



Constitution of the Metrolina Phoenician Club  
Revised February 2025 with updated Membership Dues

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this non-profit organization shall be "The Metrolina Phoenician Club" (herein referred to as the "Club").

ARTICLE II – STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the Club shall be:

- 1- To serve as a social organization for Lebanese, Lebanese Americans and others who support our common objectives
- 2- To preserve the Lebanese heritage and traditions
- 3- To promote and support humanitarian efforts including but not limited to charitable efforts in Lebanon and the United States of America

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Composition:

- 1- Membership to the Club is open to anyone interested, subject to the approval of the Board
- 2- Annual Membership Dues to be set by the Board

Privileges:

- 1- Members shall receive official communication from the Club on a regular basis
- 2- Members have the right to participate in any or all Club activities
- 3- Members have the right to participate in Board Elections

ARTICLE IV – THE BOARD

Number and Qualifications:

- 1- The Board composition will be an odd number (currently nine members), to include a subset of at least four officers plus the Immediate Past President, creating a total of five officers
- 2- The board composition may be changed by two-thirds majority of the board
- 3- All Board nominees must be paid Members of the Club for the prior two years and the upcoming nomination year. Example: For the year 2025, a nominee must have paid dues for 2023, 2024, and 2025
- 4- An individual may only be nominated to serve on the Board by a current paid Club Member
- 5- A quorum of 51% of board members is required for the board to meet

Election of the Board:

- 1- The Board, except for the Immediate Past President who is a Member ex-officio, shall be elected at each biennial (every two years) business meeting of the Members

- 2- The election shall be by secret ballot at the General Assembly. All Board Members shall be elected for a two-year term

#### Selection Process:

##### President:

- 1- The President of the Board will serve a term of two years
- 2- The President may not serve more than two consecutive terms

##### Officers:

- 1- The Board shall elect the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer by a majority vote of the newly elected Board at the first meeting of the new year. The immediate past president shall preside over the first meeting till the election of the new President has taken place. The new president will then preside over the remainder of the meeting
- 2- Responsibilities of the aforementioned officers are defined in section "Duties" of this Constitution

#### Conflicts of Interest:

- 1- An individual may not serve as a Board Member if he or she serves on another Lebanese social and/or cultural organization's Board in Charlotte, NC
- 2- Individuals from the same household (i.e., Parent/Child, Husband/Wife, Siblings) may not serve as Board Members concurrently (at the same time) unless there is a vacancy on the board that has not been filled for that two-year term. If such a vacancy occurs, an individual from the same household may be nominated and voted as member of the board by a two-third majority of votes by the remaining members

#### Termination:

- 1- Failure to attend 3 meetings per year without an accepted excuse shall constitute a tender of resignation

#### Vacancies:

- 1- Should there be an unanticipated Board Member vacancy by death or resignation, the vacancy shall be filled by a two-third majority vote at the next Board Meeting
- 2- In the event of this occurrence, the Immediate Past President shall relinquish his or her voting privilege to serve as a trusted advisor to maintain an odd number voting Board
- 3- The Past President's voting rights will be restored once a replacement board Member has been voted on

#### Compensation:

- 1- All Board Member duties are to be performed pro bono as volunteers

### Duties:

- 1- The Board shall present an Annual Report on Club activities and finances to the entire Club Membership during the Annual General Assembly
- 2- The President shall preside over all Club events and Board Meetings
- 3- The Vice President shall preside at all Club events and Board Meetings in the absence of the President
- 4- The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of receipts and expenditures and shall present a report at each regular Board Meeting. The Treasurer shall ensure that all funds designated are disbursed properly. The Treasurer is responsible for maintenance of the 501(c)(3) status and annual tax filings. The Treasurer is to maintain regulatory financial documentation, including but not limited to IRS requirements. The Treasurer is to provide financials to the Secretary for official recordkeeping
- 5- The Secretary shall keep historical records, including Meeting Minutes, donation records, sponsorship records, the Annual Haffleh financial records, and other event financials prepared by the Treasurer. The Secretary distributes written acknowledgments for charitable contributions and thank you letters to donors. As of 2024, the Secretary maintains the online accounts for the following: Gmail/Google Drive, Wix.com (website), Solutions (website domain host), PayPal, WhatsApp Group Ownership, Zoom, Zeffy, Facebook Group, Facebook Page, Instagram, 1800flowers.com, Officedepot.com, GuideStar, Ticketmaster, USPS Account

### Committees:

Committee chairs to be appointed by the President with the Board's approval. Specific Committees are enumerated in the Bylaws

