

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
NEW JERSEY  
BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

(With revisions through February 14, 2009)

**ARTICLE I**

Section 1: The name of this Association is the NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION.

Section 2:.

The mission of the Association is to

- Promote and support all aspects of beekeeping in New Jersey
- Educate the general public about the benefits and importance of beekeeping
- Dispel myths and misinformation concerning the honey bee
- Inform & educate the general public concerning the honey bee and the beekeeping industry

**ARTICLE II - Membership**

Section 1: The membership shall consist of beekeepers and others interested in beekeeping or allied activities without discrimination as to sex, race, color or creed.

Section 2: Any person may be elected to honorary membership by approval of the Executive Board, who will at the same time set aside funds from the treasury to finance that membership.

**ARTICLE III - Officers**

Section 1: The officers of the Association shall be a President, three vice-presidents and a Secretary Treasurer.

Section 2: The President shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Association and shall preside at all meetings of the Association and Executive Board The President shall appoint such standing committees as are specified by the By-Laws and shall be an ex-officio member of these committees,

Section 3: The Vice-Presidents, in the absence or disability of the President shall perform the functions of the office of the President and will succeed each other in numerically ascending order. Each Vice-President shall have supervision of those committees as may be assigned by the President.

Section 4: The Secretary Treasurer shall keep a full and correct record of all meetings of the Association, and shall conduct the correspondence of the Association under the direction of the President. The Secretary Treasurer shall also give or cause to be given notice of all meetings and shall receive all monies and deposit same to credit of the Association in such depository as may be designated by the Executive Board, and shall submit at the Annual Meeting Reports of the activities and of the financial status of the Association.

**ARTICLE IV - Executive Board**

Section 1: The Executive Board shall consist of the President, the three vice-presidents, the

Secretary Treasurer, the last two Presidents, all current Branch Presidents and one Secretary from each Branch, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture Apiary Inspectors and Chairperson of all Committees.

Section 2: Three months prior to the annual meeting, the President shall appoint a nominating committee of three or more members from different Branch Associations who shall present their nominations at the annual meeting. Those, together with any nominations made from the floor will be voted upon. The candidate receiving the greater number of votes for each office shall be declared duly elected and shall assume office at the close of the annual meeting.

#### **ARTICLE V - Election of Officers**

Section 1: The President, three Vice Presidents, and the Secretary Treasurer shall be elected at the annual meeting, assume office at the end of the annual meeting and hold their offices until their successors have been elected. No member shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive years, other than the Secretary Treasurer. However, if at the time of election there are no nominees for a position due to become vacant due to the term limits described herein, the membership may decide, by majority vote, to extend the tenure of the incumbent officer. If there are any nominees for the position the incumbent must step aside.

Section 2: Three months prior to the annual meeting, the President shall appoint a nominating committee of three or more members from different Branch Associations who shall present their nominations at the annual meeting. Those, together with any nominations made from the floor will be voted upon. The candidate receiving the greater number of votes for each office shall be declared duly elected and shall assume office at the close of the annual meeting.

Section 3: When there is more than one candidate for an office, election will be by secret ballots, and the President shall appoint three members to act as tellers who shall count the ballots, and announce the results. When there is only one candidate for an office, the Secretary Treasurer shall cast the ballot upon the approval of a motion to that effect.

Section 4: Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the President, subject to the approval of the Executive Board.

#### **ARTICLE VI Amendments**

Any amendment to this Constitution or associated By-Laws must first be presented by a member in writing at a regular meeting of the Executive Board for consideration. Upon approval of the proposed amendment by a 2/3 majority of the Board, the proposed amendment will be submitted to the membership for ratification at a subsequent Association meeting held not less than sixty days (60) after publication of the proposed amendment in the New Jersey Beekeepers Association Newsletter. This amendment to become effective must be approved by at least 2/3 vote of the members present at that Association meeting.

## **ARTICLE VII - Dissolution**

Upon the dissolution, all books and records of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association shall automatically become the property of Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, Department of Entomology. All monies, if any, of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association included under the provisions of Title 15 of the New Jersey State Law, shall be donated to Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, for research in beekeeping. Branches and their assets will become autonomous, with no inter-Branch affiliations.

