



New York State
31 October 1897
Sängerbund

Member: Deutscher Sanger Bund (D.S.B.)



Constitution

Revised January 1989

ARTICLE I

The name of the organization shall be known as **The New York State Saengerbund**.

ARTICLE II

The objectives of this [singing group](#) are to promote the cultivation of German Language, German Songs and other customs such as sociability among its members through Song-Festivals.

ARTICLE III

Any German-American society within the confines of New York State may become members of this organization by following the principles of the Constitution.

- a. Application with a \$25.00 initiation fee and thereafter annual assessments for general disbursement.
- b. Each society will be assessed a set fee, per member, to be determined at the Convention each year. Said fee to be forwarded to the Finance Secretary one (1) month previous to the Annual Convention. This is mandatory or their voting privilege will be rescinded. (rescinded)
- c. A society being in arrears over a period of two (2) years will be removed from membership. Re-instatement requires back payments and a \$25.00 initiation fee.
- d. Societies not having representation in two (2) consecutive Festivals, without reasonable excuse, will automatically be dropped as a member society.

ARTICLE IV

ORGANIZATION

- a. The business operation of the Saengerbund is conducted by the Board of Officers elected at the Convention following the Festival. The term of office is for three (3) years.
- b. All elected officers are from the societies' delegates and they execute their rights as officers according to the Constitution.
- c. The meetings will be conducted by the Board of Officers according to the Constitution and Robert's Rules of Order.

Board of Officers:

President

1st Vice-President
2nd Vice-President
Financial Secretary
Recording Secretary
Treasurer
Librarian
Archivist
Music Committee

Chairperson
Vice-Chairperson
Secretary

- d. An Insurance Bond, in the amount of \$2000, is to be provided for the Financial Secretary and Treasurer. The Bond to be underwritten by a reliable Insurance Company and disbursed by the Bundes Treasurer. The president receives the Bond for safe-keeping.
- e. Convention delegates are accepted, with voting rights, through Society Mandates as presented to the Bundes Secretary, one month before the Annual Convention. Society representation is based on one (1) delegate for every five (5) members. The Mandate Committee controls the seating of all convention delegates.
- f. Mandates are to be received one month previous to the Convention by the Recording Secretary or voting privileges are rescinded. (rescinded)
- g. All societies are credited with ONLY those delegates present.
- h. The officers of the Saengerbund and the Bundes Music Committee are reimbursed traveling expenses at the rate to be determined at the Annual Convention.

ARTICLE V

SAENGERFEST

- a. The Annual Convention following the Song-Festival will determine, according to the invitations received, the city of the subsequent Song-Festival, which are three (3) years apart unless otherwise designated by the Convention.
- b. The Host Society announces the dates of the Festival. All planned events are formulated by the Host Society, will full charge of their execution with the exception of Prize Singing, exclusively, conducted by the Bundes Music Committee.
- c. Prize singing can be conducted at all festivals providing at least five (5) societies compete.
- d. All disbursements incurred for the success of the Festival, including badges for judges, are assumed by the Host Society except those pertaining to the Bundes Music Committee, which are disbursed by the Bundes Treasury.
- e. The songs chosen for the Festival Mass Chorus Concert shall be the decision of the Host Society and costs are to be assumed by the Societies on a pro-rated basis, ordered and distributed by the Bundes Music Committee Vice-Chairperson. Societies will honor bills immediately upon receipt of same.

- f. The Host Society arranges for Hotel or Motel accommodations which are paid by the participants or guests.
- g. The delegates convention, by invitation, announces the locality of the Annual Convention and the Festival.

ARTICLE VI

THE BUNDES MUSIC COMMITTEE AND ITS DUTIES

The Music Committee originates, through the Mandates, as presented at the Convention following the Saengerfest. This committee is comprised of one (1) lady and one (1) man from each society. They elect a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary. The term of office is for three (3) years.

DUTIES

- a. The Bundes Music Committee will announce at the Spring meeting in the year prior to the Festival, the title of prize songs. It is the committee's duty to furnish songs for the subsequent festival, which are paid for by the participating societies — pro rata. Respective societies to receive Mass Chorus songs nine (9) months previous to the Festival.
- b. The Executive Officers of this committee contract for the Festival Adjudicators, music notes and prize awarding material and these disbursements are presented to the Bundes executive officers for payment approval. The officers are also responsible in conducting the Prize Singing. All preparation and control of the Mass Chorus shall be the joint responsibility of the Bundes Music Committee and the Host Society.
- c. It is permissible, with the approval of the Bundes Executive Officers, to augment the Music Committee.

