

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

As adopted by the membership July 27, 2026

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – Title

The name of this non-profit organization will be Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association (WVBA)

ARTICLE II – Purpose

Section 1 Purpose.

The Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association (WVBA) is a diverse group of beekeepers at all levels who are focused on the education in the art of beekeeping.

Section 2 Organization.

The association is organized exclusively for charitable, education, and/or scientific purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. No part of the net earnings of the Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association will inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association shall be authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the organizing document and the application for federal tax exemption.

Article III – Membership

The Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association is a nonprofit organization open to membership without regard to race, nationality, ethnic origin, or religious belief.

Membership in the Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association shall include paid members and honorary life members. Each member shall have voting privileges in the association and thus be entitled to one vote at all meetings of the membership. Proxy voting shall not be permitted.

1. Paid members. Any individual who is interested in apiculture or any other phase of the beekeeping industry is eligible for membership and may become a paid member by submitting the required membership dues and agreeing to be governed by this constitution and its bylaws.
2. Honorary life members. Any person having performed a worthy service for the beekeeping industry by their scientific, industrial, or administrative abilities will be eligible for honorary life membership. Honorary life members shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of paid members but shall be exempt from the payment of dues. Honorary life members may be nominated by any member of the association and are selected by the executive committee.

Article IV – Executive Committee

Section 1. Composition

The Executive Committee of the WVBA shall consist of four officers: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary; three committee chairpersons: Librarian, Hospitality, and Bee School; and up to two at-large members. The Officers and chairpersons will be elected by a majority of the members at an annual election meeting during the fourth quarter of the calendar year. Nominations for officers will be submitted by a nominating committee and by the membership, followed by a secret ballot of the membership. The newly elected officers will assume duties at the start of the next calendar year.

Section 2. Terms of office.

All officers will be elected or appointed for a term of one calendar year. If the appointment or election occurs during that term, it will end at the start of the next calendar year.

Article V – Meetings

Section 1. Regular meetings

The membership will meet regularly with at least one meeting in each of nine different calendar months per year on dates and at locations specified by the officers. The monthly meeting may be combined with an OSBA meeting, or with other local association meetings. Additional executive meetings of officers may be held as required.

Section 2. Annual Business Meeting

There will be an annual business meeting during the first quarter of the year.

Section 3. Meetings of Board of Directors

The Board of Directors will meet regularly throughout the year.

Section 4. Issues

Issues, except amendments to this constitution or its bylaws, shall be decided in meetings of the Board of Directors by a simple majority vote of the committee members then present and in good standing, or by electronic vote consisting of all members of the Board of Directors in good standing, decided by simple majority.

ARTICLE VI – Voting

To qualify as a voter each member will be in good standing by payment of current annual dues or honorary life membership. Each paid or honorary life membership is entitled to one vote.

ARTICLE VII – Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association, assets will be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or 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.

ARTICLE VIII – Amendments

The by-laws may be amended at the annual business meeting in January by a three-fourths vote of the membership present. The executive committee may also present a proposed change to the by-laws at any regular business meeting, in which case the proposed change will be effected at the next regular business meeting by a three-fourths vote of the membership present.

BY-LAWS

Article I – Membership

Section 1. Payment. All membership dues will be paid to the treasurer.

Section 2. Fees and Dues. The annual dues will be decided upon by a vote of the members during the meeting in which officers are elected for the following calendar year.

Article II – Duties of Officers

Section 1. President. The president will conduct all meetings and coordinate the activities of the Chairpersons. The President will also be a liaison to the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. As chief executive, the President will appoint committees, fill vacancies on committees, including the Executive Committee, assign working tasks, and schedule all meeting dates. The President will plan the yearly program along with the Executive Committee and Vice-President.

Section 2. Vice-President. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President will assume the responsibilities of the President. The Vice-President will reconfirm the speakers a week in advance of each regular meeting and will work with the President and Executive Committee to procure speakers for regular meetings and additional educational opportunities.

Section 3. Treasurer. The Treasurer will pay the bills approved by the President, reimburse approved expenses, and submit monthly and year-end written financial reports. The Treasurer will also establish appropriate bank accounts, and receive and bank yearly dues and other monies received.

Section 4. Secretary. The Secretary will take accurate minutes of the regular and executive meetings. The Secretary will also write a short summary of the content of the program and will keep typed copies of the minutes.

Section 5. Librarian. The Librarian will be responsible for the maintenance of the club's lending library.

Section 6. Hospitality Chair. The Hospitality Chair will organize the bringing of refreshments and supplies to each regular meeting.

Section 7. Bee School Chair. The Bee School Chair will organize and promote a school for beginning beekeepers each spring. The Chair will provide a written report about the bee school to the President at the close of the bee school. This role can be concurrent with another position.

Section 8. At-Large Members. At-Large members will be members of the Executive Board and are expected to provide service to the club beyond the responsibilities enumerated for officer and chair positions.

Section 9. Vice-President pro tem. If the President or Vice-President is unavailable for an extended but temporary period, the Executive Board may appoint a Vice-President pro tem to serve the role of Vice-President. This role can be held in addition to any other role, save those of President and Vice-President.

Article III – Amending the by-laws

These by-laws may be amended at the annual business meeting by a three-fourths vote of the membership present, provided notice of the proposed changes have been made available to all members at least one month prior to said meeting. The executive committee may also present a proposed change to the by-laws at any regular meeting, in which case the proposed change will be effected at the next regular meeting by a three-fourths vote of the membership present.