

Beekeepers Association of Southwest Florida

Constitution

February 7, 2008

(updated with all subsequent amendments as of date of printing 4-13-16, changes noted herein)

Article 1

This Association shall be known as the Beekeepers Association of Southwest Florida and shall include, but not be limited to, the following counties: Glades, Hendry, Charlotte, Lee and Collier.

Article 2

The purpose and functions of this association shall be:

- A. The promotion and furtherance of modern and up-to-date beekeeping.
- B. To act in the interests of beekeepers in protecting and conducting beekeeping affairs.
- C. To act as an instrument for, and an aid in cooperative and mutual beekeeping methods.
- D. To act as a representative of the Southwest Florida Beekeepers in both State and National beekeeping and legislative matters.

Article 3

Section 1. There shall be four classes of membership in the Beekeepers Association of Southwest Florida: Active, Associate, Honorary, and Life.

Associate Membership:

Associate members may be individual or family, who have an interest in beekeeping, but have no hives or do not participate in beekeeping activities, but who pay dues to the Beekeepers Association of Southwest Florida for a one-year term. Associate membership shall entitle the member(s) to regular announcements, newsletters, and all other activities sponsored by the organization, although Associate members shall have no voting privileges.

Active Membership:

Active membership in the Beekeepers Association of Southwest Florida shall include beekeepers who keep bees as a hobby or as a commercial enterprise, pollinators, and suppliers of bees and beekeeping equipment. Active members may be individual or family owning one or more hives, paying annual dues to the Beekeepers Association of Southwest Florida as well as dues to the Florida State

Beekeepers Association. Active membership shall entitle the member(s) to regular announcements, newsletters, and all other activities sponsored by the organization. Active members shall have all voting privileges.

Honorary Membership:

Honorary member nominees shall be presented along with their qualifications for consideration to the organization at any regular business meeting, and then voted on by the membership present at the following business meeting. Election shall require a favorable vote by seventy-five percent (75%) of the active members present.

Life Membership:

- A. Any active member or anyone eligible for active membership may become a life member of the Beekeepers Association of Southwest Florida by donating one 10-frame colony of bees to the association's apiary, subject to inspection and acceptance by the Apiary Committee, containing the following:
 - One (1) bottom board or equivalent
 - One (1) cover
 - One (1) queen excluder
 - Three (3) deep hive bodies, or one (1) deep hive body and three (3) 6 5/8" modified supers
 - Ten (10) good frames and combs for each super above
- B. In lieu of the above items, life membership may be obtained by donating beekeeping equipment or supplies or cash of equal current market value with the approval of the Apiary Committee.
- C. Life membership is individual. A single life membership does not cover husband and wife.

Section 2. Membership year shall be from ~~October 1 to September 30~~ each year. *Amended to January 1 to December 31*

Section 3. By vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the active membership present an individual's membership may be revoked for cause, provided he/she shall be heard and allowed the opportunity to correct the cause.

Section 4. A member whose membership has been revoked may apply for new membership after sixty days.

Article 4

Section 1. The officers of this organization shall be active members in good standing, and shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

Section 2. The Beekeepers Association of Southwest Florida shall elect officers for their organization, as well as their representatives to the Board of Managers of the Florida State Beekeepers Association at the September meeting. Newly elected officers will begin their duties ~~October 1~~. *Changed to January 1 to match membership year amendment*

Section 3. Officers shall be elected each year to serve for one (1) year, or until relieved. Elections shall be separate for each office and shall be by secret ballot.

Section 4. A President shall not be elected to more than two (2) successive terms of office. The maximum term shall be a total of two (2) years.

Section 5. Any vacancy of an office shall be filled by election, with such election to take place at the first regular monthly meeting following such vacancy.

Section 6. The officers of this organization and the representative to the Board of Managers of the Florida State Beekeepers Association shall constitute an Executive Committee.

Section 7. The duties of the President shall be to conduct meetings, direct business of the organization, and call special meetings when necessary.

Section 8. The Vice President shall assume duties of the President in his/her absence and serve at his/her pleasure. The Vice President shall also serve as chairperson of the Apiary Committee and assume duties of the Treasurer when needed.

Section 9. The Secretary shall keep a record of the meetings, send notices of meetings, keep a record of all membership, collect dues, and furnish the President a roll of members in good standing.

Section 10. The Treasurer shall be the keeper of the funds and records pertaining thereto and see that old records are properly stored with the Librarian. If deemed advisable by the association, the Treasurer may be required to give Bond in such amount as the officers deem proper. The organization will stand the expense.

