

GCAHA, Inc.
GREEN COUNTRY ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION, Inc.
BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1
NAME and ORGANIZATION

- Section 1 This Club shall be known as GCAHA, Inc., also known as Green Country Arabian Horse Association.
- Section 2 The purpose of GCAHA, Inc. is as follows: to foster principles of good horsemanship and sportsmanship; to promote the use of Arabian and half Arabian horse-by developing activities and programs that promote their versatility; and to encourage inclusion of owners, riders or breeders of all breeds of horses.
- Section 3 The principal office or place of business, unless stipulated by the board of directors, shall be the home of the duly elected President of GCAHA, Inc. (e-mail/street), the alternate address being that of the Treasurer.
- Section 4 The fiscal year of GCAHA, Inc. shall be January 1st through December 31st of each year.
- Section 5 All new members shall be given or emailed a copy of the Bylaws.
- Section 6 As an Arabian Horse Association (AHA) chartered club, GCAHA, Inc. shall abide by the current rules of AHA, as stated in the AHA handbook.

ARTICLE II
OFFICERS and DUTIES

- Section 1 The Officers of GCAHA, Inc. shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. If there are no other members willing to fulfill separately the post of the Secretary or Treasurer, the two offices can be combined. There shall be four Directors and one non-voting Hospitality director, if required. All Officers of GCAHA, Inc. shall be nominated and elected by the general membership. Officers shall hold office for a two-year term.
- Section 2 The President shall preside at all general and Board of Directors meetings of GCAHA, Inc. The President shall appoint all special and standing committees, chairpersons with advice and consent of board of directors and serve as ex-officio member of all committees. Chairpersons of all committees shall serve for a period not to exceed two years, unless appointed for additional term(s) The President shall conduct the business of GCAHA, Inc. in accordance with GCAHA, Inc. Bylaws.

- Section 3 The Vice-President shall preside at all general and Board of Directors meetings in the absence of the President. The Vice-President shall act as chairperson of the Nominating Committee. In the event of vacancy in the office of President, the Vice-President shall succeed to that office for the unexpired term.
- Section 4 The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings, and safeguard the records of GCAHA, Inc., and shall be ex-officio Secretary of all Board meetings. In the event that the Secretary is absent from the meeting, the President will appoint someone to keep the minutes. The Secretary shall conduct, supervise, and record the balloting of all elections and perform other such duties as usually pertain to this office, including those specifically assigned by the President and/or the Board of Directors.
- Section 5 The Treasurer shall keep and safeguard the funds of GCAHA, Inc. and keep accurate records of same. The Treasurer shall be required to report itemized monthly debits and credits of all monies handled through this office to the Board and the General Membership. The Treasurer will maintain a record of the receipts for all petty cash transactions. The Treasurer will email the financials to the Board monthly. President can request financials at any time. Financials will be made available to the membership at the next scheduled meeting. The Treasurer shall also act as Membership Chairperson unless one is appointed separately by the President. The treasurer will create and distribute a membership directory via email.
- Section 6 As an AHA chartered club, all Officers/Directors must be an individual affiliate voting member of AHA through GCAHA, Inc. at the time of the election and throughout their term of office.
- Section 7 The President will be elected by the general membership preferably from those members on the Board of Directors and Officers, for the purpose of continuity.

ARTICLE III

Board of Directors

- Section 1 The Board of Directors of GCAHA, Inc. shall consist of nine members: The current President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and most recent past President, and four elected from the general membership. In the event that the incumbent President is re-elected, the Past President's Chair shall be filled by election in the same manner as the other four director positions. If the incumbent President is not re-elected, he/she shall automatically gain access to the Past President's Chair.
- Section 2 An additional non-voting Director can be appointed by the President to serve as the Hospitality Director.
- Section 3 The four Directors elected from the general membership shall hold office for a period of two years, two board members being elected each year.
- Section 4 The Board of Directors shall meet annually in January of each year. Additional Board of Directors meetings will be conducted as needed to accomplish stated purposes of the club.

