

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (International)

BYLAWS

Revised Bylaws
Adopted 31 July 2025

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (International), hereinafter referred to as AHSGR.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSES

Section A. AHSGR, a corporation, is organized exclusively for educational, scientific, religious, and charitable purposes, including for such purposes the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Section B. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions for furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article III of the Articles of Incorporation of AHSGR. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other activities not permitted to be carried on: (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Section C. Any action to consolidate, merge, or dissolve the corporation shall be in accordance with the applicable laws of the State of Colorado relating to tax exempt not-for-profit corporations¹. Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for educational, scientific, religious, or charitable purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine which are organized and operated for such purposes.

ARTICLE III: FISCAL YEAR²

Section A. The fiscal year shall be January 1 through December 31.

Section B.³ The Board of Directors shall determine annual dues and dates for timely payment.

¹ Revised 20 June 1998

² Revised 4 August 2023

³ Revised 16 June 2000

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP AND DUES⁴

Section A. Any individual, family, library, organization, or institution interested in the history and objectives of AHSGR who desires membership under any of the membership classifications and who tenders the necessary dues shall be eligible for membership.

Section B. Membership levels shall be Annual or Life. Only the investment income from the Life Membership Fund will be used for Society operations.

Section C. The Board of Directors may establish multiple classes of membership and determine the annual and life membership dues.

ARTICLE V: ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING⁵

Section A. An annual meeting of the membership shall be held for the transaction of AHSGR business.

Section B. The Board of Directors shall set the time and place of the annual membership meeting and notify members at least 60 days prior.⁶

Section C. One hundred (100) members in good standing in attendance at the Annual Membership Meeting shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of any business as may come before the meeting. The number of members in attendance at a Special Meeting of the members shall be no less than one hundred (100) of the members of AHSGR.⁷

Section D. The Executive Committee may, in its sole discretion, determine that any meeting of the members, including the annual meeting of the members, shall not be held at any place, but may instead be held solely by means of remote communication. Participation in a meeting held by remote communication shall constitute presence in person at the meeting for all purposes, including quorum and voting, but only upon remaining connected to the meeting via electronic means for the entirety of the meeting. Members shall receive at least seven (7) days advance notice of the change to a remote meeting and shall be provided instructions for participation and voting for such remote meeting. The Executive Committee, in its sole discretion, shall determine the applicable program and procedures to conduct the meeting by means of remote communication.⁸

ARTICLE VI: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section A. The Board of Directors [which shall consist of eighteen (18) elected members] shall have the power to conduct all affairs of the Society.⁹ The terms of the members shall be staggered so that six (6) terms expire each year.¹⁰ No spouses, partners or persons from the same household shall serve concurrently on the Board of Directors.^{11,12}

Section B. The term of office of the members of the Board of Directors shall be three (3) years. They may be re-elected for additional terms.¹³ Prior service on the Board of Directors shall not disqualify a member from serving another term or terms.¹⁴

⁴ Revised 16 July 2015

⁵ Revised 30 June 1992

⁶ Revised 27 July 2020

⁷ Revised 14 July 2021

⁸ Revised 14 July 2021

⁹ Revised 31 July 2025

¹⁰ Revised 31 July 2025

¹¹ Revised 14 June 2007

¹² Revised 27 July 2020

¹³ Revised 31 July 2008

¹⁴ Revised 08 July 2004

Section C.¹⁵ Representation Districts:

- District 1: Pacific Coast. Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington
- District 2: Mountain West. Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming
- District 3: North Central. Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota
- District 4: Southwest. Arkansas, Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas
- District 5: East. Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and U.S.A. Territories
- District 6: Canada and all countries outside the U.S.A.
- District 7: At Large.

Section D.¹⁶ Districts one (1) through six (6) shall each have two (2) representatives. The at-large District shall have six (6) representatives.

