



**LAZARUS UNION**  
UNION CORPS SAINT LAZARUS INTERNATIONAL  
**CSLI**

ZVR-number: 023914681

**S T A T U T E S**

(Version 3.1, February 2014)

According to the Austrian law regulating registered associations 2002/12

Please note that this translated version is for information only, legally binding is in all cases only the official text of the German version of the statutes!

**Valid from 29.3.2014**

### **§ 01 Name, Headquarters and Fields of Activity**

- a) The name of the association is "UNION CORPS SAINT LAZARE INTERNATIONAL" (in German: „Lazarus Union“).
- b) Abbreviated form of the name: "CSLI"
- c) It is headquartered in 2100 Leobendorf near Korneuburg NÖ, Castle Kreuzenstein (titular seat courtesy of the lord of the castle) and extends its activities to Austria and other countries of the world.
- d) Mail delivery address is A-1220 Wien, Spargelfeldstraße 162/Haus 196.
- e) The association is a legal personality in accordance with the law regulating registered associations 2002 and is an independent, humanitarian, voluntary non-profit relief organisation following the ideals of Saint Lazarus. It can offer voluntary and at any time revokable relief services to other governmental and non-governmental organisations (NGO) but by doing so gives neither up its independence nor its right of self-ruling.
- f) Setting up branch associations is possible.
- g) Spiritual protectorate over the LAZARUS UNION and its Knighthood of Honour (§05) can be awarded to single persons by decision of the board, which can also deny it again.

### **§ 02 Goal and Purpose of the Association**

The association which is strictly non-profit oriented purposes the support and service of needy, sick, handicapped, or old persons in easing their everyday life by performing errands, transport services, support services and supportive sick care. The association is above party lines and supra-denominational. Clerical recognition of any kind is not sought for. Especially financial and material disaster relief support at home and abroad shall be provided. The association also engages itself supporting the homeless. It shall also serve as an umbrella organisation for other groups also working as support services which orient themselves at the ideals of St. Lazarus and become members of this association. It shall in the future act as a parent organisation for additional (CSLI) associations. It advocates human and children's rights as well as justice and equal rights and feels obligated to the values of the United Nations.

### **§ 03 Means to Reach the Purpose of the Association**

The purpose of the association shall be reached by the following ideal and material means.

Fees from individual (regular and irregular) members will not be collected, except from explicitly declared sponsoring members and group members.

Ideal means shall be especially:

- a) Talks and meetings
- b) Various internal training lectures
- c) Discussion meetings
- d) Issue of an information leaflet
- e) Operating a webpage as a communication platform with journalistic contributions, reports, and comments

Material means shall be especially:

- f) The assets of the association and its returns
- g) Earnings provided by members and friend for foundation and donation medals, membership and friendship medals, and other devotional objects
- h) Donations, collections, legacies, subsidies, other voluntary allowances, and earnings of all types of events
- i) Membership fees from group members and sponsoring members
- j) Creation of common facilities
- k) Member lecturing
- l) Founding and awarding officially wearable distinctions to members and non-members home and abroad

## § 04 Members

- a) Regular members, also called active members
- b) Irregular members
- c) Inactive members
- d) Group members (companies, societies, organisations, institutions, etc.), where every group member has one vote in the general assembly. This vote must be verified by a respective authorisation of the respective group and must be executed by the nominated person personally., otherwise this vote is being considered delegated to the respective president of the LAZARUS UNION.
- e) Supporting members
- f) Junior members
- g) Honorary members and Knights of Honour of all ranks

- a1) Regular (active) members are those participating in the association's work
- b1) Irregular members are those who are not explicitly accepted as "regular members" but participate in the association's work at least partly. In general this will apply to members of participating organisations from all over the world filing for acceptance and receiving permission to wear uniform in case of positive answer. Knights of Honour are irregular members by default.
- c1) Inactive members are members having been degraded from any other status by the board. They are still considered members (without the right of vote or eligibility for any functions) and have no permission to wear uniform.
- d1) Group members can be companies, associations, organisations, and institutions with a legal personality. They are considered as regular members.
- e1) Sponsoring members are members who have agreed to pay a certain sponsoring fee. They have no right of vote or eligibility for any functions.
- f1) Junior members are persons aged at least 10 years, They must support written permission from a parent or legal guardian. On reaching the age of 18 a new membership application must be filed.
- g1) Honorary members and Honour Knights are persons or legal personalities named by the board of management for having done much for the cause of the CSLI and continue to support the CSLI in an extraordinary way also in the future.

