



**CONSTITUTION
AND
BY-LAWS
OF THE
LANCASTER LIEDERKRANZ**

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**AS AMENDED
January 2, 2025**

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ARTICLE I Name and Object

Sec. 1 In the year 1880 on the 4th day of July, in the city of Lancaster, a group of men of German origin met and organized a Singing Society to be henceforth known as the LIEDERKRANZ. The object of this organization was to meet fraternally, to sing and preserve native songs and music, as well as perpetuate social customs of the Fatherland.

Sec. 2 In the year of 1909, the Lancaster Männerchor and the Arbeiter Männerchor agreed to consolidate with the Liederkrantz in order to promote the cultivation and improvement of the German chorus, as well as sociability. These principles remain valid.

Sec. 3 The purpose of the Liederkrantz (Society) shall be to further the common goals and interests of its members through education in regard to preservation and perpetuation of German song, dance, language, customs and culture.

ARTICLE II Membership

Sec. 1 The Society consists of "Active", "Contributing", and "Honorary" Members. Any person who has attained the age of twenty-one years with good reputation is eligible to be considered for membership.

Active Chorus shall be referred to as "Singers" in this Constitution and shall mean any member of the mixed Chorus who has been recommended by the Music Committee and accepted by the Executive Committee.

Active Schuhplattler shall be referred to as a "Schuhplattler" in this Constitution and shall mean any member of the Alpenrose Schuhplattlers who meets the prescribed standards set forth in this Constitution.

Active Hobby Chor shall be referred to as "Hobby Chor Members" in this Constitution and shall mean any member of the Hobby Chor who meets the prescribed standards as set forth in this Constitution.

Active Alleweil Jung Volkstanzer dance group members shall be referred to as "Alleweil Jung Volkstanzer" or Young at Heart Folk Dancers members in this Constitution and shall mean any member of the Alleweil Jung Volkstanzer who meets the prescribed standards as set forth in this Constitution.

Cultural groups or sub-groups, who are members of the Society, may request consideration for Active

member status upon having their By-Laws reviewed by the Active Review Committee. The Active Review Committee sends their recommendation with the request to the Executive Committee for consideration. Upon positive recommendation by the Executive Committee, the request for Active member status will be voted on by the membership in accordance with Article XV Amendments. A representative from the proposed group must be present at the meetings.

(When a gender is noted in this Constitution, it shall apply equally to either masculine or feminine gender.)

ARTICLE III Duties and Privileges of Membership

Sec. 1 Active Chorus Members are obliged to attend the musical rehearsal regularly as well as obey the directions of the Director during the said rehearsals; also, to take part in musical activities, either public or private, which the Society may arrange. They may vote on all questions and are eligible to hold office in the Society and should be able to read German.

Sec. 2 Active members of the Schuhplattler, Hobby Chor, and Alleweil Jung Volkstanzer, who are members of the Society, are considered Active Members of the Society. They shall elect their own officers, make their own rules and may maintain their own financial records not in conflict with this Constitution and By-Laws.

Sec. 3 Individual Chorus, Schuhplattler, Hobby Chor, and Alleweil Jung Volkstanzer members shall maintain attendance requirements as established by each Active group to remain active.

Sec. 4 An Active Review Committee shall be appointed by the President. This committee shall be comprised of two members from each active member group and shall verify the active member status of each group member prior to nominations for elected office.

Sec. 5 Active Members of the Chorus, Schuhplattlers, Hobby Chor and Alleweil Jung Volkstanzer and elected officers and trustees currently serving in their 3rd or greater consecutive term shall be designated as Active Members of the Liederkrantz. Officers and trustees designated as Active Members by means of serving three or more consecutive terms will remain as Active Members for a period of two years, after leaving elected office.

Sec. 6 Contributing Members share the same privileges in regular meetings as Active Members with the exception that they have no voice pertaining to any of the musical affairs of the Society. Neither may they vote to accept or to refer a candidate for Active Membership and they may not be elected to the office of President or Chorus President but may hold any other office. All Contributing Members possessing musical talent shall be encouraged to become Active Singers and must comply with regulations as stated in Article V. Sec. 2.