Section E.¹⁷ The transition from a Board of Directors of thirty (30) members to a Board of Directors of eighteen (18) members will commence in 2025 and will take up to five (5) years to complete. During this transition period, the Board of Directors will have between eighteen (18) and thirty (30) members with no fixed allocation required across Representative Districts.

Section F.¹⁸ ¹⁹ The Board of Directors may fill vacancies on the Board of Directors for the unexpired terms resulting from resignations when these vacancies occur at least ninety (90) days prior to the ballot process before the annual membership meeting.

Section G. At least one (1) meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held between annual membership meetings upon notice of time and place agreed upon at the previous meeting or as set by the President.

Section H. Special meetings may be called by the President or by ten (10) members of the Board of Directors. In either event, written notice thirty (30) days prior to the meeting shall be necessary. The notice of call of a special meeting shall state the purpose for which the meeting shall be called and shall be limited to the subject stated in the call.²⁰

Section I. Board members shall be required to be physically present for at least one meeting of the Board of Directors each year.²¹ The Board may waive this requirement when a Board member's contribution to AHSGR is evaluated. Consecutive unexcused absences for a period of one year shall be considered a resignation from the Board of Directors.²²

Section J. As provided in the Article of Incorporation (Article XI, Section C), at any meeting of the Board of Directors six (6)²³ members shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business.

Section K.²⁴ No member shall serve simultaneously as a member of the Board of Directors of AHSGR and the Board of Trustees of the AHSGR Foundation.

Section L. If an open position on the Board of Directors cannot be filled, the Executive Committee may transfer an otherwise eligible member-at-large from that District, with his or her consent to that open position.²⁵

¹⁵ Revised 31 July 2025

¹⁶ Revised 31 July 2025

¹⁷ Revised 31 July 2025

¹⁸ Revised 25 June 1994

¹⁹ Revised 4 August 2023

²⁰ Revised 30 June 1992

²¹ Revised 17 July 2020

²² Revised 09 June 2001

²³ Revised 16 June 2000

²⁴ Revised 28 July 2022

²⁵ Revised 09 June 2001

Section M. The Board of Directors may appoint a member from any District to fill any vacant Board of Directors position. The appointed Board member will serve until the next annual election. The incumbent may be re-appointed for successive one-year terms until a representative for the District's vacant position is identified and elected.²⁶

Section N. The Executive Committee may, in its sole discretion, determine that any number of attendees, up to and including all attendees, may participate in any meeting of the Board of Directors by means of remote communication. Participation in a meeting held by remote communication shall constitute presence in person at the meeting for all purposes, including quorum and voting, but only if remaining connection to the meeting via electronic means for the entirety of the meeting. Members of the Board of Directors shall receive at least 24 hours advance notice of the change to a remote meeting and shall be provided with instructions for participation and voting for such remote meeting. The Executive Committee, in its sole discretion, shall determine the applicable program and procedures to conduct the meeting by means of remote communication.²⁷

Section O.²⁸ Any member of the Board of Directors may be removed with or without cause as follows:

1. A director elected by the Membership may be removed by the Membership only at a meeting called for the purpose of removing that director. The meeting notice shall state that the purpose, or one of the purposes, of the meeting is removal of the director. The director may be removed only if the number of votes cast to remove the director would be sufficient to elect the director at a meeting to elect directors.
2. A director elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by the vote of a majority of the directors then in office.
3. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for submitting a recommendation to the Membership or to the Board of Directors with respect to the removal of a director under the provisions of this Section O. The Executive Committee shall assemble such information as it deems necessary to substantiate its recommendation and provide sufficient notice to the director subject to removal and to the Membership or the Board of Directors in advance of the meeting that will consider the director's removal. At least one (1) member of the Executive Committee shall be present at the meeting to conduct the meeting and to respond to questions by those in attendance.
4. Upon receipt of the meeting notice, the director subject to removal shall be on leave of absence status with respect to the director's position on the Board of Directors until conclusion of the vote by the Membership or the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS

Section A. The officers of AHSGR shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer elected from the Board of Directors.²⁹

Section B. Following the election of the Board of Directors by the AHSGR membership at the annual membership meeting, the Directors shall elect all officers to serve for a period of one (1) year. They may be reelected as long as they serve as Board members, except as cited in Section C below.