### ARTICLE V – FUNDS AND DONATIONS

All funds and donations received or raised by the Club or raised by committees will be allocated by the Board

### ARTICLE VI – NATIONAL REPRESENTATION

The Metrolina Phoenician Club is affiliated with the Southern Federation of Syrian Lebanese American Clubs

### ARTICLE VII – CONSTITUTION

To amend the Constitution, two-thirds majority vote approval is required from the current sitting Board



Bylaws of the Metrolina Phoenician Club  
Revised January 2025 with updated Membership Dues

ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP

Qualifications:

Membership of this Club shall consist of those who pay annual dues and agree to the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the Common Objectives of this Club

Annual Dues:

The Board will determine the annual dues. Active Members are required to keep their dues current. Failure to pay dues will result in loss of Membership

Suspension and Expulsion of Members:

Any Member of the Club may be suspended or expelled for good cause by a two-third majority vote of the Board

Common Objectives:

All Members shall agree to be bound by the Common Objectives. Amendment to these objectives should be prepared by the Board and approved by two-third majority of Members in attendance at the Annual General Assembly

In keeping with the statement of purpose, the Club shall:

- Sponsor at least one Annual Fundraiser
- Have at least one Annual General Assembly
- Organize and assure the disbursement of funds to orphanages, charities, or institutions in Lebanon and/or the United States at the discretion of the Board
- Participate in local community events as recommended by the Board
- Disseminate information about Lebanon from the Lebanese Information and Research Office at the Embassy of Lebanon, located in Washington, DC., or the Lebanese Honorary Consul located in Raleigh, NC

Family Memberships:

Family Membership shall include the spouse and dependent family Members living at the home under the age of 21. Family Membership Dues are currently set at \$95 per annum. The Board may adjust Dues as deemed appropriate

Single Memberships:

Individuals over the age of 22 are required to pay a Single Membership. Single Membership Dues are currently set at \$35 per annum. The Board may adjust Dues as deemed appropriate

New Members:

All new Members shall be added to the official communication distributions of the Club and have access to the Constitution and Bylaws on the Metrolina Phoenician Club website

## ARTICLE II – MEETING OF MEMBERS

### Annual General Membership Meetings:

The Members of the Club shall meet at least once each calendar year at the Annual General Assembly. The annual meeting may be held on the same day as any other social event. The time and place to be set by the Board

### Notice of Annual General Membership Meetings:

Notice of the Annual General Assembly shall be communicated to all active Members at least 30 days prior to the meeting

### Voting:

All active Members, eighteen years of age or older, shall have one vote. Voting Members will be required to be present to exercise their voting privilege. A simple majority of Members (51%) present shall be required on all voting matters considered at each Annual General Assembly, except as otherwise provided herein

## ARTICLE III – COMMITTEES

Each Board Member is to be assigned to two committees:

### Special Events Committee

Shall be responsible for all social activities of the Club (i.e., dinners, receptions, dances, etc.)

Each event shall have a separate Special Events Committee dedicated to it

### Humanitarian Aid Committee

Shall be responsible for all fundraising efforts to help various relief projects as well as other charities approved by the Board

### Membership Committee

Shall be responsible for recruiting new Members and maintaining an accurate Membership directory and community Membership directory

### Scholarship Committee

Shall be responsible for reviewing the applications of individuals who have applied to the Metrolina Phoenician Club Scholarship and determine if their application qualifies to be considered for the Southern Federation of Syrian Lebanese American Clubs Scholarship

This Committee is also responsible for reaching out to the community to contribute to the fund

### Building Fund Committee

Shall be responsible for raising funds to build a Clubhouse

This Committee shall be led by the Vice President

### Marketing Committee

Shall be responsible for social media, website updates, flyer creations, email communications, and promotion of events

Shall be responsible for handling all publicity including contacts with other civic, community, social and service organizations

## ARTICLE IV – COMMITTEE SELECTION PROCESS

### Chairpersons:

Shall be appointed by the President and approved by a simple majority (51%) of the Board

### Co-Chairpersons:

Shall be appointed at the request of the Committee and approved by the Board

### Termination:

Failure to attend 3 meetings without an accepted excuse shall constitute a tender of resignation. Vacancies by death or resignation shall be filled for the unexpired term by simple majority (51%) vote of the Board

## ARTICLE V – AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed by a two-thirds majority vote of the current sitting Board



## About the Metrolina Phoenician Club Revised January 2025

### About Us

In 1984, the late Theodore J. Solomon, a successful businessman and a well-known icon in Charlotte, met with his friend the late Mike Shaheen, a successful contractor and builder, to express his concerns for the many displaced people and orphans from the old country, a sad situation created by the raging civil war. He asked Mike to help him form a Lebanese Club in Charlotte to raise funds for charities and orphanages in Lebanon. Ted wanted this organization to be purely non-political and totally blind to religions. He put in \$500 to get the organization started.