Sec. 7 A member may be elevated to Honorary status after having attained the merit of the Society by reason of his labors in the field of music, fostering art and science or by faithfully serving the Society. A committee of 5 members, with not less than three honorary members, shall be appointed by the President to recommend and receive nominations for Honorary Member status. A candidate for Honorary Membership must be proposed in writing by any three members of the Society and submitted to the committee who shall review the proposal for compliance with the merits set forth for Honorary Membership and may make recommendations to the sponsoring members. After submission and review by the committee the written proposal must be read at two regular meetings

and it shall be necessary for two-thirds of the members present to confirm an Honorary Member. Voting for Honorary Membership is to be accomplished by secret ballot at the second reading. Honorary Members enjoy the same privileges as Contributing Members unless they have maintained their Active status.

Sec. 8. All new members elected to membership shall be known as Contributing Members. They shall have all the rights and privileges as this class allows with the exception that they may not hold elected office, vote or sponsor others for membership during their first year of membership.

ARTICLE IV Admission of Member

Sec. 1. Applicants for membership shall be required to accept Article I, Sec. 1, of this Constitution prior to being accepted by the Society.

Sec. 2. Applicants for Active Chorus Membership must be twenty-one years of age and shall be proposed by a member of the Society in good standing. Any person under twenty-one years of age may join as a Junior Member of the Chorus after Music Committee approval. Prior to the time of admittance, the applicant shall attend 6 out of 8 consecutive scheduled rehearsals, unless prevented by occupation, or sickness, or any other reason which the Society shall deem proper to warrant absence. The Music Committee shall decide on the merit of the applicant for Active Chorus Membership and shall then recommend to the Executive Committee the applicant's acceptance or rejection as an Active Chorus Member. If the applicant is accepted as a Singing Member, the Financial Secretary shall be instructed to issue an Active Membership Card and to place the individual's name on the official Active Chorus Membership List.

Sec. 3. Applicants for Membership in the Society must attain the age of twenty-one years of age and shall be proposed by a member of the Society in good standing. The candidate's name must be submitted to the Membership Committee at least four weeks prior to the membership proposal at the regular monthly meeting.

Sec. 4. A Membership Committee Chairman shall be appointed by the President with approval of the Executive Committee. The Chairman shall then staff the committee with Active or Contributing Members. Their duties are to receive all applications and to ensure that all necessary information is complete and accurate. They shall screen all applicants as to their merit and willingness to promote the general welfare of the Society. They then forward the original application, with fees, to the Financial Secretary and present a list of candidates to the Recording Secretary to be read at the next regular meeting. A copy of the list will be prominently posted. This Committee will conduct an orientation prior to balloting as to inform the candidates about the Society and all activities to which they can participate. The Committee will also devise and implement a method of recruitment and retention subject to approval of the Executive Committee.

Sec. 5. An unlimited number of proposed candidates may be voted upon at any regular meeting. Each proposed candidate must be voted on individually.

Sec. 6. Balloting for membership must be by secret ballot and shall take place at the next regularly scheduled monthly meeting following the meeting in which the applicant was proposed. A candidate shall not sit in the meeting during the balloting, but his sponsor should be present. White balls accept and black balls reject, and it shall be necessary for seven or more black balls to exclude a candidate from membership. In the event of rejection, the proposition fee shall be returned to the candidate. If

elected, he shall be invited into the meeting and introduced to the membership by the President. If the sponsor is unable to be present but the candidate is present, then any member of the Membership Committee may vouch for the said candidate. If the candidate is unable to be present, then his admission to the Society shall be postponed until he is present, provided he does not absent himself from the Society for more than two following regular meetings, for any other reason than sickness or occupation.

ARTICLE V Expulsions and Suspensions

Sec.1. Expulsion. Members who knowingly and willfully violate this Constitution, By-Laws, or House Rules are subject to expulsion. In addition, a member is subject to expulsion for the following:

1. Embezzlement of Society funds or property.
2. Direct violation of State Liquor Control Board regulations.
3. Any other act or action of a serious nature that the Executive Committee would recommend expulsion.