## § 05 Knighthood of Honour

- a) True knighthood orders (i.e. those recognised by the Roman-Catholic Church) are the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, the Teutonic Knights, and the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. Still today there is a great number of associations calling themselves "knighthood orders." These at best are "knightly associations" whose members have more or less anchored the old knightly virtues in their statutes, constitutions, codices of honour, or whatever they call it and (try to) act along those. The CSLI neither intends nor is it entitled to judge or comment on such "modern knighthood organisations." Everybody who acts in a knightly way, regardless why, earns the respect and the regard of the CSLI. Even in our days the old knightly virtues have not lost their meaning. Striving to act according to those virtues can be seen more than necessary in today's times. The CSLI as a pro bono humanitarian charitable world-spanning organisation wants to leverage these knightly virtues (faith, hope, love, compassion, justice, bravery, and modesty) whenever possible and as such has (although it is no knighthood order in the strict sense) introduced the symbolic knighthood in the form of the "Knighthood of Honour."

- b) The Knighthood of Honour is represented by the Grand Master according to the "Rules of Knighthood of Honour" as issued by the board.
- c) The position of the Grand Master of the Knighthood of Honour is taken automatically by the President of the Lazarus Union.
- d) The protectorate is held by the person nominated by decision of the board and who has accepted this nomination.

#### **§ 06 Membership**

- a) All natural persons of at least 18 years of age can become regular members, also all legal personalities and partnerships capable of holding rights.
- b) All natural persons of at least 18 years of age can become irregular members, also all legal personalities and partnerships capable of holding rights.
- c) All natural persons of at least 18 years of age can become group members, sponsoring members, and youth members, as well as all legal personalities and partnerships capable of holding rights.
- d) Membership and also possible degradation are approved by the board of management (there is no appeal within the association possible). Refusal of an application can be done without stating any reason.

#### **§ 07 Expiration and Suspension of Membership**

- a) Membership expires upon death of a natural person, because of voluntary termination, or upon dissolution of legal persons and groups of persons.
- b) Termination of membership is only possible at the end of the year (December 31st) and must be indicated to the board of management in written form at September 30th latest. If the written notification reaches the board at a later date, termination of membership is only possible at the next possible date.
- c) A member can be expelled by decision of the board of management if the member has not paid its membership fees for the current year by March 31st latest despite a written reminder. Such action does not exempt the person expelled from its liabilities regarding the membership fee and any remainder fees. Legal venue for all litigations is the circuit court which is in charge of the CSLI.
- d) A member can also be expelled by decision of the board of management if the member is guilty of a gross violation of member duties or dishonourable behaviour. In case of dishonourable behaviour expelling will be in action immediately.
- e) In case of expelling or voluntary membership termination all items indicating membership (e.g. association documents, insignia, ID cards, etc.) regardless of the way of their acquisition have to be returned to the association without compensation within three weeks of the membership termination.
- f) Also the board of management can decide about the denial of an honorary membership. In this case as well as in the case of §6 c/d/e the member has the right to appeal to the arbitration board (in the sense of §577 ff of the Austrian civil litigation rules) within 14 days after learning about the decision. The arbitration board then decides about the expelling and informs the next general assembly about the decision. The general assembly then decides finally about the case. Until this final decision the membership in question is dormant.
- g) In case a member does not honour assigned tasks (whatever they are) the board of management can declare the membership of such a member suspended or degrade the membership to inactive status. If the Union Commander is also President a second member of the board must agree on the suspension. While suspended or in inactive status the member is not entitled to vote or stand for election nor does he or she have any other rights of a member except calling for an arbitration board. The body responsible for the suspension or degrading to inactive status is also entitled to revoke

the suspension or degrading to inactive status as soon as the member has fulfilled the tasks towards the association.

