

# Bylaws

## for the Aiken Beekeepers Association

*These Bylaws were revised by the 2017 officers of the Aiken Beekeepers Association and were voted into current effect by the quorum of members present at the meeting on **November 28, 2017.***

### **ARTICLE I: NAME**

This organization shall be known as the Aiken Beekeepers Association

### **ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this nonprofit organization shall be:

- A. To provide a forum for the exchange of information, ideas, and views of mutual interest to beekeepers.
- B. To provide education on the practical aspects of beekeeping and to encourage the use of better and more productive methods.
- C. To foster cooperation between members of the Association.
- D. To promote understanding and cooperation between the association and the community with regard to beekeeping.
- E. To promote the interests of the association membership, which relates to bees and beekeeping.
- F. To promote the use of honey and honey products

### **ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

#### Section I:

Anyone interested in beekeeping and/or in the beekeeping industry may join the association upon payment of the regular annual dues. The right to vote is limited to regular members having paid their annual dues, thus being members in good standing. Membership in the association is not required for attendance at meetings; however, only members in good standing may vote on any business of the association. All members of the Aiken Beekeepers Association shall be enrolled for membership of the SC Beekeepers Association at the time of initial local membership or renewal. Individuals can decline.

#### Section II:

Junior Membership: Nonvoting membership is available without cost to interested youths eighteen (18) years of age or younger.

Section III:

Honorary Membership: The Association may have Honorary Members. Such membership may be conferred upon a person who has given distinguished service to the Association or beekeeping industry in the Aiken area, state of SC, or the nation. Honorary membership may be granted by the majority vote of the members present at any regular business meeting. An honorary Member is exempt from dues and has no voting rights.

Section IV:

Only members in good standing shall vote on Association business or may serve as officers of the Association or as delegate, chairman, or member of select committees.

Section V:

At initial membership the individual joining the association shall sign a form stating that he/she understands, agrees to abide by, and recognizes the Bylaws of the Aiken Beekeepers Association in its entirety.

**ARTICLE IV: ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Section I:

The officers of the Association shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section II:

The officers shall be elected by majority vote when a quorum of members is present at the November meeting, and shall serve in that capacity beginning January 1st (first) of the next calendar year and for the following 24 (twenty-four) months.

Section III:

The President and Vice President may serve no more than two successive terms in their respective offices; however, they may be elected again after an interval of at least one term. The Secretary and Treasurer may be reelected without limitation, subject to their willingness to serve.

Section IV:

The Vice President shall perform all duties of the President in his/her absence.

Section V:

In case of the vacancy in the position of President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer, the membership shall vote for a new officer to serve for the remainder of the term.

Section VI:

Elections will be held each November with the President and Vice President elected one-year and the Secretary and Treasurer elected the following year. This is to ensure that experienced officers are in office at all times.

## **ARTICLE V: DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

### Section I:

The President has the prime responsibility for the Association and the direction of its activities. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association using regular parliamentary procedure and Robert's Rules of Order. The President shall appoint all special committees, including the Program Committee and shall perform such other duties as the Association may direct. The President shall be authorized to make deposits and disburse all moneys, should the Treasurer be unable to perform these duties.

### Section II:

The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in his/her absence or upon the President's request. The Vice President shall act as chairman of the Program/OUTREACH Committee(S), and shall be responsible for program content and arrangements.

### Section III:

The Secretary shall record the minutes and proceeding of the Association at each meeting and event, file and preserve all its documents, attend to all correspondence of the Association, notify the members and general public of regular meeting and other activities, and attend to other duties that naturally pertain to the office. The Secretary shall be responsible for the completion and publication of the association newsletter.

### Section IV:

The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all moneys of the Association in a timely manner and shall keep a complete and accurate record showing the receipts and disbursements. ANNUALLY THE ASSOCIATION WILL REQUEST A REVIEW OF THE RECORD BE CONDUCTED BY AN INDIVIDUAL(S) APPOINTED BY THE OFFICERS.

### Section V:

The officers shall hold regular quarterly meetings to discuss business/CLUB issues. Special meeting(S) may be arranged as necessary. IN ADDITION TO THE ELECTED OFFICERS THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT AND THE ELECTED STATE REPRESENTATIVE SHALL PARTICPATE IN THESE MEETINGS.

