**BY-LAWS** **OF** **THE**

**LANCASTER COUNTY** **BEEKEEPERS** **ASSOCIATION**

**ARTICLE 1: OBJECTIVES**

SECTION 1 – OBJECTIVES: The name of this organization shall be **Lancaster County Beekeepers Association,** hereafter referred to as the **LCBA** or **Association**.

The LCBA shall promote:

* Better beekeeping in Lancaster County
* Promote local interest in beekeeping
* Educate the public of the importance of honeybees for pollination.

SECTION 2 – HEALTH RISK: Beekeeping can be a serious health risk to individuals who are or may become allergic to bee stings. Anyone who keeps honeybees should seek advice from their physician before engaging in beekeeping. Anyone keeping honeybees should take necessary precautions to reduce the risk of bee stings.

**ARTICLE 2: MEMBERS**

SECTION 1 – MEMBERS: All members must pay dues to the local and state organization. Annual dues shall be paid at the January meeting, and no later than January 15th each year. Only paid members shall be allowed to vote or hold office. All members, including officers and board members, are non-paid volunteers interested in beekeeping. Anyone interested in beekeeping and the beekeeping industry may join the LCBA upon payment of annual dues.

SECTION 2 – JUNIOR MEMBERS: Junior Membership shall be free to all interested youth under sixteen (16) years of age. However, a parent or sponsor shall be responsible for the member. Junior Members are ineligible to vote. Junior members not attending functions with a parent are required to file a consent form with the Secretary.

SECTION 3 – VISITORS: Non-members interested in beekeeping may attend LCBA meetings. However, information and program content shall be directed to dues-paying members. Visitors are encouraged to join the Association and to pursue certified beekeeping levels recognized by the Association.

SECTION 4 – HOLD HARMLESS: Any information conveyed during or after a beekeeping meeting by members or non-members are opinions, and shall in no way be conceived in any manner as legal or binding directives or proper/correct actions for any beekeeping situation. ALL Association members shall agree and sign wavier(s) attesting to the risk of beekeeping and shall in no way hold

members (new or old) liable for incidents or accidents for information conveyed or inferred, at any location, or activity recognized as an “Association” activity.

**ARTICLE 3: OFFICERS**

SECTION 1 – OFFICERS: The Officers of the LCBA shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, State Representative, Webmaster. Officers shall serve two (2) year terms. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present at the regularly scheduled November monthly meeting.

SECTION 2 – BOARD MEMBERS: The Association shall have three (3) Board Members. The length of Board Members' terms shall be three years. Terms shall be staggered, with one term expiring each year to maintain Board continuity. A Board Member's length of service may be less than three years based on board member term or availability. LCBA leadership shall consist of four (4) Officers, the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the three (3) Board Members.

SECTION 3 – STATE REPRESENTATIVE**:** The LCBA shall have the right to nominate State Representative(s) for and to The South Carolina State Beekeepers Association (SCBA), based upon the position requirements prescribed by the SCBA at the time of submission. LCBA members shall nominate representative(s)to the SCBA by a simple majority vote of the members present at a regular monthly meeting.

**ARTICLE 4: DUTIES OF OFFICERS & ELECTED POSITIONS**

SECTION 1 – PRESIDENT: The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association guided by regular parliamentary procedures and *Roberts Rules of Order*. This Officer shall fill vacancies, and perform other duties for the Association as necessary. The President is authorized to make deposits and disburse monies should the Treasurer be unavailable or unable to perform these duties. The President shall review and approve the end of year financial report. The President shall appoint committees as needed to conduct the business of the LCBA .

SECTION 2 – VICE-PRESIDENT: The Vice-President shall preside over meetings in the absence of the President or upon the request of the President. The Vice-President shall be responsible for coordinating educational programs and/or setting up the educational presentations each month and shall serve as chair, should a program committee be established.

SECTION 3 –SECRETARY: The Secretary shall record and read the minutes of previous meetings. The Secretary shall handle correspondence of the Association. The Secretary shall manage, safeguard, and update the Association and State automated membership information programs, and issue membership cards if requested. The Secretary shall work with members to assure their portfolio has the appropriate paperwork filed with the South Carolina Beekeepers Association as required by the South Carolina Master Beekeeping Program.

SECTION 4 – TREASURER: The Treasurer shall receive all dues and fees, keep full and accurate records showing the receipts and disbursements of all monies, disperse all funds with the following guidelines: up to $100 per month for regular Association Expenditures, and up to $250 per month with approval of Association President. Expenditures in excess of $250 shall be considered during monthly Association meetings and will require a simple majority vote of members present. The Treasurer shall notify members of meetings, and bill for dues for regular Association members. The Treasurer shall prepare and sustain a membership list showing paid, delinquent or inactive members. The Treasurer shall provide monthly and annual financial reports, and supply information necessary for IRS filings. The Treasurer will ensure the President is authorized to make deposits and disburse monies if the Treasurer is unable to perform these duties.