Article 5

The Beekeepers Association of Southwest Florida shall meet monthly on a fixed day of a fixed week.

Article 6

This association shall operate one or more apiaries under the control of the appointed Apiary Committee. The net earnings of said apiary or apiaries shall go to the association treasury.

Article 7

- A. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present shall be required to add to or remove from this Constitution.
- B. Any proposed changes to this Constitution must be presented at a meeting and voted on at a subsequent meeting.
- C. The Secretary must notify the membership of any proposed changes to this Constitution, as well as the time and place such changes will be voted upon.

Article 8

Robert's Rules of Order shall be the authority on questions of parliamentary procedure.

Article 9

Section 1. The President shall present a budget to the membership at the January regular meeting for approval by two-thirds (2/3) of the members present. The budget shall be in effect for the calendar year.

Section 2. The President shall appoint a budget committee with himself/herself as chair to prepare the budget. Each committee chairperson shall present budget requirements to the Budget Committee by the December meeting.

Section 3. Any financial expenditure in excess of \$500.00, not expressed in the budget, must be proposed at a meeting and voted on at a subsequent meeting. The Secretary must notify the membership in the monthly newsletter of the proposed expenditure. The only exception to this requirement is a situation that does not permit a month's wait, and may be bypassed with approval of two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present.

Section 4. With the approval of the officers, the President may authorize an expenditure of finances that is not in the budget if and only if he/she judges that extraordinary circumstances dictate an inability to wait for the membership meeting.

Article 10

This writing of the Constitution of the Beekeepers Association of Southwest Florida shall supersede and replace all other past and undated Constitutions and Bylaws.

Bylaws

Article 1

The officers of this Association shall be elected by Active members in attendance at a regular September meeting. A majority of votes cast shall be required to elect. Newly elected officers shall take office ~~October—1st~~. **Changed to January 1 to match membership year amendment**

Section 1. Elections shall be separate for each office and shall be by secret ballot if more than one name is nominated for such office.

Section 2. There shall be elected a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a representative to the State Association's Board of Managers. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.

Section 3. The duties of the President shall be to conduct meetings, direct business of the organization, and call special meetings when necessary.

Section 4. The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in his/her absence and serve at his/her pleasure. The Vice President shall also serve as chairperson of the Apiary Committee and assume duties of the Treasurer when needed. The Vice President shall be Chair of the Hospitality Committee and as such shall greet newcomers, and be prepared to introduce them to the group when called upon.

Section 5. The Secretary shall attend all regular and special meetings and shall keep a record of the meetings, send notices of meetings, keep a record of all membership, collect dues, which in turn shall be turned over to the Treasurer, and shall furnish the President a roll of members in good standing. The Secretary shall also keep a record of attendance.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall be the keeper of the funds and records pertaining thereto and shall see that old records are properly stored with the Librarian. If deemed advisable by the association, the Treasurer may be required to give Bond in such amount as the officers deem proper. The organization will stand the expense.

Article 2

All committees shall be appointed by the President, unless provision for their selection shall be made by motion, which shall be carried by a majority vote of the Active members present. The following committees are suggested for use as they become desirable: Audit, Hospitality, Program, Apiary, Queen, Exhibits and Fairs, Social, Cooperative Activities, Public Education, Youth Program and Government Relations. This list is not meant to be all-inclusive.

Article 3

If a member wishes to resign an office or committee he or she has been elected to, he or she shall give written notice to the Secretary, who shall present it to the officers at the next regular meeting. No dues shall be cancelled upon resignation. Any member whose dues are not paid by ~~December—1st~~ shall be notified by letter from the Secretary of the delinquency. If said

member's dues are not paid within 30 days of the mailing of a written notice his or her name shall be removed from the roll. *Changed to March 1st to match membership year amendment*

Article 4

Any member guilty of conduct not in harmony with the principles or well-being of this organization may be expelled by a seventy-five percent (75%) vote of the members present at any regular meeting, provided, a written copy of the charge has been presented to that person two (2) weeks prior to such meeting.

Article 5.

Robert's Rules of Order shall be the authority on questions of parliamentary procedure.

Article 6

The order of business at all regular meetings of the Beekeepers Association of Southwest Florida shall be as follows:

1. Meeting called to order
2. Reports (Minutes, Treasurer, Committees)
3. Unfinished or Old Business
4. New Business
5. Addresses, program or other main feature
6. Questions and answers
7. Adjournment

Article 7

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Active members present at a special meeting called for that purpose. The special meeting may be held in conjunction with a regular meeting. Advanced notice of a special meeting for bylaws amendment shall be required.