

**CONSTITUTION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**  
**214 Shadow Wood Dr. Clinton, MS 39056**  
**AMENDED September 1, 2015**

**ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSES**

Section 1. The name of the Association shall be the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association.

Section 2. The purpose of this Mississippi Beekeepers' Association shall be the advancement and protection of the interests of beekeepers commercially, educationally and socially.

Section 3. The Executive Committee of this Mississippi Beekeepers' Association as hereinafter provided for, is charged with the duties of carrying out the purposes of the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association and the funds of the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association are pledged for the assistance and protection of the members in every way possible consistent with public policy whenever expenditure thereof is ordered by such committee.

Section 4. The Mississippi Beekeepers' Association desires to maintain strong relationships with local beekeeping organizations by means of a local club affiliate status as set forth below.

**ARTICLE II. MEMBERS**

Section 1. Any person or family interested in beekeeping shall be eligible for membership, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, upon payment of the annual membership fee, and may continue such membership upon payment of the annual dues hereinafter provided for. Any application for membership may be challenged by any member in good standing, in which case the Executive Committee shall determine the justification of such challenge by holding a hearing attended by a majority of the members of the Executive Committee. A majority vote of the Executive Committee shall accept or reject said challenged application of membership.

Section 2. Any person may be elected an honorary member of this Mississippi Beekeepers' Association at any annual meeting, and any person elected or who has heretofore been elected an honorary member of the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association, shall be a life member of the Association without the obligation to pay dues thereto.

Section 3. Membership dues in the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association shall be payable at the time of the regular annual business meeting for the next succeeding calendar year in advance, at the rate specified in the accompanying by-laws.

**ARTICLE III. MEETINGS**

Section 1. Meetings of this Mississippi Beekeepers' Association may be held at such time or places as may be determined by the Executive Committee. Due and timely notice of the time and place of such meetings shall be given to the members of the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association either by U.S. Mail or electronic mail and by posting in the publication of the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association's newsletter and web site.

Section 2. The regular annual business meeting of the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association shall be held at such time as the Executive Committee shall determine and shall be held at such place as the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association members may vote at the preceding regular annual business meeting.

Section 3. At the regular annual business meeting, the officers of the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association and the Executive Committee shall be elected, and standing committees shall be appointed. Unless otherwise ordered by the members, standing committees shall be appointed by the President. And each member shall be entitled to one vote for each officer elected and upon each time of business to be submitted for the consideration of the members.

Section 4. The preparation of programs for the meetings of this Mississippi Beekeepers' Association shall be the duty of the Executive Committee. Any member of the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association may at any meeting bring any matter considered of interest to the members of the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association to their attention by handing a written statement of such matters to the presiding officer, and all of the matters so brought to the attention of the presiding officer shall be brought to the attention of the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association members at some time during said meetings of the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association. Any Mississippi Beekeepers' Association action on such matters of interest may be considered by a motion duly supported. All motions must be in writing presented to the presiding officer.

Section 5. The Executive Committee shall meet at such times and places as the President shall designate by written notice or email thereof to each member of the Executive Committee, at least two weeks before the time set for such meeting.

#### **ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS**

Section 1. The officers of this Mississippi Beekeepers' Association shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary and/or Treasurer.

Section 2. The officers of this Mississippi Beekeepers' Association, together with other members as authorized in ARTICLE VI. (1) (A), shall constitute an Executive Committee, which shall have such powers and perform such duties as are herein provided.

Section 3. The President, and in his absence a Vice President, shall preside at all meetings of the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association and of the Executive Committee, and shall conduct such meetings and perform the duties devolving upon such presiding officer in accordance with the rules of Parliamentary Assemblies as laid down in Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 4. The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep a true record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association and of the Executive Committee.

Section 5. The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep a correct and detailed account of all monies received by him, from whom, and for what purpose. He/She shall keep a detailed account of all disbursements, including the amount and purpose of the disbursements. He/She shall, upon request, issue receipts for all monies received, reciting the amounts received and for what, and shall keep a duplicate or stub thereof showing the amount received, from whom and what purpose, and such stub or duplicate shall be submitted to the Auditing Committee for auditing.