ARTICLE VII

GENERAL REGULATIONS

- a. Upon request of one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the societies, a special meeting can be called. The Bundes President designates the time and place.
- b. Traveling expenses of the officers and directors are to be paid by the Bundes treasury; also, for those on special assignments as ordered by the president.
- c. All disbursements are paid, by the treasurer, upon presentation of a voucher legally signed by the president and the secretary and are entered into the records.
- d. The Saengerbund, its officers, and the Delegate Convention allocate a certain amount towards the expenses of the president's visitations and travel. This is determined each year by the delegates at the Convention. These visits are to encourage and help societies and to promote good-will.

ARTICLE VIII

CONSTITUTION CHANGES

Resolutions to change or amend the Constitution must be in writing and received by the Bundes Secretary no later than July 1 of any year preceding the October Convention. The secretary will issue copies to the officers and societies, who in turn have ample time to discuss same with their societies.

The New York State Saengerbund must have approval of four-fifths (4/5) of its society membership to disband, which must be executed at a regular Delegate Convention meeting.

PROCEDURE OF MEETINGS

1. Salute to the Flag.
2. President's welcome to the Delegates.
3. Roll call of Officers and Delegates.
4. Report of Mandate and Auditing Committees. (3 members, each)
5. President's annual report.
6. Secretary reading minutes of previous convention.
7. Correspondence.
8. Proposal to membership.
9. Report of Bundes Music Committee.
10. Resolution of the Board of Officers.
11. Resolutions of societies.
12. Annual Financial Secretary's report.
13. Annual Treasurer's report.
14. Report of Finance and Audit committees.
15. Unfinished business.
16. New business.
17. Memorial Service.

Announcement of next Convention and Festival.

Adjournment

ARTICLE IX

THE RULES FOR PRIZE SINGING COMPETITION

All member societies are permitted to participate in Prize Singing, by following the rules as established in the Constitution. A). Must meet their financial obligations, B). Classification application, C). the assurance that they are prepared for Mass Chorus rehearsals and Prize Singing.

Rules and regulations for Prize Singing at the Saengerfest will be determined by the Bundes Committee. All decisions made will be final at the Spring Music meeting prior to the Saengerfest and must be adhered to by all societies until after the Saengerfest.

A singer may participate with two (2) societies in Prize Singing competition, providing he has membership of two (2) years or more in both societies.

Every society has the option of competing in Mens' and Ladies' competition as well as Mixed Chorus competition.

Changes (one class to another) in Prize Singing cannot be made after the Spring Music Committee meeting, prior to the Festival. No society is permitted to engage paid or professional singers for Prize Singing

competition. **He** must be an active member of the chorus and be singing before the Spring Music Committee meeting. The number of singers to participate in prize singing is to be submitted at the Spring Convention prior to the Saengerfest.

PRIZE SONGS

The selection of Prize Songs for the classes is determined by the Bundes Music Committee according to the process established by the committee.

ADJUDICATORS

It is the duty of the Bundes Music Committee to provide the Adjudicators, by contract, according to the Constitution. No Adjudicator can be engaged if **he**, at any time, had any connection with a Bundes society. **His** compensation plus travel and Hotel/Motel expense are to be determined by the Bundes Music Committee and disbursed by the Saengerbund treasury. Societies are to be informed of the Adjudicators names.

The judging seats will be to their convenience and most suitable in the auditorium.

The Adjudicators will use a point system, and following society competitive renditions, each judge will note errors, credits and total accredited points, insert and seal in an envelope, entrusted to the Bundes Music Committee. On completion of the Prize Singing, the Bundes Music Committee impounds the results and the President keeps them, intact, until the Bundes Music Committee meeting on Sunday morning. It is required of the Adjudicators to attend the Music Committee meeting on Sunday morning to answer any questions that might arise.

No director is permitted to assist the societies with his singing voice, subject to disqualification by the Music Committee.

The host society is required to furnish a tuned piano for Prize Singing.

PRIZES

The societies in their respective classes receiving the highest points are awarded the first prize and those lower in points range are awarded the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th prizes. Should a tie in points exist, double awards will be presented.

The prizes will be Honor Diplomas with winners names inscribed — date — and authoratative **authoritative** official signatures.

It is the Host Society's privilege to award additional prizes, if so desired.

All societies participating are required to attend the Mass Chorus rehearsal and the Mass Chorus Concert.

The "Traveling Trophy" (given by Troy in memory of Karl Haeussel) is the property of the New York State Saengerbund and NOT of any particular society.

Any society winning any other trophy at three (3) consecutive Saengerfests, **Saengerfeste** in the same class, may keep the trophy.

These rules and regulations have been established by the Bundes Music Committee, The Board of Officers and Delegates and can be changed only through Constitution changes at the regular annual Conventions.

The revised Constitution has been thoroughly discussed and each Article was approved.

Respectfully submitted:

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