

# **Alpena County Horsemen's Club**

## **By-Laws** Revised 2008

### **Article I** **Name of Organization**

Section 1 The name of this organization shall be Alpena County Horsemen's Club. It shall be a non-profit corporation organized on a membership basis.

### **Article II** **Location of Organization**

Section 1 The place where the principal office of the Corporation is to be located is in the County of Alpena Michigan.

### **Article III** **Public Organization**

Section 1 The purpose of this organization is to promote an interest in horses and horsemanship among adults in Alpena and surrounding areas. As well as help and guidance to young horse people of the same vicinity.

Section 2 To promote a general understanding of horses and their proper care and training.

Section 3 To promote and develop good fellowship among the horse lovers of this community and those of other towns.

Section 4 To provide therapeutic horseback riding opportunities.

Section 5 This organization is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes as described in section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. The making of distributions to organizations that are deemed worthy will be by the membership majority vote.

Section 6 To financially assist organizations that are horse related and need financial help with their education, books, travel or equipment.

Section 7 This organization will provide an annual scholarship to anyone furthering their education toward horse related schooling.

Section 8 The monthly newsletter will publish announcements of schooling clinics and any news that will inform people of upcoming events.

Section 9 This organization will provide educational programs and schooling seminars with hands-on demonstrations with horses, also classroom lectures by qualified persons from Michigan State University Veterinary College.

## Article IV Officers

- Section 1 Officers/Directors of the organization shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Appointed positions to include, but not limited to: two delegates to Northeastern Michigan Association of Horse Clubs and chairpersons for program, publicity and newsletter. These officers shall be elected at the annual meeting in December by secret ballot and will assume their duties in January.
- Section 2 The President shall preside at all business and called meetings. He/she shall have the power to call special meetings when business demands. He/she shall preside as chairperson of membership meetings and only vote to break a tie.
- Section 3 The Vice President shall preside at any meeting in the absence of the President and assume other duties as delegated by the President.
- Section 4 The Secretary shall keep minutes, maintain the by-laws and be responsible for club correspondence.
- Section 5 The Treasurer shall collect dues, maintain membership list, pay all authorized bills and maintain all money accounts. The books shall be audited annually in January or upon change of Treasurer.
- Section 6 The Program Chairperson shall be responsible for providing/coordinating educational and informational activities throughout the year.
- Section 7 The Publicity Chairperson shall be responsible for all meeting and club publicity and other duties as delegated by the President.
- Section 8 The Newsletter Chairperson shall provide a club newsletter at regularly scheduled intervals.
- Section 9 Two Delegates to Northeastern Michigan Association of Horse Clubs shall relay clubs decisions on any matters that arrive from their meetings.
- Section 10 In the event of a vacancy, the President shall appoint a member to fill that vacancy. In the event that the office of President is vacant, an election shall be held.

(Deleted – Member at large position)

## Article V Corporation Exempt from Federal Income Tax 501 (c) (3)

- Section 1 No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to it's members, trustees, officers or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article III hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, otherwise attempting to influence legislation and the corporation shall not participate in or intervene (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political candidate on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this corporation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purpose of this corporation.

## **Article VI Membership**

- Section 1 Membership shall be open to all persons interested in promoting horses and horsemanship.
- Section 2 Membership classifications shall include the following:
- A. Family memberships include parents and children 18 years old and under.
  - B. Individual memberships are open to any person 16 years or older.
  - C. Associate memberships have no voting rights, but are members only for the purpose of receiving newsletters.
  - D. Junior memberships are open to any person under 16 years of age sponsored by an adult member of the club.
- Section 3 Dues will be determined at the November budget meeting.
- Section 4 The process of suspending, expelling or reprimanding an individual member must be initiated to an officer in the form of a signed grievance with a \$5.00 protest fee within 5 days of the alleged incident.
- The officers will then investigate the allegation and a special meeting will be scheduled within one week with involved parties and officers present. If the grievance is upheld the \$5.00 fee will be returned. The officers will make the final decision whether to reprimand, suspend or expel the offending party or clear the party of all charges.
- Section 5 Any family member age 16 or over whose membership is current is entitled to a single vote.

## **Article VII Meeting**

- Section 1 Meetings shall be held on the second Tuesday of every month. Meeting time from October through May shall be 6:30 P.M. with a program to follow, unless a temporary change is agreed upon at a previous meeting and the membership is notified.
- Section 2 Special meetings may be called at any time by the President with twenty-four hours notice to the members.
- Section 3 An annual budget shall be prepared in October by a Budget Committee consisting of the President, Treasurer and two active members; budget to be presented to the membership for approval at the November meeting. Any proposals to change the adopted budget must be made by the simply majority of membership present at the meeting.

(This was previously in Article VI as Section 6)

**Article VIII  
Parliamentary Procedure**

- Section 1 This organization shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order.
- Section 2 *Passing of any motions has to be approved by simple majority of the members present at the meeting.*
- Section 3 *A quorum will be considered with 50% of the officers and appointees and at least 2 members present.*

**Article IX  
Revision or Addition to these By-Laws**

- Section 1 Any change in these by-laws must be presented to the club membership for their due consideration *in the club newsletter one-month before being voted on. Approval is determined by a vote of 2/3 of members present at the meeting.*

**Article X  
Dissolution**

- Section 1 Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.
- Section 2 In case this organization should dissolve at any time for any reason, any remaining assets or money in the treasury shall be donated to the Alpena County 4-H Council.

**Article XI  
By-Laws**

- Section 1 The revision of these by-laws dated *December 9, 2008* supersedes all preceding copies of this document.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto subscribed our names this 9<sup>th</sup> day of December 2008.

President signature \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary signature \_\_\_\_\_