freedoms are based.

3. Selection of members.

The active members are selected by the Executive Board of the Club upon receiving an application and with the recommendation of two active members of the Club. The acceptance is valid if 2/3 of the present members of the Executive Board voted for it.

4. Voting Privileges.

Every active Club member is entitled to one vote in regard to all issues referred to the membership for voting. Active members become eligible to vote six months after the admission into membership.

5. Termination of Membership.

The Executive Board after agreeing, can suspend or terminate the membership of a Club member if valid reasons exist. The decision to terminate membership is valid if it was voted for by at least 2/3 of the total number of the Executive Board. The Executive Board can, by a simple majority, suspend or drop the membership of an active member for nonpayment of dues, as specified in the Article 8 of these Bylaws.

6. Resignations.

Any member desiring to resign from the Club shall submit his resignation in writing to the Secretary of the Club. No member's resignation shall be accepted until his dues are paid.

7. Re-admission to membership.

Former members can submit an application for re-admission to the Secretary of the Club. The reapplication of the request shall be considered at the first meeting of the Executive Board, and the candidate becomes an active member again if at least 2/3 of the present Board members so voted.

8. Transfer of membership.

Membership of the Serbian Academic Club can not be transferred to other person.

9. Certificate of membership.

The Executive Board can recommend issuing of membership cards. The paid dues receipt for the current year is the certificate of membership.

Article III.

MEETINGS.

1. Regular Assembly.

- a. The regular Assembly of the Serbian Academic Club members is held every other year in the month of March.
- b. At the Assembly reports of the activities in the preceding period will be presented and the directives for the future work give.
- c. After the approval of the reports of activities in the preceding period, the Assembly selects the President of the Assembly, consisting of three members, after which the Executive Board submits its resignation.
- d. After accepting the resignation of the President of the Executive Board, the Presidium of the Assembly selects upon the recommendation from the membership the Election Committee consisting of five members. The members of the Presidium and the election committee can not consist of members indenting to run for the presidency or the Executive Board.
- e. Upon recommendation from the Club members, the Presidium complies a list of Candidates for the President of the Club and forwards it to the Election Committee, which forms the ballots, after which the election of the President is commenced.
- f. Upon completing the voting, the candidate with the most votes is announced as President-Elect. The announcing is done by the Presidium of the Assembly.
- g. After the election of the President the next item on the Agenda is compiling the List of Candidates for the Executive Board. The list is made upon the recommendation from the Club members, with the acceptance of the recommended candidates. Once Completed, the list of forwarded by the Presidium to the Election Committee, which prepares the ballots, after which voting takes place.
- h. Six persons from the List of the Candidates, according to the highest number of votes in succession, are proclaimed by the Presidium of the Assembly as the valid members of the Executive Board.

2. Special Assembly.

A Special Assembly can be called by the President of the Club or the Executive Board or by regular members if art least 1/3 of the regular members have do declared by a written petition.

3. Place of Assembly.

The Executive Board can determine for the Regular or Special Assembly to be held anywhere in the State of Illinois.

4. Invitations to the Assembly.

Every member must be sent a written invitation to the Assembly, with the place, date and time of the Assembly being specified. The invitation is to be delivered at least, but not more than 40 days prior to the date determined for the commencement of the work of the Assembly.

Invitation must specify that the presence in person of the member is desirable, but the same is entitled to empower another Club member to vote in his stead, to discuss and submit recommendations to the Assembly. In case the Special Assembly is called, the reason for convening it must be specified in the invitation. The invitation is considered delivered when it is placed in the mailbox and addressed to the Club member at the address present in the files of the Club. The postage on the invitation must be paid.

9. Quorum.

For the decision of the Assembly to be valid, there must be present at least 50 percent of the active members who paid their dues and became members of the Club at least six months prior to the date of the Assembly. If on the date of the Assembly, at the time designated for the commencement of the activities, 50 percent of the regular members are not present as stipulated in the preceding article, the Club President can postpone the commencement of the activities of the Assembly for one hour. If after one hour, 50 percent of the active membership is not present, the Assembly can start working and make valid decisions with the membership present, provided that at least 10 percent of the total regular members are present at the Assembly.

If quorum as specified in the previous paragraph is present at the recommencement of the work of the Assembly, subsequent absenting of the members can not influence the validity of the decisions made.

6. Proxies.

Voting by proxy at the election of the President and members of the Executive Board is permitted, with the stipulation that any member can not have more than two proxies to his name.

Article IV.

CLUB OFFICERS AND BOARD.

1. Special Assembly.

Club activities are governed by the Executive Board, consisting of seven members elected at the Regular Assembly, as stipulated in the previous article. The mandate of the Executive Board is for two years.

2. Club President.

The Club president is the ex-officio President of the Executive Board. The same member can be elected to the Presidency for no more than two consecutive terms, The Club President will see to implementation of all the decisions made by the Executive Board except in case when the responsibility is delegated to another person. The Club President presides at all meetings of the Executive Board and members of the Club. The president is authorized to sign all contracts and other documents concerning the Club activities by the Executive Board. After the election of the Executive Board, it selects from its ranks the Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

3. Meetings.

The meetings of the Executive Board are held the first Wednesday of every month except July August. The President or at least three members of the Executive Board can call meeting of the Board.

