

THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE PIEDMONT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE 1 (NAME)

SECTION 1 – NAME: The name of this organization shall be “THE PIEDMONT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION.”

ARTICLE 2 (OBJECTIVES)

SECTION 1 – OBJECTIVES: The objective of this nonprofit organization shall be to encourage better methods among beekeepers of the state and nation, to promote cooperation among beekeepers, to reach a common understanding regarding our problems and their solution, to maintain friendly and helpful relations with those forces which are working to better the beekeeping industry, to develop markets for beekeeping products, to foster closer cooperation among members of the Association.

ARTICLE 3 (MEMBERS)

SECTION 1 – MEMBERS: Anyone interested in beekeeping and /or the beekeeping industry may join the Association upon payment of the regular annual dues. The right to vote shall be limited to members.

SECTION 2 – JR. MEMBERSHIP: Non-voting junior memberships shall be open without cost to interested youths under twelve (12) years of age. Junior memberships shall have all other rights and privileges.

ARTICLE 4 (OFFICERS)

SECTION 1 – OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS: The Officers of the Association shall be: President; Vice-president; Secretary, and Treasurer. There shall be four regular Directors and a Director-at-Large. Any member of the Piedmont Beekeepers Association may serve as a Liaison Director to the South Carolina Beekeepers Association as long as he/she is a member of the state association.

SECTION 2 – TERMS OF OFFICE: The Officers of the Association shall serve for a period of one (1) year starting on the first day of January. Regular Directors shall serve two (2) year revolving terms such that two directors shall complete their terms each year. The Director-at-Large shall be the immediate past President and shall serve for one (1) year. If the current President remains in office for another term, the Director-at-Large may choose to remain for another term. If the Director-at-Large chooses not to serve another term, a new Director-at-Large will be appointed by the President. Any director who is elected to a standing Office shall relinquish their Directorship. No member shall serve as a Director and Officer at the same time.

Vacancies in office shall be filled by appointment of the President for the unexpired term of office.

ARTICLE 5 (DUES)

SECTION 1 – DUES: The amount of the annual membership dues shall be determined by recommendation of the Executive Committee and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the membership at the regular meeting. Dues are payable on or before the first meeting of each calendar year to the Treasurer of the Association. Any member who is delinquent in paying Dues on December 31 of that same calendar year shall be dropped from the active membership rolls and shall cease to be a member of the Association. Any person, who has been dropped from the membership roll, may be reinstated by paying the current year Dues.

ARTICLE 6 (LIFE AND HONORARY MEMBERSHIP)

SECTION 1 – LIFE MEMBERSHIP: A fully paid Life Membership in the Association may be conferred upon a member who contributed in some outstanding way to the Association's aims and ideals and for meritorious service to the Association, by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 2 – HONORARY MEMBERSHIP: Honorary membership in the Association may be given to a person for distinguished service to the Association or to the beekeeping industry which would be beneficial to people in our state and nation. This membership may be granted by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. An Honorary Membership confers no rights or privileges, has no right to vote or hold office, and is not liable for Dues.

ARTICLE 7 (MEETINGS)

SECTION 1 – MEETINGS: Meetings shall normally be held on a monthly basis with exceptions as determined by the Executive Committee. Regular meetings will not be held in December or the month during which the annual State Association meeting is held. Notice of meetings shall be sent to each member of the Association by the Secretary at least one (1) week prior to the meeting.

SECTION 2 – ELECTIONS: The elections of Officers and Directors shall be held during the last meeting of the year. Such members as are present shall constitute a voting quorum. At the discretion of the President, the elections may be moved to a different meeting to allow for special programs. Notice must be given to the membership at the two meetings prior to the meeting at which the elections are to take place.

ARTICLE 8 (COMMITTEES)

SECTION 1 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Officers (President; Vice-President; Secretary, and Treasurer) and the four Directors of the Association and the Director-at-Large, plus any Liaison Directors to the South Carolina Beekeepers Association. The Board and the Executive Committee shall be one and the same. In the case of a vacancy, the President shall appoint a member to fill the unexpired term of office.

SECTION 2 – AUDITING COMMITTEE: The Auditing Committee shall consist of the Vice-President and two (2) Directors appointed by the President.

SECTION 3 – NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The Nominating Committee shall consist of three (3) members appointed by the President whose duty shall be to select and nominate a slate of Officers and Directors for the approval of the majority of the members present at the last meeting of the year. Other names may be submitted by the membership at large at the time of the election.