Mike took this challenge to heart and got the project rolling with the help of his good friends Ed Trouble, Walid Maalouf, and Frank Mack, all well-established and known personalities in the community. All became original founding Members and after three years of hard work and dedication, in April 1987 the Club, which Ted named The Metrolina Phoenician Club (MPC), was registered as a non-profit organization with the following Statement of Purpose:

To serve as a social organization for Lebanese and American Lebanese  
To preserve the Lebanese heritage and traditions  
To promote and support humanitarian efforts in Lebanon and the USA

In that first year and under the first President Walid Malouf, the MPC had around 100 Members. In 1988, the MPC invited the entertainer Danny Thomas to Charlotte for a fundraising Haffleh. The late Danny Thomas was the son of Lebanese immigrants who founded St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, as well as the American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charity (ALSAC). The MPC became very close to Danny, who spent an entire weekend in Charlotte entertaining the crowd and was instrumental to the fundraising efforts that year. During the first three years, the Club successfully raised \$60,000 which was sent to aid the needy and orphanages in Lebanon. To this day, the MPC continues to support ALSAC and The Children Cancer Center in Beirut, Lebanon which is the affiliate of St. Jude hospital in Memphis, TN.

The MPC has since become one of the leading social and cultural Clubs in the community. Over the years, Membership has grown to include many friends of the Lebanese who share and support our common objectives as well as the various activities provided by the Club.

Many activities are organized by the MPC throughout each year to promote camaraderie among Members. These events include the Spring Picnic which serves homemade falafel sandwiches; the Game Night of backgammon, bingo, and trivia; the Iftar Dinner during the month of Ramadan; the Dutch Treat outings; and the Annual Christmas Party/General Assembly at which Santa visits with toys for the children. By far the most popular event is the annual Haffleh, which attracts a crowd of 300 or more from the community. The annual Haffleh is also the main fundraiser to support charitable organizations here in the USA and in Lebanon. American and Traditional Lebanese foods are served at these gatherings. Likewise, the music is a medley international and Arabic tunes, with the traditional Dabkeh dance enjoyed by everyone.

It is not possible to mention all the people who supported the MPC through the years and kept it alive and thriving. We will forever be grateful and never forget all those Members who have served and passed on, as well as those who continue to work hard for the success of the Club.

### About Our Charities

Many organizations are supported by the MPC, both in Lebanon and the USA, namely: The Children Cancer Center, School of the Blind and Deaf, Beit El Baraka, Crèche St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Smile Train, Safe Alliance, American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charity, St. Nektarios Orthodox Church, Palestinian Children's Relief Fund, Basmeh & Zeitooneh, and Project Refugee Smile.

### About Our Scholarships

In 2007, Tony and Lakana Bikhazi established an annual scholarship fund of \$2,000 as an encouragement and support to the Club's high school graduates entering college. In 2012, Charles and Mary Saleh matched the scholarship amount and both families continue their support every year. Through the generosity of our community, several additional Members also contribute to the fund.

The MPC is affiliated with the Southern Federation of Syrian Lebanese American Club (SFSLAC), which includes 67 Clubs in 21 states. One important benefit our Club Members receive from the Federation is an additional annual scholarship for high school graduates entering college. These scholarships have helped build a community and civic culture that will remain with our youths in the future. The criteria of both scholarships are available on the website.

A Posteriori of Lebanon Essay Contest Award: A new contest sponsored by Tony and Lak Bikhazi and open to Members of the Southern Federation of Syrian Lebanese American Clubs (SFSLAC):

Tony and Lak Bikhazi are pleased to announce an essay contest for first-time visitors to Lebanon. Applicants are invited to write an essay about their personal experience, which can include their family's ancestry. The essay should also highlight Lebanon's culture and heritage, the historic and beautiful places visited, as these solidify our connection with the motherland.

The first-place winner will be awarded \$1,000 and \$500 for second place

Essays should be no longer than 250 words and submitted to the SFSLAC's Executive Editor, Mrs. Lori Malouf Coronado, by email to [sfslacbulletin@sfslac.org](mailto:sfslacbulletin@sfslac.org)

Submissions must be received by May 1

Posteriori: A Latin philosophical term meaning "from what comes after," referring to that which comes after experience



