

# Constitution of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

*Revised and adopted October 29, 2010*

## **ARTICLE I**

### **Name**

The name of this organization, a nonprofit association, shall be Oregon State Beekeepers Association.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **Purpose and Organization**

Section 1: Purpose—The purpose of this association is to unite the beekeepers of Oregon in an effort to improve beekeeping in the state.

Section 2: Organization—The association is organized exclusively for charitable, education, and/or scientific purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. No part of the net earnings of Oregon State Beekeepers Association will inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that Oregon State Beekeepers Association shall be authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the organizing document and the application for federal tax exemption.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **Affiliation**

Section 1: Association Affiliation—The association is affiliated with the American Beekeeping Federation, Inc., by virtue of annual payment of *hobbyist* member dues as determined by the federation's board of directors. By such dues payment, Oregon State Beekeepers Association claims all privileges associated with such affiliation and therefore represents all beekeepers in Oregon for such purposes as the selection of delegates to the federation convention as well as any other matter or function relating to the federation.

Section 2: Member Affiliation—The association encourages individual beekeepers to also become members of and to support the American Beekeeping Federation, Inc., by submission of their own dues and/or contributions.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **Membership**

Section 1: Membership Categories—Membership in Oregon State Beekeepers Association shall include two categories: paid members and honorary life members. Each member shall have voting privileges in the association and thus be entitled to one vote at the annual meeting and at special meetings of the membership. Proxy voting shall not be permitted. In addition, each member shall receive a one-year subscription to the Oregon State Beekeepers Association publication, *The Bee Line*. Complimentary subscriptions of *The Bee Line* may be provided at the discretion of the executive committee or the newsletter editor.

(A) Paid members. Oregon State Beekeepers Association is a nonprofit organization open to membership without regard to race, nationality, ethnic origin, or religious beliefs. Any individual person who is interested in apiculture or any other phase of the beekeeping industry is eligible for membership and may become a paid member by submitting the required membership dues and agreeing to be governed by this constitution and its bylaws.

(B) Honorary life members. Any person having performed a worthy service for the beekeeping industry by his or her scientific, industrial, or administrative abilities will be eligible for honorary life membership. Honorary life members shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of paid members, but shall be exempt from payment of dues. Honorary life members may be nominated by any member of the association and are selected by the executive committee. Not more than two individuals may be selected as honorary life members in a given year.

Section 2: Branch Associations—The association shall recognize branch associations as follows:

(A) Five or more paid members of Oregon State Beekeepers Association in any district of the state who wish to associate together and form a branch association may do so by submitting a list of all of its members and officers thus associated to the state association treasurer or secretary/treasurer annually.

(B) Each branch association may adopt its own constitution and bylaws, and establish its own dues structure as desired by its members, provided there is no conflict with this constitution and its bylaws.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Officers**

Section 1: Officers—The officers of Oregon State Beekeepers Association shall consist of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and eight regional directors. In the event that one person is elected as secretary and treasurer, he or she shall be known as secretary/treasurer.

Section 2: Regional Directors—The eight regional directors shall be known as regional directors 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, and each shall have full voting privileges on the executive committee. All regional directors shall be current members of Oregon State Beekeepers Association. The eight regional directors shall be elected from eight different areas over the state, as follows:

(A) Regional director 1: North Coast (northward of the city of Florence).

(B) Regional director 2: South Coast (the city of Florence and southward).

(C) Regional director 3: Columbia Basin (Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Hood River, Jefferson, Sherman, Wasco, and Wheeler Counties).

(D) Regional director 4: Eastern Oregon (Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, and Wallowa Counties).

(E) Regional director 5: Portland Metro (Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties).

(F) Regional director 6: Southern Oregon (Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, and Lake Counties).

(G) Regional director 7: North Willamette Valley (northward of the city of Albany).

(H) Regional director 8: South Willamette Valley (southward of the city of Corvallis).

**Section 3: Executive Committee**—The officers plus the outgoing president and all qualified branch directors shall constitute the executive committee. The outgoing president shall remain a member of the executive committee until replaced by a succeeding outgoing president.

**Section 4: Branch Directors**—Presidents of branch associations, which have five or more paid members and submit an update annually, shall serve as branch directors on the executive committee with full voting privileges. All branch directors must be paid members in good standing.

**Section 5: Working Committees**—The incoming president shall have the authority to appoint working committees for the ensuing year. The chair of each committee will be invited to attend all executive board meetings. Among committees that might be established are the following:

(A) Agriculture Liaison.

(B) Fairs and Exhibits.

(C) Nominations.

(D) Northwest Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education.

(E) Public Relations.

**Section 6: Method of Elections**—Nominations for the election of officers shall be submitted by a nominating committee and followed by nominations from the membership at the annual meeting. After nominations are closed, the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer—or secretary/treasurer—shall be elected by a majority of the members then present. Regional directors from different areas of the state shall also be elected by a simple majority of members present at the time. The newly elected officers shall assume duties at the close of the annual meeting.

**Section 7: Terms of Office**—All officers shall be elected or appointed for terms of one year and will serve until their successors are duly elected and installed.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Meetings**

**Section 1: Annual Meetings**—An annual assembly of the members shall be held at the time and place selected by the executive committee.

**Section 2: Special Meetings of Executive Committee**—Special meetings of the executive committee shall be called by the president or on written request of two-thirds of the members of the executive committee.

**Section 3: Special Meetings of Membership**—Special meetings of the entire membership shall be called upon written request of the executive committee or one-fourth of the regular membership. Special meetings of the entire membership also may be called by the president when deemed necessary.

**Section 4: Issues**—Issues, except amendments to this constitution or its bylaws, shall be decided in meetings of the executive committee by a simple majority vote of the committee members then present and in good standing.

**Section 5: Rules of Order**—The rules contained in Roberts Rules of Order (revised) shall govern this association in all cases to which they are applicable and are not inconsistent with this constitution and its bylaws.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Dissolution**

Upon the dissolution of Oregon State Beekeepers Association, assets will be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Amendments**

The constitution of Oregon State Beekeepers Association may be altered or amended only at an annual conference by a two-thirds vote of the total membership present, providing notice of the proposed changes be sent to all members at least one month (30 days) prior to said meeting.