



Constitution
of the
Deutsch-Baltische Genealogische Gesellschaft e.V. (DBGG)

§ 1 Name, Purpose and Seat

1. The name of this association is Deutsch-Baltische Genealogische Gesellschaft (hereinafter called DBGG). The DBGG has its seat in Darmstadt and is registered in the Register of Associations at the local court of Darmstadt (VR 1865).

2. The purpose of the DBGG is to encourage and support German-Baltic genealogical research. It does so by taking stock of genealogical sources of all kinds in private and public hands, by collecting estates which might be genealogically useful, by giving expert advice to and supporting its members, by providing genealogical information and mediating contacts, by publishing the results of genealogical research, by holding genealogical conferences and by the procurement of means for tax-deductible purposes within the meaning of Section 58 no. 1 AO (Abgabenordnung, German Tax Code).

3. The DBGG exclusively and directly pursues non-profit purposes within in the meaning of the section "Steuerbegünstigte Zwecke" (tax-deductible purposes) of the German Tax Code. The DBGG's activities are disinterested; economic viability is not its primary objective. The association's funds may only be used for the purposes stated in its constitution. Its members can only work on a voluntary basis. The members do not receive any financial benefits from the funds of the association. No person may benefit from compensations which are not in line with the association's purposes or from disproportionately excessive reimbursements.

4. The DBGG stays in contact with German-Baltic organisations in Germany and abroad. It maintains the cooperation with other genealogical organisations, in particular with the Arbeitsgemeinschaft ostdeutscher Familienforscher (Association of Eastern-European Family Researchers).

5. The business year corresponds to the calendar year.

§ 2 Membership

1. The DBGG consists of:

- a) full members
- b) corporate members
- c) honorary members

2. Every person interested in German-Baltic genealogy can apply for full membership, the committee decides on the acceptance and exclusion.

3. Upon acceptance as a member of the DBGG, each member is obliged to provide the genealogical data important for the DBGG, amongst others regarding his / her main area of interest, and to pay his / her annual membership fee for the current year within an adequate period of time to be determined by the committee. All further annual membership fees are due within the first quarter of each calendar year. The amount of the fee is determined by the members' assembly and can only be changed for the next following calendar year. In individual cases the committee can reduce or waive a membership fee. This decision is always made for a limited period of time.

4. Upon acceptance as a member, each member is handed out a copy of the constitution of the DBGG and accepts as binding for himself / herself the duties set forth therein as well as the legal obligations.

5. For corporate members (family associations, associations, authorities, public corporations), the conditions for full members apply accordingly.

Corporate members are represented in the members' assembly by a representative authorized in writing.

6. People who have acquired special merits by means of genealogical activities can be elected as honorary members. Honorary members are elected by the members' assembly upon proposal of the committee. Honorary members have a seat and a vote in the members' assemblies and the assemblies of the advisory board, they can attend assemblies of the committee in an advisory capacity.

7. The membership of honorary and full members ends upon this member's death, the membership of corporate members ends upon dissolution of the corporation. The membership of all members also ends upon cancellation of membership or upon exclusion. The cancellation of membership can only be effected to the end of a calendar year and has to be declared in writing.

§ 3 Organs of the DBGG

1. The organs of the DBGG are: a) the committee ("Vorstand")
b) the accounts committee ("Rechnungsausschuss")
c) the advisory board ("Beirat")
d) the members' assembly ("Mitgliederversammlung")

2. The committee within the meaning of Section 26 BGB (Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch, German Civil Code) consists of the chairman and up to four further members; one of these further members takes over the role of the treasurer and another one the role of the keeper of the minutes. They are all granted the power of individual representation. The committee is elected for the duration of two years and remains in office till new elections have taken place.

The committee adopts rules of procedure. The committee is competent to make decisions if the majority of its members are present. In the event of an equality of votes, the chairman shall have the casting vote.

The chairman presides at the meetings of the members' assembly as well as the committee. The chairman may ask individual members, in particular members with special functions, as well as members of the advisory board, to attend the meetings in an advisory capacity.

3. The accounts committee consists of two auditors and one representative. They are elected by the members' assembly for the duration of one year and remain in office till new elections have taken place. They have to audit the annual accounts as well as the funds of the association and to report to the members' assembly.

4. The committee appoints an advisory board which gives advice to the committee in case of technical questions. Meetings of the advisory board are convened and presided by the chairman.

5. The ordinary members' assembly meets at least once a year. Extraordinary meetings of the members' assembly can be convened upon request of the committee. They are to be convened if this is requested by at least 20 % of the members. The request has to be made in writing and has to state the reasons for the request.

Invitations to members' assemblies have to be effected in writing and at least four weeks in advance by the chairman of the committee. The invitation must specify the items on the agenda. Irrespective of the number of people present, every members' assembly that has been convened in due form is competent to make decisions. The decisions of the members' assembly have to be put in writing and to be signed by the chairman of the meeting and the keeper of the minutes. The minutes have to be presented for approval at the corresponding following members' assembly.

The following resolutions of the members' assembly require a simple majority of the votes cast:

- a) acceptance of the committee's report on the work of the management,
- b) annual approval of the committee's actions,
- c) determination of the membership fee,
- d) election of the committee and the accounts committee and
- e) election of honorary members upon proposal of the committee

as well as a qualified majority of the votes cast:

- f) amendments of the constitution, see § 5
- g) dissolution of the association, see § 6.

As a rule, elections and votes are effected openly by show of hands. When calculating the majority, abstentions are counted as votes not cast.

The members of the committee are elected individually. In case there is more than one candidate, the person with the most votes is considered elected.

§ 4 Assets and Liability

The assets of the association are generated by membership fees and donations. After deducting management expenses, they are to be used solely for the purposes described in § 1, no. 2. The assets of the association as well as its members are liable for any liabilities of the DBGG; however, the members' liability is limited to their membership fees payable for the corresponding year. Resigned members have no claims to the assets of the association. Upon dissolution of the association or upon abolition of tax-deductible purposes, the assets of the association fall upon the Deutsch-Baltische Landsmannschaft im Bundesgebiet e.V., which may only use these assets directly and exclusively for non-profit, charitable or church purposes.

§ 5 Drawing up of and Amendment of the Constitution

This constitution was drawn up at the foundation meeting on February 16, 1985. Amendments of the constitution require a 2/3 majority of the votes cast at the members' assembly. Upon request of the registration court, the committee may effect drafting changes of this constitution independently. In case of doubt and supplementary to this constitution, the regulations of the Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch (German Civil Code) are applicable with regard to the Vereinsrecht (German law governing associations).

§ 6 Dissolution

The dissolution of the DBGG is to be effected if this was an item on the agenda for two consecutive members' assemblies and if 2/3 of the members present vote in favour of the dissolution at the second members' assembly.

(As per: March 7, 2020)