



Senior Citizens Consortium

Knowledge, Experience, Wisdom

An organization for senior citizens by senior citizens

***Corporate documentation:
Organizational Introduction
Mission Statement
Charter
Organization By-Laws
Goals and objectives***

***Developed for the members, officers and staff of
The Senior Citizens Consortium Corporation***

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Introduction

The Senior Citizens Consortium was established in 2006 through the efforts of nine senior citizens who had grown tired and disappointed with the actions and facilities encountered with a major senior citizens organization.

This group of nine individuals were initially looking for a facility to continue their interactions, debates and discussions regarding issues that were of interest to senior citizens. They were tired of the toxic environments found in a lot of web facilities established for discussions and debates and the primary goal was to create a locale where seniors could interact with each other without the personal and ideological assaults from other participants and without the arbitrary censoring and moderation by the forum managers.

The goal was not to censor commentary and issue discussions, but to ensure that they were conducted in an environment of normal adult debate and discussion. Certainly not the childish and school yard bullying tactics they had been exposed to on the other forums.

An Organization or Just a Message Forum?

One of the first decisions to confront the founding members of SCC was whether the new group was to be simply a members forum-related organization, or, were we interested in having an organization that actually represented senior needs, wishes, desires and demands across an complete spectrum. In essence, was the new group to be simply a social engagement environment, or was it to be looked upon as a growth group to be an up and coming representative and advocate for senior issues?

In the start-up the organization was focused on establishing a message board or forum for the members and to facilitate the growth of the organization by invitation to participate in the forum board. Members were recruited by personal interaction or invitations to join the new group and post their thoughts. It was hoped and expected that these participants would explore the entire organization capabilities and the options within the organizational web site.

Two Steps forward, one step back

As the organization grew, through the fall early months of 2006, the officers were working to establish the organization as a registered not for profit corporation. On August 31, 2006, we received our corporation validation and became a fully registered corporation within the State of Virginia.

Over the next few months, the organization grew through invitations from existing members to their friends and acquaintances. From an original number of 9 people, the SCC grew to over 90.

However, participation began to recede during the 2007 spring and early summer. By the fall, our participation had dropped precipitously. Ergo the two steps forward and one step back.

Introduction



At the first annual conference in Nashville, October 11 – 13, the members assembled in the first annual SCC business meeting. In this meeting the assembly determined that we would initiate programs to rebuild and reorganize the SCC and return it to its former growth status.

Note: The Senior Citizens Consortium Board of Directors and the officers of the organization are encouraged by the reorganization of the SCC beginning in October of 2007. We anticipate great things to come from the organization. We encourage all present and former SCC participants to come and be participants in this new and vital organization.

A Senior Organization operated by Seniors

At the start, as the organization became a reality, it was decided that we would attempt to build a real organization, dedicated to preserving the dignity and well being of seniors. This new organization would be for seniors and managed by seniors. This credo of organization managed by the membership would be enshrined into the Charter of the organization and would be deemed inviolate, NEVER to be changed by any future officials.

A process was initiated whereby the new organization, Senior Citizens Consortium Corporation was organized and registered in the State of Virginia as a Not for Profit corporation. The SCC charter was approved by the State of Virginia in September of 2006 and the organization became a reality, a true corporate entity.

Mission Statement

The Senior Citizens Consortium Corporation (SCC) is a not-for-profit membership organization of persons ages 50 and older. The SCC is dedicated to addressing the needs and interests of seniors and in identifying and promoting healthy and enjoyable lifestyles in the retirement or pre-retirement years.

SCC seeks, through education, advocacy, and service to enhance the quality of life for all by promoting independence, dignity and purpose.

Senior Citizens Consortium continually strives to be a successful, important organization in America for positive social and political change.

Our organizational mission statement includes:

1. We commit to assist each member in every way we can to reach their goals and dreams, which will allow them to make the most of their lives after age 50.
2. We will champion the causes of good and 'right', especially when it comes to the availability of the best access to health care for all of the American people.
3. Our organization values the health and welfare of its members. We strive to live up to honorable and moral values and to exhibit them in our management.
4. Our officers and any staff are expected to exhibit ethical behavior, which will always guide our decision-making and conduct.