Section C. Upon retirement the President shall serve for one (1) additional year as immediate Past President during which time the immediate Past President shall serve as a voting member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee even if not an elected Board member.^{30,31}

²⁶ Revised 08 July 2004

²⁷ Revised 14 July 2021

²⁸ Revised 28 July 2022

²⁹ Revised 27 July 2020

³⁰ Revised 31 July 2008

³¹ Revised 27 July 2020

ARTICLE VIII: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section A. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, the immediate Past President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.³² In the event that a vacancy exists on the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors shall elect a board member to fill it.³³

Section B. The Executive Committee shall meet on call of the President, or on request of three (3) voting members of the Executive Committee. A majority of Executive Committee voting members shall constitute a quorum. The person or persons calling the meeting may, in their sole discretion, determine that any number of attendees, up to and including all attendees, may participate in any meeting of the Executive Committee by means of remote communication. Participation in a meeting held by remote communication shall constitute presence in person at the meeting for all purposes, including quorum and voting, but only if remaining connected to the meeting via electronic means for the entirety of the meeting. The President, in his or her sole discretion, shall determine the applicable program and procedures to conduct the meeting by means of remote communication.³⁴

Section C. The Executive Committee shall act on any matters of importance in the intervening time between regular meetings of the Board of Directors.

Section D.³⁵ The Executive Committee shall report actions taken on behalf of the Board of Director's at the next Board meeting.

Section E. The Executive Committee shall provide for a review of the Bylaws and the Standing Rules annually and report thereon to the Board of Directors.

Section F.³⁶ The Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Directors, shall be responsible for the recruitment, negotiation of salary, and hiring of the Executive Director.

Section G.³⁷ The Executive Committee shall review the job description and salary of the Executive Director annually.

ARTICLE IX: DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section A. The President shall:

1. Have executive authority and supervision over the activities of AHSGR within the scope of the Restated Articles of Incorporation and of these Bylaws.
2. Preside at all meetings of AHSGR, the Executive Committee, and the Board of Directors.
3. Appoint the members of all committees except the Executive Committee and delegate assignments not otherwise provided for.³⁸
4. Appoint a Parliamentarian to serve, as the President deems necessary.
5. Present a report to the AHSGR at the annual membership meeting.
6. Serve as an ex-officio member of every Committee, except the Nominating Committee.³⁹

Section B. The Vice President shall:

1. Assume the duties of the President in case of absence or incapability of the President. Upon the resignation or death of the President, he/she shall assume that office for the balance of the unexpired term and a new Vice President shall be elected at the next board meeting.

Section C. The Secretary shall:

1. Record the proceedings of all meetings of AHSGR, the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors and have a copy of the Proceedings made a part of the permanent record book.
2. Provide for the safekeeping of these records at the AHSGR Headquarters.

³² Revised 27 July 2020

³³ Revised 27 July 2020

³⁴ Revised 14 July 2021

³⁵ Revised 4 August 2023

³⁶ Revised 4 August 2023

³⁷ Revised 4 August 2023

³⁸ Revised 27 July 2020

³⁹ Revised 30 June 1992

3. Keep a current list of Standing Rules and Policies.
4. Have a copy of AHSGR Bylaws available at all meetings for reference.
5. Present a report to AHSGR at the annual membership meeting.

Section D. The Treasurer shall:

1. Be responsible and collaborate with the Executive Committee to oversee that the Headquarters Staff and accountant(s) do the following:⁴⁰
 - A. Receive all funds of AHSGR
 - B. Maintain adequate financial Records
 - C. Deposit all monies received for AHSGR regularly in a bank selected by the Board of Directors.
 - D. Pay authorized bills and disburses funds as directed by the Board of Directors.
2. Make a Financial report at all meetings of the Board of Directors and at the annual membership meeting.
3. Make financial records available to the finance committee for audit annually.