- Section 5 Meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President, any four members of the Board, or any four general members in good standing. Each Director shall receive written, text or emailed notice of the time and place of each meeting 5 days in advance.
- Section 6 A quorum at any meeting of the Board shall consist of five or more Officers or Directors. A majority of the quorum of board of directors shall decide any question that may arise. No business shall be conducted until a quorum of the board of directors is present. Quorum includes those attending via teleconference.
- Section 7 The Board of Directors shall conduct the business of the GCAHA, Inc. except for those duties, activities, and obligations reserved herein for the general membership and except for those duties, activities, and obligations reserved for and assigned to specific committees. The Board of Directors shall provide advice and direction to committees as requested or required.
- Section 8 All vacancies among the officers of the GCAHA, Inc., except that of President, shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors. Those so appointed shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term. The office of President shall be filled by the Vice-President for the remainder of the unexpired term. A vacancy on the Board of Directors, other than officers, shall be filled by election of the general membership at the next general meeting.
- Section 9 Any Board member absent from three called meetings of the board, or 50% of the meeting of the general membership within one year is subject to recall and replacement by vote of the general membership. Attendance via tele-conference is acceptable.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS

- Section 1 The time and place of the general membership meeting shall be designated by the Board of Directors or by approval of the general membership. Notification of all meeting times and location will be available through newsletter, electronic media, and/or the club website.
- Section 2 Special meetings of the general membership may be called by the President at any time and place. Advance notice to active members will be given via any available means 5 days in advance.
- Section 3 A quorum shall consist of the voting members in good standing in attendance or via teleconference at the meeting. A simple majority of the quorum shall decide any question that may arise.

ARTICLE V

NOMINATIONS and ELECTIONS

- Section 1 The Nominating Committee shall consist of four members: The Vice-President, acting as chairperson, one Director, appointed by the President, and two other members from the general membership, excluding, if possible, officers and member of the Board. The Committee will be formed in September or prior, and will obtain the acceptance of all nominees.
- Section 2 The Nominating Committee shall report at the October general meeting. Nominations from the floor shall be accepted at this meeting. Elections shall be conducted at the November meeting.
- Section 3 Secretary and a second member appointed by the President will confirm AHA/GCAHA membership prior to any individual being added to the ballot.
- Section 4 Absentee ballots will be furnished via email with the November meeting notice. They are to be returned to the Secretary and a second designated ballot counter three days prior to the November meeting.
- Section 5 The elections will be by secret written ballot or by email, which will be made available to individual affiliate and AHA life affiliate members. The secret ballot will be marked as to their selected candidate and returned to be counted. In the event that one person is running unopposed for an office, their election may be by voice vote. The President shall be voted on and decided first, then the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the four Board of Directors. A nominee not elected to the position for which he/she is nominated shall be eligible to be nominated for any other position.
- Section 6 A member can only be elected to one officer/board position, unless approved in advanced by the Board of Directors.
- Section 7 Installation of Officers and Directors shall be held at or before the January meeting. Term of office shall begin upon installation.

ARTICLE VI

MEMBERSHIPS, VOTING RIGHTS, and DUES

- Section 1 Eligibility for active membership in good standing is considered as follows:
- (a) Any individual of good character and reputation, interested in promoting general horsemanship;
 - (b) Payment of annual dues for the membership year which shall run from the anniversary of the member's date to that date on the following year.

Section 2

Types of membership are as follows:

- (a) Individual Affiliate Voting Membership: a person who is a current AHA member who has listed this association as his/her “designated” club. The member is also eligible to vote, hold office, be on a committee and/or be a delegate through this association at the regional and national levels of AHA.
- (b) Youth Non-Voting Membership: open to an individual under the age of 19 as of December 1st of the previous calendar year. This membership has no voting rights and is not eligible to hold office or be a delegate.
- (c) AHA Life (voting) Membership: a lifetime member of AHA who has listed this association as his/her “designated” club. This member may vote, hold office, be on a committee, and/or be a delegate through this association at the regional and national levels of AHA.
- (d) Associate membership: a person/family who is not a current affiliate AHA member through this association. This membership has no voting rights in AHA issues of this association and is not eligible to hold office or be a delegate. This member can be on committees.