Section 6. The officers of this Association shall be allowed their reasonable and necessary traveling expenses, and expenses of caring for the business of this Association other than in attending annual meetings, but shall not be allowed any compensation except that the Executive Committee may allow the Secretary and/or Treasurer such compensation for their service as approved by Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE V. LOCAL ASSOCIATION AFFILIATION**

Section 1. Each locally established beekeeping association shall be entitled to recognition as an affiliate of the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association. Each local beekeeping association shall submit a written request to the Executive Committee asking for recognition as an affiliate member of the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to determine whether the local Beekeeping association does qualify as an affiliate of the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association. The status conferred shall be as follows: **Mississippi Beekeepers' Association Affiliate.** If the local beekeeping association is recognized as an affiliate of the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association, then the local beekeeping association shall receive written notification of such and shall maintain that status so long as the local association remains active. The Executive Committee shall retain the right to revoke the affiliate status in the event that the local beekeeping association ceases to remain active for a period of 12 months or more.

Section 3. In addition to dues as set by the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association, local club affiliates shall have the right to set local membership fees by the governing body of the local association. Local Club Affiliates are expected to encourage membership in the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association. Local Club Affiliates are further expected to maintain an organizing document (Constitution, By-Laws, Etc.) setting up the structure of the local beekeeping association.

Section 4. Local affiliates should elect their representative to the Executive Committee as soon as possible in January, and notify the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association president of said representative, including contact information.

## **ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES**

### Section 1. EXECUTIVE

The duties of the Executive Committee shall be to carry out the purposes of this Association. The Executive Committee shall consist of members in good standing to consist of the following:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer (In the event that the Secretary and Treasure offices have been combined, this position shall be considered an at-large position.
5. One (1) member of each of the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association Affiliates (A.K.A. local beekeeping association) to be elected by each Affiliate.
6. One (1) at-large hobby member to be appointed by the president from the membership of the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association.

7. One (1) at-large commercial member to be appointed by the president from the membership of the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association.
8. One (1) at-large sideline member to be appointed by the president from the membership of the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association.

## Section 2. APPOINTIVE (BY THE PRESIDENT)

A. Nominating Committee - The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members, one member each from no less than three local associations/clubs/affiliates or subchapters, and one member at-large. These appointed members may elect a chairperson for the Nominating Committee, unless such appointment is made by the President. The duties of the Nominating Committee shall be to nominate a slate of candidates for President, Vice President, Secretary and/or Treasurer.

B. Legislative Committee - The Legislative Committee shall consist of five or more members. The duties of the Legislative Committee shall be to represent the interests of the beekeeping industry in all matters of proposed legislation, as instructed by vote of the membership, or by direction of the Executive Committee of the Association.

C. Auditing Committee - The Auditing Committee shall consist of three or more members. The duties of the Auditing Committee shall be to audit the accounts of the Secretary/Treasurer, and submit a report at the regular annual business meeting.

D. Resolutions Committee - The Resolutions Committee shall consist of three or more members. The duties of the Resolutions Committee shall be to compose resolutions for presentation to the members present at any duly called meeting of the Association. Resolutions so presented shall be voted upon, and if adopted, shall be properly recorded by the Secretary/Treasurer.

E. Planning Committee - The Planning Committee shall consist of three or more members. The duties of the Planning Committee shall be to consider matters affecting the welfare of the beekeeping industry and make suitable recommendations for action to any duly called meeting of the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association, or of the Executive Committee thereof.

F. Awards Committee - The Awards Committee shall consist of no less than three members appointed by the incoming President. A chairperson shall also be appointed at the same time. The members shall not be currently serving on the Executive Committee. The duties of the Awards Committee shall be to choose the recipients of any awards so described in the Constitution/By-Laws of the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association. The committee shall be responsible for soliciting nominations, settling deadlines for receiving nominations, reviewing applications for nominations, and preparing the awards for presentation.

## **ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. All amendments to this Constitution must be voted upon at any meeting of the membership of the Mississippi Beekeepers'. The membership shall be given at least one month's notice of time and place of the meeting, and the contemplated changes.

Section 2. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote cast by members present at any meeting called according to Article III, Section 1.

## **ARTICLE VIII. ELECTION PROCEDURE**

Section 1. Prior to or at the beginning of the regular annual business meeting, the incoming President shall appoint a Nominating Committee.

Section 2. The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of nominees as follows: one candidate each for President, Vice President, Secretary and/or Treasurer.