SECTION 4 – PROGRAM COMMITTEE: The President and ~~Executive~~ Secretary shall comprise the Program Committee along with two (2) other members appointed by the President.

SECTION 5 – SPECIAL COMMITTEES: Such committees as may be deemed necessary shall be appointed by the President and shall consist of a group of members whose duties shall be to serve as directed by the President.

ARTICLE 9 (QUORUM)

SECTION 1 – QUORUM: Twenty-five (25) percent of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular meeting. Three (3) shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 10 (DUTIES OF OFFICERS)

SECTION 1 – PRESIDENT: The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association using regular parliamentary procedure and Roberts Rules of Order. He shall appoint all committees, fill all vacancies and perform such other duties as the Association may direct. The President will be authorized to make deposits and disburse all monies should the Treasurer be unable to perform those duties. The President shall be a member ex-officio of all committees.

SECTION 2 – VICE-PRESIDENT: The vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President or upon the request of the President. If the Vice-President is unable to perform this duty, then the Vice-President may appoint any member to act in his/her stead with the consent of the directors. The Vice-President is considered the President-

Elect for the next year. If the current President wishes to serve another term, a new Vice-President may be elected.

SECTION 3 – SECRETARY: The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the minutes and all transactions of the Association. The Secretary shall conduct such correspondence as may be necessary including the notice to the membership of monthly meetings. The Secretary shall, at the end of the term, present all records and minutes to the successor Secretary.

SECTION 4 – TREASURER: The Treasurer shall collect the annual Dues for local and State membership, issue membership cards, and notify all delinquent members after the first meeting of the calendar year. The Treasurer shall be custodian of all monies received by the Association and keep full and accurate records showing the receipt and disbursement of all monies. The Treasurer shall act as the Association's Bundle Administrator to the State Association updating the State membership records and transferring State membership funds on a monthly basis. The Treasurer shall close the books prior to the final meeting of the year and make a complete report on the membership and financial standing of the Association at that time. The Treasurer shall enable the President to make deposits and disburse all monies if the Treasurer is unable to perform these duties. The Treasurer shall present the books and records to the Auditing Committee at the last meeting of the year.

SECTION 5 – PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRPERSON: The President and/or Vice-President shall fill this role but may designate a member in good standing to represent the Association as deemed necessary. Public Relations Chairperson shall promote, publicize, and coordinate in the management of the activities and accomplishments of the Association. This Officer shall serve as an official liaison between the Association and those other agencies, including all levels of government agencies, business concerns, and the various associations and groups whose actions or interests may coincide with the interests and activities of the Association.

SECTION 6 – PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON: The Program Chairperson shall make the necessary arrangements for programs and secure speakers for the same. When directed by the Association, he/she will secure a meeting place and make necessary arrangements for meetings. The President and Vice-President shall share these duties with the assistance of the Secretary and may appoint other board members to assist as needed.

SECTION 7 – DIRECTORS: The Directors shall act as members of the Executive Committee assisting the President in the activities of the Association. Should a Director be unable to perform a particular duty, he may appoint a member to act in his stead.

SECTION 8 – LIAISON DIRECTOR: Should the Association become eligible to provide a state level Board Member, this Liaison Director may be elected at any meeting where a quorum is present, and that office shall not constitute a conflict with any other office. The Liaison Director may also be a Director elected by the State Beekeepers Association as allowed by the State Association’s By-Laws.

ARTICLE 11 (AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS)

SECTION 1 – AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS: The Piedmont Beekeepers Association may associate itself and determine its own basis of support for each current year and for so long as desirable with any state or national beekeeping association by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members attending a regular meeting provided that a voting quorum is present.

ARTICLE 12 (DISSOLUTION)

SECTION 1 – DISSOLUTION: Should this Association undergo Dissolution, the remaining assets shall be distributed to one or more charitable organizations as determined by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 13 (AMMENDMENTS)

SECTION 1 – AMENDMENTS: Any article or any section of any article of the Constitution and By-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all members present provided that: (a) a voting quorum is present, (b) the proposed amendment has been presented to the Executive Committee for their review and recommendations and (c) the proposed amendment has been presented in writing to the entire membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE 14 (REPEALING CLAUSE)

SECTION 1 – REPEALING CLAUSE: Upon acceptance by vote of the Association, this Constitution and By-Laws supersedes all previous Constitution and By-Laws. This Constitution and By-Laws was read and adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members present at a regular business meeting held at Greenville County Square, January 17, 2017.