

# CONSTITUTION

## The Virginia State Beekeepers Association

### ARTICLE I:

The Organization is organized exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organization that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

### ARTICLE II: PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

#### **Section 1:**

The purpose of this non-profit organization shall be to engage in any activities which will increase knowledge of and promote apiculture in the State of Virginia.

#### **Section 2:**

The objectives of The Virginia State Beekeepers' Association are to promote and support:

- A. An understanding of, and solutions to, the common apiculture problems of the Association members;
- B. Apiculture education and the use of sustainable and productive methods of beekeeping within the state;
- C. The development of both the scientific and practical aspects of apiculture;
- D. Good relations with individuals, businesses and other organizations which share a common interest in apiculture;
- E. Activities to foster good relations between Virginia beekeepers and the general public;
- F. The use of hive products.

### ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

- A. Any person interested in, or practicing, beekeeping, or the beekeeping industry, is eligible for membership in The Virginia Sate Beekeepers' Association.
- B. Any individual, family, firm or corporation may join the Association by paying a single membership fee.
- C. Each single membership fee will entitle that individual, family, firm or corporation to one vote.

### ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

#### **Section 1:**

The officers of the Association shall be a President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

#### **Section 2:**

Officers shall be elected by a majority vote when a quorum of members is present at a designated meeting. The President and First Vice-President will hold office for two years, or until their

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successors are elected. The Second Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer will hold office for one year. or until their successors are elected.

### **Section 3:**

The President and First Vice-President may serve no more than one term successively. The Second Vice-President may serve no more than two successive terms. The Secretary and the Treasurer may be reelected without limitation, subject to their willingness to serve.

### **Section 4:**

The First Vice-President shall perform all duties of the President in his/her absence, or during the remainder of the President's term if there is a vacancy in the position.

### **Section 5:**

The Second Vice-President shall perform all the duties of the President in his/her absence, or during the remainder of the First Vice-President's term if there is a vacancy in the position.

### **Section 6:**

In the event a vacancy occurs in the position of the First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer, the President may appoint a member of the Association to serve in the respective office for the remainder of the term.

### **Section 7:**

Only voting members may serve as officers of the Association, as the Association's delegates to other organizations or as chairperson of any select committees.

## ARTICLE V: COMMITTEES

### **Section 1:**

The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected, or appointed, officers of the Association (President, First and Second Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer). In addition, the immediate past President and the Virginia State Apiarist shall be invited to serve as advisors for the Executive Committee shall have authority to transact business on behalf of the Association when meetings are not in session.

### **Section 2:**

A Meeting Committee, selected by the President, shall plan, coordinate and make necessary arrangements for meetings and other events of the Association.

### **Section 3:**

A Nomination Committee consisting of at least three members of the Association shall be appointed annually by the President and shall represent the membership from the different areas of the state. Members may serve more than one year.

The Nominating Committee shall nominate and present a slate of officers at a designated meeting each year. Other names may be submitted from the membership at the time of the election.

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### **Section 4:**

Special committees may be appointed by the President at any time.

## ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

### **Section 1:**

There shall be a minimum of one meeting of the general membership each year at a time and place designated by the President and Meeting Committee. In addition, special meetings, special events, or workshops may be held at any time at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

### **Section 2:**

The Constitution of The Virginia State Beekeepers' Association shall be followed in conducting meetings; however, in areas the Constitution does not apply, then the meeting shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

### **Section 3:**

Notice of each meeting, special events, or workshops shall be communicated to each voting member of the Association prior to the date of the general membership meeting.

### **Section 4:**

Charges to cover meeting expenses may be levied on all those in attendance.

## ARTICLE VII: QUORUM

### **Section 1:**

General Membership Meetings Five percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any general membership meeting.

**Section 2:** Executive Committee Meetings Four members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of committee business.

## ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

A. When a quorum of members is present at a general membership meeting, any Article, or any Section of any Article, of the Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all voting members present.

B. Proposed changes must be submitted to the Executive Committee for review 45 days prior to a general membership meeting.

C. The Executive Committee will provide a paper or electronically mailed copy of the proposed amendments to each member of the Association at least 30 days prior to a general membership meeting.

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## ARTICLE IX: BYLAWS

Items not covered in the Constitution shall be provided for in the Bylaws.