Guiding Principles

The SCC will be guided by the following principles:

Excel - We will excel in all that we do in meeting our members' needs. Through honesty and respect, we will always excel in our interactions with others.

People - We believe in the strength and quality of Senior Citizens Consortium members, staff, and volunteers.

Leadership - We will always share responsibility for achieving our vision as a group, communicating our goals to all, encouraging innovation, and supporting decisive action.

Diversity - We recognize and respect the diverse needs, interests and contributions of all our members, employees and volunteers.

Social and Political Responsibility - We believe in the greater good for all society as "We the People" and will constantly strive for the betterment of all peoples, present and future. The SCC does not and will not ascribe to any specific political party or ideology. We will be unbiased and maintain a centrist viewpoint in all political activity.

Charter

Preamble

The Senior Citizens Consortium has been organized as an advocacy and support group for senior citizens. This organization will be forever dedicated to the proposal that senior citizens hold significant influence in the world and there is a need for the voice of maturity to be heard.

The Senior Citizens Consortium will focus on issues that affect senior citizens, but also those issues that affect the well being of all American citizens.

We understand that we as a group, because we are productive members of society with a significant amount of experience and expertise, will continue through this organization to contribute to society in as many ways possible.

Within the subsequent paragraphs of this charter and by-law document, we will define and structure the operational parameters and our policy and procedures that will govern our organization, now and into the future.

Organizational Components

Key Organizational Attribute

The SCC organization is formed as a senior citizens advocacy, support and social group. The SCC is for seniors only and will be managed and operated by seniors only. The rules and operating procedures for this organization will forever be enshrined as a member operated organization. An article in the organizational By-Law stipulates to the mandate that the SCC will be forever operated and managed by the SCC members. Under no circumstances will this By-Law rule be changed for the Senior Citizens Consortium. All attributes and operations within the SCC will always be subject to review and oversight by the registered SCC membership. The By-Law is currently identified as Article X in the organizational by-law section.

Who we are

The Senior Citizens Consortium is a not-for-profit organization created and registered as such in the State of Virginia, dedicated to the promotion of mature interaction with our peers.

Our Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) is 20-5494094. The FEIN provides recognition by the United States Internal Revenue Service that the SCC is a legal corporate entity.

The FEIN is required to open a bank accounts, establish corporate identities for facilities or other asset acquisitions as well as for receiving and utilizing dues, and donations (non charitable). The FEIN also affords us the opportunity of promoting other aspects for our organization's well being.

The SCC headquarters location is registered at P.O. Box 4458, Leesburg, Virginia 20177

Organization Charter



Our administrative web site is www.seniorcitizensconsortium.org and our facilities web site is www.maturecommunications.com.

Goals:

To applaud our diversity and use our individual abilities through various projects for the good of our fellow citizens and by doing consultancy work for people outside of our organization.

To work toward the betterment of all Senior Citizens through various advocacy groups heretofore to be named as they occur and are approved.

Membership Requirements:

While the membership requirements for SCC are not extensive, they are established with our organizational integrity in mind.

Therefore, to be accepted as a member of the SCC, an individual;

- Must be at least 50 years of age,
- Must complete an official SCC registration application,
- Must adhere to the established SCC rules and by-laws,
- Must be current with their annual dues;
- Must be interested in, and work toward, the betterment of all Senior Citizens.

Dues:

Suggested amount for yearly membership is \$10.00 (ten dollars). This annual amount will be subsequently reviewed and approved or adjusted by the SCC Board of Directors with a majority vote of the membership.

Objectives:

The SCC organizational objectives will be open to the vote of all official, registered members.

Strategic and Operational Objectives for the coming year will be defined at the annual SCC conference. These objectives will then be posted to the Administration Web Page on the SCC web site for review by the members.

Election of officers:

All officers of the SCC will be nominated and elected by the general organizational membership. Voting will be restricted to those individuals who:

- Are official members of the SCC;
- have registered by completing a membership application;
- have received an official SCC membership identification number;
- have been issued an recognized SCC membership card.

Voting will be by submittal of ballots issued by the Executive Board for the express purpose of specific election programs. Only registered and official members will be issued ballots.