Section E. The Board of Directors shall:

1. Have the power to conduct affairs of AHSGR.
2. Decide questions of policy not acted upon at an annual membership meeting of AHSGR.
3. Perform such other functions provided for in these Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation.
4. Assume their duties at the close of the annual membership meeting.
5. Deliver materials pertaining to their office to their respective successors within thirty (30) days after their retirement.
6. Provide that the Treasurer shall be bonded in an amount determined by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR^{41 42}

Section A. There shall be an Executive Director appointed by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall set the salary of the Executive Director. The Executive Director may not be an elected member of the Board of Directors.

Section B. The Executive Director shall be responsible to the Board of Directors and shall manage the offices, employees, and daily operations of AHSGR.⁴³

Section C. The Executive Director shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee and shall report on Headquarters activities at each meeting of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. If he/she cannot be present at such a meeting, the report shall be submitted in writing.⁴⁴

Section D. The Executive Director shall have the responsibility to recruit and hire (subject to approval) new employees. The Executive Director shall indoctrinate, train, supervise, and motivate Society staff employees in accordance with the AHSGR Human Resources Policies and Procedures Manual. He/She shall recommend promotions and terminations (subject to approval), prepare and maintain job descriptions at Headquarters for all staff, and shall recommend salary levels to the Finance and Personnel Committee.

Section E. The Executive Director shall work with the Convention Management Committee and the local Convention Chairman and host committee on the managerial, business and financial aspects of the convention.⁴⁵

⁴⁰ Revised 27 July 2020

⁴¹ Revised 09 July 2014

⁴² Revised 4 August 2023

⁴³ Revised 20 June 1998

⁴⁴ Revised 30 June 1992

⁴⁵ Revised 27 July 2020

ARTICLE XI: STANDING COMMITTEES

The President shall establish Standing Committees as deemed necessary. The duties and responsibilities of the Standing Committees are outlined in the AHSGR STANDING RULE NUMBER ONE.⁴⁶

ARTICLE XII: ELECTIONS

Section A. Nominating Committee shall:

1. Consist of at least five (5) members appointed by the President within sixty (60) days after adjournment of the annual membership meeting.⁴⁷
2. Publish in the AHSGR Newsletter no later than 60 days prior to the annual meeting⁴⁸ each year a recommended list of members^{49,50} to serve on the Board of Directors for three (3) year terms, plus one (1) additional member for each unexpired term to be filled. The nominees shall be distributed pursuant to the apportionment provisions of Article VI and shall be distributed among the states and chapters in each Representation District⁵¹.
3. Obtain the written consent of the nominees to serve prior to nomination⁵².
4. Know that serving on the Nominating Committee does not disqualify a member from a nomination on the slate.
5. Prepare a slate of nominees for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer to submit to the newly elected Board of Directors at their first meeting. Consent of the nominees to serve shall have been obtained prior to the meeting.

Section B.⁵³ Petition Nominations

1. Nominations may be made by the membership of any Representation District by submission of a petition to the election committee no later than 1 March⁵⁴ of any year containing the signatures of at least ten (10) members in good standing from that District. Any person so nominated must sign a written consent to serve, if elected, by the same date. All petition nominations shall be consistent with the apportionment provision of Article VI. All names received by petition on or before 1 March⁵⁵ will be published in the Newsletter and placed on the ballot.

Section C.⁵⁶ Election Committee and Voting.

- 1.⁵⁷ Consist of five (5) members appointed by the President. Not more than two (2) members shall be from any one Representation District and three (3) shall be non-board members.
2. Prepare ballots bearing the names of all nominees with provision for an equal number of write-in candidates.
3. Plurality⁵⁸ vote elects. Voting will be by mail or electronic means.⁵⁹ No ballot shall be required when there is no contest for the position, and the sole nominee shall be deemed elected⁶⁰.

