

WNYCCA

WESTERN NEW YORK COMBINED CARRIAGE ASSOCIATION - BYLAWS 2026

Established: January 29 , 2017

Incorporated: MARCH 30, 2020

Secretary of State (New York) Control Number : 5733367

Current Entity Name: **WNYCCA - WESTERN NEW YORK COMBINED CARRIAGE ASSOCIATION INC.**

DOS ID #: **5733367**

Initial DOS Filing Date: **MARCH 30, 2020**

County: **ONTARIO**

Jurisdiction: **NEW YORK**

Entity Type: **DOMESTIC NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION**

Current Entity Status: **ACTIVE**

These Bylaws shall regulate the business and affairs of the Corporation, subject to the provisions of the Corporation's Charter and any applicable provisions of the New York Business Corporation Act, Section 48-11-101 et seq., New York Code Annotated.

Article I -Name, Objectives and Offices

Section 1. Name

The name of this organization shall be the **WESTERN NEW YORK COMBINED CARRIAGE ASSOCIATION** (Club) Operating under the acronym **WNYCCA**

Section 2. Non-Profit Corporation.

(a) The Club shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profits or remainder or residue from dues, donations or club-sponsored events shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual.

(b) IRC Section 501(C)(7) PURPOSE. This Corporation is organized exclusively for one or more of the purposes as specified in Section 501(c)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code; including for such purpose, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 3. Purposes and Objectives.

(a)The purpose of the Club is to promote the sport of driving of horses and ponies to carriages, both competitively and for pleasure, and;

(b) To educate current and prospective drivers in the techniques of safe and fun carriage driving; and

(c) To organize driving events and to facilitate the organization of driving events by others, including the rendering of technical assistance to event organizers and the publishing of event calendars; and

(d) To be a medium through which carriage drivers may meet other drivers in this area to swap ideas and be supportive of each other.

Section 4. Bylaw Revisions.

The Board Members of the Club may from time to time revise these bylaws as may be required to carry out these objectives. ·

Section 5. Offices.

The **Registered Agent (RA)** will be responsible for serving as the focal point for coordinating all corporate interests of the **WNYCCA** with the Secretary of The State of New York. The RA will be appointed by the Board of Directors and must be a resident of New York. Generally, the Treasurer will be the RA.

(a) **Principal Office.** The principal office of the corporation was initially located at 9096 County Rd 14, Honeoye Falls, Ontario County, State of New York.

(b) **Change of Address:** The designation of the county of the corporation shall be changed as the person appointed to the office of Registered Agent changes. The Board of Directors shall change the principal office from one location to another within the State of New York by noting the changed address and effective date in Attachment B; and such changes of address shall not be deemed, nor required, as an amendment of these Bylaws.

The Secretary of The State of New York will need proper notification as shown in Attachment (A). Also that change will require filing with the Register of Deeds in the new RA's residence in the County's Court House.

(c) **Other Offices.** The corporation may also have offices at such other places within or without its state of incorporation, where it is qualified to do business, as its business and activities may require, and as the board or directors may, from time to time designate.

Article II - Membership.

Section 1. Code of Conduct.

Members of WNYCAA are obliged to act at all times with courtesy and respect towards all members, volunteers and participants, whether human or animal, at any and all events sponsored by WNYCCA or in which a member is participating as a representative of the Club. All members of WNYCCA are obliged to conduct themselves in an orderly manner in the best interest of the Club. Acting, or permitting another person to act in a manner contrary to WNYCCA standards or in a manner deemed improper, unethical, dishonest, unsportsmanlike or prejudicial to the best interest of WNYCCA and/or detrimental to the well-being of any animal(s) or human(s) is considered not in the best interests of WNYCCA.

Section 2. Membership Classifications.

Membership shall be open to anyone interested in fostering the objectives of this organization.

There shall be four classifications of members:

(1) Family Membership includes up to 2 senior members and any junior members in the household (under 18), with 2 voting privileges.

(2) Individual Membership includes 1 senior member, with 1 voting privilege.

(3) Junior Membership is for any junior member (under 18), with no voting privilege. The age of an

individual on December 1st shall be maintained for 1 year thereafter. Persons born on Dec.1st shall assume the greater -age on that date. Junior members shall be eligible to attend all meetings of the membership and take part in all Junior Programs developed by the Club.

(4) Associate Membership includes 1 senior member, with no voting privileges. This reduced rate membership is for non-local event participants.

Section 3. Dues

Dues will be payable annually on January 1st of each year and must be received by the treasurer no later than March 1st of that year. Dues paid before November 1st shall not be prorated for the year. Dues paid on or after November 1st will apply through the next calendar year. The Board of Directors shall determine dues for the following year by November 1st and provide written notice of any change in membership dues to Club members by December 15th.