A slate of Officers will be proposed and will include, but not be limited to:

- President, nominated and elected by Board members and SCC membership at large. Term of office shall be one year, renewable through elections for one additional term.
- President/Elect or Vice President, nominated and elected by Board members and SCC membership at large. Term of Office shall be one year, renewable through elections for one additional term.
- Secretary, nominated and elected by Board members and the membership at large. Term of office shall be one year, renewable through elections for three additional terms.
- Treasurer, nominated and elected by Board members and the membership at large. Term of office shall be two years, renewable through elections for two additional terms.

The SCC Executive Director will be elected/appointed by the SCC Board of Directors. The Executive Director will be appointed to a term of 4 years, renewable at the Board's option.

Definition of Organizational Entities and Summary of Duties

Executive Director – The Executive Director is elected by the Board of Directors for a fixed term period to be decided by the Board in executive session. The Executive Director is not elected by the general membership. The current term of the Executive Director will be not less than 4 years, unless the individual in the position submits his or her resignation and said resignation is accepted by a vote of the Board.

Board of Directors – The members of the Board of Directors are elected by the general membership, consisting of registered members in good standing. The Board of Directors are elected for a two year period, renewable through elections for two additional terms.

The Board of Directors will be responsible for providing input and direction for the organization as a whole. The Board of Directors will provide authorization for organizational activities; and provide oversight to the Executive Director and other SCC officers.

Advisory Board – The Advisory Board members are elected by the general membership, consisting of registered members in good standing. The Advisory Board will be made up of members who are recommended by the Board of Directors and also nominated from the membership body. The Advisory Board members are elected for a term of two years, renewable through elections for two additional terms.

An election for advisory board members will be conducted by popular vote through a balloting measure authorized and deployed by the Board Of Directors. The Advisory Board will provide input and will review proposed changes to the web site and to the organization.

The Advisory Board will also form a suspension review committee to adjudicate any situation where a member has been suspended, banned or otherwise disciplined for any reason. This adjudication will include regular membership discipline and expressly, for discipline actions relating to the member facilities such as Member Forum Boards, Organizational BLOGS, any Chat Rooms, or other features currently in place or planned. This adjudication committee shall be the sole arbiter of proper or improper behavior of

members and their votes will determine the actions to be taken. No individual or group of individuals may interfere with the performance of the adjudication committee.

Advisory Board members will serve assignments as moderators for SCC facilities, to include, but not be restricted to the SCC Member Forum, SCC BLOG, SCC Chat Rooms, and SCC Publications.

Elected Officers – All officers standing for election will serve a clearly defined term in office. Candidates may stand for election more than once for a specific office. Elected officer duties and responsibilities will be defined in the Organization’s By-Law section for “Officers”. Duties and responsibilities shall be enhanced or further defined by the Board of Directors, the Advisory Board or any committee within these groups. Duties of officers may also be enhanced or modified by these organizational entities but must be posted to review by the membership.

The president and president-elect/vice president are membership positions and are not in an oversight role for the Executive Director. The Executive Director takes direction from the Board of Directors solely.

Membership Classification

Founding Members - this is the original group of nine members who originated the idea, took action to bring the Senior Citizens Consortium and the Mature Communications Forum Web Site to reality.

Regular/Registered Members – this group of members are the general rank and file membership. Members in this group are dues paying individuals usually on an annual basis or as otherwise indicated by the Board of Directors.

Sustaining Members - these are members, including officers and board members, who pay dues on a regular, periodic basis such as annually, quarterly, etc, and who also donate specific sums of monies on an ad hoc basis. Sustaining members often submit donations without any requests from the organization itself.

Suggestion for donations specific causes will be established by the Board of Directors based on identified programs, issues or other instances where additional funding is necessary. Additional requests for sustainer donations might occur in response to budgeting forecasts from the Executive Director and the SCC Officers.

Sustaining members are those who have contributed and continue to contribute additional funds either voluntarily or in response to a call for support from the officers or the members of the Board of Directors.

Ad Hoc Members – these are members who are not official, registered members of the SCC. By that we stipulate they are not individuals who have completed an application for membership and do not pay dues or who may or may not contribute financially to the SCC organization. Ad Hoc members may have access to the member forum for interaction with other SCC members, may participate in discussions on the web site and may submit articles or commentary for the SCC BLOG. Ad Hoc members may not vote in the SCC elections.

