

Revised October 2-2018

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 backcountry and (2) assist the various government agencies in their maintenance and management of said resources and (3) to educate, encourage and solicit active participation by various members of the general public in the wise and sustainable use of horses and people, commensurate with our heritage and backcountry's resources and (4) to work with and abide by the Confederate Salish and Kootenai tribal regulations and permits.

Article II

Membership

- Section 1 Membership shall be composed of any individuals interested in promoting the purpose as stated in Article I.
- Section 2 Associate membership may be acquired by individuals, businesses, or organizations interested in supporting the purpose as stated in Article 1.
- Section 3 Dues shall be collected annually for family, individual, and associate memberships.
- Section 4 Associate membership dues shall be no less than \$100.00 per year.
- Section 5 Any person 15 years of age or younger, not otherwise qualified for membership with a family member and interested in promoting the purpose as stated in Article I may be accorded a Junior Membership for a minimal annual fee.

Article III

Voting

- Section 1 Each member, sixteen (16) years of age, or older and in good standing shall be entitled to one (1) vote on all matters during a regular or special meeting.
- Section 2 Associate members may at the time of membership application or renewal, designate one person who will be considered a voting member.
- Section 3 When membership has been dully notified, a quorum of ten (10) members in good standing present at a general meeting shall be sufficient to conduct business,

Article IV

Meetings

- Section 1 Regular monthly meetings shall be established and held at a time decided by a majority vote at regular meetings.
- Section 2 Special meetings may be called by the president, or upon written request signed by any three (3) directors, or upon written request signed by any ten (10) voting members in good standing. All requests will be made directly to the president.

Revised October 2-2018

Section 3 Board meetings shall be held at the convenience of a majority of the directors, but at least once a **quarter**. Regular members shall be welcome at board meetings but shall have no vote. When anyone wants to attend a board meeting, they can contact a board member for the meeting date and place. Executive sessions including only Board members may be held at the discretion of the President.

Section 4 Notice shall be given of all meetings, regular or special, and shall at least include prior notice in area wide news media.

Section 5 A simple majority of the Board of Directors must approve the transactions of business at a Board of Directors meeting.

Article V

Responsibility for Injury

Section 1 The Mission Valley Backcountry Horseman will not be responsible for accident or injury to any person or persons while engaged in any organization activities.

Article VI

Officers and Directors

Section 1 Officers of this organization shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasure and such officers as the voting membership may from time to time create.

Section 2 There shall be ten (10) Directors in addition to the officers, immediate past president and 2 state delegates who will also serve as members of the Board. In the event a director shall be named as state and /or national officer, they shall remain on the Board for the duration of their office tenure. (It is recognized that Directors from various geographical locations is desirable, provided commensurate with member interest).

Section 3 Any vacancy or vacancies in any office or in the Board of Directors shall be filled by an election by the Board of Directors for the balance of the term. (Except the President, which will automatically be filled by the Vice President).

Section 4 All elected Officers and Directors must be voting members in good standing.

Section 5 A Director shall not represent the Board of Directors at any time unless officially directed to do so by the Board.

Article VII

Duties of Officers and Directors

Section 1 The supreme power and authority of this organization shall be lodged in their assembled meetings and the officers and directors shall conform to the wishes and instructions of such organization, but subject to such control and direction by the organization. When said organization is not in session, the Board of Directors shall have all needful authority to execute the purpose of this organization.

Revised October 2-2018

- Section 2 It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors and to exercise general executive control over the affairs of said organization and call special meetings of the organization and of its Board of Directors, and to perform all other duties pertaining to such office. He or she may be an ex-official member of all committees. He or she may also co-sign checks for disbursement of funds.
- Section 3 The Vice -President shall assist the President when called upon to do so, and in his or her absence, shall be vested with all powers and duties of the President. He or she may also co-sign checks for disbursement of funds.
- Section 4 The secretary shall record and keep the minutes of the regular, special and board meetings; shall register the names of members, issue notices and perform such other duties as pertains to such office. The secretary shall also be one of the so-signers who may validate checks.
- Section 5 The Treasure shall collect dues, keep and disburse all funds of the organization, and shall keep a written account of same which shall be open for inspection by any member in good standing, and shall furnish a written report of the state of the finances monthly, and shall be one of the co-signers of records, any two of which may validate a check. All funds shall be kept in a bank account.