Sec. 2. Any member subject to Expulsion Procedures shall be notified of the charges against him by registered mail from the Recording Secretary. Within 30 days from the date of notification, the accused will be given the opportunity to appear before the Executive Committee. At this meeting, the Executive Committee will render a decision regarding the matter. If a decision of expulsion or suspension is rendered, the accused may appeal the decision by appearing before the general membership at a regular monthly meeting within 60 days from the date of notification. A member who chooses to appeal will be given the opportunity to plead his case to the membership at this meeting. After hearing the appeal, the accused shall be dismissed from the meeting to allow for discussion by the membership. The membership may vote to uphold the decision of the Executive Committee by a majority vote of the members present. Anyone expelled from the Society shall not be considered again for membership, nor may he be admitted as a guest. If the accused does not appear before the membership within 60 days of notification date, the decision of the Executive Committee shall be deemed as final.

Sec. 3. Suspensions. In the event that an act or action against the Society does not merit expulsion, suspension will be taken under consideration. The maximum period for suspension shall not exceed two (2) years. Suspension proceedings shall follow the procedures outlined under "Expulsion". A suspended member, upon expiration of his suspension period, may be reinstated by paying current membership dues.

ARTICLE VI Financial Affairs

Sec. 1. Financial Affairs of the Club shall be a joint responsibility of the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees.

Sec. 2. Without an affirmative vote of the membership, the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees shall not be permitted to spend more on a single expenditure than 5% of the previous three-year average of annual income.

Sec. 3. The Financial Secretary and Treasurer are responsible for proper filing and validating Governmental reporting as required by law. No one officer shall have the sole responsibility of both filing and validating any given document. In addition, they shall monitor the financial records of associated accounts within the society and reconcile the accounts at the end of each fiscal year.

Sec. 4. The fiscal year of the Society will commence June 1 and end May 31.

ARTICLE VII Executive Committee

Sec 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Chorus President, and Recording Secretary, and one alternating representative from one of the Active Cultural Groups whose duties shall be to promote the purpose of the club and supervise the general welfare of the Society. This committee shall take precedence over all other committees. The said committee shall have complete charge of tours, outings, or any other recreation and may make plans to accommodate visitors when the necessity arises, assisted by the Entertainment Committee. The President shall appoint all committees not otherwise provided for. In the absence of both the President and the Vice-President, the senior member of the committee shall preside.

ARTICLE VIII Duties and Requirements of Officers

Sec. 1. The President:

Duties – He shall preside over all regular and special meetings and preserve order. He shall cast the deciding vote in case of a tie. He or the Financial Secretary must sign all vouchers for payment before the Treasurer can pay them. He may call a special meeting if the necessity arises or upon request and shall be Chairman of the Executive Committee hereinafter provided for. In the event a vacancy occurs for any other elected office, the President may appoint a member in good standing to fill the unexpired term subject to approval of the Executive Committee.

Requirements – He should be able to speak German and must be an Active Member, who consistently demonstrates the promotion of German culture. He shall have served successfully in an elected office within seven (7) years prior to being a candidate for President.

Sec. 2. The Vice-President:

Duties - He shall be subordinate to the President but shall act and preside in his absence and, in case of death or expulsion of the President, the Vice-President shall automatically become President to fill the unexpired term.

Requirements - He should be able to speak German and must be an Active Member, who consistently demonstrates the promotion of German culture.

Sec. 3. The Financial Secretary:

Duties - He shall collect and receive all monies due to the Society by any person(s) acting for or in the name of the Society or under its direction or authority. He shall be the accountant for the Society and must be able to show the complete and accurate financial standing of the Society to the

membership at all times. He shall record all monies received, dues, fees, contributions, and any other sources of income into the ledger and ensure that the money is deposited into the proper accounts. He or the President shall sign all invoices, record them, and then turn them over to the Treasurer for payment. He shall keep a record of the financial and business transactions of the Society in the ledger approved by the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees. He shall be responsible for the duties outlined in Article VI Financial Affairs, Sec. 3. At the expiration of his term, he shall deliver all records to a Financial Review Committee.

Requirements - He should be familiar with spreadsheets, accounting software, have an overall understanding of revenue and expense classifications, and general knowledge of profit and loss statements and balance sheets.

