



Stuttgart
Community
Spouses'
Club

**Stuttgart Community Spouses Club
Constitution 2023-24**

ARTICLE I
NAME, LOCATION AND AUTHORITY

SECTION 1: The Stuttgart Community Spouses Club (SCSC) shall operate under the jurisdiction of the Deputy to the Garrison Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, Unit 30401, APO AE 09154-0401, hereinafter referred to as the approval authority.

ARTICLE II
MANDATORY STATEMENTS

SECTION 1: SCSC is established in accordance with Army Regulation (AR) 210-22 and Army in Europe and Africa Regulation (AEA) 210-22, Private Organizations and Fundraising Policy, as mandated by IMCOM-Europe. The SCSC is not an instrumentality of the United States, shall be self-sustaining, and may not receive financial assistance from the U.S. Army, Appropriated (APF), or Non-Appropriated funds (NAF).

SECTION 2: SCSC operates and exists on a military installation only with the consent of the approval authority. This consent authorizes approval to operate, expires in two years, may be renewed biennially upon the SCSC's request, and is subject to approval by the designated approval authority. This consent is contingent upon the organization's compliance with the requirements and conditions of AR 210-22 and AEA 210-22. Failure to comply with cited policies will result in dissolution of the Private Organization (PO). The Approval Authority can revoke the PO's operating authority at any time.

SECTION 3: In no event will the U.S. Government, Department of the Army, IMCOM-Europe, or any NAFI assume any liability for the organization's actions and/or debts.

SECTION 4: In accordance with host nation laws, all members may be personally liable to creditors if the assets of the PO are insufficient to discharge liabilities.

SECTION 5: This organization will not discriminate in membership on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, mental or physical handicap, gender, gender expression, or age and will not seek to deprive individuals of their civil rights.

SECTION 6: SCSC will neither propagate extremist activities nor advocate violence against others or the violent overthrow of the U.S. Government.

SECTION 7: The organization will not engage in any form of partisan political activity as defined by DoDD 1344.10.

SECTION 8: SCSC agrees to reimburse the Army for utility expenses and other expenses if incurred, unless use is incidental (would cost the Army more to bill and collect than it costs to provide the utility).

SECTION 9: All current and future PO personnel and volunteers who have regular contact with children under 18 years of age on the installation have undergone appropriate background checks.

SECTION 10: All members are required to read the Constitution and Bylaws upon joining the SCSC. The Constitution and Bylaws shall be posted in the Thrift Shop and on the website.

ARTICLE III PURPOSE

SECTION 1: The purpose of the Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club is to foster and preserve the ideals of service and camaraderie among our members. Proceeds from our Patch Thrift Shop are reinvested into USAG Stuttgart through grants, community enhancement, and scholarships.

SECTION 2: The SCSC will not engage in activities that compete with those of any Appropriated or Non-Appropriated Fund activities.

ARTICLE IV ACTIVITIES AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS

SECTION 1: The SCSC shall sponsor and support activities to foster friendship and community among members. These activities may be educational, recreational, or social in nature. These activities are based on the General Membership's interest, with Governing Board approval. The activities supported by the SCSC may include charitable organizations, private organizations, scholarships, and other special activities.

SECTION 2: SCSC shall operate the Patch Thrift Shop, with USAG Stuttgart support, primarily to raise charitable funds. SCSC shall also conduct Ways & Means sales.

SECTION 3: SCSC is aware of the USAG Stuttgart Command Policy Letter # 12, Private

Organizations, and AEA210-22, and will conduct all fundraisers accordingly.

SECTION 4: SCSC's activities are directed towards supporting quality of life within the community and raising funds for charitable purposes.

SECTION 5: SCSC's activities are primarily conducted on USAG Stuttgart Installations.

ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: To qualify for approval as a PO in the European theater, more than 50% of the PO members must have SOFA status. Individuals with SOFA status include U.S. and sending States' military and civilian personnel, their accompanying dependent Family members, and employees with status under Articles 71, 72, or 73 of the Supplementary Agreement to the NATO Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA).