SECTION 5 – BOARD MEMBERS: The Board Members shall examine and review the books of the Treasurer, no later than January 15th of each year, and report their findings at the February meeting. Board Members will make suggestions and recommendations, and shall serve in a consultative role to the President and other Officers of the Association. Board Members shall also assist in the planning and implementation of monthly programs as needed.

SECTION 6 – STATE REPRESENTATIVE: The State Representative shall represent the LCBA as a member of the SC State Executive Committee, attend as many state meetings as can be attended, and report to the LCBA the actions and directions taken by the State Executive Board. In this way, the Representative shall serve as a conduit for the exchange of information between the LCBA and the SCBA. Information from the SCBA Executive Committee meetings shall be reported at the next LCBA monthly meeting. The State Representative shall also report to the LCBA communications received from the SCBA Regional Representative.

SECTION 7 – CHAPLIN: The Chaplin shall conduct opening prayer at all meetings.

SECTION 8 – WEBMASTER: The Webmaster shall keep the Association webpage and any other social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc…) up to date, and serve as the Administrator. The President shall serve as Moderator unless otherwise delegated.

**ARTICLE 5: MEETINGS**

SECTION 1 – MEETINGS: The Association will hold regular monthly meetings on the 1st Thursday of each month except for the month of the SCBA summer meeting. The Association shall have an annual business meeting each January. Changes to the By-Laws must be approved by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of members present at a regularly scheduled meeting. Proposed changes to the By-Laws require approximately one month written notice before being voted on. Changes to meeting times and location shall be decided by a majority vote of the members present at a meeting prior to the month such change takes place.

SECTION 2 – NOMINATIONS: The nomination of Officers and Board Members, or other designated positions shall be at the October meeting of each election year, unless special elections are required. All nominations of State Representatives shall be in compliance with SCBA guidelines.

SECTION 3 – ELECTIONS: The election of Association Officers, Board Members, State Representative, Chaplain, and Webmaster shall be by a simple majority of votes at the November meeting, for each position up for election that year. Elected persons will begin their duties 1 January of the year following their election, and extend to the length of terms established elsewhere in these By-Laws. Special or unscheduled elections may be necessary to facilitate Association vacancies. All elections of State Representatives shall be in compliance with State guidelines.

**ARTICLE 6: VOTING**

SECTION 1 – VOTING: Members are strongly encouraged to vote in all elections to assure a consensus for the majority of the members' ideas and desires. While most elections shall be held at and during regular meetings, notifications and voting by e-mail shall be allowed. The Association shall vote on the Beekeeper of the Year Award, and/or Youth Beekeeper of the Year, between the 1st and 15th of November by emailing their votes to the President. If email service is not available, members may contact the President directly to cast a vote. Whosoever receives the most votes shall be presented with the Award during the December meeting. In the event of a tie, both candidates shall receive the award. To be included, votes for these Awards must be given or sent to the President of the association no later than November 15th .

**ARTICLE 7: DUES**

SECTION 1 – DUES: Members shall pay LCBA dues to the LCBA. Dues for the current year shall be payable at the January LCBA meeting, and no later than January 15th of each year. Annual dues shall be determined by the LCBA Officers and Board, unless otherwise changed by majority vote of members present.

Members of the Association who do not pay dues by January15th will be dropped from active membership at the end of January, becoming an inactive member of the Association. A person who has been dropped from the role of membership for non-payment of dues may be restored to active membership by paying the current years dues. LCBA members who wish to be a member of the State association should go online independently to submit their SCBA dues directly to the State.

**ARTICLE 8: AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS**

SECTION 1 – AFFILIATE OF THE SC STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION: The Lancaster County Beekeepers Association is affiliated with the South Carolina State Beekeepers Association (SCBA). The Lancaster County Beekeepers Association encourages our members to support the SCBA through membership and attendance at meetings and special events. Members of the South Carolina State Beekeepers Association are generally offered special rates and discounts not offered to non-members.

SECTION 2 – AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS: The Lancaster County Beekeepers Association may associate itself, and determine its own level of support, at any time, and for so long as is desirable, with any other state or National Beekeeping Association by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members attending a regularly scheduled meeting.

**ARTICLE 9: AMENDMENTS**

SECTION 1 – AMENDMENTS: Any article or section of any article of the By-Laws may be amended by a majority of the members present at the scheduled meeting providing proposed amendment(s). Proposed changes to the By-Laws require approximately one month written notice before being voted on.

**ARTICLE 10: DISSOLUTION**

SECTION 1 – DISSOLUTION: Should this Association decide for any reason to dissolve; any remaining monetary assets shall be donated to the South Carolina State Beekeepers Association.

SECTION 2 – ACCEPTANCE: Acceptance of this document shall be the date of the last signature.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

President/Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Secretary/Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Vice President/Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer/Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1st Director/Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2nd Director/Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3rd Director/Date