Reporting and Communications

The Executive Director and the other SCC officers will provide reports on organizational status, and will work with the Board to ensure the organization is a smooth and flexible unit.

Newletter

A newsletter will be generated under the auspices of the Executive Director's office and will be a contributory vehicle for members. Information in this newsletter will be about members and for members. There will be no political issues inserted into the newsletter. The SCC newsletter will be available on the web site and based on sufficient requests, will also be available as an email delivery or in special cases, a physical US Postal Service delivery.

Administrative Web Pages

A special administrative section will be established on the SCC web sites. This set of web pages will be used to communicate official documentation, actions or rulings by the Board of Directors, the Advisory Committee, the Executive Director or the other elected officials.

Annual Conference Web Site

The SCC Annual Conference and any subsequent regional conferences will be publicized on the SCC web site under the Annual Conference web site segment. This facility will be used to post information, registration forms and other periodic updates to the information. This web site will also post photographs and reports from the conferences as they are underway.

Recreational Services

The SCC organization will be open to providing a "expanded recreational services" for its members based on general interests. This aspect will include the SCC Annual Conference and various regional meetings to be scheduled as the organization grows to require them.

Web Site

The Senior Citizens Consortium will maintain two web sites for our organization. These web sites will be utilized to promote the SCC, disseminate member related information. In addition, these two web sites will serve as a vehicle of information to the public at large, and to afford members a place for communication and social interaction.

The two web sites are identified as:

www.seniorcitizensconsortium.org – this is the official corporate web site, and will be the "face" of the organization. Within this web site will be the administrative functions, including board communications, reporting facilities and the various voting and survey tools. There will be a management and administration web page to provide a facility for identification of officers and other key positions.

The SCC membership application will also be housed here. The Consultancy Membership application will be represented by a link to the Greybeard Associates corporate web application.

www.maturecommunications.com – this is the membership facilities web site and will host the various applications dedicated to the social aspects of the membership. This web site will host the SCC Member Forum for members to share information, debate various issues and in general keep in contact with their friends and peers across the nation.

By-Laws

Article I: Name

The name of organization is the Senior Citizens Consortium (SCC). The SCC is currently a Not-For-Profit organization.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of the Senior Citizens Consortium is to provide an organization that is dedicated to the betterment of senior citizens and advocacy for their issues. The Senior Citizens Consortium will constantly strive to provide benefits of membership to all our active members, including social activities, communications facilities connecting our members, lifestyle benefits such as travel and health interests, and the SCC will also function as an advocacy organization.

In the aspect of advocacy, the Senior Citizens Consortium will foster an advocacy process that promotes issues and subjects that are of interest and importance to mature citizens and their families.

These issues may or may not be directly related to senior citizens.

Article III: Membership

Membership to the Senior Citizens Consortium is open to all people who are at or beyond the age of 50 years. As a senior citizens interests organization we can conceive of no instance where young people would benefit from our organization, nor where we would benefit from having young people as members.

The Senior Citizens Consortium will not discriminate against anyone based on race, sex, gender identity, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, disability or economic status.

Article IV: Officers

The Senior Citizens Consortium will have officers to fill the necessary and appropriate organizational positions. These positions will include, but not be limited to: Executive Director/President, Treasurer; Chairperson of the Board, Member of the Board of Directors, Member of the Advisory Board, and Secretary.

The duties of the Chairperson of the Board shall be to:

- a) Schedule and preside at Board meetings
- b) Serve as the Chair of the Board of Directors
- c) Collaborate with and support the Executive Director.
- d) Review and approve organization documentation, including minutes of meetings.
- e) Ensure that the SCC organization is in a legal status appropriate to our charter.
- f) Other future duties and responsibilities as may be determined by unanimous votes by the Board membership.

The duties of the Member of the Board of Directors shall be to:

- a) Conduct the organizational affairs of the SCC organization
- b) Review and Revise the Charter, Mission Statement and By-Laws as appropriate.

- c) Nominate, elect, support and collaborate with the Chairperson of the Board.
- d) Ensure that the SCC organization is in a legal status appropriate to our charter.
- e) Other future duties and responsibilities as may be determined by unanimous votes by the Board membership.