Article VIII

Elections

- Section 1 All officers and directors shall be elected by a majority vote at the regularly scheduled meeting and their term of office shall be the calendar year next following the date of such election,
- Section 2 Director vacancies will be filled by two (2) year terms with the five (5) vacancies occurring one year and five (5) the following year.
- Section 3 No officer shall hold the same office for more than three consecutive terms. There shall be no limit for service by directors.
- Section 4 A nominating committee of three officers who have served at least one year shall be appointed by the current president on the month prior to the regular election of officers.
- Section 5 The purpose of the nominating committee shall be to provide a list of suitable candidates for this organization's Offices and Directors to the membership. Nominations for officers and directors may also be provided by the membership from the floor, prior to election.
- Section 6 State Board Directors from MVBCH will consist of two (2) directors and one (1) alternate director. Terms will run for 2 years and no director shall serve for more than 3 consecutive terms. Alternates will be elected annually. State Board Directors are elected every other year. If a director cannot complete a term, the alternate will complete it and a new alternate will be elected by the MVBCH Board.

Article IX

Removal of Officers and or Chapter Members

- Section 1 Any officer or director may be relieved of their (his or her) duties by an action instituted by two-thirds of the voting Board of Directors or by a petition signed by one-third of the voting membership and notification made at a regular or special meeting one meeting prior to the meeting action is to be taken.
- Section 2 Board members who miss three (3) consecutive meeting may be asked to resign from the Board of Directors.
- Section 3 Chapter member may be expelled for conduct which is intimidating, threatening, pugnacious, belligerent, or otherwise harmful to members of the chapter Association or which impairs the functioning or damages the reputation of the chapter.

If such conduct shall be brought to the Board's attention and the majority of the Board determines that expulsion of the member should be considered, the Board shall appoint a committee of three regular members who are not on the Board. The Committee shall investigate and submit a written report to the Board stating the results of its investigation and its recommendation.

If expulsion or other disciplinary action shall be recommended, the Board shall consider such recommendation at a hearing at the next Regular or Special meeting and give the accused member at least ten (10) days notice of such hearing. The Board shall consider the Committee's report, shall give the defending member the opportunity to be heard, and may consider the statements of other persons present to the extent that they are relevant. Only the Board Members present at the hearing may vote, and no member shall be expelled except by the vote of two-thirds (2/3) of a quorum; less discipline may be imposed by a majority vote. The Board shall advise the member at least 15 days prior to the effective date of the action to be taken.

A member whom the Board has voted to expel or discipline may appeal the Board's decision by giving written notice of appeal to the Secretary prior to the effective date of the Board Action. Within five (5) days after receiving such notice, the Secretary shall notify the Board of the appeal and shall furnish to the appealing member and the Board a list of Past Presidents and Members of the year who are then Regular Members of the Chapter and are not currently on the Board. Within five (5) days thereafter the appealing member shall choose one person from the list and notify the Secretary of his or her choice. The Secretary shall notify the Board of the member's choice, and within five (5) days the Board shall choose one person from the list and notify the Secretary of its choice. The Secretary shall notify the two from the list who have been chosen, and the two shall select a third member from the list. The three shall comprise the Appellate Tribunal which shall promptly schedule a hearing, give notice of the hearing, determine whether or not the appealing member should be expelled or disciplined, and notify the appealing member and the Board of its determination. A decision of the Appellate Tribunal shall be final.

**Article X
Committees**

- Section 1 Committees necessary for the function of this organization shall be composed of, but not limited to:
- a. Issues
 - b. Projects
 - c. Education and Safety
 - d. Membership
 - e. Publicity (who shall be the usual source of information to the news media)
 - f. Audit
- Section 2 The committee chairperson will be appointed by the President with approval of the organization's Board of Directors and will in turn appoint their committee members as necessary to accomplish their committee's function.

**Article XI
Amendments**

- Section 1 This constitution and by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting or special meeting of the organization by a majority vote, provided the notice of such proposed amendment or amendments shall be given to the organization at the regular meeting preceding the submission of such proposed amendments. Proposed amendments shall be read at two consecutive meetings. A vote of acceptance will take place at the second meeting. If the amendments are not accepted, the process of revision and readings will be re-instated by the Board.