- h) Exclusion from and denial of all ranks and functions of the Knighthood of Honour is decided upon by the Chapter of the Knighthood of Honour (§ 05c). In all matters regarding the Knighthood of Honour there is no possibility of recourse to legal action. Membership rights are not affected by this.
- i) In case of exclusion from the Knighthood of Honour all insignia and memorabilia indicating the Knighthood of Honour have to be returned free of charge and without reimbursement, regardless of how they were obtained.

#### **§ 08 Member's Rights and Duties**

- a) Members are entitled to participate in all events of the association and to use all its facilities.
- b) The right to vote and the right to stand for election is only granted to regular members (§4a) in the general assembly; honorary members (§4d) are only granted the right to vote. Legal personalities have only one vote.
- c) All members are obliged to support the goals and interests of the association with the best of their ability and to refrain from everything which would damage the image and goals of the association.
- d) All members (regardless of their type of membership) taking any official functions or duties are obliged to execute these to their best abilities until relieved again of those functions or duties or these have been limited in time and are expired.

#### **§ 09 Organs of the Association**

- a) Organs of the association are the general assembly (§§9 & 10), the board of management (§11), the auditing committee (§13), the court of arbitration (§14), and the advisory board (§16).
- b) All functionaries exercise their activities pro bono.

#### **§ 10 General Assembly**

- a) The regular general assembly (GA) will be held once per year.
- b) An irregular GA will be held upon decision of the president, the board of management, the regular GA, on written request of at least one tenth of the members, on demand of the auditors, or by decision of a judicial appointed curator within four weeks.
- c) For a regular or irregular GA all members have to be invited in written form at least two weeks in advance, by letter, fax, or email to the last notified address, fax number, email address or via the known official web site (this is also valid for affiliated associations). The invitation has to contain an agenda. The board of management or - in case of its refusal or hindrance for a not foreseeable future - the auditors can summon a GA.
- d) Requests to the GA have to be filed in written form via mail, fax, or email at the board of management at least eight days before the date of the GA.
- e) All members are entitled to participate in the GA, but only regular members are entitled to vote.
- f) Regarding the right to vote refer to §8b.
- g) Every regular member and every group member has one vote. (On group voting see §4/d)
- h) Valid decisions can only be taken with regard to the agenda. Exceptions are decisions regarding a summoning of an irregular GA.
- i) The GA has a quorum regardless of the number of members attending.
- j) Elections and decisions are generally done with simple majority of valid ballots. In case of an equality of votes the chairperson's vote decides.

- k) The chair is taken by the president, in case of the president's hindrance by the vice president and in case of the hindrance of both by the secretary general.

#### **§ 11 Area of Responsibility of the General Assembly**

- a) Acceptance and approval of the statement of the accounts and the closing of the accounts.
- b) Resolution over the estimates of cost.
- c) Suspending and appointing (electing) the members of the board of management (§11) and election of the auditors (§13).
- d) Approval of business between the association and the auditors.
- e) Deciding the amount of the entrance fee, the yearly membership fee and any other fees.
- f) Acknowledging and co-opting members of the board of management and auditors.
- g) Consultation and passing of the written introduced requests.
- h) Covering of any other agenda items.
- i) Acknowledging changes of the statutes.
- j) Dissolving the association.

