

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

OF

EASTTEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I -- PURPOSE

The purpose of the East Texas Beekeepers Association shall be to further the general knowledge and success of member hobbyist beekeepers through:

(1) Educational programs designed for improved promotion, production and marketing of bees and bee products and services for hobbyist beekeepers in East Texas. Such educational programs, to the extent possible, shall also include the publication and dissemination of information to the general public as to the importance of the honey bees and beekeeping activities in the continued production of various foods in the United States and in the world.

(2) The compilation and dissemination of useful and worthwhile information to members for optimum success of the members in pursuit of beekeeping as a hobby.

(3) While this Association is established primarily for the hobbyist beekeeper, persons involved with beekeeping as a profession are invited and are welcome as members. Their professional expertise is especially welcomed in order to assist in meeting the Association's purposes as stated in paragraphs (1) and (2) above.

ARTICLE II- MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Membership requirements

1. Active membership in the association shall be limited to persons interested in beekeeping and who have a reputation for trustworthy dealings and who have paid their dues for the current year.

SECTION 2. Suspension of membership

1. The rights of any member to membership in the association may be suspended or terminated for cause by action of the Board of Directors or by failure to pay annual dues in a timely manner.

2. Basis for suspension for cause shall consist of violation of provisions of the By-laws of the association or performance of other acts which are considered prejudicial to the best interests of the Association ; such termination of membership shall be effected by vote of three-fifths of the members of the Board of

Directors in meeting assembled, after due notice and opportunity for hearing shall have been given the member affected. Suspended members may be reinstated to membership in the association by vote of a majority of the members of the Board of Directors in meeting assembled, and under such reasonable and equitable conditions as may be required by said Board of Directors.

ARTICLE III - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1. Overall management and control of the Association shall be vested in the Board of Directors, the members of which shall be elected by the membership at the Annual Membership Meeting held during the month of April each year unless seriously extenuating circumstance dictate otherwise, in which case at least 45 days advance notice must be given prior to the election. Each director shall serve without pay.

SECTION 2. The Board of Directors shall consist of nine members: The President, immediate Past President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Director, Newsletter and Publications Editor, Program Committee Chairman, plus one additional member to be elected by the membership during the annual election of officers.

Section 3. Each member of the Board must be a member of the Association, actively involved in beekeeping, and shall be elected for a term of one (1) year. Each director shall hold office from the date of election for the term for which he/she was elected or until his/her successor shall be chosen.

SECTION 4. Vacancies occurring in the Board of Directors shall be filled at the next scheduled regular meeting, after due notice to all members via the monthly news letter and such election shall be for a period of time equal to the unexpired portion of the term of the original director.

SECTION 5. The Board of Directors shall have general supervision of the affairs of the association. It shall have the right to delegate to officers, directors or members the duties, responsibilities and the authority to carry out assignments for investigation or correcting conditions/problems in such affairs as may be properly brought to its attention. Although all officers and members shall serve without remuneration, nothing herein contained shall prevent reimbursement for authorized or approved expenses and similar items which are approved by the Board.

SECTION 6. While it shall be the general duty of the Board of Directors to transact all business and by vote settle all controversial matters that may come before it, nothing in this designation of voting power shall be construed as precluding the privilege of any member of obtaining the floor during regular meetings for discussion, making recommendations or objection, or other parliamentary purpose.

ARTICLE 4- OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The Officers of the association shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Executive Director, Immediate Past President (who, unless otherwise directed shall also serve as

Parliamentarian), Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter and Publications Editor, and Programs Committee Chairman. All officers shall be elected from the membership by a majority vote of the active members present and voting in person at the annual membership meeting of the organization. Each officer shall hold office for one (1) year from the date of his/her election. Officers may be reelected to such offices from year to year except that to be elected to four or more consecutive terms for the same office shall require a three-fifths vote of those present and voting.

SECTION 2. Immediately upon the occurrence of a vacancy in the office of President, either by resignation or due to circumstances beyond his/her control or due to the temporary absence of the President, the duties of President shall be exercised by the Vice-President.

SECTION 3. The President shall preside at all meetings of the association and of the Board of Directors. The President shall convene the Board of Directors whenever in his/her opinion the affairs of the association so demand, or on the written request of four (4) or more members of the Board, but in any case the Board shall meet at least twice each year.

SECTION 4. In addition to assuming the duties of the President during the absence of the elected President, and in order to be prepared to assume such duties, the Vice-President shall have an active interest in the financial records and reports of the association and in addition perform the duties usually incumbent on Vice-Presidents.

SECTION 5. The Executive Director shall, as may be authorized or directed by the President, be the primary point of contact for persons, businesses and/or organizations external to the association. This officer may also, as approved or directed by the President speak for the President in regard to matters concerning the Association and act in a manner generally associated with the title Executive Director. The Executive Director shall keep the President advised of his/her actions and or decisions on behalf of the Association.

