

# **BY-LAWS OF THE FLORIDA STATE TAXIDERMIST ASSOCIATION INC.**

## **DATE AMENDED**

February 10<sup>th</sup> 2025

## **ARTICLE 1**

### **NAME AND PURPOSE**

#### **SECTION I:**

##### **NAME**

The name of this association shall be the Florida State Taxidermists Association Inc, hereinafter referred to as the Association.

#### **SECTION II:**

##### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the association is to promote the art of taxidermy and related fields. This include:

- A. To promote the high standards in the field of taxidermy and the strive to produce high quality work.
- B. To foster understanding in the general public in the field of taxidermy and to other related outdoor sports industries.
- C. To assist members of the Association and the general public in their understanding of the Federal and State Fish and Game laws.
- D. It will be the object of the Association to assist in any way possible the conservation of all our resources for future generations.
- E. To accept funds as shall be necessary to carry out the purpose of the Association insuring the rights of all to hunt, fish.
- F. To engage in such other civic, charitable, educational, and business activities that the Association shall deem appropriate.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **MEMBERS**

#### **SECTION I:**

##### **DEFINITION**

A member shall be defined as a person who is a practicing taxidermist, or one who is closely oriented toward a related field.

#### **SECTION II:**

##### **MEMBERSHIP AND DUES**

- A. Memberships are available for an individual or family
  - 1. Family membership includes spouse and children under 18 years of age.
  - 2. Lifetime memberships are available for an individual at 10x the cost of an

annual membership.

- B. The Board of Directors shall set the cost of annual dues.
- C. Memberships are not transferable.
- D. There are no shop memberships.
- E. Associate Membership shall include one
  - (1) newsletter and an invitation to annual convention (including free access to the competition area).
- F. To be eligible to attend the annual convention, membership must be paid and current, with exception of Pioneer or Lifetime members. The membership term shall be in accordance with the fiscal year, as defined in Article V of this document.

### **SECTION III:**

All Members are encouraged to obtain the applicable permits (licenses) for taxidermy and related fields from the State and Federal authorities.

### **SECTION IV: RIGHTS**

Each member shall have one (1) vote on all matters affecting the operations of the association. However, to receive a ballot for the election of officer, the member must be in good standing. Membership in good standing will be determined by Article II of this document.

### **SECTION V: MEMBERSHIP DENIAL**

Association membership can be denied at the discretion of the Ethics committee. The Ethics committee shall consist of the Current President and three (3) selected Ethic Committee Member.

### **SECTION VI PIONEER MEMBERS**

Eligibility requirements for Pioneer members are as follows:

- A. Must be at least 55 years of age
- B. Must be a member of the Association in good standing for a minimum of (20) consecutive years.
- C. Demonstrated active participation in supporting the best interests and growth of the Association.
- D. Participation in education to strengthen the field of taxidermy. Nominations for Pioneer members will be accepted and voted by ballot during the membership meeting at the annual convention on even years only. In case of a tie, a re-vote of only the nominees who were tied will be conducted until a single nominee is selected. Pioneer memberships will be awarded at annual convention on odd years only. In the event no nominee is selected, a pioneer membership will not be awarded at the next convention.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **OFFICERS**

The officers of the Association shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and a board of five (5) or more Directors. The officers shall hold office in accordance with Article III Section VII of this document describing the Terms of Office.

#### **SECTION I:**

##### **PRESIDENT**

The President shall be the chief executive of the Association. They shall preside over all meeting of the Association and shall perform such duties as may be specified by the membership of the Board of Directors (hereinafter referred to as the Board). The President shall be a voting member of the Board only in the event of a tie vote. They shall appoint chairpersons of standing and special association committees.

#### **SECTION II:**

##### **VICE PRESIDENT**

The Vice President shall be a voting member of the Board and shall assume Presidential duties, as required.

#### **SECTION III:**

##### **TREASURER**

The Treasurer shall have custody of the funds of the Association. They must keep accurate records of all receipts and disbursements of the Association in the financial books. They shall disburse funds of the Association to take proper vouchers, therefore and render to the Association such reports that they shall prescribe. All books, records, and vouchers of the association shall be open to inspection by any member. The Treasurer shall at least once a year, and whenever requested by the Association, submit a schedule showing the financial status of the Association and any changes since the last report. The Treasurer is not a voting member of the Board An Annual audit and review of the Association financial records will be conducted by Board of Directors and President.

#### **SECTION IV**

##### **SECRETARY**

The secretary shall have custody of all property and records of the Association, except as specified. The Secretary shall be a voting member of the Board and shall attend all meetings and record their proceedings. They shall give a notice of each meeting to the members as required. The Secretary Shall preform such other duties as specified by the Association.

