

Constitution and By-laws of the Serbian Singing Society Lira

Article I. -Preamble

The name by which this organization shall be known is:

Serbian Singing Society Lira

The official record-keeping language of this organization shall be English.

Article II. -Purpose

The goal of the organization is to propagate and perpetuate Serbian choral music by:

- (a) Singing responses at Liturgies and other services of the St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church, Washington, DC.
- (b) Engaging the community by promoting Serbian spiritual and secular music.
- (c) Fostering and encouraging collaboration among other organizations which promote Serbian and Orthodox spiritual and cultural patrimony.
- (d) Assisting St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church, Washington, DC, spiritually, artistically, physically, and financially, .

Article III. -Membership

The rules governing membership in this organization are as follows:

- (a) Any person 13 years of age or older, who is of good moral character and who regularly pays his/her dues according to the provisions made by these By-Laws, shall be eligible to membership in the S.S.S. LIRA.
- (b) Any person desiring to become a member of this organization shall make her/his intention known to the Officers of this organization, which by majority vote of all active members, may then accept or reject the applicant for membership.
- (c) Types of members of the S.S.S. LIRA, with any applicable dues set at the Annual meeting, will be:

- 1) Active member – Active members are singers, 13 years of age or older, who are accepted as such by the Director and by the vote of the membership. Active members are expected to make a good faith effort to attend all rehearsals, Church services, and appearances, as well as participate in fund-raising efforts of the Society. Active members who are current in payment of dues shall have the right to vote at all meetings. Active members who are inactive for six (6) consecutive months will automatically be placed on leave of absence from active membership until they request in writing to return to active membership.
- 2) Supporting member – Supporting members are those persons who do not rehearse regularly with the choir and do not sing in concerts but sing with the choir for church services and/or are involved in choir events. Supporting members shall volunteer their time and talents to the benefit of the Society and may also contribute materially or financially. Supporting members may attend the Society’s meetings, with prior approval of the Executive Board, but do not have voting privileges.
- 3) Benefactors – Benefactor members are those individuals who support the Society; their assistance may be made in support of an event, appearance, or special need of the Society. They do not necessarily sing with the Society or fit the Supporting member category.

Article IV. - Organizational Structure

The Society shall be managed by an Executive Board comprised of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer and as ex-officio members the Choir Director and Parish Priest. The Officers shall be elected from the Active membership at the Annual meeting for a term of one (1) year. An officer shall not hold the same office for more than three (3) consecutive years. The Officers shall set a good example to the members and are obligated to abide by these bylaws in all matters pertaining to the Society. Candidates for the Executive Board must be active members in good standing.

- (a) Executive Board meetings shall be held monthly, or as determined by the President. The quorum for the Executive Board meetings will be 3/4 of the Officers.
- (b) Regular membership meetings shall be held quarterly. The Executive Board may call special meetings, and the members will be given advance notice of same when practicable.
- (c) There shall be an annual meeting to elect officers and a three (3) person Audit Board which shall be held in February. The date of the Annual Meeting shall be announced by the Executive Board. The agenda of the Annual Meeting and order of business shall be determined by the Executive Board.

- (d) A quorum will consist of 1/2 of the active members plus one (1) member entitled to vote.
- (e) All active members in good standing shall be entitled to vote. A member in good standing is one whose dues have been paid in the prior year, whose dues have been paid by June 30th of the current year and who participates in at least half of the choir rehearsals and services. A new active member shall be eligible to vote immediately upon payment of dues.
- (f) All decisions and elections of the organization shall be decided by a majority vote of the members qualified to vote and present at the meeting
- (g) The President, or presiding officer in the absence of the President, shall not have the right to vote at any meeting except in the case of a tie vote. If a tie vote occurs, the President shall be permitted to vote or decide the issue.
- (h) To hold or be elected to office, an active choir member must first be a member of St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church in good standing as defined by the church Bylaws and a member of the S.S.S. Lira in good standing for at least six (6) months and must be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- (i) If an officer is unable to fulfill his term, the President will appoint a replacement.

Article V. – Duties of the Executive Officers

(a) President:

The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and the Executive Board. The President shall maintain order and be responsible for the proper conduct at all meetings. The President shall countersign all checks of the organization in conjunction with the Treasurer. The President shall appoint and shall be an ex-officio member of all standing committees.

The president must be an active member of the Society for a minimum of two (2) years and will have held previous Executive Board positions except upon the initial organization of the society

(b) Vice- President:

The Vice-President shall assist the President in the performance of his/her duties and shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the President. The Vice-President shall assume chairmanship for the following functions of the Society: concerts, dances, fundraisers and special events.

The Vice-President must be an active member of the Society for a minimum of two (2) years except upon the initial organization of the society.

(c) Secretary:

The Secretary shall record and keep minutes of all the meetings of the organization and be responsible for keeping said records in good order. The Secretary shall also keep track of attendance at all choir functions. The Secretary shall manage all correspondence for the organization, under the direction of the President.

The Secretary must be an active member of the Society for a minimum of six (6) months except upon the initial organization of the society.

(d) Treasurer:

The Treasurer shall maintain and handle all financial transactions, pay all legal obligations and debts, keep all receipts and financial records in proper order, and submit a financial report to the members at all meetings of the organization. The Treasurer must request an audit of the books by the Audit Board prior to the Society's Annual Assembly. The Treasurer shall pay all obligations by check when possible. The Treasurer shall not pay any obligations of the organization without the consent of the Executive Board. All checks must be signed by both the Treasurer and President to be valid.

The Treasurer must be a member of the Society for a minimum of one (1) year except upon the initial organization of the society.

Article VI. – The Directorship

The Directorship is comprised of the Choir Director and Assistant Director(s).

- (a) The position of Choir Director is hereby established. The Choir Director will be filled by nomination of the President and confirmation by a majority vote of the membership. The nominee for Choir Director must be accepted by the Parish Priest.
- (b) There is no limit to the term of office, however a motion may be made by any member at an annual meeting to remove the Choir Director. Upon removal the President can nominate a new Choir Director at a subsequent monthly meeting.

- (c) Choir Director is in complete charge of singing at all rehearsals and appearances of the Society. The selection of songs and programs for all appearances of the Society shall be made by the Choir Director.
- (d) Remuneration and reimbursement of the expenses will be allowed under provisions of the by-laws.
- (e) Assistant Directors are appointed by the Choir Director and serve until removed by the Choir Director.
- (f) Assistant Director(s) must be active members of the Society in good standing. They shall take over the duties of the Choir Director should the need arise.

Article VII. - Rules of Order

The rules contained in Roberts' Rules of Order, Revised, shall govern the meetings of this organization where they are not inconsistent with these Constitution.

This Constitution and By-laws may be amended at an Annual meeting where at least ¾ of all active members are present, by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.

Article VIII. General Regulations

Should the Society become inactive for longer than six (6) months, the assets of the Society shall be turned over to St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church, 10660 River Rd, Potomac, Maryland.

The membership, by a majority vote of active members, has the right to recommend acceptance or rejection of an applicant for membership, and the suspension and/or discontinuation of a membership when it finds sufficient cause for such action. A suspended or discontinued member may appeal his/her case at a meeting.

This Constitution has been adopted on this day, May 16, 2018 by:

Branko Terzic	Jelena Vranic
Alexandra Zarembo	Joyce Visnick
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