⁴⁶ Revised 25 June 1994

⁴⁷ Revised 27 July 2020

⁴⁸ Revised 04 August 2011

⁴⁹ Revised 26 June 1993

⁵⁰ Revised 27 July 2020

⁵¹ Revised 30 June 1992

⁵² Revised 30 June 1992

⁵³ Revised 25 June 1994

⁵⁴ Revised 16 June 2000

⁵⁵ Revised 16 June 2000

⁵⁶ Revised 25 June 1994

⁵⁷ Revised 4 August 2023

⁵⁸ Revised 28 July 1995

⁵⁹ Revised 27 July 2020

⁶⁰ Revised 10 July 1999

- 4.⁶¹ Send one ballot, if required, to each membership no later than thirty (30) days prior to the annual membership meeting and require that the election committee receive marked ballots no later than the date marked on the ballot to be valid.
5. Personnel under the direction of the Executive Director will verify all ballots received in accordance with paragraph 3 above, as to membership status. The Executive Director or designee shall deliver the ballots, unopened, to the Election Committee no later than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the annual membership meeting. The Election Committee shall open and count the ballots, report the results to the President and arrange to publish the results in the next AHSGR publication.
6. Conduct such other mail balloting as may arise.
7. No person serving on the Election Committee may be a nominee for the Board of Directors.

Section D.⁶² Nominations from the Floor.

1. Nominations from the floor shall not be in order unless:
 - A. sufficient nominations have not been made by the Nominating Committee.
 - B. the petition process has not received sufficient nominations.
 - C. circumstances prevent the candidacy of the one nominee for that position to be filled.
2. Only those positions without a nominee shall be subject to nominations from the floor.
- 3.⁶³ If there is no nomination from the floor for an opening in a Representation District of a member from the District, out-of-District nominations will be accepted for the open position.

ARTICLE XIII: POLLING OF THE DIRECTORS

Upon a vote of a majority of directors attending any regular or special meeting, or upon the written request of the President or any six (6) members of the Board of Directors, any policy matter or proposed action of the Board of Directors shall be submitted by written ballot to all members of the Board of Directors. Said ballots shall be prepared by the Secretary and mailed to each of the members of the Board of Directors and returned to the Secretary. The Board of Directors shall tally these ballots at their next meeting. The vote of the majority of ballots returned, in writing, to the Secretary prior to the meeting shall prevail.

ARTICLE XIV: AMENDMENTS⁶⁴

1. The Bylaws of AHSGR may be amended by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the AHSGR membership voting, upon sixty (60) days written notice of the proposed bylaw amendments.
2. Amendments to these bylaws are permissible by mail ballot or at any special membership meeting called for this purpose.

ARTICLE XV: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY⁶⁵

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the proceedings of AHSGR in all cases not provided for in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws or in the Standing Rules of Order.

ARTICLE XVI: CHAPTERS⁶⁶

There exists within the Society local collections of members organized as chapters. Ten or more members of AHSGR may form a local chapter upon application and submission of bylaws subject to approval of the AHSGR Board of Directors.

⁶¹ Revised 27 July 2020

⁶² Revised 25 June 1994

⁶³ Revised 28 July 2022

⁶⁴ Revised 25 June 1994

⁶⁵ Revised 25 June 1994

⁶⁶ Revised 20 June 1998

ARTICLE XVII: BOARD ACTIONS & RESOLUTIONS⁶⁷

Section A. Any action or resolution adopted by the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and/or Annual Membership Meeting shall include an implementation and/or effective date and the committee responsible for implementation oversight.

Section B. Whenever an action or resolution adopted by the Board of Directors, Executive Committee and/or Annual Membership Meeting fails to specify an implementation date, the action or resolution shall be referred to the appropriate standing committee to assign such date.