4. Quorum.

For a valid decision making the meeting of the Executive Board must be attended by at least five Board members. In the case of the equal division of the votes, the valid decision is the one which has the vote of the President. In case the President's position becomes vacant, his duties will be taken by the Vice President. If a position of an Executive Board member becomes vacant, the Executive Board can fill it by coopting one of the active Club members, upon the member's agreement.

5. Remunerations.

The Executive Board members receive no remuneration for their work.

6. Vice President.

In the President's absence, his duties are assumed by the Vice President.

7. Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for financial activities of the Club and the accounting. His special duties are :

- a. To establish the appropriate accounting for the Club and to take care that it is kept correctly
- b. Responsibility for all the income and expenses of the Club
- c. Care of the keeping and safeguarding of the Club accounts. All Club members are entitled to view the Club's account books.

8. Secretary.

Keeps the minutes and is in charge of keeping the minutes at the Assembly and Executive Board meetings.

- a. Takes care of timely and correct delivery of information and invitations (announcements) to the Club members, as well as to other parties or organs in agreements with these By-laws and other regulations.
- b. Keeps the files and the Seal of the Club.
- c. Keeps and updates the Registry of the Club Members and their addresses – which are to be given to him at the time of enrollment, and any subsequent change.
- d. Is responsible for timely forwarding of information to the Internal Revenue Service, Secretary of State, Attorney General and Public Defender of the State of Illinois.

Article V.

COMMITTEES OF THE CLUB.

For more efficient functioning, the Executive Board forms following Standing Committees:

- a. Membership Committee
- b. Committee for the Premises
- c. Publishing Committee of the Club's Herald
- d. Committee for Scholarship
- e. Committee for Cultural Events
- f. Sports Events Committee
- g. Auditing Committee

Besides the above Standing Committees, the Executive Board can form ad hoc committees as needed.

Article VI.

CONTRACTS, CHECKS, FUNDS.

1. Contracts

The Executive Board can authorize any active member, or a competent business party or any organization outside the Club to sign and implement contracts and other documents of the Club on behalf of the Club.

2. Checks. (Invoices)

Checks and other invoices, if issued on behalf of the Club, have to be signed by Club Treasurer or Secretary.

3. Deposits.

All monetary funds of the Club shall be deposited in the bank or other legally constituted financial establishments authorized to receive funds for deposit. The Executive Board decides where and with which institutions the monetary funds of the Club will be deposited.

4. Gifts.

The Executive Board and the President of the Club are authorized to accept, in the name of the Club, any gift or contribution unless conditional and contrary to the By-laws of the Club or the existing laws of the United States or the State of Illinois.

5. Dissolution of the Club.

In the case of dissolution of the Serbian Academic Club, the Executive Board shall distribute the existing property of the Club according to the Article 501 (c) (3), Laws of Taxes.

Article VII.

BUSINESS YEAR.

The business year of the Club starts April 1 and ends March 31st of each calendar year.

Article VIII.

MEMBERSHIP DUES.

1. Payment of dues.

The active Club members pay dues in the amount of \$25.00 per year. If one family has more than one active member, the dues are \$50.00, including the youth members. Dues are paid in advance up until June 31st each year. Active members under the age of 23, still in school, do not pay dues.

2. Honorary members are not obliged to pay dues.

3. Active members in retirement pay yearly dues in the amount of \$5.00.

4. The Executive Board is authorized, by a simple majority votes, to exempt an active member from payment of dues in case of unemployment.

5. Nonpayment of dues – Termination of Membership.

In case dues are not paid by the date due according to previous paragraph of this Article, the Secretary or the Treasurer is obliged to send a written reminder with a request for payment of dues in the additional

period of 30 days. If the dues are not paid even after the reminder, The Executive Board can decide to terminate the membership according to the Article II of these By-laws.

Article IX.

SLAVA.

The Serbian Academic Club has its Slava, according to the Serbian tradition.

The patron saints of the Serbian Academic Club are Saints Cyril and Methodius.

The Executive Board determines each year the place for the celebration and selects the Host of the Slava.

The Host of the Slava sees that Slava customs are observed.

Article X.

SEAL, LOGO AND THE ALPHABET OF THE CLUB.

1. The Club has its Seal which is engraved: SERBIAN ACADEMIC CLUB – CORPORATE SEAL – ILLINOIS 1971.

2. The Club has the logo in which are inscribed a book, a monastery and *gusle*. Besides this, the name of the Club and the year of the founding are inscribed in the logo in the Cyrillic alphabet. The same is repeated in English.

3. Officially the internal alphabet of the Club is the Cyrillic alphabet.

Article VIII.

REVISIONS, AMENDMENTS AND VALIDITY OF BY-LAWS.

For revisions and amendments of these By-laws the same rules apply as for their adoption. If something has not been specified in these By-laws and the explanation is required, in practice the Rules and Regulations of the *General Not For Profit Corporation Act of the State of Illinois* will be applied.

These By-laws are revised and amended by the Special Assembly of the Club members held on December 4, 1983 in Chicago, Illinois – and went into effect as of that day.