

# **BY-LAWS OF THE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF TEXAS**

## **ARTICLE I-Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Back Country Horsemen of Texas (BCHTX) and shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas as a non-profit educational organization. The administrative body of the BCHTX shall be hereinafter referred to as the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall be composed of Directors from each member chapter/unit.

## **ARTICLE II-Purpose**

1. To perpetuate the commonsense use and enjoyment of horses in America's backcountry and Wilderness areas.
2. To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
3. To assist the various government, state, and private agencies in their maintenance and management of the said resource.
4. To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
5. To foster and encourage the formation of new state back country horsemen's organizations.

## **Article II - Interim Board**

1. An Interim Board shall be created from the original 40-member roster
2. The Board shall consist of 4 Interim Officers and an additional four (4) members at large.
3. The purpose of this Board shall be to accept and confirm applications for chapters using the procedures listed below.
4. This Board will be in effect until it is replaced by at least two (2) chapters.
5. Officers elected by the original 40-member roster shall remain in office through at least the calendar year 2024.
6. Subsequent elections and Board members shall be determined by the Bylaws below.
7. This Interim Board shall be superseded by the 2025 elections.

## **ARTICLE III-Membership**

Section 1. Chapters are formed within the state by making applications to the Board of Directors of the state organization. Any chapter seeking membership must adopt the purposes of the BCH of Texas as stated in Article II.

Section 2. The chapter application for membership must include:

- a. The name which must include the wording \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter of the Back Country Horsemen of Texas".
- b. A copy of the chapter's working by-laws.
- c. A list of officers.
- d. A membership of at least 15 individuals.
- e. Applicable dues.

Section 3. Membership as a chapter in BCHTX must be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at an assembled meeting.

Section 4. Chapter membership may be revoked by the Board of Directors for conduct by the chapter or its members on behalf of the chapter which is contrary to the mission of the Back Country Horsemen of Texas or adversely reflects on the integrity of the organization. Additionally, a chapter membership can be revoked due to a lack of participation in the state organization. Unexcused absence from three (3) consecutive meetings shall constitute nonparticipation. A revocation shall be by a three-fourths vote of the Board of Directors in attendance at an assembled meeting. Notice of the proposed revocation vote shall be made to all member chapters 30 days prior to the vote. A revoked chapter's right to use the name "Back Country Horsemen" or a similar name in any way will terminate.

Section 5. Individuals, families, or other groups who subscribe to the purposes of the organization and who wish to affiliate with BCHTX but who do not belong to a local chapter may become a "member at large" of the state organization. These members shall be disqualified from leadership positions in BCHTX but shall be provided with all other benefits of membership.

Section 6. The membership and fiscal year of this organization and all chapters shall be the calendar year.

#### **ARTICLE IV-Dues**

Section 1. The Board of Directors of BCHTX shall set dues applicable to the state and national requirements.

Section 2. Each member chapter shall submit, no later than January 31, a report of chapter membership as of December 31 of the preceding calendar year, along with the payment of appropriate state and national dues.

#### **ARTICLE V-Powers and Duties**

Section 1. The supreme authority of BCHTX shall be in its assembled voting delegates. The State Board of Directors shall execute this authority when the voting delegates are not assembled but shall follow the direction given them by the delegates and shall be responsible to them.

Section 2. The voting delegates shall have equal representation from each chapter and shall decide State BOD policy and give direction to the State Board of Directors at the annual convention/meeting. They shall also have the powers and duties contained elsewhere in these Bylaws.

Section 3. The annual convention/meeting provided for in Article VII hereof shall have the power to enact, repeal or amend the by-laws of BCHTX. The annual convention/meeting may, by resolution, take any action not inconsistent with law or BCHTX Bylaws.

Section 4. The State Board of Directors shall have the power to take any action not inconsistent with law or BCHTX Bylaws or any duly enacted resolution of the annual convention/meeting.

Section 5. The Board of Directors shall be charged with the duties of distributing pertinent information, providing a clearing house for actions and ideas, and representing the state organization on a national scale. It shall assist and coordinate with local chapters in their efforts and provide help and direction.