Section C. The Executive Director shall keep a record of all actions or resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors, Executive Committee and/or Annual Membership Meeting that remain outstanding and shall report the status of each as described in Article X. Section C.

ARTICLE XVIII: VILLAGE COORDINATORS⁶⁸

Section A. A Village Coordinator is a member of AHSGR engaged in the collection of historical, genealogical, cultural, geographical, pictorial, and/or other attributes of villages in Russia or under Russian hegemony.

Section B. A Village Coordinator shall exchange information and genealogy with AHSGR. A Village Coordinator and the Society are expected to share subscribers/members names for a particular village or group of villages and to further their mutual interest. Village Coordinators may collect a fee for their services to recover their cost. Village Coordinators and the Society shall document their relationship in memoranda of understanding, said memoranda approved by the Board of Directors and uniformly applied.

ARTICLE XIX: ELECTRONIC MEETINGS⁶⁹

Any AHSGR meeting, including any meeting of the Members, the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, or any other committee, may be held by remote communication as provided herein and shall be subject to the following provisions:

- a. The technology used for the electronic meeting shall allow attendees full access to and full participation in all meeting transactions, either continuously or intermittently, throughout the specified time of the meeting.
- b. AHSGR shall implement reasonable measures to authenticate the attendance and vote of each attendee.
- c. Participation in a remote meeting shall constitute presence for all purposes, including quorum and voting.
- d. Any action that could be taken at an in-person meeting may also be taken at a remote meeting held pursuant to this provision.
- e. Procedural rules related to the conduct of electronic meetings shall be established and promulgated by the Executive Committee.

It shall be the responsibility of the members to possess hardware and software that will allow them to participate in electronic meetings through technology generally available to the public and reasonably selected by the Executive Committee for use by AHSGR or the conduct of its electronic meetings.

⁶⁷ Revised 20 June 1998

⁶⁸ Revised 10 July 1999

⁶⁹ 14 July 2021

AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA STANDING RULES

STANDING RULE 1⁷⁰: STANDING COMMITTEES

Section A. ANCESTRAL RECORDS COMMITTEE⁷¹ shall:

1. Collect, preserve, and disseminate documents, records, materials and resources of our German from Russia ancestral heritage.
2. Prioritize acquisition and translation of records based on our mission to provide information related to Germans who settled in all regions of the Russian Empire, the level of interest from AHSGR members, and the expense-to-income value to AHSGR.
3. Develop and encourage the cooperation of national and international archives, academic and governmental institutions to preserve, research and make available to AHSGR documents and other materials relating to Germans from Russia
4. Negotiate with various organizations and governments to purchase records, copies of records, historic materials, or artifacts, identified as high priority, from Russia and former Soviet Union countries.
5. In conjunction with the Genealogy Research Committee, develop and maintain an inventory, where possible, listing all Germans from Russia materials and resources and their current location.
6. Identify, recruit, train, and maintain a cadre of translators to assist staff and volunteers with the translation of available records and resources into English.
7. Develop translation fee schedule, policies and procedures for translators and for creation of all record publications.
8. Along with the Archivist, determine priorities for digitizing AHSGR's collection of records.
9. Along with the Genealogy Committee, assist staff and members in acquiring or accessing research materials that address gaps in our collection.
10. Identify books concerning the Germans from Russia that should be translated and suggest to the Editorial and Publications Committee.
11. Recommend programs for presentation at the annual conference meeting, Treffen Tuesday and other AHSGR programs.
12. Prepare a report of the Committee's activities for the annual membership meeting.

Section B. CONVENTION COMMITTEE⁷² shall:

1. Develop a strategic plan for AHSGR annual conventions including future convention locations.
2. Identify potential sites for future conventions and chapters or groups interested in hosting the convention.
3. Work with the Executive Director to evaluate convention proposals, including possible venues and dates, that will serve the needs of the Society. Support the Executive Director to develop the convention budget and detailed plan.
4. If applicable, work with the local organizing committee and staff to ensure clarity in roles and responsibilities and coordination of activities.
5. Propose the convention theme, program outline and target topics of interest.
6. Identify speakers to fill the planned program.
7. Evaluate post-convention surveys.
8. Help serve as a bridge between annual conventions in providing continuity and standardization.
9. Prepare a report of the Committee's activities for the annual membership meeting.

