

# **MOUNTAIN EMPIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

## **CONSTITUTION**

**Amended and Restated January 25, 2024**

### **ARTICLE I: NAME**

#### SECTION I:

This organization shall be known as the Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association (the “Association” or “MEBA”).

### **ARTICLE II: PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

#### SECTION I: Purpose

The purpose of the Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association is solely for charitable, educational and scientific purposes (within the meaning of 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended) related to apiculture. None of the Association’s earnings may inure to the benefit of a member or other individual.

#### SECTION II: Goals

1. Obtain an understanding of and solutions to the common apiculture problems of the Association members;
2. Provide apiculture education including the use of more productive methods of beekeeping;
3. Enhance the development of both the scientific and practical aspects of apiculture;
4. Foster good relations with other organizations which share a common interest in apiculture;
5. Promote understanding and cooperation of apiculturist and the public

### **ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

#### SECTION I: Classes of Membership

1. Annual Member– those individuals and immediate family members living in the same household who have paid the prescribed dues for annual membership for the current year.
2. Life Membership – Those who have paid the prescribed dues, or those who have been awarded life membership, and immediate family members living in the same household, entitling them to lifetime membership.
3. Provisional Member – those individuals and immediate family members living in the same household who have successfully completed the current year’s Beginning Beekeeping course (or its equivalent) that was sponsored by the Association. A Provisional member may convert to an Annual member by prepaying the next year’s annual dues.

Membership shall be available without discrimination because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age or handicap.

## SECTION II: Rights

1. Voting:
  - a. All Annual and Life members in good standing are entitled to one vote.
  - b. Provisional members cannot vote unless they prepay the next year's dues.
2. Good Standing – a member is considered to be in good standing when dues are paid timely as determined by the Board of Directors and there has not been a disciplinary action taken against the member.

## **ARTICLE IV: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### SECTION I: Function

The Board of Directors (the "Board") shall provide guidance and support to the Association in fulfilling its purpose and goals. The Board shall have authority to transact business on behalf of the Association.

### SECTION II: Composition

At a minimum, the Board shall consist of the elected or appointed officers of the Association (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) and the Immediate Past President.

### SECTION III: Terms of Office

- A. Chairman  
The President, elected according to the bylaws, shall serve as Chairman of the Board and take office on January 1st after election, and shall serve a term of two (2) years.
- B. Vice Chairman  
The Immediate Past President shall serve as Vice Chairman of the Board and take office on January 1st after the election of a new President, and shall serve until such President leaves office for reason other than expulsion.
- C. Vice President  
The Vice President, elected according to the bylaws, shall take office on January 1st after election, and shall serve a term of two (2) years.
- D. Secretary  
The Secretary, elected according to the bylaws, shall take office on January 1st after election, and shall serve a term of two (2) years.
- E. Treasurer  
The Treasurer elected according to the bylaws, shall take office on January 1st after election, and shall serve a term of two (2) years.
- F. At-large Directors  
At-large Directors elected according to the bylaws, shall take office on January 1st after election, and shall serve a term of two (2) years.
- G. Term Limits  
A Director may serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms in their capacity as an Officer of the Association; however, they may continue on the Board if elected as an At-large Director according to the Bylaws. At-large Directors may be reelected without limitation, subject to their willingness to serve.

## **ARTICLE V: OFFICERS**

### **SECTION I: Function**

The function and purpose of the officers is to implement the guidance and support of the Board. All officers have voting privileges.

### **SECTION II: Composition (also called the “Executive Committee”)**

The officers of the Association shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

### **SECTION III: Eligibility**

All Annual and Life members in good standing may serve as officers of the Association, as the Association's delegates to other organizations or as chairman of any select committees.

## **ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS**

**SECTION I:** The Board shall meet at least once annually and may hold meetings throughout the year to accomplish the purpose and goals of the Association.

At the discretion of the Board, other meetings may be called to be held at distance – USPS, conference calls, email or other electronic correspondence may be used to arrive at decisions.

**SECTION II:** There shall be an Annual Membership Business Meeting to hold annual elections with the general membership and the Board present.

## **ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS**

**SECTION 1.** Amendments to this constitution may be introduced by a director at a Board meeting.

**SECTION 2.** Amendments proposed at a Board meeting, and passing by a two-thirds majority of those Director’s present will be presented at the next scheduled Annual Membership Business Meeting.

**SECTION 3.** Amendments presented to the members at the Annual Membership Business Meeting will be voted on by the members if there is a quorum present. Amendments approved by two-thirds of the members present and voting will be effective immediately unless otherwise stated in the Amendment.

**SECTION 4.** Amendments that do not receive a two-thirds favorable vote at the Annual Membership Business Meeting may not be brought before the members for two years. Resubmitted amendments will be treated as new proposals.