#### **§ 12 The Board of Management**

- a) The board of management at most consists of the following members:
  - 1. President
  - 2. Vice presidents
  - 3. Secretary general
  - 4. Treasurer (cashier)
  - 5. Vice secretary general
  - 6. Vice treasurer,
  - 7. The board can co-opt up to 6 more vice presidents if necessary.
  - 8. Advisors who can be co-opted into the board by the president on demand have only counselling function and are not entitled to participate in board decisions
- b) and at least of
  - 1. President, who in this case also acts as treasurer
  - 2. Vice president, who in this case also acts as secretary general
- c) The board of management is responsible for the management of the association. It is the responsible body in the sense of the law regulating registered associations 2002. It is responsible for all tasks not assigned to another body in the statutes.
- d) The term of office for the board of management shall be four years.
- e) The board of management is summoned by the president in written or oral form. If the president is hindered the elected vice president acts for the president, in case both are hindered the vice president with the longest service time present, if all these are hindered, the secretary general acts for the president.
- f) In case of the withdrawal of a member of the board of management the other members of the board co-opt a successor who has to be acknowledged by the next GA.
- g) If the board of management is inoperable for a longer period of time (more than two months) every auditor has the duty to assemble an irregular GA to re-elect a new board of management. If the auditors are inoperable also, every regular member after learning about the situation has to immediately apply to the responsible court of law for the appointment of a curator to assemble an irregular GA.
- h) The board of management decides with simple majority of board members present. In case of equal votes the chair decides. The voting rights of absent board members are transferred to the president or to the board member who takes the chair.
- i) The president takes the chair. If the president is hindered the vice president takes the chair, in case both are hindered the vice president with the longest

service time present, if all these are hindered, the secretary general takes the chair.

- j) The board of management has a quorum when all members have been invited and at least half of the members are present.
- k) The board of management will be assembled by the president in written or oral form on demand, according to possibility two times a year. If the president is hindered the vice president acts for the president, in case both are hindered the secretary general acts for the president.
- l) The position of a member of the board of management expires upon death, expiration of the term of office, resigning, or dismissal.
- m) Announcement of the resignation of a member of the board has to be made to the board of management, in case of resignation of the complete board of management to the GA. Resignation has to be turned in in written form and becomes valid only after co-opting or electing a successor.

### **§13 Obligations of the Board of Management**

- a) The president is the highest functionary of the association and transacts any current business of the association and receives assistance from the vice presidents and the other members of the board of management.
- b) The president represents the society officially. All written documents must be signed by the president and the secretary general to become valid; financial matters must be signed by the president and the treasurer. In case of hindrances the substitution rules apply. Any transactions between the association and members of the board of management must be approved by the GA subsequently.
- c) Legal authorisation to represent the association officially in certain matters and to sign on behalf of the association must be arranged for as stated in the previous sub-paragraph.
- d) The president chairs the meeting of the board of management and the GA. If the president is hindered the vice president acts for the president, in case both are hindered the vice president with the longest service time present, if all these are hindered, the secretary general acts for the president.
- e) The secretary general takes the minutes during the GA and during the board of management's meetings.
- f) The treasurer is responsible for duly conducting all affairs financial.
- g) With regard to sub-paragraphs e and f the secretary general and the treasurer are substituted by their respective vice colleagues.
- h) In case of danger ahead and non-fulfilment of functional duties the president or, if hindered two vice presidents or in case these are hindered the secretary general and one vice president, is entitled to decide on own authority on matters belonging to other board member's areas of accountability (with the exception of auditors and arbitration board chairs). Such actions must be subsequently approved by the responsible board member.
- i) Drafting the yearly estimation of costs, the statement of the accounts and the closing of the accounts.
- j) Preparation of the GA.
- k) Assembling the regular and irregular GA.
- l) Administration of the association's assets.
- m) It is incumbent upon the board of management to appoint the Union commander and deputies, the members of the advisory council (directorate) and functionaries as far as not being regulated in other sub-paragraphs or being in the domain of the GA.
- n) Acceptance and dismissal of regular and irregular members, group members, youth members, degrading of members, appointment of honorary members.
- o) Assigning honorary commissions (in the operational command area of the Lazarus Union up to "CSLI General") is the duty of the union commander or the president.

- p) If an elected functionary (according to Austrian association laws) resp. the union commander or the union deputy commander retire after a full period of four years the board can on request award him a honorary commission according to his rank. He has to use the label "em" (emeritus) following his rank indication.
- q) Hiring and dismissal of employees of the association.
- r) Purchases of any type up to a yearly upper limit of € 25.000,-. Purchases exceeding this limit must be approved by the GA.
- s) All types of businesses exceeding a yearly limit of € 25.000,- must be approved by the GA in advance.
- t) The board of management has to execute financial care adequate to a duly acting businessman. All members of the board of management exercise their activities pro bono. The association's assets must be used purposive.