Sec. 4. The Treasurer:

Duties - He shall receive records from the Financial Secretary of all monies collected belonging to the Society. He shall pay all invoices as approved by the President or the Financial Secretary. He shall keep a correct amount of all monies received and paid by him and have his accounts ready for financial review annually. He shall be responsible for the duties outlined in Article VI Financial Affairs, Sec 3. At the expiration of his term of office, or when so required by the Society, he shall have available for a Financial Review Committee all monies, ledgers, papers, invoices, etc., of the Society; and he shall take a receipt for the same which the Financial Secretary shall keep with other records of the Society.

Requirements – He should be familiar with spreadsheets, accounting software, have an overall understanding of revenue and expense classifications, and general knowledge of profit and loss statements and balance sheets.

Sec. 5. The Chorus President:

Duties - He shall keep a record of the music and musical instruments of the Society and maintain the same. He shall chair the Music Committee and prepare the schedule of music events for each concert season. When new or additional music is necessary for the singers, the Chorus President shall recommend the purchase of the same to the Executive Committee who shall place the order for the same.

Requirements - He shall be an Active Singer. He should be knowledgeable of German music.

Sec. 6. The Recording Secretary:

Duties - The Recording Secretary shall be the Secretary of the Society. He shall be custodian of the seal and affix the same to all proper papers. He shall keep and record accurate minutes of all regular and special meetings and report the same to the membership at the following meeting. He is responsible for keeping and recording minutes at the executive meeting. No regular business may be transacted without his attendance or pro tem replacement, which can be assigned by the President. He shall, as circumstances arise, inform all Officers, Trustees and Committee Chairman as to time and date of Executive and Special meetings as instructed by the President. At the expiration of his term, he shall deliver all records to his successor.

Requirements - He should be able to communicate effectively. He should be familiar with word processing software, as well as a working knowledge of digital storage platforms.

Sec. 7. The Cultural Group Representative

Duties – He shall promote the purpose of the Club and support the general welfare of the Society.

Requirements – He shall be an Active member of the designated Cultural Group.

Sec. 8. Unless excused, officers are expected to attend Executive, Membership and Special meetings

ARTICLE IX Officers and Board of Trustees

Sec. 1. The Officers of this Society shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Chorus President and one alternating representative from one of the Active Cultural Groups (Schuhplattler, Hobby Chor and Alleweil Jung) in that rotating order.

Sec. 2. The Board of Trustees shall consist of a minimum of five to a maximum of seven members in good standing, who are not members of the Executive Committee.

Sec. 3. The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for the care and upkeep of all Liederkrantz property and shall operate the club's facilities. After the election, the Board of Trustees shall select the Head Trustee, and the Board of Trustees shall determine the individual areas of responsibility for each Trustee.

Sec. 4. The Officers and Board of Trustees shall be elected to serve a one-year term and shall not be paid in performance of their duties.

ARTICLE X Election

Sec. 1. A five-member Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President. At least two of these members shall be active members of Cultural groups. The Nominating Committee will be tasked with presenting a qualified slate of candidates for each position. A preliminary slate of candidates shall be presented by the Nominating Committee at the regular monthly meeting in March. Candidates may also be nominated from the floor at the March meeting. Additional nominations may be submitted to the Nominating Committee within fourteen days after the March membership meeting. The final slate of qualified candidates will be presented at the April meeting. In the event that an office lacks a candidate, only then can nominations be made from the floor at the April meeting. Elections will be held at the regular monthly meeting in May by a secret ballot. The President, Vice President, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Trustees are elected by the members present. The candidate(s) with the highest number of votes for each position will be elected. The President, Vice-President and Recording Secretary shall not be able to succeed themselves in the same office after seven (7) consecutive terms in office. The financial offices of Financial Secretary and Treasurer shall not serve in a financial role for greater than seven (7) consecutive terms.

Sec. 2. The Chorus President and Cultural Active Representative shall be elected by each Active group respectively and not elected by the membership.

Sec. 3. Officers and Trustees shall be installed in June.

