

BY LAWS OF THE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN of SOUTH CAROLINA

ARTICLE I-NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Back Country Horsemen of South Carolina hereinafter referred to as the BCH of SC and shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of South Carolina as a non-profit, educational organization. The administrative body of the BCH of SC 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 back country 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 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 III-Membership

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

Section 2. The chapter application for membership must include:

- a. The name which must include the wording *chaptername*.
- 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 the BCH of South Carolina must be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors of South Carolina 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 South Carolina or adversely reflects on the integrity of the organization. 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 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 the BCH of South Carolina but who do not belong to a local chapter may become a "member at large" of the state organization. These members shall be excluded from any voting rights or leadership positions in the BCH of SC 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 the BCH of SC shall set dues applicable to the state and national requirements." (*per the motion, second, and vote at the 16Feb2020 meeting quotation marks were added*)

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 BCH of SC 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 this constitution.

Section 3. Powers of the annual convention/meeting – The annual convention/meeting provided for in Article V hereof, shall have inclusive power to enact, repeal or amend the constitution or by-laws of BCH of SC. The annual convention/meeting may, by resolution, take any action not inconsistent with law or BCH of SC constitution and by-laws.

Section 4. Powers of the State Board of Directors – The State Board of Directors shall have power to take any action not inconsistent with law or BCH of SC constitution and by-laws, 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 the Back Country Horsemen of America. National Board members shall be elected for a two (2) year term with each board position elected in alternate years. The SBD shall elect one (1) Alternate National Director annually.

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 one (1) director 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 directors shall represent the membership of the local chapter from which elected.

Section 2. 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 3. Member chapters shall elect their directors to the state Board of Directors for staggered terms except for their alternate who shall be elected on an annual basis.

Section 4. 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 5. The Board of Directors shall meet quarterly but may meet as often as necessary to conduct the business of the organization. Written notice of 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 BCH of SC shall be held at such a time and place as is established by the voting delegates presiding at the annual convention/meeting.

Section 2. Attendance - Any member in good standing with any affiliated chapter may attend any annual convention/meeting and have floor privileges, but they shall not solely by reason of such membership be entitled to vote.

Section 3. At the annual 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 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 meeting date.

Section 6. Each voting delegate must be a member in good standing of an affiliated chapter and show evidence that the delegate is authorized as voting delegate by said chapter.

Section 7. A voting delegate may represent only one affiliated chapter.

Section 8. Delegates to the annual convention/meeting shall consist of eight (8) delegates from each affiliated 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 9. Fifty percent of all duly accredited delegates shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business. A simple majority of delegates in attendance can conduct business.

Section 10. Special measures, namely a vote to enact, repeal or amend the constitution or by-laws, must be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all delegates in attendance.

Section 11. The Chairman of the State Board of BCH of SC shall preside over business affairs of the annual convention/meeting.

Section 12. Membership assessment – 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 will be required. Dues will be due on or before January 1st and delinquent by February 1st each year. Delinquent chapters will lose their right to vote.

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. No officers 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. Elected officers to the state Board of Directors and National Directors who are not re-elected by their respective chapter may complete their terms of office at the state level and until such time as their term at the state level expires. However, their right to vote on state board matters will be revoked and the voting right as a director will be passed to the newly elected chapter representative.

Section 3. 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 BCH of South Carolina whose main responsibility is to provide leadership to the organization.

Specific duties shall include:

- a. Serve as the official spokesman for the BCH of South Carolina.
- b. Authorize BCH statements having state significance.
- c. Sign all official BCH of South Carolina documents.
- d. Delegate duties and responsibilities.
- e. Establish lines of communication with other BCHA entities.
- f. Provide direction/assistance to chapter members.
- g. Preside over all assembled meetings of the Board of Director.
- h. Assist the Board of Directors, committees, and chapter members in developing and maintaining sound financial practices.
- i. Co-sign on all disbursements.
- j. Create committees and appoint committee chairs subject to Board approval.
- k. Relegate responsibility to committees.
- l. Serve as ex-officio on all committees.
- m. 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 Executive Secretary 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 and to member chapters.
- c. Assist the Chairman in preparing agendas for all assembled meeting 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.
- e. Quarterly furnish the Executive Secretary of the Back Country Horsemen of America with a list of all Back Country Horsemen members from South Carolina. This list shall include the members mailing addresses for the national newsletter.
- 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 BCH of South Carolina.
- 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.
- g. And such other duties as normal to the office of the Treasurer.

Section 8. Officers of the state organization may be removed by 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 by their respective chapter and their alternate shall finish their term. Notice of removal and the name of the replacement director shall be furnished the state Board of Directors immediately following the action.

ARTICLE VIX National Directors

Section 1. The BCH of South Carolina is entitled to two voting directors on the National Board of Directors of the Back Country Horsemen of America; therefore, the state organization shall select two directors and an alternate to serve as representatives from South Carolina on the National Board. These directors and alternates shall preferably be members of the state board; however, other individuals who are members in good standing of a local chapters may also be selected as National Directors. To maintain continuity on the National Board it is recommended that National Directors serve staggered multi-year terms. No two National Directors shall be selected from the same chapter.

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 with some or all the expenses to be borne by the individual.

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, Publicity/Media, Education, Membership/Expansion, Service Volunteer Hours, Finance, 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 approval by the Board of Directors. Vacancies of a committee chairman shall be filled by appointment by the state chairman. (Some states elect their committee chairmen to avoid favoritism.)

ARTICLE XI Finances

Section 1. The treasury of the BCH of South Carolina 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. All expenses of the state Chairman for conducting the business of the BCH of South Carolina may be borne by the treasury of the state organization.

Section 4. Office expenses for the officers and National Directors shall be borne by the treasury of the state organization.

Section 5. 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. 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 and ratified by a two-thirds vote of all member chapters. All member chapters shall be notified in writing thirty days prior to the meeting at which the by-laws are to be changed.

ARTICLE XIII Liquidation, Dissolution, or Termination

Section 1. In the event of liquidation, dissolution, or termination of the BCH of SC, 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 South Carolina.

ARTICLE XIV Adoption

These by-laws ratified and adopted this 16th day of February 2020

Chairman, SC State Chapter


J. M. Kinsey

Secretary _____
Nancy Marie Saxman