
Constitution of the Goddard Dance Club (GDC)

Originally Adopted August 13, 1997
Amended November 11, 2001
Amended December 2002
Amended December 2007
Amended March 2020

1. Constitution — Charter

1.1. The Goddard Dance Club (GDC) was founded in 1977. It was incorporated as a non-profit corporation in Maryland on December 6, 1991. GDC conducts its activities at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Goddard Space Flight Center (NASA GSFC), Greenbelt, MD 20771. The Club is recognized by and operates within the Constitution and Bylaws of the NASA Goddard Employees Welfare Association (GEWA). Federal Internal Revenue Service (IRS) non-profit 501(c)(7) status was obtained in 2006.

2. Constitution — Purpose

2.1. The GDC shall promote the social, cultural, and health benefits of social ballroom dancing among the members and friends of the Goddard community by providing opportunities to learn, practice, and enjoy social ballroom dance.

3. Constitution — Membership

3.1. Current and retired civil service employees of NASA GSFC Greenbelt, NASA Headquarters, Wallops Flight Facility, or Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) are eligible to be voting members of this organization. Current contract employees with badges issued by GSFC are also eligible. Voting eligibility of members in these categories will be verified.

3.2. Dance partners and household members (immediate family) of persons who qualify for GDC membership under Section 3.1 of this Article are also eligible to vote, if they are at least eighteen years old and reside at the same address.

3.3. Persons who qualify to be voting members under Sections 3.1 or 3.2 of this Article become eligible to vote after being active members of the Club for at least eight months.

3.4. Persons who do not qualify for membership under Sections 3.1 or 3.2 of this Article are eligible to become guest members of the organization at the invitation of a sponsor who is a member. Guest members may not vote or hold elected office on the Executive Committee defined in Section 4.1 of Article 4. Guest members are eligible to renew their guest memberships in subsequent years without a sponsor.

4. Constitution — Administration

4.1. The GDC is administered by an Executive Committee consisting of four elected Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

4.2. To administer Club activities more effectively, the Executive Committee may be expanded to include Club members appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Committee. This expanded committee is called the Executive Council.

4.3. The activities of the GDC are overseen by a Directors Committee consisting of three elected Directors. The Chair of the committee shall be selected by and from among the Directors Committee members.

4.4. Elections of GDC Officers and Directors are administered by an Election Committee consisting of three elected Electors. The Chair of the committee shall be selected by and from among the Election Committee members. The Electors shall appoint a Parliamentarian from among the Club members, excluding the President.

4.5. The GDC Board of Trustees consists of members of the Executive Committee, the Directors Committee, and the Election Committee, all of whom are elected, plus ex-officio members of the Board of Trustees as prescribed in the Bylaws.

5. Constitution — Officer, Director, and Elector Eligibility

5.1. GDC Officers must have been active members of the Club for at least eight months by the beginning of their term and must be either active or retired civil servants or badged GSFC contractors.

5.2. GDC Directors and Electors must have been active members of the Club for at least eight months by the beginning of their term.

6. Constitution — Meetings of the Membership

6.1. The President may call a Meeting of the Membership at any time.

6.2. Three Officers, or two Directors, or ten or more voting members may petition the Executive Committee to convene a Meeting of the Membership. The reason for the meeting must be stated in writing. The petition shall be subject to approval by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

6.3. The Executive Committee shall give notice of a Meeting of the Membership to voting members at least two weeks before the scheduled meeting.

7. Constitution — Rules of Order

7.1. All meetings of the Executive Committee, the Executive Council, the Board of Trustees, and the Membership shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, where not in conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Goddard Dance Club.

8. Constitution — Amendments

8.1. Proposed amendments to the Constitution must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee and contain the signatures of at least ten voting members, or three Officers, or two Directors.

8.2. The Executive Committee shall instruct the Election Committee to distribute proposed amendments to the voting membership for review at least two weeks in advance of a scheduled vote.

8.3. To amend the Constitution, three-fourths or more of the ballots cast must be in favor of the proposed modifications.

8.4. The Election Committee may collect the ballots from a Meeting of the Membership, classes, mail, email, and/or web server. The collection of ballots by mail, email, and/or web server must occur for at least one week, but not more than two weeks, prior to the deadline for voting.

8.5. A copy of the amended Club Constitution certified by the Election Committee shall be forwarded as appropriate to GEWA, the IRS, and the State of Maryland.

9. Constitution — Impeachment

9.1. In accordance with State of Maryland corporate law, the Goddard Dance Club requires that Officers, Directors, and Electors of the Club shall act in good faith and in a manner reasonably believed to be in the best interests of the organization.

9.2. Acting in a way that violates the standards set forth in Section 9.1 of this Article may subject any Officer, Director, or Elector of the Club to impeachment.

9.3. The procedure for impeachment is initiated by submission of a written "Petition for Impeachment" to the Executive Committee. The petition must include: the date; the name of the Officer, Director, or Elector; at least one reason for impeachment; evidence supporting the action; and the signatures of at least ten voting members, or three Officers, or two Directors.

9.4. The impeachment shall be heard and decided by an Impeachment Committee consisting of all the elected Officers, Directors, and Electors of the Club, excepting the Officer, Director, or Elector subject to impeachment. The Impeachment Committee shall select a Chair from among its members by majority vote.

9.5. Notice of a meeting of the Impeachment Committee shall be given to all participants at least two weeks in advance. The Officer, Director, or Elector being considered for impeachment shall be given the opportunity to address the committee before any vote is taken. The results of any related investigations that have been conducted shall be provided to the committee in advance of the meeting.

9.6. At any scheduled meeting of the Impeachment Committee, a majority of the Officers, Directors, and Electors serving on the committee shall constitute a quorum to do business.

9.7. To remove an Officer, Director, or Elector, three-fourths or more of the ballots cast by the Impeachment Committee must be in favor of removal. A written secret ballot is required.

9.8. Notice of a change of the Club's Officers, Directors, or Electors approved and certified by the Impeachment Committee shall be communicated as appropriate to the membership, GEWA, the IRS, and the State of Maryland.

10. Constitution — Club Dissolution

10.1. In the event that the Goddard Dance Club is dissolved by majority vote of the GDC Executive Committee, all of its assets shall be conveyed to GEWA.