ARTICLE XI Director of the Chorus

Sec. 1. The Director of the Chorus shall be appointed by the Chorus President upon consent of the Music Committee. He must be a qualified musician, of both education and experience. He shall direct all rehearsals and shall direct the chorus at all concerts participated in by the Society. During his services to the Society, the Director shall be regarded as an Active Member.

ARTICLE XII Other Committees

Sec. 1. The Music Committee shall consist of the following: The Chorus President who shall preside over the committee, and two (2) representatives from each section of the singers--namely, Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass. Any additional singers shall be welcome to sit in the committee and engage in

discussion, but shall not have a vote. This committee shall meet no later than two weeks before the first rehearsal and decide on the selection of songs to be rehearsed for the ensuing season. These numbers shall be presented to the Director at the first rehearsal.

Sec. 2. The Program Committee shall be composed of the following members:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Head Trustee
4. Publicity and Communication Committee member
5. Active Group Representatives (one per group)
6. Fest Committee Chair(s)
7. Rental Coordinator

The committee shall hold a meeting in the first quarter of the calendar year and plan a program of entertainment and social activities for the subsequent calendar year.

Sec. 3. The Entertainment Committee. A chairman of this committee shall be appointed by the President. The Chairman shall arrange for all details of entertainment. The Chairman shall appoint additional members to help in the decorations of the Upper Hall at Society functions (private parties not included). The Chairman may call upon the Program Committee as often as deemed necessary for advice in implementing this program.

Sec. 4. The Auditing Committee shall consist of three members appointed by the President in a timely manner who are neither members of the Executive Committee or Board of Trustees. They should have accounting and/or business experience (preferably Certified Public Accountants) or have an accounting or bookkeeping background. At the end of each term, in a timely manner the Treasurer shall surrender all his books, records, and accounts to the C.P.A. and/or the Auditing Committee for an annual audit. Upon completion their report must be made available to the membership in a timely manner. Should the incoming President desire an independent audit, he may engage a Certified Public Accountant, who is not a member of the Liederkrantz, at club expense to furnish a new audit, which shall be posted.

Sec. 5. A Publicity and Communications Committee shall be appointed by the President for a term of one year. They shall be responsible for the advertisement and promotion of club related activities as well as the general welfare as appropriate. They shall also be responsible for maintaining the Society's website, communications list and newsletter and shall sit ex-officio on the Executive and Trustees committees as required.

Sec. 6. A Historical and Cultural Enrichment Committee shall be appointed by the President. Said committee should consist of an historian and at least one representative from each Active Group. Its duties shall be but not limited to maintaining a historical record of the Society as well as educating the Society's members in regards to the history and traditions of the Society and that of German culture.

Sec 7. The Scholarship Selection Committee chairman shall be appointed by the President. The chairman of this committee should come from someone who has served on the committee. The chairman of this committee shall appoint at least four other members. This committee makes scholarship award selections for high school seniors who are furthering German studies, at an accredited college or university. Scholarship applications and an interview are required. The

interview shall be with a quorum of the committee and include conversation in German with someone fluent in German. Students need to show interest in language and culture beyond the classroom. The selections and award amounts for students who are not affiliated with the club are given to the trustees for consideration to be awarded from a portion of small games of chance proceeds. Scholarships shall be paid to the appropriate institution(s) of higher learning. This committee can also make scholarship award recommendations from other funding sources for other applicants.

Sec 8. The Cultural Grant Committee chairman shall be appointed by the President. The chairman of this committee should come from someone who has served on the committee. The chairman of this committee shall appoint at least four other members. This committee gives financial grants to deserving candidates, typically children and grandchildren of members of the Liederkrantz to help promote music, song, dance, language, customs, culture, and education. Grants may also be available to college students to help the cost of German studies. Applications are needed for all participants. Revenue for this committee comes from fund-raising activities organized by the committee and approved by the Executive Committee and from donations.

ARTICLE XIII Dissolution

Sec. 1. The Society shall remain intact as long as twenty-one Active Members remain. Should the Active Membership fall below twenty-one, the remaining members shall take action concerning dissolution within one year, unless the Active Membership increases within the said year. Upon the settlement of all debts, the remaining funds of the Society shall be distributed between the Lancaster County Historical Society and appropriate institutions of charity as designated by the remaining Active members.