SECTION 6. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings and process such correspondence as may be directed by the President, Executive Director, and/or Board of Directors.

SECTION 7. The Treasurer shall collect annual dues and all other monies due the Association, and in all matters perform the duties usually incumbent on a Treasurer. He/she shall make reports of receipts and disbursements as the Board of Directors may require or direct, and in all matters pertaining to the office be under the direction of the Board of Directors. The Treasurer's records shall be open to inspection by any active member in good standing at any reasonable time. The Treasurer shall receive and keep account of all monies belonging to the Association, paying out the same upon receipt of liabilities or expenditures authorized by the Board of Directors. He/she shall make a report of receipts, disbursements and bank balances at each regular meeting of the Association. He/she may be aided by such assistants as

are deemed advisable and approved by the Board of Directors. The President shall direct an audit of the Treasurer's records by at least two members of the Association at least annually and a report of such audit shall be presented to the membership at the next regular meeting following such audit. Unless the monetary accounts of the Association under the Treasurer's control exceed an amount considered reasonable by the Board, no security bond of the Treasurer shall be required. Should such bonding ever be required, such bonding fees/costs shall be paid from Association funds.

SECTION 8. The Newsletter and Publications Editor shall be the officer responsible for the gathering of information, organizing, drafting, printing and distribution of the monthly Association Newsletter and any other additional documents or publications originated by the Association. The Newsletter and Publications Editor shall receive from the Treasurer the names and addresses of members having paid their annual dues (especially new members) and entitled to receive the periodic newsletters. When required, the Editor may request the President to appoint members to provide temporary assistance in production and distribution of printed matter.

SECTION 9. The Programs Committee Chairman shall, with the cooperation/assistance of the members of the Programs Committee and suggestions from other members, plan for, Schedule, and arrange for programs, speakers, and/or activities which will enable the Association to better achieve its purposes as stated in Article I of these By-Laws. Such arrangements shall be coordinated particularly with the President and Executive Director and, as necessary, with the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 5- MEETINGS

SECTION 1. Regular business and educational meetings shall be held on the first Thursday of each month and, unless otherwise announced or published in the monthly newsletter, shall be held beginning at 6:45 P.M. at Whitehouse United Methodist Church, 405 W. Main, Whitehouse, Texas.

SECTION 2. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held when the President deems necessary, but no less frequently than twice each year.

ARTICLE 6- DUES/MEMBERSHIP YEAR

SECTION 1. The annual dues for each active member of the Association shall be \$25.00 an individual or \$45.00 for a family.

SECTION 2. The membership year shall extend from January 1st of each year through December 31st of that same year and dues shall be collected accordingly.

ARTICLE 7- VOTING

Upon all matters submitted for consideration and vote by the meetings of the membership of the Association, each member in good standing shall be entitled to cast one vote. Absentee balloting or voting by proxy will not be permitted. Election of officers/Board of Directors shall be by secret ballot.

ARTICLE 8 - ADVERTISING AND SOLICITING

SECTION 1. No member shall make any reference to the East Texas Beekeepers Association in any advertisement relating to a beekeeping business save and except that they may state that they are a member of the Association.

SECTION 2. Soliciting of any kind will not be permitted at any meeting. However, nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting individual members of the Association from mutually agreeing to sell, trade, barter or otherwise exchange items useful for the conduct of beekeeping as a hobby.

ARTICLE 9- PROFITS

No income or profits which may accrue to, or be earned by, the Association shall ever be paid or distributed to the members by way of dividends, but the same shall be used by the Board of Directors in the furtherance of the purposes as stated in Article (I) above. Upon dissolution of this Association, all assets remaining after payment of its obligations shall go to Texas A & M University for continued distribution of educational material for bee culture or other purposes as may be recommended to the University by the Board.

ARTICLE 10- MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION 1. Smoking will not be permitted at the meetings.

SECTION 2. The titles/headings given to certain paragraphs or parts of these by-laws are inserted for reference purposes only and are not to be considered a part of the document in interpreting its provisions. All words used in this document in any gender shall extend to and include all genders and in numbers when the content or facts so require, and any pronouns shall be taken to refer to the persons intended regardless of gender or number.

SECTION 3. Unless otherwise provided +or in these By-Laws, conduct of meetings of the Association shall be in accordance with parliamentary procedures outlined in ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER, Newly Revised.

ARTICLE 11- AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. At any regular or called meeting of the Association only such amendments to these By-Laws may be considered as have been previously included in the purpose of the meeting as stated in the notice thereof and sent to the membership.

SECTION 2. Provided the requirements of Section I above are met, these By-Laws may be amended at any regular or called meeting of the membership by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, provided that a quorum of the total members authorized to vote is present. No absentee or proxy voting will be permit.