Section 4. Termination of Membership.

(a) Death or resignation of the member, the dissolution of the Club, or failure to pay annual dues shall terminate membership. Automatic termination of membership shall occur if dues are not paid by March 1st unless individually waived by the Board of Directors.

(b) A member can be expelled from the Club for conduct deemed by the Board to be prejudicial to the interests of the Club "All members of the WNYCCA are obliged to conduct themselves in an orderly manner and in the best interest of the WNYCCA. Acting or permitting another person to act in a manner contrary to WNYCCA standards or in a manner deemed improper, unethical, dishonest, unsportsmanlike or prejudicial to the best interest of WNYCCA and/or detrimental to the well-being of any animal(s) is considered not in the best interests of WNYCCA . If there is a determination of termination of membership, a notice in writing will be delivered by mail of the charges to the individual, and no dues will be returned.

Article III. Directors and Officers

Section 1. Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors shall consist of **seven members**; the four officers and three other board members, one of whom shall be the immediate past president, all of whom shall be members in good standing and some of whom shall be elected for two year terms at each of the Club's annual meetings as provided in **Article V, Section 2** and shall serve until their successors are elected. All directors and officers of the Club will serve in their same offices in the corporation. The general management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the board of directors.

Section 2. Officers.

The Club's officers, consisting of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, shall serve in their respective capacities both with regard to the club and its meetings and the board and its meetings.

(a) **The President** shall be the principal executive officer. He/she shall preside at all meetings of the membership and of the board, appoint chairpersons to all committees, call all meetings as required by these Bylaws, and oversee the activities of the Club. He/she shall be an ex officio member of all committees with full voting rights. Elected on odd numbered years (ex 2001, 03, 05).

(b) **The Vice President** shall assist the President in the performance of his/her duties and shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in case of the President's death, absence or incapacity. The Vice President will appoint at least two Safety Advisors for each of the Club's driving activities. Elected on even numbered years (ex 2002, 04, 06).

(c) **The Secretary** shall keep the record of all meetings of the Club and of the Board and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the Club; charge of the correspondence, notify members of meetings, notify new members of their election to membership, notify officers and directors of their election to office, keep a roll of the members of the Club with their addresses, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed by these bylaws. Elected on odd numbered years (ex 2001, 03, 05).

(d) **The Treasurer** shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging to the Club. Money shall be deposited in a bank designated by the board, in the name of the Club. The books shall at times be open to inspection by the board and a report shall be given at every meeting on the condition of the Club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported; and at the annual meeting an accounting shall be rendered of all moneys received and expended during the previous fiscal year. A yearly audit of club funds will be conducted, designating a board member other than treasurer and a member at large to conduct the audit, with a yearly audit report provided to the membership. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount, as the board of directors shall determine. Elected on even numbered years (ex 2002, 04, 06).

(e) Three Board Members At Large will serve on the Board. Each will serve terms of two years and will be elected in alternating years.

(h) The outgoing Past President will serve as a member of the Board for a period of two years and assist as required. If there is no Past President, that Board position will be filled by an additional Member At Large and will serve as long as the Past President's term would have been.

Board Members will serve a term of two (2) years and will also serve in corresponding offices in the corporation

Section 3. Vacancies.

Any vacancies occurring on the board or among the offices during the year shall be filled until the next annual election by a majority vote of all the remaining board members. This will be accomplished by the board at its first regular meeting following the creation of such vacancy, or at a special board meeting called for that purpose. Except that a vacancy in the office of President shall be filled automatically by the Vice President and then filling the resulting vacancy in the office of Vice President.

Article IV - Meetings and Voting.

Section 1. Club Meetings.

There will be a minimum of one general membership meeting each year. Meetings are to be held at a variety of locations whenever possible. Members shall be notified prior to the meeting of its time and location One third of the voting club members constitutes a meeting quorum.

Section 2. Special Club Meetings.

Special Club meetings may be called by the President, or by a majority vote of the members of the board who are present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the board; and shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by five members of the Club who are in good standing. Such

special meetings shall be held at a place, date and time determined by the President or Secretary. The Secretary shall send notice of such meeting at least five days and not more than 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. Any such notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other business shall be transacted thereat. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the membership.

Section 3. Board Meetings.

Meetings of the board of directors shall be held a minimum of one time a year at such hour and place as designated by the board. Meetings may be conducted by teleconference. The Secretary shall notify board members at least five days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the board. **Regular attendance of board members is required to retain their status as officials of the Club.** (Regular attendance is defined as a majority of meetings)

Section 4. Special Board Meetings.