Section 3

Voting rights on AHA issues are granted to individual affiliate voting members paying AHA affiliate dues through GCAHA, Inc. and AHA/GCAHA life affiliate members. Voting by verbal or written proxy shall be allowed.

Section 4

Membership Dues:

- (a) Dues for the succeeding calendar year shall be proposed by the Board of Directors and set by vote of the general membership at a general meeting.
- (b) Dues shall be paid to the Treasurer or to AHA.
- (c) New members may join AHA and GCAHA, Inc. at any time during the membership year.
- (d) GCAHA, Inc. shall remit to AHA the sum assessed and collected by GCAHA, Inc. per AHA individual affiliate voting member for dues.
- (e) AHA Life members may join GCAHA and their dues will be waived.

Section 5

Termination of all or partial privileges of any member of GCAHA, Inc. for unethical practices of any kind may be accomplished by the Board of Directors after holding a hearing. The member in question shall receive written notice of the hearing with adequate time to appear. Unethical practices are as described in the AHA Handbook and the Code of Ethics.

ARTICLE VII

FINANCIAL

Section 1

GCAHA Finances definition is as follows: This Association is a non-profit organization. All funds shall be used in accordance with our stated purpose and to provide for the continued functioning of GCAHA, Inc.

- Section 2 GCAHA Disbursement occurs as follows: Disbursement of GCAHA, Inc. funds in excess of \$200 shall require approval of the Board of Directors or majority vote of the general membership at a meeting. In unusual situations, where fulfillment of at least one of the above is not possible, approval may be granted by 4 concurring Board members.
- Section 3 At the close of the fiscal year, the report of financial statements and a budget for the following year proposed by the Financial Committee shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors.
- Section 4 Should GCAHA, Inc. be dissolved, any remaining assets shall be donated to a nonprofit Equine group(s) dedicated to youth promotion, research, rescue, scholarships, or other selected benevolent use. The current board of directors, at the time of dissolution, shall make such decisions.

ARTICLE VIII

FINANCIAL REVIEW OF RECORDS

- Section 1 An internal audit committee will be comprised of three members not on the Board to review the records of the preceding fiscal year. A written report will be submitted to the Board of Directors and the General Membership regarding the results of the review within sixty (60) days of the end of the fiscal year under financial review.

ARTICLE IX DELEGATES

Delegates:

Section 1

- (a) GCAHA, Inc. will be represented at the annual convention of the Arabian Horse Association and at the Region 9 Board of Delegates meetings and conferences. GCAHA, Inc. Delegates will be elected by vote of the general membership within 60 days of notification of the available number of delegates by AHA.
- (b) The number of Delegates will be designated by the Arabian Horse Association. Election of Delegates will be by ballot. The term of office will be one year. Members receiving votes will be placed in order according to number of votes received and cast as Delegates or Alternates.
- (c) Should a Delegate not be able to attend an Arabian Horse Association or Region function, the Alternate receiving the highest number of votes will have the option to attend.
- (d) If that Alternate is unable to attend, the Alternate receiving the next-highest number of votes will be invited, and so forth until an Alternate is found. In the event no elected Alternate is able or willing to attend a function, additional Alternates may be chosen from members of the Board of Directors, Officers, and general membership, in that order.

ARTICLE X CHARITABLE PURPOSES

Section 1

GCAHA, INC. shall operate strictly for charitable purposes as qualifying under section 501 C (5) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, by the United States of America.

ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS

Section 1

Alteration of the bylaws occurs as follows: These Bylaws may be altered and amended at any meeting of GCAHA, Inc. providing a quorum is present; by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the regular members present at such meeting including attendance by teleconference; and providing that the proposed amendment or alteration was presented in writing via, text or email to all members in good standing at least ten days prior to the meeting.

Section 2 Amendment Validation occurs as follows: All amendments passed shall be dated, signed, and sent to the AHA Membership Committee, in addition to a cover letter signed by both the GCAHA, Inc. President and Secretary, requesting review and approval.

Amended by the General Membership on October 7, 2024.

Jessie Holland, President

Ann Morrison, Secretary