## **ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES**

### Section I:

A Program Committee, shall plan, coordinate, and make necessary arrangements for the regular meetings and other events of the association. The Vice President shall act as chairmen of the committee. Committee members shall be appointed by the President. Members shall be reappointed annually and may serve more than one term.

### Section II:

A Nominating Committee consisting of three members of the Association shall be appointed by the President. The committee shall nominate and present a slate of officers to the members at the October meeting of the election year. Other names may be submitted from the members at that time.

Section III:

Special committees will be appointed by the President as needed.

**ARTICLE VII: DUES**

Section I:

The annual dues AND AN ANNUAL BUDGET shall be set by the officers of the association and submitted to the membership for approval at the November meeting. Changes will become effective on the first of January next.

Section II:

The annual dues shall be payable in advance to the Treasurer of the association and shall be due on January first of the year covered. All memberships expire on December thirty-first (31st) of each year. Any member of the Association who becomes delinquent in payment of dues shall be notified by the Treasurer and dropped from the roll of membership after the March meeting if such dues are not paid. A person who has been dropped from the roll of membership for nonpayment of dues may be restored to active membership in good standing by paying the current year's dues. Dues for the SC Beekeepers Association will be payable at the same time as the local dues. Individuals have the right to decline.

**ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS**

Section I:

There shall be monthly meetings of the Association every fourth Tuesday of the month. Meetings may be considered with special events, such as workshops, dinners, picnics, etc.

Section II:

In addition to regularly scheduled meetings, special programs may be presented at different times during the year.

Section III:

Members of the Association shall be notified by EMAIL, or by any other means as appropriate, of the time and place of each meeting or special program.

**ARTICLE IX: QUORUM**

The members in good standing of the Association in attendance at an official meeting as set forth in Article VIII shall constitute of quorum for the transaction of any routine.

**ARTICLE X: REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AIKEN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION AT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SC BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

The Aiken Beekeepers Association is qualified to send and elect a Regional Representative to the Board of directors of the SC Beekeepers Association, if the Aiken Beekeepers Association consists of a minimum of 25 members and 50% of those are also members of the SC Beekeepers Association. This delegate shall represent the local interests at the state level at up to 4 meetings of the Board of Directors of the SC Beekeepers Association. The delegate may be elected at the same time as the officers are elected for this association. THE TERM FOR THIS REPRESENTATIVE SHALL BE TWO YEARS WITH NO LIMITATION ON TERMS SERVED.

#### **ARTICLE XI: LIABILITY**

In no event shall the Aiken Beekeepers Association be liable for damages arising from activities of their members at events, educational programs, or other activities involving the general public. All representation is strictly done so independent of the Aiken Beekeepers Association. The Aiken Beekeepers Association hereby disclaims any responsibility and in no event shall the Association, its officers, or members be held responsible or liable for any damages (including, without limitation, direct, indirect, or consequential damages) to person or property incurred by the general public in connection with the activities, events, or programs involving the individual beekeeper.

#### **ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any scheduled meeting, providing that a written notice of the proposed amendment has been sent out to each member of the Association prior to the scheduled meeting at which the vote is taken.

#### **ARTICLE XIII: DISSOLUTION**

Should the Association undergo dissolution; any remaining assets will be distributed to the SC beekeepers Association.

#### **ARTICLE XIV: RULES OF CONDUCT**

Section I:

All members shall treat each other with courtesy and respect each other's opinions.

Section II: Disruptions

In the event of disruptive behavior (violation of Robert's Rules of Order and/or rude or offensive behavior) by a member(s) the presiding officer shall correct the situation with the following steps.

First being: A verbal warning shall be given to the individual(s) to stop the disruption.

Secondly: If the disturbance continues or the individual(s) causes another disruption at any other association meeting or activity the member(s) shall be excused from the meeting or activity.

Thirdly: If the same member(s) refuses to leave the meeting or activity or creates yet another disturbance at any other meeting or activity his/her/their membership shall be suspended without refund for the next 12 consecutive calendar months, and the individual(s) shall be banned from all of the association's gathering during that time period.

Fourthly: If, after the first three steps have been administered to a member(s), and he/she/they creates or continues a disturbance at any association meeting or activity, that individual(s) shall have their membership revoked without refund, and will be banned from all association gatherings permanently.