## **ARTICLE VIII- Branches**

Section 1: Whenever, in the judgment of the Executive Board, 5 or more persons shall request in writing recognition of an affiliated Branch of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association for the purpose of more effectively carrying out the objectives of the Association, the association may grant a revocable Charter of Affiliation contingent on the affiliated group adopting and maintaining a Constitution and Bylaws compatible with and related to the objectives of the Association.

Section 2: Any person may become a member of any Branch in accordance with Article II, but shall be entitled to hold office in only one branch.

Section 3: The officers of each Branch shall consist of a President, a Secretary Treasurer and such other officers as each Branch may find desirable. The officers shall be elected by direct votes of the Branch in the manner provided in this Constitution. The election of any member as a Branch officer shall not bar him or her from election or appointment to any other office in the Association. The Branch Executive Board shall consist of the elected officers, Chairpersons of committees and the two immediate past presidents of that Branch.

Section 4: The Branch President shall function at the Branch level in the same capacity as the President for the Association specified under ARTICLE III, Section 2.

Section 5: The Secretary Treasurer (or the Secretary) shall report the activities of the Branch to the Association Secretary Treasurer. The Secretary Treasurer (or Secretary and Treasurer) shall function at the Branch level in the same capacity as the Secretary Treasurer of the Association specified under ARTICLE III, Section 4, with the exception that only the Branch Secretary Treasurer (or the Branch Treasurer) is empowered to collect regular dues (honorary membership fees are payable only to the Association Secretary Treasurer). Money collected shall be deposited to the credit of the Branch in a repository approved by the Branch Executive Board.

Section 6: The Branches shall hold three or more meetings annually at such times and places as may be determined by their officers, for the purpose of carrying on their work.

Section 7: The Chartered Branch shall, as a requisite to maintaining its charter, keep on file with the Association Secretary Treasurer, a current copy of the Branch Constitution and By-Laws to assure compatibility with the Association

Section 8: In the case of a Branch of the Association seceding from the Association, or becoming defunct, then all records, correspondence, list of members and their addresses, etc., shall become the property of the Association on demand of the Executive Board. All monies in the treasury of the Branch shall be paid to the Association.

Section 9: Upon notification of amendment to the Association Constitution and By-Laws in accordance with ARTICLE VI, the Branch Constitution and By-Laws must be reviewed and properly amended if in conflict with the change.

## **ARTICLE IX - Discipline**

Section J: The Executive Board of the Association may warn, suspend or terminate a membership for serious reasons such a violation of the Constitution, By-Laws or unlawful conduct adversely affecting the Association.

Section 2: Any individual member or Branch which is the subject of charges shall be informed in writing by certified mail of the charges and shall be given the opportunity to defend against such charges at a meeting of the Executive Board, before final action is taken by the Board.

Section 3: The Executive Board action on charges requires a 2/3 majority of that Board sitting in quorum and may in the extreme, consist of termination of membership or revocation of the Branch Charter.

## **BY-LAWS**

### **ARTICLE I - Membership**

Section 1: There shall be four categories of membership: Junior, Individual, Family, Honorary.

Section 2: All Categories of members shall receive the New Jersey Beekeepers Association Newsletter and shall enjoy all other privileges of a member.

### **ARTICLE II- Dues**

Section I: Any boy or girl under the age of 18 who is interested in Apiculture may become a Junior member. Dues of \$8.00 per year are payable in advance.

Section 2: ): Any individual, or family residing at the same address, may become a member of the Association for \$20 per year, payable in advance. Membership will include one newsletter subscription, and one vote in matters put before the membership..

Section 3: Memberships are for one calendar year, beginning January 1st and ending December 31st. New members who pay after July 31st will have their memberships run through the current year to the end of the next. .

Section 4: Any member who has paid his/her dues to one Branch may become a member of any or all of the other Branches by paying that portion of the dues which each Branch normally retains as it's share of the full dues.