The duties of the Member of the Advisory Board shall be to:

- a) Advise the Board of Directors on Organizational issues
- b) Nominate and elect the Chairperson of the Board of Directors
- c) Define and enforce the SCC Rules of Decorum
- d) Review and adjudicate the suspension, disciplining, banning, or ouster of a member.
- e) Other future duties and responsibilities as may be determined by unanimous votes by the Board membership.

The duties of the Executive Director shall be to:

- a) Preside at organizational meetings
- b) Serve as the Chief Executive Officer for the SCC
- c) Schedule various organizational meetings and conference calls
- d) Preside and host the SCC Annual and Regional Conferences
- e) Review and certify organizational records and other documentation.
- f) Respond to inquiries about the organization from members and non-members
- g) Ensure that the SCC organization is in a legal status appropriate to our charter.
- h) Other duties as necessary.

The duties of the Secretary shall be to:

- a) Record all minutes for regular and special meetings
- b) Maintain the Membership List
- c) Handle all correspondence with the general membership.
- d) Create and maintain a repository of incorporation documentation.
- e) Perform the normal duties associate with the office.

The duties of the Treasurer shall be to:

- a) Maintain the financial records of the SCC organization
- b) Perform the normal duties associated with the office.
- c) Create and maintain reports for the Board and the general membership
- d) Complete and transmit all reporting required by the Federal, State, and Local government entities.

Other offices or officer positions may be created by the authority of the Board of Directors and with a majority vote of the recognized voting members.

Article V: Organization

The Senior Citizens Consortium is formed and operated as a registered Not-For-Profit organization. We are structured with a managing board of directors, an advisory board, a chief executive officer, a treasurer, and a secretary.

The Board of Directors will have the authority and option to create additional officer positions. They may, in the interim, appoint an individual to serve in these newly created positions for period until a formal election may be conducted.

The daily authority for operations of the SCC organization will be under the direction and authority of the Executive Director/President. The Executive Director/President serves at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

Political Orientation – the SCC organization will be a neutral entity regarding political orientation. We, as an organization, shall not be construed as liberal, centrist, moderate or conservative. We shall be aligned with no specific party, Democrat, Republican or any other recognized party. Our membership will be comprised of a diverse group with political and ideological leanings in all spectrums of political orientation without prejudice.

Article VI: Finances

The SCC Organization will be funded in various methods, from regular dues collected from membership contributions, and special contributions from members based on special programs, to the sustaining members who simply send funds in various amounts to show their continued support for the organization. These funds, at the contributor's direction or desire, may be directed at specific purposes or programs.

- A. **Funds Management** will be maintained in distinct segments depending on the need of the organization and its membership
- a) Regular funding will be derived from membership dues assessed on a periodic basis as determined and authorized by the SCC Board of Directors. Regular funding may also be generated from ongoing special programs where purchases by members will generate revenue sharing for the SCC organization. Such a program include the iGive.com online system where purchases by SCC members will generate a percentage of each sale to the SCC treasury. Regular funds are to be used for the operations of the SCC.
 - b) Special funds will be directed at special projects and programs. These funds will be solicited from the membership and other sources in direct relationship to a special program or project. These funds may only be used for the purposes of the aforementioned program or project.
 - c) Members may from time to time elect to provide the organization with a special contribution outside of the regular dues income. These special donations or contributions will be directed as appropriate and proper. Some may be used for the organizational operations, while others may be used for special programs such as the annual conference or regional conference.

Funds status will be reported to the Board of Directors through joint reporting by the SCC Treasurer and the Executive Director.

- B. **Assets** will be accrued within the SCC organization in accordance with the rules and regulations issued by the various governmental entities. Among the assets of the SCC organization will be included, but not limited to:
- a. Web Sites – the two web sites indicated elsewhere in this set of by-laws and any that may become active for the organization in the future.
 - b. Software, systems, facilities, etc that are installed with the approval and acceptance of the SCC organization. All SCC functional applications both for the benefit of the SCC organization and for its membership are the property of

the SCC, notwithstanding proprietary systems acquired from recognized vendors.

- c. Bank accounts, bonds, stocks and other instruments of financial worth. All will be accounted for within the accounting system of the SCC and by the designated SCC officials.
- d. Trade Names, Logos, photographs and other identifying marks that describe the SCC, its organizations and related chapters.