ARTICLE XIV Force Majeure

Sec. 1. In the event of an unforeseen or unprecedented occurrence, outside the reasonable control of the society, (i.e., an act of God, pandemic, etc.) the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees may suspend the rules and / or alter the requirements outlined in this Constitution and the By-Laws until the time regular order is advisable and / or legal.

ARTICLE XV Amendments

Sec. 1. To Amend this Constitution, the proposed amendment must be presented in writing and read at three regular meetings. A majority of two-thirds of the membership present at the third reading is necessary to adopt the proposed amendment.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I Meetings

Sec. 1. Regular Meetings shall be held the first Thursday evening of each month at a specified time. The Trustees are responsible for the security of the meeting. Only individuals with current membership cards are allowed into the meeting. Prospective members must be accompanied by a member of the Membership Committee in order to gain access. The President may allow a non-member to attend the meeting for a good and proper purpose.

Sec. 2. Special Meetings called by the President, shall be called for a stated purpose and no regular business may be transacted. A Special meeting shall be communicated by posting the purpose, date and time at the club, on the website, and by sending an email to the members on the email list at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting.

Sec. 3. A quorum for these meetings shall consist of not less than 21 members.

Sec. 4. The rules contained in “Robert’s Rules of Order” shall govern the Society in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and By-Laws of this Society.

ARTICLE II Proposition Fees and Dues

Sec. 1. Proposition Fees and Dues for Membership shall be determined and established by a majority vote of the Executive Committee and Trustees. Dues must be paid by the methods approved by the Executive Committee. Honorary Members are exempt from dues.

Sec. 2. Members not having paid their dues by the last day of February of the new year shall be considered delinquent members; not in good standing, having privileges suspended, and are subject to additional reactivation fees as determined by the Executive Committee. Delinquent members not paying dues and/or fees by the end of the calendar when due, will be dropped from the membership roll. Readmission to membership will be in the same manner and form as described in Article IV Admission of Members in the Constitution.

ARTICLE III Absentee Reinstatement

Sec. 1. Members who leave the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in good standing in the Society due to a change of occupation, an extended visit, or to serve in the Armed Services of the United States shall not be denied admittance upon their return and shall not be compelled to pay the proposition fee; but upon taking up permanent residence here again, shall pay the stated membership fee. Any member serving in the Armed Services of the United States shall receive a membership card from the Society free of charge.

ARTICLE IV Committee Procedure

Sec. 1. The Chairman of any committee shall call the committee meeting which shall be held at the Liederkrantz, and notify the committee members of the time of the said committee meeting. The Chairman must report the progress of the committee at the next regular meeting.

ARTICLE V Operation and Conduct

Sec. 1. The Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees shall draft a code of rules necessary for keeping order. These rules, known as the House Rules, shall be posted in the club, and any member of either committee shall have the power to enforce the same.

Sec. 2. Value of inventory of Beer, Liquor, Food, Small Games of Chance, and records from associated accounts shall be provided by the responsible parties to the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer within thirty (30) days after the end of each fiscal year.

Sec. 3. There shall be no political affiliation or endorsement.

ARTICLE VI Rental of Liederkrantz Facilities

Sec. 1. The Society may rent and/or cater to members and non-members and provide access to the Society’s facilities for special occasions. The facilities shall not be available for rental reservations until after the Program committee sets the calendar for the Society’s events for a given year. All renters, caterers and their guests shall be familiar with and bound by the House Rules of the Society and will be responsible for any infraction thereof.

ARTICLE VII Amendments

Sec. 1. To amend these By-Laws, the amendment must be presented at a regularly scheduled meeting. A majority vote of the members present at this meeting is necessary to adopt the proposed amendment.

ARTICLE VIII Indemnification

Sec. 1. The Society shall indemnify all directors, trustees or officers of the Society while serving in an official capacity, if threatened with or is made a party to any legal action for a club related act or omission. This shall include the hiring of legal counsel or reimbursement of legal fees. In addition to standard liability insurance, special coverage shall be in effect for club volunteers performing a service at the club.