SECTION 2: Membership of the Club shall consist of Active, Associate, and Honorary Members.

a. Active Members shall consist of:

(1) Members of the U.S. Forces (active and retired), assigned or living in the USAG Stuttgart area as well as their spouses and dependents over the age of 18 who are ID Card Holders.

(2) Civilians (DoD employees) who are ID Card Holders and employees of the U.S. Forces or the U.S. Department of Defense in the USAG Stuttgart area, as well as their spouses and dependents over the age of 18 who are ID Card Holders.

(3) Other civilians who are ID Card Holders, and employees of organizations who are under contracts with the U.S. Forces or the DoD in the USAG Stuttgart area, as well as their spouses and dependents over the age of 18 who are ID Card Holders.

b. Associate members who do not have a DOD ID card must obtain sponsorship from a DOD ID card holder. The Membership Chair and Parliamentarian monitor associate membership. The percentage of non-US Forces personnel cannot exceed 25% of the total membership (in no case may it exceed 49%). AER 210-22, para. 5. The Membership Chair shall submit a motion to the Governing Board for the approval of all non-ID cardholders and anyone who does not have SOFA status. Associate members shall not have the right to vote, purchase fundraising items, hold an Executive Board or Governing Board position, or serve on any committee.

c. Honorary Members shall be the spouse of the Commander, United States European Command (hereinafter EUCOM), the spouse of the Commander, United States Africa Command (hereinafter AFRICOM), the spouse of the Deputy Commander, EUCOM, the spouse of the Deputy Commander, AFRICOM, and others as determined by the Governing Board.

SECTION 3: Membership in SCSC is required for participation in all Member Events and advertised members-only functions and to serve on the Governing Board or any of its committees, to include all committee members.

a. Application for membership shall be made by completing the membership form and the payment of dues by Active and Associate Members. Honorary Members must fill out a membership application but are not required to pay dues, although they may choose to do so. Membership fees are due upon application for membership.

b. Withdrawal from SCSC is voluntary. Membership fees are non-transferable and non-assignable, and dues are non refundable upon withdrawal from the Club under the conditions and circumstances listed in the Bylaws Article III, Section 1, b.

ARTICLE VI COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

SECTION 1: The Governing Board shall consist of the Executive Board, Standing Committee Chairs, Honorary Officers, and Advisors. The complete duties of each officer are listed in the Bylaws.

a. Executive Board: The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Operations Vice President, Thrift Shop Vice President, Welfare Vice President, Administrative Manager, Communications Manager, Operations Treasurer, Welfare Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Honorary President, and Honorary Vice Presidents. All Executive Board members must be Active Members of the SCSC and must be ID Card Holders (as defined in Article V, Sections 1 and 3). The Parliamentarian, Honorary President, and Honorary Vice Presidents are non-voting members of the Executive Board.

The President and Honorary Officers shall determine which EB member shall fulfill duties in the temporary absence of the President and which EB member shall succeed to the Presidency upon vacancy of the President.

b. Standing Committee Chairs: The Standing Committee Chairs may include but are not limited to Volunteer Coordinator, Community Enhancement, Member Events, Member Events DIY, Membership, Reservations, Scholarships, Special Interest Groups, Thrift Shop, Trips and Tours, Ways and Means, Website, and Grants. All Standing Committee Chairs must be Active Members and must be ID Card Holders (as defined in Article V, Sections 1 and 3). The President may appoint co-chairs for any Standing Committee as necessary.

c. Honorary Officers & Advisors: SCSC will have one Honorary President and may have two Honorary Vice Presidents. The spouse of the senior-ranking military official in the Stuttgart military community will be the Honorary President of the SCSC. The Honorary President serves as an advisor to the SCSC. If the spouse is unable or unwilling to serve as Honorary President, the Executive Board will appoint an Honorary President. The Honorary President will appoint

Honorary Vice President(s) who are spouses of the next senior-ranking military officials, one from AFRICOM and one from EUCOM. The Honorary President may also appoint additional Advisors, to include Advisors-at-Large, and Advisors to committees, which may include the Community Enhancement, Scholarship, Thrift Shop, and Grant Committees, as they deem necessary. Honorary Officers and Advisors are non-voting members of the Governing Board and all committees.