#### **§ 14 Auditing Committee**

The yearly GA elects two auditors who are not allowed to bear any other function. They are responsible for financial controlling and auditing and have to report to the GA and request exoneration of the board of management there.

#### **§ 15 Court of Arbitration**

- a) To settle any differences resulting from the affairs of the association an internal court of arbitration is appointed. It is considered to be an institution of arbitration in the sense of the law regulating registered associations 2002 and not a court of arbitration according to the Austrian civil litigation rules (§577).
- b) The court of arbitration consists of three regular CSLI members. It is formed in such a way that one of the conflicting parties names in writing one member of the association to the board of management as adjudicator. On request of the board within 7 days the other conflicting party has to name another CSLI member for the court of arbitration on their part within 14 days. After the board has informed the nominated members within 7 days these have to nominate a third regular CSLI member as chair of the court of arbitration within another 14 days. On equality of votes decision will be by lot. The members of the court of arbitration must not belong to any body of the CSLI - with the exception of the GA - which is the subject of the differences.
- c) The court of arbitration decides after hearing both parties in the presence of all its members with simple majority. It decides to the best of its knowledge and conscience. CSLI internally its decisions are final.

#### **§ 16 The Union Commander/Deputy**

- a) The Union Commander is the highest ranking functionary of the CSLI, not elected by the GA but appointed by the board of management. His task is the operative and administrative lead of all commanding structures of the CSLI. He is appointed by the board of management with simple majority, according to the board of management's turn of office. Removal of his office before the end of his term can only be because of voluntarily resignation or by simple majority decision by the board of management
- b) The Union Commander has the authority to issue or withdraw any promotion within his command or to delegate this authority. The only exception to this is the Deputy Union Commander who is also appointed or dismissed by the board of management by simple majority.
- c) The Union Commander is only accountable to the board of management and further on to the GA.
- d) Up to three Deputy Union Commanders can be appointed.
- e) If no Union Commander resp. Deputy Union Commander have been nominated, the CSLI president resp. vice president will hold the function during their turn of office.
- f) Decrees for documents and appointments are valid only if holding the signatures of the Union Commander and a member of the board of

management. Such signatures can also be in electronic or facsimile form. If the Union Commander is also the president, his signature is valid on its own.

- g) The Grand Commander's Cross of Merit and the Grand Cross of the Cross of Merit of the CSLI require the Union Commander's signature and the approval of at least two other members of the board of management. If the Union Commander is also the president, the approval of one member of the board of management is sufficient.
- h) All other grades of the CSLI Crosses of Merit resp. all other awards, decorations, and honour medals are awarded at the Union Commander's own discretion.
- i) In the order of protocol the Union Commander and the Deputy Union Commander are positioned immediately after the members of the board of management. This is also shown in the valid insignia and badges of rank of the CSLI. If a Union Commander or Deputy Union Commander resigns voluntarily during term of office they are entitled to the honorary title Union Commander emeritus (em.) or Deputy Union Commander emeritus (em.).

### **§ 17 Advisory Board**

- a) Members of the advisory board have an honorary function and are appointed by the board of management by simple majority vote. The board is entitled to revoke this decision any time. The number of advisory board members is not limited; they can be assigned selected tasks. The advisory board consists of a chair, one to ten vice chairs and the advisors (directory members).
- b) The advisory board's term of service in general is identical to that of the board of management. In case a new board of management is elected the General Assembly has to confirm the previously appointed advisory board either one by one or as a whole group.
- c) The advisory board is an assisting and counselling organ to the board of management, it has no vote there.
- d) Tasks of the advisory board:
  - d/1) Pre-acceptance of the closing of the accounts and the estimation of cost to forward them to the auditors and acceptance of the statement of accounts to forward it to the GA.
  - d/2) Representing the association officially by the social positions of the members of the advisory board (directory).
- e) Members of the advisory board must not necessarily be also members of the CSLI.
- f) The chair of the advisory board is the highest ranking member of the association with regard to the protocol.