⁷⁰ Revised 10 July 1999

⁷¹ Revised 18 October 2023

⁷² Revised 8 November 2024

Section C. CULTURE AND FOLKLORE COMMITTEE⁷³ shall:

1. Study, collect, record and effectively preserve traditional customs, beliefs, tales, expressions, and teachings of Germans from Russia.
2. Prepare culture, folklore, linguistics and related materials for publication in appropriate AHSGR publications.
3. Work in cooperation with other organizations, individuals, and AHSGR committees regarding culture, folklore or linguistic resources and materials.
4. Recommend a program related to culture, folklore and linguistics at the annual convention meeting and Treffen Tuesday.
5. Conduct an annual Storytelling Contest.
6. Prepare a report of the Committee's activities for the annual membership meeting.

Section D. EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE⁷⁴ shall:

1. Develop policies and procedures to encourage contributions of materials for publication.
2. Review material submitted to the Society and make recommendations concerning publication as a monograph, hard of soft cover book, digital, Newsletter, Journal, or website content.
3. Recommend publication standards and/or format modifications of all Society publications.
4. Review the responsibilities of the Journal Editor and Publications Coordinator and make recommendations to the Executive Committee concerning these positions. Support the Journal Editor to establish a strong Journal Editorial board.
5. Coordinate and mediate all publication contractual matters.
6. Provide oversight of the Publication Fund and make recommendations for expenditures.
7. Follow the Pricing Policy as established and approved by the Board of Directors.
8. Prepare a report of the Committee's activities for the annual membership meeting.

Section E. FINANCE COMMITTEE⁷⁵ shall:

1. Prepare an annual budget and submit it to the Board of Directors for approval.
2. Make or arrange to have made an annual audit of all financial records and report the results of the audit to the Board of Directors.
3. Prepare or have prepared a monthly and/or quarterly financial report for the Board of Directors.
4. Review the investment portfolio of the Society and make modifications as may be required. Report all investments and modifications to the Board of Directors.
5. Review annually the dues schedule and submit recommendations to the Board of Directors for approval.
6. Review, as necessary, the terms and conditions of any lease(s) into which the Society may enter. Make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding any lease(s)
7. Review and provide for the enforcement of all personnel policies including compensation and benefit plans. Recommend any modifications to the Board of Directors.
8. Prepare a report of the Committee's activities for the annual membership meeting.

⁷³ Revised 18 October 2023

⁷⁴ Revised 8 November 2024

⁷⁵ Revised 18 October 2023

Section F. FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE⁷⁶ shall:

1. Partner with IFAHSGR to develop and implement a comprehensive Fundraising Plan.
2. Collaborate with IFAHSGR to ensure that the fundraising efforts of AHSGR and IFAHSGR are coordinated and complementary.
3. Coordinate fund-raising efforts with the Marketing Committee to ensure aligned and integrated promotion.
4. Drive the generation of donations to support the ongoing operations of AHSGR, capital improvements, and new programs or capabilities that advance the mission of AHSGR.
5. Pursue grants for defined projects or operating expenses.
6. Access corporate charitable giving from organizations with a connection to the Germans from Russia community or the mission of AHSGR.
7. Prepare a report of the Committee's activities for the annual membership meeting.