## **SECTION V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors shall be a managing board of the Association. The property, business affairs, and expenditures shall be under the direction and control of the Board of Directors.

## **SECTION VI: ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for nomination, the President must meet at least two (2) of the following three (3) criteria:

- A. An existing elected officer;
- B. A current Board member with at least three (3) consecutive years' experience;
- C. A past President of the Association.

The Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Board of Directors may be any member in good standing. All candidates must have demonstrated a desire to participate in the Association and its activities. An officer need not resign in order to run for a higher office. A member may not be elected to more than one (1) position as defined in Article III, Sections I through V of this document during a single term of office.

## **SECTION VII: TERMS OF OFFICE**

For President, the term of office shall be one (1) year, With no Maximum continuous service. Being voted on each year.

For Vice President, the term of office shall be one (1) year, with no Maximum continuous service. Being voted in each year.

For Treasurer, the term office shall be two (2) years, with no maximum continuous service. Being voted in each year.

For Secretary, the term of office shall be two (2) years, with no maximum continuous service. Being voted on each year.

The Board of Directors shall be elected to term of one (1) year, with no maximum continuous limit.

## **SECTION VIII. NOMINATIONS, METHOD OF SELECTION**

Nominations will be accepted at the membership meeting held during the Association's annual convention. This meeting is limited to members only.

- A. Nominations can be made in writing at the meeting for those unable to attend.
- B. Nominations can be taken verbally by the presiding President/Chairman at the meeting.
- C. If a nominee for President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary is not present to accept the nomination, their name will be removed from the ballot.
- D. Once all nominations for elected officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary) are received, seconded and accepted, the voting will proceed by ballot.
- E. Once all nominations for Board members are received, seconded and accepted, no vote is required

## **SECTION IX: VACANCIES**

A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the Vice President for the unexpired portion of the term.

A vacancy in the office of Vice President shall be filled by an existing Board member appointed by the President and approved by the remainder of the Board.

A vacancy in the position of a Board member, Secretary, or Treasurer will require a special meeting to fill the vacancy for the unexpired portion of the term. This requires a majority vote of the Association membership present at the special meeting. If any officer is absent or unable to perform their duties, the Association may delegate their duties to another person, during the period of such absence or disability. These duties shall be performed by the appointed person until the next Association meeting.

## **SECTION X: RESIGNATION**

Any officer may resign their office at any time by giving written notice to the Secretary. The resignation shall become effective upon the date specified therein, or if no date is specified, upon receipt by the Secretary. Acceptance shall not be necessary to render the resignation effective.

## **SECTION XI: REMOVAL**

Any elected officer, with the exception of Treasurer, Board Member or member of the Association may be placed on probation at any time with just cause, after review by the Ethics Committee, as defined in Article II, Section V of this document. The cause for probation will be reviewed at the annual membership meeting. To remove an elected officer, with the exception of Treasurer, Board member or member of the Association requires a two-thirds majority vote of the membership present. The Treasurer may be removed, with just cause, by two-thirds vote of the Board.

## **ARTICLE IV MEETINGS**

Anyone attending a general meeting of the Association must be a paid member in good standing. Any exceptions will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

### **SECTION I: MEETING DATES**

The Association membership will meet once a year at the annual convention. The Board of Directors will meet a minimum of four (4) times per year, one of which may be at the annual convention.

## **SECTION II: SPECIAL MEETINGS**

Special meetings may be called at any time by the Board of Directors. The memberships shall be notified at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the meeting. The notice shall include the date, time, location and purpose of the meeting.

## **ARTICLE V FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the Association shall be from January 1st through December 31st pertaining to State and Federal Government only.

## **ARTICLE VI AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS**

Amendments to the Association By-Laws will address by a committee consisting of the current President, Vice President, Secretary, two (2) selected Board members and two (2) pioneer members. Any adjustments to this document will be included in agenda for the annual membership meeting and will require a two thirds majority vote.

## **ARTICLE VII DISSOLUTION**

A resolution to dissolve this Association and wind up its affairs shall be initiated by the resolution of the Directors recommending such dissolution and directing the question be submitted to a vote of the members. The resolution of dissolution shall therefore be adopted by a vote of not less than two thirds of the entire membership. Upon the dissolution of the organization assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of the section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future Federal Government or to a State or local government, for a public purpose. Upon dissolution the majority vote of the funds of the Association shall be donated to Coastal Conservation, or CCC.