

Knox - Lincoln County Beekeepers Bylaws

ARTICLE I – NAME

Section 1

This organization shall be known as the Knox–Lincoln County Beekeepers, a chapter of the Maine State Beekeepers Association (hereafter known as “the Chapter.”)

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

Section 1

The purpose of this organization is to promote education in matters related to bees and amateur/ hobbyist beekeeping and to promote successful beekeeping in the Maine counties of Knox and Lincoln.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

Any person interested in the aims and objectives of the Chapter shall be eligible for membership, and shall become a member upon payment of the Chapter dues. Membership will continue so long as dues are paid. Individuals as members have the right to vote on each item of business at meetings.

Section 2:

Membership shall consist of five categories:

a. Single

b. Family

A Family membership shall consist of one or both parents and any children under 18 with only two votes per family. Dues are 1.5 times the annual dues for one member.

c. Life

Life Membership will be granted with a one-time payment of 12 times the annual dues for one member.

d. Honorary Life

Honorary Life Membership, without dues, is granted to any individual who has kept bees in Knox or Lincoln Counties, or elsewhere, for a minimum of 25 years and is now a resident of the Knox or Lincoln Counties. In addition to all other requirements, an Honorary Life member must have been a member of this Chapter for five years. Names of such persons are to be presented to the Board of Directors for approval. Such approval requires a 2/3 vote of all directors.

Section 3:

Dues assessed for all categories of membership shall be recommended to the members by the Board of Directors not less than 30 days in advance of the annual meeting, and must be approved by the membership at its annual meeting by a majority vote of those members present.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 1

The officers of this Chapter shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Terms of office shall be for one year or for the period between annual meetings. The President shall not serve more than two consecutive terms of office.

Section 2:

The President shall preside at meetings of the Board of Directors. The President shall provide leadership and generally guide the Chapter in its activities, and at the same time keep the Board of Directors informed on all significant matters. The President shall act on matters considered of vital interest to the Chapter only with Board approval or authorization.

Section 3

The Vice President shall act for and on behalf of the President in the President's absence. The Vice President may be given specific responsibilities by either the President or the Board of Directors, and be charged with managing and performing such duties.

Section 4

The Treasurer shall manage the financial affairs of the Chapter, and provide detailed reports of financial transactions at each meeting. The treasurer shall provide a financial report at all member meetings to inform the general membership of the Chapter's financial condition.

Section 5

The Secretary shall be the custodian of the Chapter's records. The Secretary shall communicate for specific purposes with persons or organizations as requested by the Board or President. The Secretary shall maintain a record of membership and collected dues.

The Secretary shall send out meeting notices at least two weeks prior to the meeting date. The Secretary shall also, in cooperation with the President, prepare an order of business (agenda) for all member and directors meetings. The Secretary shall record and report minutes for the record of all member and directors meetings.

Section 6

The officers shall be elected at the annual meeting by a majority vote of those members present.

ARTICLE V – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1

The Board of Directors shall consist of the following:

- a. President
- b. Vice President
- c. Secretary
- d. Treasurer
- e. Past President
- f. Three other chapter members

Section 2

A quorum for the Director's meeting shall consist of five members. If only four are present then three votes are required for passing and approval, of items brought to vote, otherwise a simple majority is required.

Section 3

The term of membership for Directors other than chapter officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) shall be for three years unless a vacancy is being filled, in which case the term will be for the balance of the vacancy.

ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES

Section 1

The President may appoint committees or individuals for special purposes. These special purposes are likely to include such activities as coordinating a beekeeping school, managing special affairs; editing the Chapter's newsletter, or helping affiliate organizations, but the purposes are not limited.

ARTICLE VII – RULES and REGULATIONS

Section 1

The Board of Directors may at any time by 3/ 4 vote, demand and/ or receive and accept the resignation of any officer of this Chapter, and declare the office vacant.

Section 2

The Board of Directors by majority vote may fill any office vacant in the Chapter for the period remaining until the next annual meeting.

Section 3

The Chapter shall meet six times per year. The President (or his/ her designee) shall set the time and place and the Secretary shall notify the other members of the Chapter at least two weeks prior to the meeting date.

Section 4

The Board of Directors shall meet on a regular basis. The President (or his/ her designee) shall set the time and place and the Secretary shall notify the other members of the Board at least two weeks prior to the meeting date.

Section 5

The Board of Directors shall meet before the annual meeting each year for the purpose of auditing the accounts of the Treasurer.

Section 6

The President shall appoint a nominating committee not less than 30 days before the annual meeting.

Section 7

The Annual Meeting shall be held as directed by the Board of Directors, but shall be held not later than 13 months after the previous meeting.

Section 8

At the Annual Meeting a quorum shall consist of a majority of those members present and voting.

Section 9

Changes and amendments to these by-laws may be made only by vote at the annual meeting, by a majority vote of those members present and voting.

Section 10

The Board of Directors and officers shall serve without pay, but shall be reimbursed for actual expenses within the budget constraints set by the Board of Directors.

Section 11

The President, with approval of the Board of Directors, may appoint a special committee having expertise in a special subject and without regard to membership in the Chapter. Said advisory committee shall make reports to the Board of Directors and shall be dissolved when its mission is completed.

Section 12

The KLCB group on Yahoo.com is a critical tool for communication amongst KLCB members. This list is to be used for the distribution of relevant bee-related information, including published news articles or television features about bees. Press releases not published by the media are not permitted. Brief advertisement of educational events hosted by or of significant interest to KLCB members is welcome.

This group is also used to send official KLCB messages to the membership. If a meeting needs to be postponed due to weather, a message will be sent to this group before 8 AM on the day of the meeting.

Yahoo group rules (pop-up):

This is a periodic, automated reminder of the rules governing use of the Knox Lincoln County Bee Keepers Yahoo! group.

The KLCB group on Yahoo.com is a critical tool for communication amongst KLCB members. This list is to be used for the distribution of relevant bee-related information, including published news articles or television features about bees. Press releases not published by the media are not permitted. Brief advertisement of educational events hosted by or of significant interest to KLCB members is welcome.

The KLCB BOD hopes that this online forum will continue to grow in use as a place for Maine bee keepers to ask and answer questions related to bee keeping. Use of this forum to disperse knowledge of bee management or health issues is encouraged.

This group is also used to send official KLCB messages to the membership. If a meeting needs to be postponed due to weather, a message will be sent to this group before 8 AM on the day of the meeting.

As members of KLCB, it is incumbent on all of us to use this tool in accordance with the rules set forth below, and to behave in a courteous, adult manner while doing so. Absolutely no personal attacks, rude or obscene language will be tolerated by the group. Likewise, we ask that members refrain from expressing political and religious opinions on the list.

We ask that all members of the group moderate their own behavior when posting to the group. The KLCB BOD will respond to any occurrences of improper use with a private communication to the offender. A second offense will result in moderated status, where that individual's posts will be individually approved by a moderator before posting. If you receive an email from KLCBee AT yahoogroups.com and reply to that message, your reply will be sent to all members of the group. If you wish to respond privately to the originator of the message then you must write a separate message addressed specifically to that person's individual email address.

Please address any questions regarding possible inappropriate posting content to a member of the KLCB BOD and thank you in advance for your appropriate use of this valuable tool. For technical issues related specifically to Yahoo! groups, please contact Cheryl Rudy at final-lee AT roadrunner.com.