Section 5: No new members will be accepted as Life Members. Current Life Members will continue to receive all membership benefits without payment of annual dues.

Section 6: Honorary Membership may be extended to anyone having rendered outstanding service to the Association or to Apiculture in general by the Executive Board for any period, including life. Honorary Members shall not be assessed dues. However, the honoring group shall set aside Funds from their treasury to provide for the normal dues for the honoring period. For Lifetime honoring, a funding fee of \$150.00 will be paid into the state Treasury toward defrayal of the cost of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association Newsletter.

Section 7: The dues shall be payable on a fiscal year basis, the fiscal year date being January 1st. Members who have not paid their dues by February 1st shall be considered delinquent and their names dropped from the Secretary's roll. Re-application for membership will be required for reinstatement.

Section 7a: Branch Secretary Treasurers (or Branch Treasurers) must have records to the Association Secretary Treasurer by February 1st to avoid delinquency.

Section 8: The ratio of division of dues between the Association and the Branch shall be 60% to the Association and 40% to the Branch.

### **ARTICLE III - Meetings**

Section 1: The annual meeting of the Association will be held during the New Jersey Agriculture Week, the date and place to be determined by the Executive Board.

Section 2: Field meetings shall be held throughout the State, the dates and places to be determined by the Executive Board.

Section 3: A quorum at any Association regular meeting shall consist of no less than 25 members. A quorum of the Executive Board shall not be less than 7 members.

### **ARTICLE IV - Committees**

Section 1: The President shall appoint the following standing committees: Membership, Public Relations, Publicity, Research, and Audit.

Section 2: The Membership Committee shall consist of one member from each Branch. This committee shall bring the advantages of membership to the attention of desirable candidates and shall take such other measures as it may consider advisable to interest prospective members.

Section 3: The Public Relations Committee shall consist of three members and shall consider and report to the Executive Board upon such matters as the Board may refer to it, and shall call the attention of the Executive Board to such matters as, in its opinion, may affect the interest of the Association.

Section 4: The Publicity Committee shall consist of one member from each Branch and shall have charge of dissemination of information regarding the activities of the Association. It shall arrange for all exhibits and meeting with other organizations to acquaint the public with beekeeping and the uses of honey.

Section 5: The Research Committee shall consist of three members. It shall be kept informed regarding the bee research activities in general and of the New Jersey Agriculture Experimental Station. It shall advise the Now Jersey Agriculture Experimental Station officials regarding the research needs of the New Jersey Beekeeping industry.

Section 6: The Audit Committee of two members shall audit the books annually and report at the annual meeting.

Section 7: Special committees may be appointed by the President, as required, subject to the approval of the Executive Board,

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November 16, 1984: Revisions approved by NJBA Executive Board.

January 26, 1985: Ratification by NBA general body of membership.

April 1985: Adopted Constitution printed in NJBA Newsletter.

February 10, 1989: Constitutional ARTICLE VIII and By-Laws ARTICLE TI change were approved 1-20-89 by 2/3 majority of the Executive Committee sitting in quorum in accordance with ARTICLE VI of the Constitution, The new Constitutional ARTICLE IX was approved 2-10-89, also in accordance the ARTICLE VI, and 60 days after publication in the New Jersey Beekeepers Association Newsletter.

October 7, 1995: Motion to change By-Laws passed by general body of membership (Dues Increase).

January 27, 1990: Changes in ARTICLE II Section 5 & 6, were unanimously approved by the Executive Board 5-12-89, and in accordance with ARTICLE VI of the Constitution passed by the membership with more than 2/3 majority at the annual meeting on 1-27-1990.

February 9, 2008: Changes in ARTICLE I Section 2, ARTICLE IV section 1, ARTICLE V section 1, BY-LAWS ARTICLE I Sections 1, ARTICLE II Section 3, and ARTICLE 5 section 5 were unanimously adopted by the Executive Board on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007, and later by the General Membership on February 9, 2008

February 14, 2009: Changes in the By-Laws Article II, Sections 1-3 were adopted by the Executive Board on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008, and later by the General Membership on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009.