

Last Chance Back Country Horsemen By-Laws

ARTICLE I – PURPOSE

Section 1 The purpose of this organization shall be: (1) to perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in Montana's roadless back country and wilderness areas, (2) to work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use, (3) to assist government agencies in the maintenance and management of our roadless back country and wilderness areas, and (4) to educate, encourage, and solicit active participation by the general public in the wise and sustaining use of horses and people, commensurate with our heritage and back country and wilderness resources.

ARTICLE 2 – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Any person who promotes the purpose of this organization and who is current on their dues shall be given membership.

Section 2 The amount of membership dues shall be approved by a majority vote of the membership at a regularly scheduled meeting.

Section 3 Membership dues shall be paid on an annual basis for the calendar year January 1 through December 31.

ARTICLE 3 – MEETINGS

Section 1 Regular monthly meetings shall be established and held at a time and place decided by a majority vote.

Section 2 Special meetings may be called by the President, or upon a written request signed by any 10 current members. Notice must be given to current members at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. The notice may be given by any means, so long as all reasonable attempts to give actual notice are attempted. The notice must include a summary of what issues are expected to be raised at the special meeting.

Section 3 Eight voting members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at regular or special meetings of this organization.

ARTICLE 4 – VOTING

- Section 1 Current members who are 18 years or older shall be entitled to one vote on recommendations, decisions, specific matters, or issues raised during regular or special meetings.
- Section 2 A simple majority is required to pass a motion at any regular or special meeting of this organization.

ARTICLE 5 – OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

- Section 1 Officers of this organization shall be the President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. There shall also be two State Board Directors, and an Alternate to serve in the absence of a State Board Director.
- Section 2 Any vacancy in any office, other than President, shall be filled by a majority vote of the current membership. In the case of a vacancy in office of President, the Vice President shall assume the role. Any vacancy that is filled shall be for the remainder of the term.
- Section 3 State Board Directors shall attend State Board meetings and shall submit a report at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The report may be oral.
- Section 4 At the discretion of the membership as voted on an annual basis: State Board Directors and State Convention Delegates may be reimbursed at the actual room rate for lodging. Mileage may be reimbursed for transportation costs at the standard Federal mileage rate at the time of travel per mile one way. Registration fees may be reimbursed.

ARTICLE 6 – DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

- Section 1 The duty of the Officers and State Board Directors is to abide by the direction of the membership within the bounds of its by-laws and articles of incorporation. No unilateral authority is given to any Officer or State Board Director or to any member without the approval of the voting members.
- Section 2 The President shall preside over all meetings of the organization.
- Section 3 The Vice President shall assist the President and shall fulfill the President's duties in the President's absence.
- Section 4 The Secretary shall keep and record the minutes and give notice of special meetings.

- Section 5 The Treasurer shall keep a written report of the financial transactions of the organization, collect dues, and issue approved checks. The Treasurer may issue a check for a maximum of \$100 without prior approval of the active members. Issuance of a check over \$100 needs approval of all Officers if business must be conducted prior to the next meeting. This may only be executed once between meetings where a vote may take place. All other checks must have prior approval by the voting members. All funds shall be kept in a bank account. Two Officer signatures are required on each check.
- Section 6 Other duties may be requested and approved by a majority vote of the active membership at a meeting.
- Section 7 Executive Board shall consist at a minimum of current Officers, State Board Directors and Alternate, as well as Past President.

ARTICLE 7 – ELECTIONS

- Section 1 All Officers and State Board Directors must be members in good standing and shall be elected at the first regularly scheduled meeting of the year. Their term of office shall be at the end of their nominal term plus or minus those days, which make up the difference to the nearest election date.
- Section 2 No Officer shall hold the same office for more than three consecutive terms.
- Section 3 A nominating committee of three current members shall be selected one month prior to the election of Officers.
- Section 4 The nominating committee shall provide a list of suitable candidates for Officers and State Board Directors to the membership. Nominations for other candidates may also be made by any current member at the election meeting.

ARTICLE 8 – REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

- Section 1 A request may be made to remove an Officer or State Board Director by submitting a petition to the members at a regularly scheduled meeting stating the reason for the request along with signatures from one-third of the current members. Notice and the reason for the request must be given to all current members according to the notice required for special meetings under Article 3, Section 2. The notice must include the time, place, and date of the next regularly scheduled meeting where the vote on

removal will take place. The Officer or State Board Director may then be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote of the current membership.

ARTICLE 9 – COMMITTEES

- Section 1 Committees, which are necessary for the function of this organization, shall be designated by the organization's President with the majority approval of the current members at the meeting where the committee is proposed.
- Section 2 The committee chairman will be appointed by the President with the majority approval of the current members at the meeting where the committee is proposed. The chairman will then choose the members with majority approval of the current membership present.

ARTICLE 10 – PROXY VOTES

- Section 1 A current member may vote by written proxy on any issue. The method of delivering a proxy vote to the meeting is at the peril of the person who submits it. If the proxy is not received at the meeting, it will not be counted. The proxy must contain a written understanding of the issue presented and it must be approved for acceptance by a majority of the current members present.

ARTICLE 11 – AMENDMENTS

- Section 1 These by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting after notice of the proposed amendment is given to current members as it would be for special meetings under Article 3, Section 2. A majority vote of the current members present is required for the proposed amendment to be executed.
- Section 2 Amendments to the by-laws must be proposed one regular meeting prior to voting on the amendment.

Modified/Amended By-Laws approved by members October 4, 2023