SECTION 2: All Governing Board members agree not to disparage or denigrate the SCSC or its Board Members orally or in writing, nor publish, post, or otherwise release any such material in written or electronic format.

ARTICLE VII ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

SECTION 1: Election of the Executive Board is held annually at the General Membership Meeting in April.

SECTION 2: A quorum is equal to the number of members present at the April General Membership meeting.

SECTION 3: The election of the Executive Board shall be decided by a simple majority of 51% of the votes received to include those present. If a single slate of officers is presented, it may be approved by acclamation.

SECTION 4: The President shall fill any Executive Board vacancies with the approval of the Executive Board with the exception of the office of President.

SECTION 5: Appointment of Advisors and Honorary Officers shall be in accordance with Article VI, Section 1(c).

ARTICLE VIII DISSOLUTION

SECTION 1: If the organization is dissolved, all funds in the treasury at the time will be used to meet any outstanding debts, liabilities, or obligations. Upon dissolution of the organization, all material and real assets remaining after payment of all liabilities will be donated to Army Emergency Relief.

SECTION 2: In the event that the organization is dissolved without notice, all funds will be donated to Army Emergency Relief.

SECTION 3: The Garrison PO Coordinator will be notified of the dissolution. Notice will include:

a. A statement of dissolution dated and signed by the PO president indicating the organization to which the dissolved organization's residual assets were transferred.

b. A copy of the bank statement showing a zero balance.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENT

SECTION 1: Constitution - Changes and additions to the Constitution will be approved by a 51% vote of a quorum of the Governing Board. Upon approval, a copy of the proposed Constitution shall be distributed to the membership via email and social media for a period of not less than seven days before the next membership meeting to be voted upon by the general membership. Enactment of amendments to the Constitution shall be by a majority of voting members present. The approved Constitution shall be signed by the President, either the Operations or Welfare Vice President, the Administrative Manager, and the Parliamentarian and forwarded to the Private Organization Coordinator. Amendments shall not conflict with AR 210-22 or AEA Regulation 210-22.

Bylaws - Changes and additions to the Bylaws must be approved by a 51% vote of a quorum of the Governing Board. A copy of the approved Bylaws shall be distributed to the General Membership by email and social media. The approved Bylaws shall be signed by the President, either the Operations or Welfare Vice President, the Administrative Manager, and the Parliamentarian and forwarded to the USAG Stuttgart Private Organization Coordinator. Changes and additions shall not conflict with AR 210-22 or AEA 210-22.

SECTION 2: Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws made throughout the year will be forwarded to the PO Coordinator. The letter reporting amendments will be signed by the president and will indicate approval by the governing board or by vote of the general membership. New amendments will not conflict with AR 210-22 or AEA 210-22.

SECTION 3: Biennial Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee - The Parliamentarian shall chair the committee, and its membership shall include the Honorary President or designee, two Executive Board members, two Governing Board members, two members-at-large and anyone the Parliamentarian deems necessary. The Committee shall present suggested Bylaw revisions to the Governing Board and Constitution revisions to the General Membership for approval.

SECTION 4: In the event that a vote is necessary between General Membership meetings, an electronic vote shall be taken. The motion requires a majority of the electronic responses collected within a seven-day period to pass.

**ARTICLE
RATIFICATION**

Pursuant to the Constitution, Article IX, Section 1, this Constitution was approved by the Governing Board on January 8, 2024, and by a majority vote of the General Membership on January 23, 2024.

Changes do not conflict with any pertinent regulations.

SCSC PRESIDENT	DATE
OPERATIONS OR WELFARE VICE PRESIDENT	DATE
ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER	DATE
PARLIAMENTARIAN	DATE

Submitted by Parliamentarian: RHONDA ROSEBERRY on January 23, 2024