Section 6. The SBD shall elect two (2) members to the National Board of Directors of Back Country Horsemen of America. National Board members shall be elected for a six (6) year term, with each board position elected in a three-year stagger. The Board shall elect one (1) Alternate Director. In the event that a regular director's absence becomes permanent, the alternate director shall advance to the permanent position to serve the balance of the replaced director's term.

Section 7. It shall be agreed that policies and issues may have different effects in different communities. Therefore, member organizations may publicly oppose the position taken by the state organization regarding controversial issues.

## **ARTICLE VI-Board of Directors**

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of two (2) directors from each member chapter, the immediate past Board Chairman, and the state representatives to the National Board of Directors. Each member chapter shall also select one alternate director to serve in the absence of their regular director. Each regular chapter or alternate director shall represent the membership of the local chapter from which elected.

Section 2. Member chapters shall elect their directors to the state Board of Directors in accordance with the chapter Bylaws.

Section 3. Each chapter-elected director shall have one vote on the Board of Directors. When a chapter-elected director to the state Board of Directors is selected as State Chairman, that chapter shall be entitled to a voting replacement on the state Board of Directors for the person moving into the chairmanship position.

Section 4. The Board of Directors shall meet quarterly but may meet as often as necessary to conduct the business of the organization. Notice of the meeting shall be sent to the chapter officers and delegates at least 30 days prior to the meeting date. These notices shall contain the known business agenda; however, other items of business may be added to the agenda at the time of the meeting. Special meetings shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE VII Annual Convention/meeting**

Section 1. The annual convention/meeting of BCHTX shall be held in January at such a time and place as is established by the voting delegates presiding at the annual convention/meeting.

Section 2. Any member in good standing may attend any annual convention/meeting.

Section 3. At the annual convention/meeting, the host chapter may assess and collect registration fees of attending members. The purpose of this assessment will be to cover expenses incurred by the host chapter for local arrangements, etc.

Section 4. All annual meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert Rules of Order.

Section 5. It shall be the responsibility of the State Board of Directors to develop the agenda for the annual meeting. For inclusion in the agenda, local chapters must submit their agenda items before the regular State Board of Directors meeting, prior to the annual convention/meeting. Copies of local agenda items shall be sent to local chapters by the State Board of Directors one (1) month prior to the meeting date.

Section 6. Voting delegates to the annual convention/meeting shall consist of eight (8) delegates from each chapter. Each chapter shall provide the chair with a list of these delegates prior to the meeting. All delegates shall be entitled to vote on all questions properly brought before the convention.

Section 7. A simple majority of delegates in attendance can conduct business.

Section 8. Special measures, namely a vote to enact, repeal or amend the By-Laws, must be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all delegates in attendance.

Section 9. The Chairman of the State Board of BCHTX shall preside over the business affairs of the annual convention/meeting.

Section 10. Member chapters may be assessed membership dues for the following year as determined and approved at the annual meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the attending delegates. Dues will be due on or before January 1st and delinquent by February 28th each year. Delinquent chapters will lose their right to vote until in compliance.

## ARTICLE VIII-Officers and Duties

Section 1. The officers of the Board of Directors shall consist of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, National Directors, and such other officers as the assembled board members shall create. All positions shall be elected by and from the elected chapter directors for a term of two years unless otherwise specified. Board members shall have one vote regardless of the number of offices held. No officer may serve more than two consecutive terms in the same position. The officers and National Directors shall assume office at the conclusion of the meeting at which they are elected.

Section 2. The Chairman of the Board will have no voting privileges except to resolve a tie vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. The Chairman shall be the chief administrative officer of the BCHTX, whose main responsibility is to provide leadership to the organization. Specific duties shall include:

- a. Serve as the official spokesman for the BCHTX.
- b. Authorize BCHTX statements having state-level significance.
- c. Sign all official BCHTX documents.
- d. Delegate duties and responsibilities.
- e. Establish lines of communication with other BCHA entities.
- f. Preside over all assembled meetings of the Board of Directors.
- g. Assist the Board of Directors, committees, and chapter Presidents in developing and maintaining sound financial practices.
- h. Co-sign on all disbursements.
- i. Create committees and appoint committee chairs subject to Board approval.
- j. Delegate responsibility to committees.
- k. Serve as ex-officio on all committees.
- l. And such other duties as normal to the office of the Chairman.