### **§ 18 Basic Declaration**

- a) The CSLI is open for all humans regardless of race, ethnic origin, religion, social standing, sex, age, and regardless of their affiliation to any associations, societies, and orders whatsoever as long as they follow the ecumenic humanitarian principles given by the principle of St. Lazarus. Everybody who feels obliged to these principles and is willing to work for these principles is heartily welcome in the CSLI. The CSLI is committed to strict neutrality against all groups of the Order of St Lazarus and will refrain from taking any sides. The CSLI considers itself to be an international relief organisation especially for the Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem (United Grand Priories and for ALL other "Lazarus groups" and will cooperate on an international basis with all of them if they wish to do so. The CSLI is committed to balance, to tolerance, and to brotherly love.
- b) The Association is non-political and nondenominational.
- c) Despite the fact that the CSLI is an organisation in uniform its basic principles are pacifistic, oriented on peace, understanding, reconciliation and disapproval of all and any forms of violence. So the CSLI is not to be seen as any form of "defense policy" organisation (of any kind) and does not have any ambitions in this direction.

- d) This basic declaration can only be altered by decision of the GA with a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority of valid cast votes.

### **§ 19 Mission Statement**

- a) The CSLI has voluntarily declared a special mission statement which is obligatory for all members. A modification of this mission statement can only be altered by decision of a regularly assembled GA with a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority of valid cast votes.
- b) Violation or infringement of this mission statement can be punished by dismissal of the member from the association. The decision is up to the board of management (see §13/n).
- c) The mission statement:
  - c/1) The CSLI is an independent private relief organisation after the ideals and in the spirit of St. Lazarus. Its members are united by the mission to delight other people, provide disaster relief, care for handicapped fellow persons, and support the homeless. We act pro bono, come from all groups of age, professions, and society.
  - c/2) We pay respect to all people. We accept them as they are, regardless of their nationality, ethnicity, religion, age, social standing, and background.
  - c/3) We place out emphasis on the quality of the relations. We provide room for the development of self-esteem and livelihood responsibility.
  - c/4) We face the challenge of ever-changing tasks. We are bound by team spirit. There are continually manifold chances for spiritual and personal development.
  - c/5) Our friends and supporters we give transparency and security in return for their support. The resources donated we use appropriately, competently, economically, and responsibly.
  - c/6) Oriented at our moral values we accept every person in their own uniqueness. Our doing and thinking is guided by our love of people, trust, carefulness, joy, self-responsibility, courage, and a willingness to conciliation.
  - c/7) The main principles of the CSLI are tolerance, humbleness, mercy, and brotherly love.

### **§ 20 Miscellaneous**

- a) All members are bound to discretion against third parties about all internal information they learn during their membership.
- b) Members are subject to the official regulations and the dress and uniform code of the association as issued by the board of management with regard to their activities for and in the name of the association.
- c) It is stated here expressively and clearly that the LAZARUS UNION is neither a spiritual nor a secular order and neither claims nor seeks such a status. Maintaining knightly traditions and virtues is claimed and sought for as these are essential parts of the mission and the foundation of the LAZARUS UNION and as such are embedded in the statutes and in the Knighthood of Honour. The LAZARUS UNION is an independent group neither wanting to be taken for any other "Lazarus formation" nor wanting to imitate on of them.
- d) All resolutions and orders must not be contrary to the valid laws (chapter 20 of the law regulating registered associations).

### **§ 21 Dissolving the association**

- a) The association can only be dissolved voluntarily by a three-quarter majority of the attending members of a regularly called for general assembly.
- b) The general assembly appoints two liquidators with simple majority.
- c) After covering the liabilities any remaining assets of the association will become available to the UNESCO or a similar international organisation to

be used for its charitable work. If that is not possible the remaining assets shall go to the Austrian Caritas with the obligation to be used for charity purposes only.

\*\*\*\*\* Finish \*\*\*\*\*