Section 3. Following the report of the Nominating Committee, additional nominations may be accepted from the floor of the annual business meeting by any member in good standing for President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and any at-large position on the Executive Committee.

Section 4. Persons to hold positions for membership on the Executive Committee to represent the local association affiliates shall be elected by that affiliate. All persons elected must be members in good standing of the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association.

Section 5. The slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee may be voted upon in whole as presented, provided no additional nominations from the floor are offered. Vote shall be by voice vote or a show of hands, unless otherwise designated by the Executive Committee prior to the business meeting.

## **ARTICLE IX. QUORUM**

Section 1. A quorum for conducting business transactions at a duly called meeting of the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association shall be those members present and in good standing, of which at least two shall be officers.

Section 2. A quorum for the transaction of business at any duly called meeting of the Executive Committee shall be six or more members present, of which at least two shall be officers of the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association

**Mississippi Beekeepers' Association**  
**BY LAWS**

Section 1. The regular order of business for the annual meetings shall be:

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Reading of the minutes of the previous business meeting, correcting, altering and approving of the same.
- d. Reports of Committees
- e. Secretary/Treasurers Report
- f. Communications
- g. Unfinished Business
- h. New Business
- i. Committee Appointments
- j. Adjournment

Section 2. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern this Mississippi Beekeepers' Association in all points of parliamentary procedure, not provided in this Constitution and the accompanying By-Laws.

Section 3. The annual membership dues in this Mississippi Beekeepers' Association shall be payable at the time of the annual meeting for the next succeeding year. Each dues paid is a membership, entitled to one vote, and shall be set as follows.

<b>Name</b>	<b># of Hives</b>	<b>Vote Status</b>	<b>Dues</b>
A. Associate Member	(0 hives)	non-voting	\$2.00
B. Hobby Member	(1 - 50 hives)	voting	\$15.00
C. Sideline Member	(51-500 hives)	voting	\$35.00
D. Commercial Member	(501 + hives)	voting	\$50.00

Section 4. The following two awards "may be" presented each year at the annual convention.

A. Master of Beekeeping Award - this award consists of an engraved hive tool mounted on a plaque.

B. Young Beekeeper of the Year Award - This award consists of a plaque and monetary award of no less than \$100.00. This recipient shall be no older than 25 and must be actively involved in beekeeping activities.

C. Nominations for both awards must be submitted to the Awards Committee by a local association affiliate or by the Executive Committee. Nominations must be accompanied by a written narrative, which justifies the applicant as deserving of the award. This narrative shall include the following information:

1. A member of Mississippi Beekeepers' Association and has never been recipient of the award.
2. Number of years as beekeeper, hobby or commercial, number of hives.
3. Age of nominee for young beekeeper consideration,
4. Involvement in beekeeping at local association level, if any
5. Involvement in community projects, if any, promoting bees and beekeeping
6. Any mentoring of new/novice beekeepers, if any,
7. Any other pertinent information to consider.

#### Section 5. By-Laws Changes

A. These By-Laws may be changed at any duly called general membership meeting or Executive Committee meeting where a quorum is present. Proposed changes may be brought forward for discussion to members present at a general membership meeting, whether or not they have been brought to the Executive Committee previous to the meeting. Such motions must be presented to the president in writing.

B. Proposals may be brought forward for discussion/resolution at any duly called Executive Committee meeting with a quorum present, and may be adopted by majority vote. Any such proposals adopted, changing these by-laws, whether at general meeting or Executive Committee, must be transmitted to all members by the Association secretary. in the manner described for notification in Article III, Section 1.

Section 6. Elected officers of the association, shall serve terms of 2 years unless resignations are made. Such vacated offices of Mississippi Beekeepers' Association officers, or presidential appointees, may be filled by appointments of replacement by the Mississippi Beekeepers' Association president to fill a term

Section 7. Local Associations seeking affiliation with Mississippi Beekeepers' Association shall provide the following information to the Executive Committee via Mississippi Beekeepers' Association secretary:

- a. Name of Association.
- b. Copy of organization documents.
- c. Current President and Association contact information
- d. Place and time of meetings
- e. Number of members and average number of attendees
- f. Name and contact of representative to Executive Committee.
- g. Update this as changes are made.

Section 8. In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the organization will be turned over to one or more organizations described in sections 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law of (b) A corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or any other corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.