Assets will be maintained for the benefit of the members of the Senior Citizens organization and its related chapters or other organizational entities.

Article VII: Operating Procedures

The SCC will operate in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, where appropriate. The organization is under the direction and guidance of an Executive Director, a membership President, a Board of Directors and an Advisory Board. There are other officers involved with the operations including a Treasurer and a Secretary.

The organization will operate several online facilities for the benefit and use of our membership. These will include at least one member discussion forum, at least one organizational BLOG and other means of communications and social interaction. Other discussion forums, BLOGS or chat rooms may be established as the need or desire is made known.

On an annual basis, an organizational wide conference will be scheduled. This conference shall be rotated through different geographical locations to facilitate the participation of the membership.

A quorum of at least $\frac{1}{4}$ of the active, registered and members in good standing, must be present for official business to be conducted. Proxies, fully signed and executed may be substituted for physical presence to establish a quorum.

Article VIII: Publicity

Notice of all regular meetings will be given to members at least three days in advance of each meeting. Minutes of meetings will be prepared, reviewed and posted on the SCC Administration web pages.

Activities within the organization, whether for an advocacy issue or otherwise that would bring good notices for the SCC will be publicized as appropriate. News releases, letters to the editor, white paper publications, etc. are all examples.

Approval for displaying the SCC name or logo must be approved by the Executive Director, the Chairperson of the Board and or other designated official.

Article IX: Amendment Procedures

Amendments to this Charter will be enacted by a two-thirds vote of the members. Notice to a meeting, at which an amendment will be considered, along with the text of the proposed amendment (s), will be sent to all members at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

Amendments require the concurrence of the elected SCC Officers, and the Board of Directors.

Article X: Operational Management Tenet

The SCC shall forever, and in perpetuity, be organized, operated and managed by the senior citizens who constitute the membership. The organizational operational procedures, structures, officers and board representation will always be determined by Members in Good Standing and their ELECTED representatives.

This specific organizational tenet may NEVER be changed as long as the Senior Citizens Consortium Corporation (SCC) exists and operates as an entity under its original incorporation.

The SCC organization must be totally disbanded for any change to this article to be invoked. In essence, the SCC organization will ALWAYS be managed by and for the senior citizen membership.

SCC Goals and Objectives



The Senior Citizens Consortium will establish goals and objective each year and will update those goals and objectives that continue from year to year.

From the initial listing of Goals and Objectives, the SCC Board members and Officers will review and update these entries.

Explanations or detail descriptions of goals and objectives for the SCC will be provided as appropriate in attachments to this document and will further be found stored on the SCC Web site under the Administrative Section.

SCC GOALS 2007

- A. Restructure and reorganize the SCC organization into a more formal entity.
- B. Reconstitute the SCC Board of Directors
- C. Establish the Advisory and Adjudication Board
- D. Contact and encourage the return of those participants who have left the SCC
- E. Establish an interim method of membership registration that respects privacy of the members.
- F. Establish an interim election capability that enables the member voting with privacy and security.
- G. Establish the agenda, date and location of the 2008 Annual SCC Conference.

SCC GOALS 2008

- A. Conduct Elections of officers
- B. Expand and grow the organization membership by 10 percent over the 2007 registered members.
- C. Recruit and retain more of the individual participants who were active during the 2006-2007 time period.
- D. Establish a formal process for membership registration and management that protects the privacy of the members.
- E. Establish and implement a formal election capability that enables members to cast their ballots electronically via the SCC web site.
- F. Ensure privacy and confidentiality of the electronic voting process.

ADVOCACY OBJECTIVES

- A. Health Care including Medicare, veterans care, and Part D
- B. Social Security, stability in funding
- C. Politics (clean up elections etc.)
- D. Balance of Powers: Ensure balance in the three government branches.
- E. Constitution of Rights: Restoring the rights of citizens
- F. Education: Reforming the No Child Left Behind to a reasonable legislation
- G. Taxes: Repealing tax cuts to wealthy & enforcing collections
- H. Minimum Wage increase
- I. Children's Homes ~ benefits
- J. Children Health Care Initiatives