Section G. GENEALOGY RESEARCH COMMITTEE⁷⁷ shall:

1. Develop and implement genealogy research tools and services to support member access to AHSGR's archival collection and other genealogical resources unique to our Heritage.
2. Develop web-based tools and guides to assist members in conducting genealogy research and understanding their German from Russia history. Identify and prioritize needs and oversee completion of new content.
3. Working with Library and Archives staff, prioritize research focused projects. Examples: German Origins Project, a Germans from Russia history timeline, research guides for Germans from Russia specific research.
4. In conjunction with the Ancestral Records Committee, develop and maintain an inventory, where possible, listing all Germans from Russia materials and resources and the current location of materials.
5. Oversee and coordinate the activities of the AHSGR Village Coordinators to propagate best practices that facilitate the collection and dissemination of genealogical and village information.
6. Coordinate and encourage research cooperation with other national and international genealogical societies relating to the Germans from Russia and make this information available to AHSGR.
7. Work with the Collections Committee and Archivist on the operation and care of the AHSGR library and archival collections including the recommendations for new materials, deaccessions and audio-visual collections. With the Collections Committee and Archivist, develop AHSGR library policies and procedures.
8. Assist staff and members in acquiring or accessing research materials that address gaps in our collection.
9. Approve fee schedules for information and genealogical searches conducted by AHSGR staff and/or volunteers.
10. Seek grants or funds to support genealogical projects.
11. Recommend Genealogy Research programs for presentation at the annual conference meeting, Treffen Tuesday or other AHSGR programs.
12. Prepare a report of the Committee's activities for the annual membership meeting.

⁷⁶ Revised 18 October 2023

⁷⁷ Revised 18 October 2023

Section H. MARKETING/PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE⁷⁸ shall:

1. Develop methods to make known to the public the purpose, activities, and resources of AHSGR.
2. Oversee AHSGR's Social Media accounts and activities.
3. Coordinate and manage AHSGR's presence at genealogical conventions/meetings, including staff and chapter support.
4. Prepare a report of the Committee's activities for the annual membership meeting.

Section I. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE⁷⁹ shall:

1. Develop policies and programs to increase membership in AHSGR through new memberships and membership renewals.
2. Facilitate sharing of Chapter best practices and ideas for programs and activities.
3. Promote and assist in the development of new Chapters, and when necessary, assist in deactivating existing chapters.
4. Seek Chapter input for changes and improvements in AHSGR programs and services.
5. Administer the AHSGR member recognition program, including the Distinguished Service Award and Special Citation Award.
6. Prepare a report of the Committee's activities for the annual membership meeting.

Section J. STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE⁸⁰ shall:

1. Develop Strategic Plan that guides investment, activities, and programs to advance the mission of AHSGR and ensure the long-term viability of AHSGR.
2. Facilitate a frank and productive discussion of organizational strengths and weaknesses, through a *SWOT Analysis*.
3. Foster an inclusive process in order to capture the passion and intellectual capital of the members of the Board of Directors and staff.
4. Create a product that serves as a roadmap for best practices to improve organizational performance and growth in critically essential areas, including service delivery, member engagement and revenue.
5. Facilitate development of annual goals and objectives, aligned with the Strategic Plan.
6. Track the performance of each goal and associated objective.
7. Prepare a report of the Committee's activities for the annual membership meeting.

⁷⁸ Revised 18 October 2023

⁷⁹ Revised 18 October 2023

⁸⁰ Revised 8 November 2024

The Bylaws Review Committee shall be authorized to correct article and section designations, punctuation, and cross references, and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the Board of Directors in connection with these bylaws.

Bylaw revisions occurred on the following dates:

Revised 28 July 1990
Revised 30 June 1992
Revised 26 June 1993
Revised 25 June 1994
Revised 28 July 1995
Revised 20 June 1998
Revised 10 July 1999
Revised 16 June 2000
Revised 9 June 2001
Revised 6 July 2002
Revised 8 July 2004
Revised 18 August 2005
Revised 14 June 2007
Revised 31 July 2008
Revised 4 August 2011
Revised 8 July 2014
Revised 16 July 2015
Revised 27 July 2020
Revised 14 July 2021
Revised 28 July 2022
Revised 4 August 2023
Revised 31 July 2025