Special meetings of the board may be called by the President; and shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least three members of the board. Such special meetings shall be held at a place, date, and hour determined by the President or Secretary. The Secretary shall send notice of such meeting at least five days and not more than 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. Any such notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other business shall be transacted thereat. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the board.

Section 5. Electronic polling of the Board

Any board member or officer of the Club may propose an electronic board vote on any specific motion. This kind of polling is required to expedite the business of the Club. The entire board shall be polled by the Secretary of the Club via e-mail and or WhatsApp or any other Board private communication application. All Board members are then required to vote the question (action) up (yes) or down (no) by return e-mail, majority rules.

Section 6. Voting.

Each member in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year shall be entitled to vote in accordance with his/her membership class for the current year at any meeting of the Club at which he is present. Proxy voting will not be permitted at any Club meeting or election. Electronic voting is permitted but accommodations must be provided for members not having this capability.

Article V - Club Year, Elections

Section 1. Club Year.

The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December. The Club's official year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the election at the annual meeting and shall continue through the election at the next annual meeting.

Section 2: Elections.

(Amendment Entered as of 2021:)

If there are no Nominees or Candidates for an Election, there is no need for an Election to take place: Therefore, the Officers and Board members shall retain their positions until the following Nomination and Election cycle.

Annual elections will occur by the end of February and the results of the Club Election shall be reported by the Club Secretary. The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. They shall take office immediately upon the conclusion of the election and

each retiring officer shall turn over to the successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within 30 days after the election.

Section 3. Nominations.

No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated either by the Nominating Committee or having been nominated from the floor at a meeting of the Club membership. The Board will appoint a nominating committee of no less than three Officers of the club at least two months prior to the planned election. The members will be notified of the pending election. The nominating committee will nominate Members in Good Standing for the officers and Board vacancies. Members may also nominate for the open positions by email or regular mail. **All nominees must have agreed to stand for election.** Nominations will close one month prior to the scheduled voting. Members will be sent a ballot by email or regular mail which contains the date at which the ballot must be executed. The ballot should be received at least two weeks prior to the election date.

Article VI - Committees

Section 1. Standing Committees.

The board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as driving shows, education, safety, membership, social, publicity, or other fields which may well be served by committees. Such committees shall always be subject to the final authority of the board.

Section 2. Committee Appointments.

Any committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the full membership of the board upon written notice to the appointee; and the board may appoint successors to those persons whose services have been terminated.

Article VII - Safety

Every driving event of the Club must have at least one person appointed by the President as Safety Advisor. The Safety Advisor has absolute authority to ask any person to leave the event and its surrounding vicinity if the advisor determines it is necessary for the safety and good of the Club. Typical reasons include: *known chronic runaway horse, unsafe vehicle or harness, dangerous behavior, extremely green horse, horse never hitched before, abusive or poor conduct.*

Article VIII - Amendments

Section 1.

Amendments to the constitution and bylaws may be proposed by the board of directors or by written petition addressed to the Secretary signed by 20 percent of the membership in good standing.

Amendments proposed by such a petition shall be promptly considered by the board of directors and must be submitted to the members with recommendations of the board by the Secretary for a vote within three months of the date when the Secretary received the petition.

Section 2.

The constitution and bylaws may be amended by a vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for the purpose, provided the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

Article IX – Dissolution

Section 1.

The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than 2/3 of the members. In the event of liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the corporation, whether voluntary, involuntary or by operation of law, the residual assets of the corporation shall be distributed to another not-for-profit corporation or entity established for the benefit of carriage horse promotion and activities, such distribution to be made in the sole discretion of the corporation's Board of Directors

Article X - Order of Business**Section 1.**

At meetings of the Club, the order of business, so far as the character and nature of the meeting may permit, shall be as follows:

Roll Call

Minutes of last meeting

Report of President

Report of Secretary

Report of Treasurer

Report of committees

Election of officers and board (at annual meeting)

Election of new members

Unfinished business

New business

Adjournment

Article XI - Parliamentary Authority**Section 1.**

The rules contained in the current edition of "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised," shall govern the Club in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any other special rules of order the Club may adopt.

Conclusion:

Article XII - Board of Directors Agreement

The above Articles and Bylaws; Agreed Upon and Therefore set forth the Charter of:

WNYCCA - WESTERN NEW YORK COMBINED CARRIAGE ASSOCIATION

Signed On This Day, _____

WNYCCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026

Bruce Jones - President

Kevin Scutt - Vice President

Michele Johnson - Treasurer

Megan Adams - Secretary

Julie Kirchhoff - Board Member

Felicity Demitry - Board Member

Sarah Bates - Board Member