

Bylaws for the ASSOCIATION of SOUTHERN MARYLAND BEEKEEPERS

I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Association of Southern Maryland Beekeepers (ASMB) is to:

- 1) Provide a social gathering format that will support and sustain the art of beekeeping in the Southern Maryland Tri-county area.
- 2) Seek to be inclusive of new beekeeping ideas, techniques and systems while providing training on basic beekeeping methods as a starting point for new beekeepers.
- 3) Educate the public about honey bees and their place in the ecosystem.

II. MEMBERSHIP:

Membership is open to all who are interested in beekeeping in Southern Maryland. Current management of honeybees is not a condition of membership. Each member has the privilege of one vote per membership. Family membership shall consist of related persons living at the same address and will have one vote. Proxy votes are not permitted. **Individual life membership may be purchased or awarded at any time during the year for the amount voted on and set by the Executive Committee.** Each **annual** member will pay dues annually in the amount voted on and set by the Executive Committee. **Annual** membership runs for 12 months and starts on January 1st. A new member joining after October 1st shall be deemed to have paid for the following year. **Annual** dues not paid by March 1st shall cause the membership to lapse and not be entitled to the newsletter or to vote. Funds raised through dues will be used to pay for the cost of sending out meeting notices and other information to members and potential members and to pay for meeting expenses. The membership may vote to spend additional funds on other items, such as meeting speakers, public relations efforts or participation in community events, joint advertising or convention costs for one or more of its members. All members are responsible for seeking new members from the community, and for mentoring new and potential members.

III. MEETINGS:

Meetings will take place at least six (6) times per year at times and locations suitable for the majority of members. A portion of the first meeting of the calendar year will be devoted to electing or reconfirming officers of the club, setting dues, defining expense priorities, determining tentative meeting dates, locations and topics for the upcoming year. Efforts will be made to provide advance notification of topics that will be voted on during meetings, but this does not preclude a new topic that is introduced during a meeting to be approved by membership in attendance at the same meeting. A quorum to conduct association business shall consist of at least twelve (12) members in good standing. A simple majority is required to enact any subject.

IV. STRUCTURE:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

The Executive committee will consist of four elected positions with a standard duration of one year. At the first meeting each year, the committee membership will be put to a vote with new members being elected or existing members being reaffirmed. A nomination of prospective members will occur during the final meeting of the year to allow proposed members to decide if they wish to take on this added responsibility. This does not preclude additional nominations on the date of the election.

President:

Shall be the spokesperson for the club. Coordinate guest speakers and organizations with which the club has inherent links and added value in coordination. Additionally, the person will run club meetings and sign official club correspondence.

Vice President:

Act on behalf of the President when he/she is not in attendance. The Vice President will assume other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the President or General Membership.

Secretary:

Provide a written account of all executive and association meetings. Generate and publish the agenda for upcoming meetings as formulated with the executive committee and the association.

Treasurer:

Manage the Association bank account, deposit and record all income. Approve/pay all operating expenses and balance the account. Maintain the Association membership roster and ensure the Executive committee and the club editor is kept apprised on the most current rolls.

The Executive committee will on occasion augment their ranks by requesting assistance of the more experienced members of the club as Advisors. Only current members in good standing are eligible for election to the Executive Committee. Additionally, in the event of an unplanned departure of an executive member the committee will appoint a replacement that will hold the post until the next scheduled election.

V. FINANCES:

All collected dues and other income are to be deposited in the bank account and expenses against the Association paid from this account. A record of source and amount must be kept for every transaction that goes through this account. A receipt must accompany all expenditures. A budget prepared by the Executive Committee and approved by the membership shall constitute prior approval and shall not require additional approvals as long as the expenses do not exceed the budget. The treasurer will maintain all banking records and to pass on these records when the term is complete. A copy of the monthly bank account should be brought to each meeting and available for review by all members. An oral report of income and expenditures shall be presented upon request.

VI. DISSOLUTION:

If the Club should ever cease to exist, all equipment and capital goods will be disposed of, liabilities paid and remaining assets will be turned over an organization chosen by a majority vote of the available club members.