Section 5. The Vice Chairman shall:

- a. Assist the Chairman and assume duties of the Chairman when the Chairman is absent.
- b. Be responsible for new chapter expansion and membership development and may create a committee for such purposes.
- c. Be responsible for the collection of all volunteer hours and the reporting of such to the National Volunteer Hours Coordinator or other appropriate National officers.
- d. And such other duties as normal to the office of the Vice Chairman.

Section 6. The Secretary shall:

- a. Record and permanently file the minutes of all Board of Directors meetings.

- b. Furnish copies of these minutes to board members.
- c. Assist the Chairman in preparing agendas for all assembled meetings of the Board of Directors.
- d. Furnish members of the state Board of Directors with a current list of officers and delegates from all member chapters.
- f. Send written notice of all meetings of the Board of Directors to the chapter presidents and delegates to the Board.
- g. And such other duties as normal to the office of the Secretary.

Section 7. The Treasurer shall:

- a. The Treasurer shall safeguard all monies relative to the BCHTX.
- b. Develop and maintain a system of accounting to include records of income, expenses, and the disbursement of all monies.
- c. Provide financial reports - balance sheets and statements of operation - to the Board of Directors at all assembled meetings or as required by the Board.
- d. Participate in the creation of all budgets and audits.
- e. File annually all appropriate state non-profit and corporate forms and make appropriate Internal Revenue reports.
- f. Co-sign on all disbursements.
- e. Monthly, furnish the Membership coordinator of the Back Country Horsemen of America with a list of all Back Country Horsemen members from BCHTX in accordance with the instructions from BCHA.
- g. And such other duties as normal to the office of the Treasurer.

Section 8. State Officers may be removed by a two-thirds vote of all members of the Board of Directors providing notice of the proposed action has been sent to all member chapters 30 days in advance of the action.

Section 9. Chapter directors to the state Board of Directors may be removed and replaced by their respective chapters. Notice of removal and the name of the replacement director shall be furnished to the state Chairman immediately following the action.

#### **ARTICLE VIX National Directors**

Section 1. National Directors are elected per Article V, Section 6.

Section 2. Directors and alternates to the National Board shall express a willingness and desire to attend and actively participate in the National Board meeting.

#### **ARTICLE X Committees**

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall create committees or activities to accomplish the mission of the state organization. Note: Committees can be both standing (permanent) or temporary and should be created to meet the individual needs of the state organization. The following is a suggested list of standing committees – Public Lands, Communications/Media, Education, Membership/Expansion, Volunteer Hours, Finance, and Health and Safety. The National organization strongly suggests that every state have a standing Public Lands/Legislative Committee. This committee is key for working with the land management agencies on issues of local, state, and national importance. It is advisable to list your state committees in your by-laws, along with a brief job description of each.

Section 2. Committee chairmen shall be appointed by the state chairman with advice from the Board of Directors. Vacancies of a committee chairman shall be filled by appointment by the state chairman.

**ARTICLE XI Finances**

Section 1. The treasury of the BCHTX shall be borne by all member chapters in a manner established by the Board of Directors and ratified by a two-thirds vote of the member chapters.

Section 2. All expenses of chapter delegates/directors to the state Board of Directors shall be borne by the individual member. The director's home chapter may provide financial assistance at rates set by the chapter.

Section 3. The state organization shall provide financial assistance, all or in part, to the voting delegates attending the National Board of Directors meeting. The amount of financial assistance shall be determined by the Board of Directors in the annual budget. Local chapters or individuals may also assist in this effort.

**ARTICLE XII Amendments**

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended, repealed, or new sections added by a majority vote of the members of the Board of Directors at an assembled meeting.

**ARTICLE XIII Liquidation, Dissolution, or Termination**

Section 1. In the event of liquidation, dissolution, or termination of the BCHTX, any assets remaining shall be transferred to the Back Country Horsemen of America 501 (c) (3) or to another Back Country Horsemen organization as determined by the Board of Directors of Texas.

**ARTICLE XIV Adoption**

These by-laws were ratified and adopted on 12 of January, 2023

Interim Chairman *Brian McFadden*  
Authentisign 1/12/2023 7:57:09 PM MST

Interim Vice Chairman *Misty Valdez*  
Authentisign 1/12/2023 5:05:28 PM MST